

**CHICAGO CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES – AUGUST 18, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by President Angie Clark. Also attending were

**Jan Churchwell
Adrienne Cohen
Tom Dressing
Jean Faeth**

**John Goldstein
Selma Perlmutter
Carl Sharp
Tom Sucher**

**John Vincent
Bob Young**

Also present: Unit Administrator Kathy Burt, Director Rick Mueller, Central States Chair Jackie Addis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of June 9 were approved. Tom Sucher moved; John Goldstein seconded.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tournament Summary:

ABA/CCBA: The ABA is in charge of the recap; all expenses were split in half as agreed upon. There was a profit of \$236 vs. a projected profit \$313; however, there were 22.5 more tables than budgeted.

SummerFest: All bills are in and paid. The table count was 3.5 Tables down from the budget. The tournament lost \$253 vs a budgeted profit of \$2490. Daily Bulletin costs (including hotel room) and Tournament Chair expenses are roughly on budget (General Tournament Expenses). The items that most appeared to contribute to the loss were Caddy costs and Director Per Diem/Transportation/Lodging.

Free play accounting was VERY easy to accomplish.

Summer STAC: The summary has not begun because monies are still coming in. Preliminary estimates show a table count of 797 (3 less than budget). With the simplified fee structure of \$4.25 per table, we should make \$2989 vs. the budget amount of \$791. [Coincidentally, the profit from the STaC balances the loss from SummerFest.]

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

We currently have approximately \$110,000 in the treasury; Tom projects about \$130,000 by year's end.

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

OLD BUSINESS

KIBITZER

DeMaris Johnson was not present; however, Kathy Burt reported that the September-October Kibitzer is finished. John Goldstein said that he had not yet seen a copy to proofread. Kathy will check with DeMaris.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Rick Mueller stated that he plans to run a “phantom” team score for a Pairs event during the Labor Day Sectional so that players can see how the “Pairs/Team” concept works before the first scheduled Pairs/Team game takes place at FallFest. He will also prepare a write-up for players which will be distributed at the game. The Board complimented Rick on the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

FINDING E-MAIL ADDRESSES ON THE WEBSITE

Unit Administrator Kathy Burt stated that she receives many calls from people asking for a member’s e-mail; she wondered whether it would be possible to put e-mail addresses on the website so people could look them up themselves. Rick Mueller said that this would be easy to accomplish at a tournament, and Tom Dressing agreed that it would be simple to do on the website; HOWEVER, the Board felt that providing e-mail addresses might lead to violations of privacy. Kathy was instructed to give out phone numbers using the ACBL database if she wishes to, but not e-mails; she may also suggest to people various other methods by which they might obtain the information.

CLUB ATTENDANCE VS. TOURNAMENT ATTENDANCE

The issue is the inevitable (and endless) conflict between the proprietary clubs and (all) tournaments, which are both trying to get the same people through their doors at the same time. While the Board cannot force private club owners to cancel their games to accommodate a tournament, Angie feels strongly that we should explore ways in which we might encourage owners to allow us at a minimum to put out tournament flyers at their games.

Angie reviewed the many ways in which the Unit provides services to the owners and suggested the goal of a quid pro quo.

Angie thought that the I/N players in particular should be encouraged to attend tournaments because they are the group who most want “colors.”

I/N Chair Jan Churchwell stated that she is recruiting friends who are I/N players to distribute tournament flyers at their tables and encourage other I/N players to come to a tournament.

John Vincent suggested that there are too many tournaments, particularly Sectionals, since there are now several STaCs each year where players can earn silver points easily. Jan pointed out that this has been a recurring topic for years now and for every negative for a given tournament, there is probably a balancing positive (hence the recurrence of the topic).

Angie informed the Board that in 2010 the ACBL will be changing the point requirement for Life Master from 300 to 500; the required number of colored points will increase as well. This change will only apply to people joining the ACBL after the effective date; current members will be grandfathered.

Tom Sucher stated that the only contract in place currently for 2009 is the WinterFest contract, so if we wish to revisit the idea of cancelling a given tournament, this is a good time to do so (Note: Tom Dressing told the Board that he has paid deposits to the Holiday Inn-Express in Palatine for the 299er tournament for BOTH 2009 and 2010).

Bob Young said that the Board needed to promote the benefits of tournaments, not merely advertise their existence. He suggested pop-ups on the website congratulating people when they check their tournament points, and Tom Dressing said that he could add complimentary or congratulatory remarks to the club game results format. John Goldstein reminded the Board that we had sent out a packet of flyers for an entire year a few years ago and suggested we do so again. Jan suggested that we publish the coming year's entire tournament schedule in the annual Calendar.

SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Clark stated that the Executive Committee had met on Thursday, August 14 with Harriette Buckman in order to get her thoughts on various matters before she leaves Chicago permanently. Angie reported the following recommendations and observations:

1. All Tournament Chairs will have 100% authority to control their respective tournaments. This includes the entire tournament budget, as well as selecting the "team" who will assist in preparing for and running each tournament. All committee chairs (and the committees themselves) may be used as resources or as active participants. Board members should not make assumptions about who will assist a Tournament Chair; the Chair may ask a Board member to help out with a particular function or may ask a friend. Board members may also decline to accept a Tournament Chair's request.

The Tournament Chair is, as always, accountable to the full Board for all decisions and expenditures relating to his/her tournament.

Tom Dressing stated that Tournament Chairs should therefore plan to PARTICIPATE in the budget-planning process, not merely agree to the figures he proposes. The time to do that is NOW (the 2009 budget will be presented at the December meeting).

The further recommendation was made to abolish the Hospitality Committee, effective 2009, principally because escalating costs have meant that more "hospitality" goes to covering expenses ("invisible hospitality") rather than providing members with registration gifts or "tournament gifts" so a committee has become redundant.

2. **The Handbook.** The Handbook was created by former President Lavern Wiebe and was intended to provide guidelines for Board members, not be a Bible of Right and Wrong. Jan Churchwell reminded the Board that an ad hoc committee (Adrienne Cohen, Jean Faeth, Suzi Subeck, and herself) had been formed at the April meeting to update the Handbook relative to what was obsolete (e.g., the entire section outlining the procedures to be followed running the 299er Tournament at the Northbrook American Legion can be deleted because the tournament is no longer held there). The committee was only making mechanical and procedural, not substantive, changes to the Handbook. Recommendations will be made at the October meeting.
3. The out-going President will be expected to remain available to attend Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings (where s/he may serve as a tie-breaker in case of an impasse), even if the person is resigning from the Board. The description of the duties of the President will be revised to include that item.
4. **Future Board meetings will begin at 7:30 and WILL NOT include dinner.** Angie will check various sites where we might hold meetings; meetings may also still be held at members' homes. The single exception to the "no dinner" format will be the December meeting at Angie's home since this is also the annual Christmas Party. This policy will begin with the October, 2008 meeting.
5. **The Scheduling and Communications Committees should plan regular periodic meetings** so that "more eyes" will be reviewing flyers to avoid errors of ANY sort (typos as well as major errors such as incorrect event times).

The expectation is that all recommendations (except 4) will go into effect in 2009.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominating Chair Kay Hathaway was not present; however, she will be notified that she must appoint the non-Board members to the Nominating Committee immediately (before the Labor Day Tournament) so that the slate of candidates can be established in a timely fashion. The committee will report its recommendations at the October Board meeting.

SUMMERFEST 2008

Tom Sucher told the Board that the high charges for spoilage (listed as Hospitality) paid to the site for unused food at the concession stand stemmed from DuPage County regulations concerning preparation, storage, and packaging of food.

FALLFEST AND DISTRICT STAC OVERLAP

This issue is moot because the District has rescheduled the STaC.

ACBL: CHARITY AND GOODWILL COMMITTEES

Submit names for consideration to Harriette Buckman. Submitting the names of Board members is acceptable.

ASSISTANT TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Jackie Addis, Chair of Central States, reported that she had spoken to Chris Patrias at the ACBL about policies concerning use of Assistant Directors (people in training) at tournaments. There are two people in our Unit who are interested in doing this: Bob Dolan and Jim Diebel.

Jackie asked the Board whether it was interested in spending time and money training either Bob or Jim, and if so, how much of each. Tom Sucher moved that both men be allowed to train; John Vincent seconded. The fee has been \$50/session and remains so.

The Board also voted to train assistants for one year; the number of sessions at any given tournament will be decided by the Tournament Chair. There will be a 12-session maximum at regionals and a 4-session maximum at sectionals. Tom Dressing moved, and Tom Sucher seconded.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS

SUMMERFEST

Tom Sucher stated that he had sent out a full report and had nothing to add. He said that he had received many compliments on the site (playing space, not the hotel overall) and few complaints.

Angie commended Tom on his mentoring of Bob Young during the tournament; she also commended Bob for his presence during the entire tournament. John Goldstein commented that this was what he had intended when he established the mentoring program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Angie asked the Board to consider (1) possible revenue sources other than tournament fees and (2) ways in which expenses could be reduced.

CONTRACTS AND SITES

Presently we have no site for SummerFest 2009. Tom Sucher gave our requirements to all the major area convention bureaus (Greater Woodfield, South Shore, North Shore, Kane County, DuPage County, Rosemont) and received few viable replies. The only site that can accommodate us during our sanctioned dates is Pheasant Run in St. Charles, which is in District 8. We need the District's permission to hold a tournament in their territory; however, this was not viewed as a problem.

Other possibilities are the Arlington Park Sheraton for the week of August 3, which is the same time as the Omaha Regional, and the Renaissance Convention Center (Schaumburg) for the week of August 10, which is the same time as the Grand Rapids Regional (because Grand Rapids is in the District next to ours, we would need their approval to schedule a tournament for the same dates). Angie and Tom had visited the Renaissance and felt that the site was magnificent. The Renaissance would sign a multi-year contract after one tournament if the parties are satisfied with each other.

The other option discussed was moving SummerFest to another time of year. Tom Sucher felt strongly that this is the best idea. An informal “straw poll” was conducted, and eight Board members agreed with this suggestion. Tom was instructed to begin the process of obtaining permission from the ACBL and/or District 13 to do this. Kathy Burt will check with the ACBL about the sanction. The Board will be kept informed via e-mail, and, if necessary, an e-mail vote will be taken before the October meeting.

A corollary to relocating “SummerFest” would be to drop the WinterFest sectional and present a regional tournament during January so that we could have the Annual Meeting which is required by the By-Laws. Alternatively, we could amend the By-Laws to change the Annual Meeting time period. If this is done, the change would be effective in 2010.

CADDIES

Selma Perlmutter stated that finding caddies for week-days during the school year is almost impossible.

One caddy is needed for Friday, August 29 at the Labor Day tournament.

For Central States Bernice Gee is providing caddies.

SCHEDULING – No report

HOSPITALITY – No report

COMMUNICATIONS – No report

EDUCATION – No report

NEWCOMERS – No report

Tom Dressing moved to adjourn the meeting; Adrienne Cohen seconded.

Next meeting: Monday, October 13 at Suzi Subeck’s. NOTE: The date has been changed, and the meeting will begin at 7:30 and WILL NOT include dinner.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Churchwell
Secretary

RECAP OF MOTIONS

Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report; Tom Sucher moved, John Goldstein seconded.

Tournament Director training approved for Bob Dole and Jim Diebel; Tom Sucher moved, John Vincent seconded.

The number of training sessions per tournament is capped at 12 for regionals and 4 for sectionals; Tom Dressing moved, Tom Sucher seconded.

Adjournment: Tom Dressing moved, Adrienne Cohen seconded.