

CHICAGO CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 18, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by President Angie Clark. Also attending were

Jan Churchwell
Adrienne Cohen
Tom Dressing
Jean Faeth
John Goldstein

Kay Hathaway
Les Kent
Blythe Olshan-Findley
Selma Perlmutter

Carl Sharp
Suzi Subeck
Tom Sucher
John Vincent

Not Present: Bob Young

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jan Churchwell said that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting had been posted to the Board but that they did not include the name of people making and seconding motions; she asked people to send her names if they knew. She will finalize Minutes as soon as she has replies.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Tom Dressing distributed e-lists for 2008 and reminded the Board that a mailing to the full Board requires BOTH lists (unit@bridgeinchicago.org and executive@bridgeinchicago.org)

Tom reported that the STaC in December was up 20.5 tables over projections and that attendance at WinterFest was up 44.5 tables over projections; however, table count overall has been declining by about 100 tables per year for the past four years.

There are still some unresolved matters from WinterFest, including a discrepancy in the payments to Caddies, the charges from Jackson Storage, and the return of boards to the ACBL.

The Annual Dinner resulted in a loss of \$9,400 against a budgeted amount of \$9,000. A total of 235 dinners was served, including 45 free dinners; the number guaranteed in the contract was 220.

Tom also reported that the selling and reselling of tickets the day of the dinner had resulted in poor tracking.

There are also still outstanding issues regarding the accounting for Central States, principally a large charge from the Grand Geneva for room sales that were guaranteed but not delivered; Kathy Burt said that the resort was full, which resulted in people being turned away when they tried to book rooms. She recommended that we refuse to pay this charge. The contract needs to be reviewed to clarify the situation. There is also a double-billing charge for a District breakfast dating from 2006 which still needs to be resolved.

Tax preparation is on schedule; John Goldstein will assist Tom as needed.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Board Administrator: No Report

Website: Tom said he was going on vacation and would not be available to post the results of the GNT games scheduled for March 1 and 2; Kathy Burt will post them.

Kibitzer: Editor DeMaris Johnson said that the issue is basically mocked up, and she is reorganizing and proofreading now. It was noted that a huge majority of the people at the Annual Dinner had approved (by show of hands) putting the Kibitzer on line. Angie noted that we still had to be sure we serve the members who do not want to depend on an “electronic newsletter.”

The matter was referred to the Communications Committee, which will report on alternatives at the April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2008 Committees and Chairs

Finance Committee: Tom Dressing, Chair; Adrienne Cohen, Bob Young

Tournament Oversight: Blythe Olshan-Findley, Chair; Carl Sharp, Advisor

Contracts/Site Coordinator: Tom Sucher, Chair; John Goldstein, Les Kent, Blythe Olshan-Findley, John Vincent, Bob Young

Scheduling: Carl Sharp, Chair; Jan Churchwell, Adrienne Cohen, Les Kent, Tom Sucher, Bob Young; all Tournament Chairs

Hospitality: Kay Hathaway, Chair; Skip Anderson, Jean Faeth, Blythe Olshan-Findley, Carl Sharp, Gerry Szymiski

Communication/Flyers: Suzi Subeck, Chair; Jan Churchwell, Jean Faeth, John Goldstein; Ties with DeMaris Johnson (Kibitzer), Tom Dressing (Website), Tom Sucher (Contracts and Sites)

Juniors/Education: Blythe Olshan-Findley, Chair; Kay Hathaway, Katherine Rehak, Carl Sharp

Newcomers: Jan Churchwell, Chair; Blythe Olshan-Findley, Suzi Subeck, John Vincent

Conduct/Ethics: Jim Burt, Chair; Kay Hathaway, Carl Sharp, Suzi Subeck, John Vincent

Recorder: Craig Gardner

Tournament Appeals: Jean Faeth, Carl Sharp, Suzi Subeck, Tom Sucher
[Note: The Site Committee was subsumed into Contracts/Site Coordinator]

Tournament Chairs for 2008:	Stars of Tomorrow	Jan Churchwell
	CCBA/ABA	Frank Chadwell
	SummerFest	Tom Sucher

**Labor Day
Central States
FallFest
WinterFest 2009**

**Kay Hathaway
Jackie Addis
Blythe Olshan-Findley
Jan Churchwell**

Blythe announced an initiative aimed at promoting Bridge in the various colleges and schools in the area; Carl Sharp will help with schools on Chicago's South Side.

The WinterFest 2009 sanction needs to be corrected; Kathy Burt will take care of it. Adrienne Cohen will manage the Invitational Pairs game again.

Directors-in-Training

Bob Dolan, who worked as a "Tournament Assistant" at WinterFest, received high marks from DIC Rick Mueller and the Board for his efforts. Rick said that if we wish Bob to work as a Director at any tournament we need to request that the ACBL hire him.

The ACBL has a tournament report which the Board expected would have been sent to Jan; she had not received it. She will look on-line for a copy.

District Board

Tom Sucher will be leaving the District Board this spring, and Angie Clark is automatically a member as the Unit President; therefore, there two replacements were needed. Jan Churchwell and Les Kent volunteered to fill the vacancies.

Angie informed them that attendance at District Board meetings is mandatory.

WinterFest Review

Jan Churchwell reported that the tournament had been successful; table count was up, and people generally dealt with the problems caused by site restrictions in a positive manner. Kay Hathaway said that she (and many other people) were upset by the presence of a site employee in the coat check room; Jan said that she had specifically told the site contact that there should not be a checker. If someone is there again next year, she will request that they put away the "tips" cup.

Blythe Olshan-Findley recited a list of problems with the site; Tom Sucher said that he would address all of them during contract negotiations for 2009 and future years.

Angie Clark said that she planned to separate running the tournament from running the Annual Dinner. Jan Churchwell will run WinterFest again in 2009.

Kay Hathaway suggested that the Harmon Wilkes Award winner should receive a free dinner since all other major award winners do. The Board agreed; however, the Board did not think that all the Mini-McKenny and Ace of Clubs winners should get free dinners. The Handbook will be changed to reflect that change.

Angie Clark reported that the second and third place winners in the IP game complained that they had received no recognition; their performances will be reported in the Kibitzer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee (Dressing): Tom said that he would not reimburse anyone for any expense if they did not fill out an expense voucher, including a receipt. The vouchers will be kept in the Tournament Box (Jan Churchwell currently has it).

Tom passed out sample free play coupons that he had created; they are the size of dollar bills and are made out for \$11 (Sectionals) and \$14 (Regionals). Tom said that the dollar amounts on them should not be changed; if change is due for any reason, it should be paid in cash. Each tournament chair will “own” the free play book at the appropriate time (the book is kept in the Tournament Box).

Blythe Olshan-Findley said that Katherine Rehak wanted students to play free at tournaments; they currently play for half price. Angie Clark said that paying for entries would create an “investment” in the process for players. The Finance and Education Committees will discuss the issue.

Contracts (Sucher): Tom reported that the contracts for WinterFest 2009 and 2010 were prepared and ready for final tweaking and signing; both contracts are with the European Crystal Banquet and Conference Center. He repeated that he would address the issues raised with regard to difficulties at the site and recommended that both contracts be signed.

One issue at WinterFest had been the inability to use the site’s projection system during the IP final round; Rick Mueller stated that Director Peter Wilke has a projector which he will make available.

Tom also pointed out that this was the first time in his memory that a new site had produced an increase in table count.

Caddies (Perlmutter): Selma said that she was not told during WinterFest that there was a caddy shortage. Rick Mueller brought statistics on past tournaments for Selma to use in assessing caddy needs for future tournaments. Tom Sucher suggested that caddies have some sort of training session. Selma said that the instruction sheets she puts out for the caddies seem to disappear. Suzi Subeck suggested that a “Caddying for Dummies” booklet be put together including an information form (for tax returns); she offered to create a prototype.

Scheduling (Sharp): Carl plans to hold a meeting in the near future.

Hospitality (Hathaway): No Report

Communications (Subeck): No Report

Education (Olshan-Findley): Blythe is sending a letter to area teachers offering a free training session to any teacher who starts a Bridge group at his/her respective school; she envisions a time line for implementing such a program of possibly a full year or more. She asked the Board members who are also ACBL-qualified teachers to assist her; Angie Clark, Jan Churchwell, and John Vincent all agreed to be part of the initiative.

Newcomers (Churchwell): Jan said that she wants to plan an intro to duplicate event for area social Bridge players. This initiative can have a lengthy time line; she will report further in future. Blythe mentioned that she had people asking her where they could learn to play.

Other: Blythe Olshan-Findley said that people had complained to her about the “closed club” appearance of the Board. An article will be written for a future Kibitzer describing the nominating process. [NB: Someone has to write article; should the Communications Committee handle it?]

Next meeting: Monday, April 14, 2008 at Jean Faeth’s house (Selma will back up if needed).

Adrienne Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting; Jean Faeth seconded.

RECAP OF MOTIONS

Tom Sucher moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report; Les Kent seconded. The motion carried.

Adrienne Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting; Jean Faeth seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Churchwell
Secretary