

La Jolla Bridge Unit 526  
Board Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2013

Members Present: Janet Ansfield, Joyce Bailey, Cass Donovan, Randy Fadem, Bill Grant, Marge Hughes, Ron Ignelzi, Matthew Kidd, and Chuck Wilson.

President Matthew called the meeting to order and distributed the agenda for the day. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as e-mailed.

Chuck distributed the usual summary and register reports for March, noting that there was a Net Loss for the month of about \$100. He said there was an annual sanction fee of \$11.50 from ACBL. Vincent Jones, who is doing the cleaning, is only charging \$50 per session (down from \$60 previously). Our Vanguard investments are faring much better than the money market.

Ron said he would like to see a running total of costs vs. income, and Chuck agreed to prepare such a report for next month's meeting.

Bill strongly emphasized that we need to have a successful Sectional and that we need to make sure that we don't lose too much money on our Christmas party. By so doing, Chuck said that we can withstand small losses each month!

There followed a discussion on the number of board sets that we should buy for our monthly sessions. A set of boards costs \$15 each. It was agreed that instead of purchasing two sets for the open game and one set for the 0-750 game, we would purchase just two sets and have the players duplicate a set in the case that we had enough players for the 0-750 game and also needed two sets for the open game.

Matthew reviewed the Soledad lease situation, commenting that the last monthly rent increase was 2 ½ years ago. It is proposed that the bi-monthly rent should increase by \$10, amounting to \$185 per session. The Board agreed that this amount is acceptable and that Matthew should sign the new lease for that amount.

Next followed a lengthy discussion regarding the discount rate for the 0-750 games at our regular sessions. This discount rate is due to expire at the end of April. Will each player then pay the usual rate of \$8, instead of \$5? The sentiment seemed to be that these players will attend even if they pay \$8, but that the Board should do something motivational for them, such as giving the winners a free play. Then it was noted that these 0-750 players don't like to be folded into the "big room;" the players with few master points don't enjoy playing against the people with many master points! Would it be possible for them to have their own stratification in the main game?

Paul Darin, our director, was invited to share his thoughts on the subject with the Board. He said that he could only have three stratification levels per game, and he explained how he manages to set those categories---whatever breaks up into even groups is the main criterion. Also in order for a stratification to receive awards, there have to be at least three pairs, three for a Howell movement and three in each direction for a Mitchell movement.

Since these 0-750 players don't prefer to be folded into the open game (with less than 3 tables), Paul made a cogent suggestion: fold them in, BUT give them a free game in the future! The Board passed a motion to do so with the condition that the free play be for the limited duration of two months. Matthew agreed to print some free play cards with the expiration dates that the director could circle when handing them out.

Matthew announced the sad news of Jean Molnar's illness, which necessitated her replacement as director of the Memorial Sectional in May. Therefore, ACBL has replaced her with Arlene Harvey, who now will be the director in charge, assisted by Scott Campbell. Paul Darin will be the third director, if one is needed. Having to replace our main director will increase our expenses, due to extra per diem, hotel, and transportation costs because Jean Molnar was local and Arlene Harvey is not.

It was agreed to ask Mary Huffaker if she would be interested in supervising the kitchen at the Memorial Sectional in exchange for free plays. She would maintain the coffee, water, and food on the tables; also, she knows when to discontinue adding supplies. She would help clear the food and clean the kitchen.

On Sunday, May 26, Bill has agreed to bring pizza; on the other two days Wirt at AIB will provide the luncheons. Janet will help bring food on Saturday morning. Matthew will assist in every way he can, and Cass also may be available to help.

Regarding marketing efforts for the upcoming Sectional, Matthew noted that there will be 3 insertions in the Bridge Forum. Also, he sent fliers to approximately 25 clubs. Janet and Ron will take some fliers to the LJBTC, and Bill will take some to AIB and the Temecula Sectional. ACBL allows one e-blast for the occasion, and Matthew will take care of that.

The amount of space needed for our Sectional was the next topic of discussion. It was noted that AIB has more than ample space; the main area accommodates 57 tables, but there are extra rooms which can be rented on a short-term basis, in advance so that tables can be set up. The added amount per day is quite reasonable, perhaps \$100. It was agreed that we should rent one extra room, because the cost is minimal relative to the financial gain.

There were several reasons given for the overall success of San Diego sectionals held at AIB:

1. It is the main club in San Diego.

2. AIB and the Bridge Academy are centers for bridge classes.
3. Their stratifications work really well in San Diego.
4. The San Diego unit has an anonymous angel who sends postcards promoting their sectionals.

Randy and Matthew will take charge of hospitality for the Soledad game on April 28. Helping to set up the food table will be Cass, Joyce, and Marge.

Board members, Janet and Marge, resigned from their positions, and Matthew noted that Charlotte Blum had resigned in March. Therefore, candidates for these three vacancies will be needed for the upcoming May Board meeting elections.

Janet reported that she will continue to look for catering options for the Christmas Party, which will be held here at Soledad. She will try to keep costs at \$20 per person.

Regarding the high school bridge classes, Randy reported that there will be three teachers and four classes, starting May 13. He has already ordered the books, shirts, and caps. It was suggested that these students might take the opportunity of playing in the 0-750 game. A motion was made to that effect, and it passed unanimously. Matthew will print small cards to be given to the students, indicating a free play to be used within the month.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marge Hughes, Secretary