

**CHICAGO CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES – DECEMBER 8, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by President Angie Clark. Also in attendance and constituting a quorum were

Jan Churchwell	John Goldstein	Carl Sharp	Bob Young
Adrienne Cohen	Kay Hathaway	Suzi Subeck	
Tom Dressing	Les Kent	Tom Sucher	
Jean Faeth	Blythe Olshan-Findley	John Vincent	

Also present: Unit Administrator Kathy Burt, Kibitzer Editor DeMaris Johnson, Director Rick Mueller, prospective Board members Jackie Addis, Mark Frueh, Lynn Patinkin. Chuck Johnson was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of October 18 were approved with one correction. The sentence “Suzi Subeck and John Goldstein have been working with DeMaris...to improve accuracy...” was amended to read simply “Suzi Subeck and John Goldstein have... to improve accuracy. Tom Sucher moved; John Goldstein seconded.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Tournaments

Central States: The table count was down by 186 tables from 2007, which translates to \$10,416 in expected fees that didn’t materialize. Nonetheless, the tournament showed a profit of \$21,275.

The new manager at the Grand Geneva wouldn’t remove the attrition line item from the 2008 statement. He also wants to renegotiate the contracts currently in place for future tournaments; John Goldstein will handle that for the CCBA.

FallFest: Despite an increased table count of 10.5 tables over 2007, there was a projected loss of \$250, pending final expenses. The cost of hospitality could not be accurately assessed.

Tom reminded the Board that the table fee (\$.50 per person for all team games) is not included in any free play but is an extra fee which must be paid by all Board members just as everyone else pays it.

Budget 2009: Tom has requested input from people and has constructed a preliminary budget which he distributed prior to the meeting. Bob Young stated that he had made some adjustments to the SummerFest projections so that page needs to be updated.

Budget 2008: The 2008 Budget-to-date Summary is in the Report.

We currently have approximately \$130,000 in the treasury and are showing an overall increase for the year of \$3,445 pending receipts from the December STaC and current month's expenses.

Tom Sucher moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Jan Churchwell seconded. The report was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

Kibitzer

DeMaris Johnson stated that the next issue of the Kibitzer was almost ready; she expected it to be finished and ready for publication the week of December 15.

Flyers

DeMaris also reported that flyers for 2009 tournaments will be completed during December. Angie reminded all tournament chairs to check their respective flyers CAREFULLY. John Goldstein pointed out that all stratifications for each event need to be listed in each flyer. Blythe Olshan-Findley said that she had checked the flyers on the District and ACBL websites and found that there were often discrepancies in the information on those sites and the information in the flyer we were distributing. Tournament chairs should therefore also check those websites and report any inaccuracies to the respective webmaster so they can be corrected.

The Scheduling Committee has not reviewed any tournament schedules for 2009 (except WinterFest); the committee will meet in January or February.

Handbook Update

Jan Churchwell said that the project as originally conceived had become inadequate in light of events in 2008. The original idea had been to make only mechanical and procedural changes to reflect current conditions; she suggested that a complete overhaul of the Handbook, both substantive as well as mechanical, is now in order. The Board agreed; the ad hoc committee (Jan, Adrienne Cohen, Jean Faeth, Suzi Subeck) established to deal with the original project will continue with the expanded project in 2009. [Jackie Addis was added to the committee after the meeting.] Carl Sharp reminded the Board that the Handbook is only intended to be a guide, it is not a set of inviolable rules and should not be interpreted as such.

NEW BUSINESS

GNTs -- "Sectional Tournament"

The idea of holding a sectional concurrently with the GNT Trials in March had been discussed at the October District 13 meeting. The Board agreed that running a one-day "special event" on the Sunday of the GNT Trials was a good idea. Butch Campbell had been told about the idea, and he said to go ahead, no further permission would be needed.

Guaranteed Partners

Carl Sharp presented the following plan:

1. Partners would be guaranteed for Pairs games at CCBA Regional tournaments.
2. The plan would not include either A or A/X players.
3. There would be as many as four people available for the B, C, D strats to play for two sessions each on two days, either Tuesday-Wednesday or Thursday-Friday.
4. They would receive a room for the night between the two days they play.
5. They would play for free and would receive a free play as “compensation.”

Using the Grand Geneva as a model, the room cost would be approximately \$450 at present rates.

The suggestion was made to add a guaranteed partner for the Charity Game on Monday afternoon, the first day of SummerFest.

The Board approved the plan. The Partnership Chair will implement finding people to fill the spots. The tournament chairs should review the attendance volume for the various days to see how many people might be needed each day and should arrange for the room stays with the respective resort.

Tournament Assistants

Angie had written a letter to Chris Patrias stating that the CCBA is pleased with the progress of both Bob Dolan and Jim Diebel and expressing the hope that either or both would receive ACBL Director status. Chris' reply was ambiguous.

Blythe suggested that tournament chairs report to the ACBL too along with the tournament DIC.

For WinterFest one TA will be added to the roster Saturday morning and Saturday night, and both will be asked to work Saturday afternoon. Kathy Burt will check their availability.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS

FallFest (Blythe Olshan-Findley)

Blythe designed a cover sheet and a “to do” list, including suggestions for the future; she handed out copies to the Board.

Central States (Jackie Addis)

Jackie reported that she had held a post-tournament meeting of tournament personnel. The Board agreed that pre- and post-meetings were a good idea and should be implemented by future tournament chairs. She also reported that the different hospitality items/events had received a mixed review from participants. Many people said that they missed the fruit and that handing out the same kind of candy during each game was too repetitive. The “free lunch” was popular, but many people hadn't heard about it; an earlier and broader publicity campaign will be put into effect for 2009.

Despite the unexpected attrition expense, the tournament showed a profit of \$21,275.

SummerFest (Bob Young)

Bob Young stated that his goal is to make the tournament as well-received as Lake Geneva. The St. Charles Conference and Business Center will help with promotion. Tom Sucher will be in charge of on-site activities, Angie Clark will cover hospitality and the I/N program, Suzi Subeck will be in charge of ads and Daily Bulletins, and Carl Sharp will handle partnerships.

Flyers will be sent to District 8, clubs in the western areas, and any other places deemed appropriate.

Angie will set up a "Lunch and Learn" series for the I/N group with talks by local teachers and pros.

WinterFest (Jan Churchwell)

Adrienne Cohen reported that the Invitational Pairs invitations couldn't be mailed out for another week or so because the week of December 8-14 was a STaC which could affect eligibility for some players.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – No report

Contracts and Sites

Tom Sucher said that it isn't possible to contract either for Labor Day 2010 or FallFest 2010 until the 2009 tournaments have taken place because the sites won't commit so far ahead.

Caddies

Kay Hathaway reported that there had been a problem at the Labor Day tournament when one of the TD's dismissed a caddy without checking with her or Gerry Szymiski. She felt, and the Board agreed, that the Caddy Chair should be present at tournaments (or should designate someone to cover if that's not possible).

There used to be a caddy worksheet which both the tournament chair and the DIC had copies of; this form should be put into use again.

Tom Sucher reminded the Board that it was important to obtain the Social Security Numbers for caddies.

Scheduling – No report (Carl will schedule a meeting for January or February)

Hospitality – No report

Communications

Suzi Subeck thanked John Goldstein for his help in working on the accuracy of all our communications.

Education – No report

Newcomers – No report

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010

President Angie Clark reported the following slate for 2009-2010:

President:	Carl Sharp
Vice President:	Suzi Subeck
Secretary:	Jan Churchwell
Treasurer:	Tom Dressing

HARMON WILKES AWARD

Committee Chair Jean Faeth reported that she had received 5 nominations from Unit members. The Board discussed the nominations in executive session; results will be published at the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2009.

Several Board members expressed concern that the procedure for identifying potential recipients is left till so late in the year. It was suggested that the search begin earlier next year so that Board members have time to learn as much about candidates as possible.

SERVICE AWARD

The Board discussed the matter in executive session; results will be published at the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2009.

Tom Dressing moved to adjourn the meeting; Blythe Olshan-Findley seconded.

Next meeting: The Annual Meeting, Saturday, January 24, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Churchwell
Secretary

RECAP OF MOTIONS

Approval of Minutes: Tom Sucher moved, John Goldstein seconded.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report: Tom Sucher moved, Jan Churchwell seconded.

Adjournment: Tom Dressing moved, Blythe Olshan-Findley seconded.