

MINUTES of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Chicago Contract Bridge Association  
August 4, 2007

In attendance:

Jackie Addis	Tom Dressing	Kay Hathaway	Carl Sharp
Jan Churchwell	Jean Faeth	Blythe Olshan-Findley	Suzi Subeck
Angie Clark	John Goldstein	Selma Perlmutter	Tom Sucher
Adrienne Cohen			

Absent were:

Frank Chadwell      Les Kent

Also present:

Harriette Buckman    Kathy Burt                      Demaris Johnson                      Rick Mueller

The Minutes of the June 4 meeting were approved. Angie Clark moved, Adrienne Cohen seconded.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: TOM DRESSING**

ABA/CCBA Joint Sectional (June 2-3): The ABA owes the CCBA approximately \$135.00 for food and other costs for the Tournament; Frank Chadwell, CCBA liaison, was aware of this. After some discussion, the Board moved that John G. should write a letter saying not to worry about the money and emphasizing what an enjoyable tournament it was. Jackie Addis moved, Tom Dressing seconded.

[Post-Meeting Note: Prior to this meeting, unbeknownst to the Board, Frank Chadwell had already sent the invoice to the ABA. John and Frank agreed to wait and see what the response from the ABA was before John sent out any letter to the ABA.]

This money does not include any money owed to Rick Mueller for supplies.

Summerfest: There were additional site costs which were not covered in the contract, principally a 19% service charge that was applied to the basic rental and was not part of the original contract but appeared in the final version.

There were too many caddies (many of whom were not utilized efficiently); Tom Sucher said that was his responsibility. Jackie Addis suggested that there be a "Caddy worksheet" covering hours and shifts which could be adjusted as needed during the course of a tournament. Angie Clark suggested that the Caddy Chair should prepare (and write up) a list of assignments before the start of each tournament. Selma Perlmutter agreed to handle this. [Upon inquiry, Selma and Kay stated that they thought the caddy issue was under control for the Labor Day Tournament.]

The ACBL plans to require IRS Form 1099's for caddies. The Caddy Chair will be in charge of managing this matter when it becomes a reality. Jackie suggested that respective tournament chairs and DIC's should have copies of the 1099's.

Tom also reported that there were problems with the Free Plays at Summerfest. Many coupons lacked names or proper dollar amounts. Tom suggested that he create coupons and distribute them at the Annual Meeting for the two Unit Regionals for the entire year. It would then become the board member's responsibility to present these for free plays. This suggestion was approved; the coupons will be the size of a dollar bill and will be color coded. Note: Board members are required to pay the \$.50 table fee for team games; that is not part of the free game play.

Tom Sucher reported that Summerfest 2008 will be held at the Waterford Banquet and Conference Center in Elmhurst and that the site cost will be the highest we have ever had to pay. He will verify the amounts in the contract for Tom Dressing [see Contract Report in these Minutes].

Carl Sharp stated that he hadn't heard any complaints about the \$13 entry fee charged at SummerFest; however, Angie Clark said she heard many people talking about how enjoyable the Rockford Regional was. [The Rockford Regional was held two weeks before Summerfest, and the prices were considerably lower.] The question of raising fees was deferred.

Tom Dressing stated that on-line bill paying is just getting started and that the switch to Chase Bank was basically completed. He also summarized the CCBA financial position by saying that he expects we'll have approximately \$110,000 at year's end.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Kathy Burt asked about the point levels for the Swiss team game at WinterFest. Carl Sharp replied that the present schedules called for the final, all-day Swiss team event in all sectionals in 2008 to be *stratified* and the final, all-day Swiss team event in all regionals to be *stratiflighted*. Following discussion, the decision was made to use *averaging* for the Sunday Swiss for Winterfest 2008 because more people appear to like averaging. [Harriette Buckman said that the ACBL will likely raise the limit for the B stratification to 3000 soon]

## **KIBITZER: DEMARIS JOHNSON**

Demaris reported that she was putting the final touches on the September/October Kibitzer. The printer takes about a week to turn the Kibitzer around. Many people have mentioned that their issues seem to take a long time to arrive; Demaris will talk to other mailing houses about a faster turnaround time. It would cost about \$250 to mail the Kibitzer first class; a line item will be put in the 2008 budget to permit mailing one issue first class so we can see if the results are appreciably better.

The Winterfest Flyer will be in the September/October Kibitzer; however, dinner details will not appear until the November/December issue.

Jackie Addis will write an article on the Pro-Am tournament scheduled for October 7 at the Darien Sportsplex, and Blythe Olshan-Findley will create a form for qualified teachers so she can create a pool that can be tapped for various purposes.

## **WEBSITE: TOM DRESSING**

People apparently are confused about where they should go to see the results of a tournament (ACBL website, not ours). Tom Dressing will see if he can copy the ACBL results files directly to our website.

Tom also reminded the Board that it's necessary to send TWO e-mails in order to reach the entire Board because a single list was too large to escape "spam" parameters.

### **299ER GROUP: JAN CHURCHWELL**

Jan reported that she had received many positive comments from people at Summerfest about the tournament. She also reported that the low number of 299er tables might have been somewhat misleading because she had seen several 299ers playing in the Open games.

Jan passed around the package she and Suzi Subeck had put together for the City of Chicago's summer Bridge event. The event was held on July 18 and was run by Richard Gabriel.

Tom Sucher reported that the new bidding box inserts were in and that about 50% had been distributed and used during Summerfest. Tom mentioned that many of the bidding boxes in our storage chests were District 13 boxes; the Board agreed that they should receive new inserts too. Tom also said that he would cannibalize the old inserts to make as many good sets as possible. A batch of bidding boxes that had been left on a table during Summerfest "disappeared."

Tom also mentioned that the first flyer for Summerfest, which was the one that appeared on the website, advertised free plays for people with 0-5 masterpoints; the Board has discontinued that policy, so it's VERY important that all flyers be checked for accuracy.

### **NATIONALS AND ACBL: HARRIETTE BUCKMAN**

Nashville proved to be a very good site for a NABC. The site was good and there were plenty of restaurants nearby.

The Masterpoint Committee only meets once every five years because the process of changing the structure is complex; it will meet this year, and it's expected that some awards will be increased, including the number of points a club will be able to award for a game of 16+ tables and greater match awards.

There is growing concern over cheating using "electronic devices;" the availability of text messaging brings a whole new dimension to the issue. The ACBL is considering wanding for NABCs.

There was a discussion about the diminished numbers of pairs tables in any tournament. Marilyn Charlson wants to try some options in District tournaments to see if anything can reverse the trend.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Angie Clark is running for the position of the District's First Alternate Liaison to the ACBL against incumbent Glenna Shanahan. John Goldstein reported that ballots will be arriving by mail. Harriette Buckman stressed the importance of following the instructions properly or your ballot WILL NOT count.

The officer slate for the CCBA in 2008-2009 will be drawn up in September; tell John Goldstein if you're interested in being considered for any position.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE: ADRIENNE COHEN**

Adrienne stated that the Nominating Committee hasn't been selected yet. It will be composed of 4 Board members and 3 at-large members. Anyone is eligible for the committee EXCEPT Board members who are up for reelection themselves.

### **CADDIES: SELMA PERLMUTTER**

Selma reported that one of the caddies at Summerfest was upset because she felt she was working harder than many of the other caddies but was being paid by exactly the same formula. Discussion followed about training and rating caddies by experience and performance.

### **TOURNAMENTS**

Summerfest: Tom Sucher recapped the statistics: 996 people attended playing 3879 sessions (1132 tables against a budgeted number of 1100); 77% of the people playing played four or more times, 25% played between five and ten times, and 5% played eleven times or more.

Summerfest will be held at the Waterford Banquet and Conference Center in Elmhurst next summer. Our fees for the tournament will be \$2,500/day, the highest ever for the CCBA. There are no hidden fees in the contract and no set-up charge. There is a Quality Inn nearby that will have a room rate of \$88/night. Tom will hand out information in full at a later meeting.

He received many compliments on the quality of Summerfest 2007.

Labor Day Sectional: Chair Kay Hathaway reported that everything is in order.

Central States: No report.

Winterfest 2008: Jan Churchwell

Jan reported that a tasting was scheduled for August 9 and that the menu prices were fairly high. There was a discussion about whether or not to raise the dinner price charged to attendees; the consensus was that it was too soon to do so, and the Board voted to keep the dinner cost at \$20 for 2008. Jackie Addis moved and Kay Hathaway seconded; there were one Nay and two Abstentions.

There was also a discussion about the program. Jan and Vice-Chair Blythe Olshan-Findley will present a plan at the October Board meeting.

Finance Committee: See Treasurer's Report

Tournaments: Angie Clark suggested that all registration forms be kept so we can make lists for various purposes (299ers, visitors, etc.).

Contracts: Chair Tom Sucher reported that he is working on 2008 contracts. Discussion of whether to cancel FallFest was tabled until we have the 2007 results.

Caddies: Report appears earlier in these Minutes.

Scheduling: No report.

Hospitality: Kay Hathaway asked for comments about hospitality at Summerfest. Nobody had any problems to bring up.

Communication: No report.

Education: Blythe Olshan-Findley reported that she has been in touch with local colleges and universities about setting up classes or clubs. She suggested that we have a representative present during each respective school's orientation period when all campus organizations advertise and solicit new participants for the coming year and sign up Bridge players, both current players who want to play duplicate and people interested in learning to play. The suggestion was made that having some younger CCBA members present might be more effective. Anyone with a suggestion about someone who might be willing to go to a local college and present the CCBA and Bridge in Chicago should contact Blythe.

Newcomers: Jan Churchwell reported that she had ordered and received 500 cardholders labeled "Stars of Tomorrow" which she had begun handing out after the Spring 299er tournament. She will give them out at each unit and district tournament until they are gone. Most of the people receiving them seemed pleased to have their "table gift."

John Goldstein thanked Selma Perlmutter for her hospitality in hosting this meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Churchwell  
Acting Secretary, CCBA

**ACTION ITEM: Kathy Burt will check with the ACBL to find out how the CCBA and District 13 compare to other Units and Districts regarding the number of tournaments held annually and the prices of entry fees.**

**ACTION ITEM: Selma will create a plan for training and paying caddies and present it at the October meeting.**

#### **RECAP OF MOTIONS:**

**Motion to approve Minutes of June 4 made by Angie Clark, seconded by Adrienne Cohen.  
Motion carried.**

**Motion to write letter to ABA expressing thanks for tournament made by Jackie Addis, seconded by Tom Sucher. Motion carried.**

**Motion to retain \$20.00 Annual Meeting dinner member cost made by Jackie Addis, seconded by Kay Hathaway. Motion carried with 1 Nay, 2 Abstentions.**