

February 17, 2018
Minutes of LBA Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by President John Van Cleve.

Other board members in attendance were: Judy Banks, Hannah Davis, Beth Dlutowski, Chuck Fassler, Judy Gerald, Matt Just, Dotty Losey, Darlene Pyles, Stuart Ray, Denise Tonini, and Janet Vowels.

Board members absent were: Rachelle Goodwin, Kay Omanson, and Norman Smith.

Verna Goldberg attended as Directors' Representative. Other non-board members in attendance were Pat London and Randy Baron.

Call to Order

John called the meeting to order and confirmed that a quorum was present. John noted that he likes to receive constructive criticism and asked that we email him any ideas to serve the club, improve the board, or improve club operations.

Sanction for Sunday Night Game

Pat London announced that she will turn over her Sunday night game sanction to the club and asked the club secretary to contact ACBL for the necessary paperwork, which she will sign. Dotty Losey, secretary, will follow up with ACBL. Pat then left the meeting.

Frank Stewart Seminar

Randy Baron distributed a draft handout for a bridge seminar led by Frank Stewart, a top player, author, and syndicated bridge columnist. The seminar is planned for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, 4/7/18, at the bridge center. There will be a two-hour lecture, a break for lunch, and the regular Saturday afternoon game (included in the seminar cost), with a drawing for an attendee to play with Frank Stewart. The winner's partner will play with Verna or Randy, who will be there to assist Frank. After the game, Frank will discuss various hands from the day's play. The cost will be \$40/person, with the standard \$7 going to Bill/LBA, and Frank's portion to be donated to an appropriate charity.

Beth Dlutowski asked what the lecture will cover. Randy will ask Frank to provide a lecture outline. Hannah Davis asked if the cost was too high, especially without lunch provided. Randy noted that this cost is much lower than Frank typically charges. The board agreed to have the club provide a pot luck lunch.

Randy will ask Ralph Letizia to put seminar information on the LBA and District 11 websites, and he will email Lexington and downstate clubs. We should also advertise at the upcoming GNT games next weekend and other district sectionals coming up. The board also agreed that two other items can go on the LBA website: Randy and Verna's upcoming class and Randy's Ireland trip this summer. Randy then left the meeting.

Minutes

No corrections or additions to the minutes of the January 6, 2018, meeting were requested. Chuck Fassler moved to accept the minutes, Matt Just seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Yearend Financial Review

Denise Tonini distributed the 2017 Yearend Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss reports. 2017 net income was approximately \$14,000. Rent will remain the same through 2018.

Action Items from 1-6-18 Meeting:

- Bank authorization signatures: Completed.
- Matt Just to discuss with Tony Lipka moving Matt's class to Wednesday evening. Matt is not going to change from Tuesday evening.
- Matt or Verna to teach a class to novices before the sectional or GNT. Verna has reviewed how different team games work for novices after Tuesday afternoon games in the past. We could defer this until the next two-session Swiss is held or do it this week before the GNT. Verna will ask Kit to teach.
- Judy Gerald's update on Ride program. Signage is up, and there have been no ride requests.
- Denise status of Outreach program to social bridge players. Denise is giving this up, as the Treasurer work takes up all of her time. Other board members asked what Cincinnati, Dayton, and others do. John will follow up with Cincinnati.
- Locking back doors at night. John noted that this is okay, not a safety issue.
- Regional tournament game schedule. Main events at the November regional are now set at 10:00 and 2:30 (rather than 1:00 and 7:00) so that late-night drives will not affect the two-session games. Chuck would like to see the morning game start at 10:30 to avoid downtown Louisville rush hour traffic.

New Business

Discussion on Swiss Team improvements

John distributed a compilation of comments received after the two-session Swiss Team event held on 1/27/18. The purpose is to identify areas to improve the event to make it more enjoyable and possibly increase attendance.

- Slow game: Verna or John will discuss use of clock with director and will be better prepared next time in order to get started properly.
- Reduce lunch time from 1½ hours to 30-45 minutes. Will do. Beth suggests 30 minutes max.
- Microphone usage has been addressed.
- Improve advance planning. This game was held with two weeks' notice, and thirteen tables were a pretty good turnout with little notice. Need more notice and advertising.
- Novice player turnout was noticeably small. Verna will work on this. She noted that players have a variety of goals—a range from earning master points to the social aspects of the game. Making this important to those less interested in points will be an emphasis.

- Have more Swiss games throughout the year. Lexington has an 8 is Enough potluck monthly on a Sunday, and turnout has increased. We discussed trying Swiss one month and 8 is Enough the next. Hannah moved to alternate monthly two-session Swiss with monthly 8 is Enough, Chuck seconded. A vote was not called, but there were no objections. John will talk to Bill McAvinue about scheduling. Verna wants to restrict 8 is Enough to a maximum of two B players per team. 8 is Enough needs to be explained to newer players (A players count 3 points, B players count 2, and C players count 1; no team may have more than 8 points.) Matt agreed to handle partnerships.
- Poor table layout and utilization of space; players could hear team mates at other table discussing hands. John will discuss with Bill.
- Many players requested a 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. start. Will change the start next time. A few board members noted a preference for 10:00 (not 9:30).
- Many players requested delivery of lunch similar to Monday, Tuesday, and Friday morning games. Agreed to look into setting up Jimmy Johns orders.

LBA Email Communications

John discussed email blasts from the LBA. Vangie Smith drafts emails (at the request of others, such as directors), John reviews all drafts, and Vangie sends them using her email lists. Ralph Letizia has created an LBA ID, and it can be used for emails. Vangie volunteered to do emails through the LBA site. John would like to have a Communication person, preferably from the board. There was discussion of looking outside the board, and John is OK with that. Carolyn Carpenter was mentioned as a good option. Hannah moved to ask Carolyn Carpenter to work with Vangie Smith to transition communications to her; Matt seconded; a vote was not called and there were no objections. John will talk to Carolyn and Vangie. Also, Matt noted that his class cancellations have always had reasons, and he would like these included in emails.

Down State

John asked Judy Banks and Darlene Pyles what we can do to help the down state games. Darlene said that money is always good, but we need to ask the game directors. Judy thinks the directors are not willing to promote games and get younger players involved. Darlene and Judy will talk to the directors and report at the next board meeting. Judy also asked about holding Bridge in a Day in Elizabethtown; she has six people interested in Saturday or Sunday lessons. John will investigate.

ACBL Reach Program

Chuck asked about the ACBL Reach program. [Following was copied from the ACBL website: ACBL's experimental Regional Event At the Club House (REACH) was an ACBL-wide regional that enabled players to compete against each other and earn gold points from the comfort of their local club. The same set of deals were played by members in every participating club, and because it was a regional event, players earned gold or red points while playing in their regular club game! REACH was held in conjunction with the ACBL-wide International Fund Game on Saturday, February 3, 2018 with five additional sessions February 5-9, 2018 (Monday through Friday).]

This was played through Common Game, which is ACBL-sponsored at no cost to download. John asked Bill Toutant to look into it, and if Bill says we can do it, then John will discuss this with the board and work with directors. Players pay extra to participate, if so desired. There is no change in club points earned. We need more details.

Beth played in a tournament in Owensboro, and attendance was down when Evansville had its Common Game scheduled by ACBL at the same time.

Winter Sectional

Hannah reported on the sectional this weekend. With the change in start times to 10:00 and 2:30, attendance is up. There was a problem with food at lunchtime today; many restaurants were closed, and players scrounged for food. Several options were discussed: signup desk for ordering lunches, hiring John Peake's grandchild to come in and help with coffee and cleanup.

For Sunday, 2/18/18, an anonymous donor ordered sandwiches from Jimmy Johns, and John volunteered to bring in additional lunch food. Dotty volunteered to come at 11:00 on Sunday to make coffee, keep food organized and clean, and set up for lunch; Denise volunteered to come at 1:30 to help with coffee, food, and cleanup. [For the record, Vangie emailed Saturday evening for help with food, and there was plenty of lunch and snack food on Sunday.]

Matt's Tuesday Class

Students love the class but few stay for the game. Matt is considering skipping the game and holding only the class from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for \$5.00. The class will be more structured, with a schedule of lesson plans, to start after Verna and Randy's class finishes. Matt will ask students to sign up. There was no objection from the board.

Sitouts

Matt noted that directors try to avoid sitouts, especially with smaller games. He saw in the Bridge Bulletin that with a hookup to Common Game in BBO, it's possible to have two computers play as one pair, thus avoiding a sitout.

Online Partnerships

Stuart Ray asked about a way to set up partnerships online. Verna is not sure how it works through the ACBL website. Hannah heard that Lexington has online reservations for games. Verna will ask Terrell Holt about reservations in Lexington.

Supplies

Stuart will go to Costco for supplies weekly, and he will have a signup sheet on the bulletin board. Verna suggested that he always buy extra coffee.

Coffee Machine

The coffee machine is not making full pots of coffee. John will call about maintenance.

Adjournment

Hannah moved to adjourn the meeting, Janet Vowels seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Action Items

1. Dotty Losey, secretary, will follow up with ACBL on procedure to turn over Pat London's Sunday night sanction to the LBA.
2. Verna will ask Kit to teach a class for novices on GNT and team games.
3. John will follow up with Cincinnati on their outreach to social players.
4. Verna or John will discuss use of clock with director of Swiss/8 is Enough games.
5. John will talk to Bill McAvinue about scheduling Swiss Teams and 8 is Enough games on the weekend on alternate months.
6. John will discuss table layout and utilization of space with director of Swiss Team games.
7. John will talk to Carolyn and Vangie about Communication position.
8. Darlene and Judy will talk to the directors about down state needs and report at the next board meeting.
9. John will investigate Bridge in a Day on behalf of Elizabethtown.
10. Verna will ask Terrell Holt about game reservations in Lexington.
11. John will call about coffee machine maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dotty Losey
LBA Secretary