

**CHICAGO CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by President Angie Clark. Also attending were

**Jan Churchwell
Tom Dressing
Jean Faeth
Kay Hathaway**

**Les Kent
Blythe Olshan-Findley
Suzi Subeck
Tom Sucher**

**Carl Sharp
John Vincent
Bob Young**

Also present: Unit Administrator Kathy Burt, Central States Chair Jackie Addis, District 13 Vice President Stan Subeck, and Board nominee Mark Frueh.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of August 18 were approved with the following two corrections:

1. Page 3, paragraph was emended. The deposits for 2009 and 2010 have been paid to the European Crystal Ballroom for Winterfest, not to the Holiday Inn-Express in Palatine for the 299er.
2. Pheasant Run is in District 13, not District 8.

Jean Faeth moved to accept the corrected Minutes; Kay Hathaway seconded.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Labor Day Tournament: As stated in the written report sent to all Board members, Tom Dressing and Kathy Burt have been trying to resolve whether moneys are still due to the Weber Center for both 2007 and 2008. Tom feels that there is a second payment owing for both years, but attempts to reach the Center have been unsuccessful. The matter is still under investigation.

Summer STAC: There is a minor discrepancy between the table count as shown in the club totals and the report generated by the (tournament) Director to whom club owners reported.

The simplified fee structure was very successful.

Budget 2008: The 2008 Budget-to-date Summary is in the Report. If we stay on track, Tom projects about a \$15,000 profit by year's end.

Tom asked that the procedures for the Annual Dinner be carefully managed in order to avoid accounting problems later.

Note to all Chairs: Tom needs your input for the 2009 budget as soon as possible. The budget will be presented at the December meeting.

Carl Sharp moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Jean Faeth seconded. The report was accepted.

KIBITZER

Kathy Burt reported for DeMaris Johnson. The November-December Kibitzer will be out next week. DeMaris has not received any information about the Annual Dinner; this can be put in the January-February Kibitzer.

The cost for the Annual Dinner will remain at \$20 per person with the Unit subsidizing the remainder. Tom Dressing moved; Suzi Subeck seconded. The motion passed.

There was a discussion about whether the upcoming Kibitzer should be mailed out as well as put on line because the full membership must receive written notice of the Annual Meeting as required by the By-Laws. Tom Dressing suggested that a postcard be sent out notifying the membership of the meeting; Les Kent moved to approve the idea, and Tom Sucher seconded. The motion passed. Suzi Subeck offered to create the card.

Angie suggested that we might use postcards to publicize upcoming tournaments as (some) other units and districts do. Stan Subeck pointed out that we have a very large membership (about 4,000 people), which would mean a cost of almost \$1,100.00 per mailing.

Suzi Subeck reminded the Board that the ACBL will send out a “blast” to members publicizing every tournament.

Tom Dressing also stated that the version of the By-Laws available on the website contains some errors.

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominating Chair Kay Hathaway reported that there were three candidates for 3 positions. Jackie Addis and Lynn Patinkin will be invited to join the Board replacing retiring members Kay Hathaway and Tom Sucher. Mark Frueh will be appointed to fill out the remainder of John Goldstein’s term. Election of new members takes place at the Annual Meeting; however, prospective new Board members are also always invited to join the Board at the December meeting and holiday party.

Angie said that she has been told by various people that they are interested in “helping out” but don’t want to apply for official Board membership. A list will be maintained of such people so that tournament and committee chairs can make use of these volunteers whenever it would be helpful or useful. Blythe Olshan-Findley suggested that these people might be interested in serving on committees.

Tom Dressing moved to accept the proposed slate, and Tom Sucher seconded. The motion passed.

HARMON WILKES AWARD

Angie reported that Jean Faeth has agreed to chair the committee.

RECRUITING TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Angie stated that John Vincent has spoken to her about writing the ACBL with our concerns about their policies and practices relating to hiring Tournament Directors. John had suggested this because of the

Board's dissatisfaction with the treatment Bob Dolan and Jim Diebel, both of whom are interested in becoming TD's, have received to date (insofar as it has been reported to the Board).

Jackie Addis said that every tournament chair has input about the TD's who will work his/her tournament "if desired." She also said that she has talked to Ron Johnson about how evaluations for both Bob and Jim will be handled during Central States and she is satisfied that the procedures will be fair and balanced.

Carl Sharp said that the procedure is that each tournament chair along with Chris Patrias (ACBL) should select/approve the DIC (Director-in-Charge) for a tournament, and the DIC should hire staff to assist him (or her). He also pointed out that geography should play a part in the selection process; for instance, it makes no sense to pay a TD from California to work at one of our tournaments.

Jackie will report to the Board after Central States on the subject (without waiting till the December meeting); based on her report, if John Vincent's letter still seems warranted, he will proceed to draft something for review by the Board at the December meeting.

Tom Dressing stated that the CCBA should be able to get clear information from the ACBL about their procedures whenever requested. Tom Sucher stated that he has always received a rating form from the ACBL. [Query: Is this form sent out for Regionals only?]

Carl will work with Jackie and Blythe on the topic of ratings in general and report in December.

Blythe suggested that we have a checklist of items that every tournament chair needs to know about; she will create a list.

2009 TOURNAMENT CHAIRS

Angie suggested the following tentative appointments:

Winterfest:	Jan Churchwell
May 299er:	Jan Churchwell
ABA/CCBA Joint Tournament:	Jean Faeth
SummerFest:	Bob Young
Labor Day:	Les Kent and John Vincent
FallFest:	Blythe Olshan-Findley

(Jan will also chair WinterFest 2010; Blythe will manage the Annual Dinner)

Blythe will mentor Board member-designate Mark Frueh at FallFest.

SUMMERFEST/WINTERFEST

[Note: At this point Tom Sucher made his report on Sites and Contracts so that we could discuss the issue of discontinuing or changing SummerFest]

299er: The 2009 contract needs the Standard Addendum.

SummerFest: The 2009 contract is ready to be signed, but the site is incorporating the Addendum into the body of the contract, and the final version has not been received yet. He asked that the deposit check for the tournament be cut.

Labor Day: Weber Center Manager John Marquardt left Tom a message saying that the dates for 2009 are booked and on their calendar. Tom said he does not have the contract yet.

Central States: We have contracts through 2015.

FallFest: We have no signed contracts to date, including 2008. The dates for 2010 are not yet settled because the site has booked an event for the week-end we requested.

The Board directed Tom Dressing to sign the 299er contract for 2009. Tom also stated that he believes that the full Board should see all contracts and that we need to make a STRONG push to get sited much further out than we now are. He suggested that ALL 2010 sites be confirmed by March, 2009.

Stan Subeck stated that we should try to get at least three-year contracts including automatic extensions each year. He pointed out that “the Pros” (whose presence helps boost tournament interest and attendance – i.e., it is in our best interests to get pros to attend our tournaments) will not return to a site or a tournament if they get a “bad taste” about it.

Discussion of SummerFest v. WinterFest: In August we had had a substantial discussion about whether we might (1) discontinue SummerFest and change WinterFest back into a regional tournament or (2) move the Annual Meeting to SummerFest. The reason for investigating these options is that more and more sites are unwilling to lock in week-long summer dates for us at an affordable price when they can make huge profits on weddings. Moving the Annual Meeting would require a By-Laws change, and the Board decided that that wasn't necessary. Reorganizing WinterFest as a regional requires approval from not only adjacent districts, but also from units within our district that hold tournaments where there might be a date conflict. Therefore, for the time being our tournament schedule will remain basically as it is.

A preliminary flyer for SummerFest 2009 was handed out. It will be held July 6-12 at the DuPage Expo Center in St. Charles. We have a block of rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn across the street; both sites are operated by Pheasant Run, and include access to all resort amenities. Tom Sucher was directed to ask Pheasant Run for a multi-year contract. He will ask for a three-year contract. He cannot go into 2012 yet because of the timing of the Summer NABC.

There was some concern about the distance to the site for many members. Suzi Subeck said that if we have our multi-year contract we can and SHOULD all work hard to publicize the advantages and positive features of the site.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS

LABOR DAY

Chair Kay Hathaway reported that the tournament went very well. We have been at the site for several years now, and the Weber Center staff is quite familiar with how we operate. See the Treasurer's Report for table count and profits/losses.

CENTRAL STATES

Chair Jackie Addis reported that there was a committee meeting at which she, Jan Churchwell, Adrienne Cohen, Jean Faeth, and Kay Hathaway discussed plans for the tournament. We will not be serving fruit daily but will try some different hospitality options instead: There will a lunch one day and ice cream sundaes on Saturday night; the I/Ns will receive a registration gift (a convention card holder); we have new section markers (balloons) which will hopefully bring a brighter look to the room.

Jackie said that she had modeled her plan on what she observed at the Nebraska Regional in August. She would like ALL Board members to “work the room:” Welcome players, thank them for coming, ask whether they’re enjoying themselves. She will also make daily announcements concerning the hospitality and thank all players publicly.

FALLFEST

Chair Blythe Olshan-Findley said that she would like to offer a snack and drink following the Saturday night game to all players who wish to attend and review the Hand Records on the spot. She will ask some of the area pros or strong players if they would also stay on to answer questions. The Board complimented Blythe on her initiative.

WINTERFEST (ANNUAL DINNER)

Dinner Chair Blythe Olshan-Findley reported that she and Les Kent had gone to a tasting the previous week and the menu has been chosen. She also said that the site Manager suggested valet parking for Saturday night; the cost would be approximately \$250 and would encompass the night game (about an 8-hour span). Tournament Chair Jan Churchwell will discuss the idea further with him.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE – No Report

CONTRACTS AND SITES – See Above

HOSPITALITY

Chair Kay Hathaway reported that Danish and coffee will be available in the mornings at Central States at a reasonable price. She also said that this might be the last year for the annual calendar that Tom Dressing creates because the costs are escalating. Tom said that he has received only 9 ads for this year as opposed to 14 last year, and the 2009 calendar will be one page shorter. The Board would like every effort to be made to keep the calendar, even if it means absorbing a loss on it.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Suzi Subeck reported that she and John Goldstein have been reviewing written publications (the Kibitzer and flyers) with DeMaris to improve accuracy.

EDUCATION

Chair Blythe Olshan-Findley reported that two new groups have been started up, one at a school in Naperville and one at UIC which David Yang and Blythe both took part in. If the UIC group creates enough interest, they will see about getting it registered as a “university club.” Blythe also mentioned that if there are 3 new groups, she can ask the Buffett-Gates Foundation for assistance.

Blythe asked how she might get supplies (boards, bidding boxes, table cards, etc.). Jackie suggested that she advertise in the Kibitzer for donations.

NEWCOMERS

Chair Jan Churchwell reported that there will be a Registration Desk at Central States for the I/N group. Until Thursday dinner tickets will be sold. She asked the members of the Board to let her know if they could help out at the desk anytime during the week. The desk will be open for one hour before the afternoon and night games (12:30-1:30, 6:30-7:30), and the Main desk will cover mornings. There will be a registration form (including e-mail address) so that a data base can be built. Angie, Jean, and Kay have already offered to assist.

Les Kent moved to adjourn the meeting; everyone seconded.

Next meeting: Monday, December 8 at Angie Clark's. **NOTE:** This will be the annual Holiday Party as well. There will be a gift exchange (\$15 MAXIMUM; participation is optional, BUT if you don't bring a gift, you won't get one). Angie asked that people bring side dishes (appetizers, salads, etc.) and desserts. **PLEASE** tell Angie **IN ADVANCE** what you will bring

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Churchwell
Secretary

RECAP OF MOTIONS

Approval of Minutes as corrected: Jean Faeth moved; Kay Hathaway seconded.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report: Carl Sharp moved; Jean Faeth seconded.

Cost of Annual Dinner: Tom Dressing moved; Suzi Subeck seconded.

Written Notice of Annual Meeting by Postcard: Les Kent moved; Tom Sucher seconded.

Nominating Committee Report: Tom Dressing moved; Tom Sucher seconded.

Adjournment: Les Kent moved; everyone seconded.