

REGINA DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of Board Meeting held at the Club April 29th , 2017

Present: Joan Quinlan, Leslie Mortin, Angela Duczek, Ken Gabora, Lance Connell, Sandy Bingaman, Pat Carlson, Nancy Welta, Gaylene Spence, Ilsa Krukoff

Regrets: Robert Stringer, Marilyn Drever

Guest: Jim Bingaman

Joan Quinlan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Add 6.1 Name tags **Add 6.2** Contacts committee **Add 6.3** Nomination committee **Add 7.5** Psychic bidding **Add 7.6** Board membership

Motion by Gaylene Spence, seconded by Nancy Welta, to adopt the agenda as amended. **Carried**

2. Adoption of the Minutes of March 18th, 2017

Motion by Pat Carlson, seconded by Leslie Mortin, to adopt the minutes of March 18th, 2017 as circulated. **Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes of March 18th, 2017

3.1 Budget Proposal – Ken Gabora was commended for a job well done on the 2017 / 2018 proposed budget. After Ken presented the proposed budget, discussion followed and questions were asked and answered. One item, BridgeMate, will still need to be fitted into the budget if it is approved by the Unit.

3.2 Trophies

- Discussion as to whether we should continue with the giving out of trophies. The general feeling was that most people had no real desire to have a big trophy on display in their homes. It was felt, however, that the trophy for new Life Masters was often valued by those earning it, as long as it was small and decorative.

- Discussion regarding names on plaques. It was pointed out that when we relocate, we may not have room for display of plaques. However, as this is still an unknown, it was thought that we should stay with the status quo for this year, and continue to add names to plaques. If a plaque is full, rather than purchasing another plaque, we could attach something to it.

- Player of the year. It was pointed out that this is a significant overall achievement, and as such merits more recognition than announcing of name and a handshake. However, once again, the general feeling was that we should look for another way to recognize, rather than a trophy. Two things were decided: Firstly, to feature the Joan Schneider Player of the Year on the website (also feature the <100 Player of the Year), And secondly, to feature the Joan Schneider Player of the Year with a celebration and a cake at the AGM.

4. President's Report

Joan Quinlan said that more and more we are faced with the realization of our impending relocation. Ilsa Krukoff has already made mention of this in the recent Club News and asked for members to take a heads up approach to any places or ideas that come up. Leslie Mortin continues to chair the Relocation Committee, and will be looking for interested people who are willing to help share the workload.

5. Financial Report

Presented by Ken Gabora. Ken noted that earned interest is down, but that this is a reflection of generally lower interest rates. Ken presented an investment summary. The Board looked at investments that were coming due, and discussed what the most prudent course would be, in order to ensure that sufficient funds would be readily available as needed for a relocation.

Motion by Gaylene Spence, seconded by Sandy Bingaman, that we authorize Ken Gabora to reinvest our Canadian Western Bank investment for one year at the best rate that he can find. **Carried**

Motion by Ken Gabora, seconded by Nancy Welta, to accept the financial report as presented. **Carried.**

6. Old Business

6.1 Name tags – Leslie Mortin said that she had received estimates from Barkers and from Bazaar and Novelty. Name tags could be pins or magnetic. Colour choices included brass, silver or white. There would be 2 lines of writing and a coloured decal. Approximate cost would be \$9 to \$10. No minimum purchase required. Board would act to collect names and order tags. Upon discussion, the Board decided that a white background would best highlight the lettering. Lettering should read Regina Bridge Club on one line, and name of player on the other. Decal should be a card hand in black and red. Angela Duzek said that she would volunteer to look after collecting all moneys. She said that she would coordinate with days that memberships were being sold. Ilsa Krukoff will send out an email to members.

Motion by Leslie Mortin, seconded by Nancy Welta, that we make available to our members the option to purchase name tags, at a cost to the member of \$10.00. **Carried.**

6.2 Contacts Committee – Joan Quinlan said that Della Irvine has agreed to chair the committee, and that so far there are 3 other members on the committee. They will need a list to begin with. Nancy has some data to share.

6.3 Nomination Committee – Shirley Strohan has agreed to chair; Mo Adams will work with her. Current Board members are asked to phone Shirley within the next 2 weeks to advise whether they will let their names stand.

7. New Business

1. Club Manager Honorarium

It was noted that the job of Club Manager is very time-consuming, and that the amount the Club gives as an honorarium is very small. No increase to the honorarium has taken place for several years.

Motion by Nancy Welta, seconded by Leslie Mortin, that for fiscal year 2016-2017, we give our Club Manager an honorarium of \$1000.

Discussion followed, and the general feeling was that offering \$100 per month would be a fairer amount to show recognition. An amendment was suggested, and the motion was reworded:

Motion by Nancy Welta, seconded by Leslie Mortin, that for fiscal year 2016-2017, we give our Club Manager an honorarium of \$1200. **Carried.**

2. Standbys

Sandy Bingaman said that she had had a great deal of difficulty rounding up volunteers as standbys for May and June. She has now managed to find volunteers for May, but suggested that June could perhaps be left with no standbys. She said that generally out-of-towners have been contacting our Club Manager if they plan to come and need a partner. Traditionally, there are already no standbys in the summer months of July and August. After discussion, the following motion was presented:

Motion by Sandy Bingaman, seconded by Gaylene Spence, that for the month of June, 2017, we do not have standbys provided. **Carried.**

3. Stratification

Jim Bingaman, Club Manager, was present for discussion regarding this item, and gave the Board insight and direction

Nancy Welta said that it has come to her attention that not all of our directors have the same approach to stratifying games. She felt that it was important that we arrive at a directive that will ensure consistency. Nancy has done some research, including contacting the ACBL re: their policies, and she found the following:

- ACBL encourages stratifying games wherever possible
- Games can be stratified either by average mps of a partnership or team, or by mps held by the top player.
- Number of strats is determined by the number of participants. In order to stratify, the number of pairs required in the lower strat is 5.
- Averaging mps is very straightforward and is handled by the program once players are entered.
- Averaging can encourage newer players, as they may end up in a lower strat than if they had to be stratified according to the points held by a master partner. It can also encourage higher players to play with and mentor others.
- Nancy pointed out that game directors cannot make changes, other than because of basic traveller errors, once the scores are in. Any other error is to be corrected by the Club Manager.

Jim Bingaman recommended that for invitational team games (that is, both 8-Is-Enough and 2-under-200 games), that we consider stratifying these games by averaging mps. There was further discussion regarding invitational games, and it was suggested that Wednesday evening pairs could for the same reason be stratified by average mps as well, to help level the field and to encourage the newer players.

Motion by Leslie Mortin, seconded by Lance Connell, that the following invitational Club games are to be stratified by average masterpoints: 8-Is-Enough team games, and Wednesday evening master/non-master pairs games and team games. **Carried**

4. Rules clarification re: student members (requested by Jim Bingaman)

Jim Bingaman pointed out that we have a Club member who will be returning to school as a student in the fall. He qualifies under our description of junior player. Question was whether he should, for purpose of membership for the fiscal year, including ACBL membership, be considered a student. It was decided that he should be. Jim will share this information with ACBL

7.5 Psychic Bidding

Joan Quinlan said that it had been brought to her attention that there was a case of psychic bidding in a Wednesday evening master / non-master game. Specifics were discussed in camera. It was pointed out that psychic bidding, although a legal part of the game, is at our Club **strongly discouraged** in any games that involve rookie players. Our members have been reminded of this, as has the individual who did the above psyche bid. We stand by the principle that our newer players need encouragement as they build a basic understanding of the game, and that psychic bidding caused unnecessary confusion and discouragement for these players.

7.6 Board Membership

Leslie Mortin suggested that we add the position of Past President to the Board. She felt that this would ensure continuity from year to year.

Motion by Leslie Mortin, seconded by Nancy Welta, that beginning fiscal year 2017/2018 that the Past President be given a Board position without election. **Carried.**

8.0 Committee Reports

1. **Promotion and Public Relations**

Lorraine Garratt sent several points for information and for discussion.

- **Advertising costs** - It has been confirmed that District 18 will rebate ½ of the amount that ACBL will reimburse for approved co-op advertising. ACBL is continuing a rebate of 50%[^] of total cost this year. That means we will receive 75% back from incurred advertising costs.

- **Facebook** - Darien Cozart has set up a Facebook page and Pat Carlson has offered to put upcoming events and info on it and update it regularly. Lorraine has asked that board members discuss this and give their input as well as a decision of whether we want to have it. One point of discussion—need a system of making sure negative comments are not posted, if that's possible. With some websites the only way people can get responses or post is via a form which screens people and their intentions beforehand. Because we had insufficient knowledge about how we could especially avoid the possibility of negativism, and because we had insufficient time for a fulsome discussion, this item was **TABLED**.

- **Point person for website** – Lorraine felt that we need a person designated to give the webmaster (Jason Larrivee) news and promotional updates to refresh the site, make corrections and delete old news. Rather than instructions coming from several people, this person would anticipate news and would be pointed out as the contact person. Ilsa Krukoff volunteered to take on this role.

- **University group's promotional plan** – U of R students provided us with a strategic communications plan. One of the three students specifically dedicated to our project is an education student so there was detailed information on how to begin with contact info and curriculum info. There was interest from the Catholic School Division's math consultant. Lorraine says that we would need a person or persons from the Club to lead the program. People felt that they needed more time to absorb this, so the item was **TABLED**.

2. **Facilities Maintenance**

Nothing to report

3. **Game Management**

Nothing additional to report

4. **Education Committee**

- Gaylene Spence reported that she is now offering Friday evening basic lessons in workshop format. She has 10 participants. Gaylene asked about the possibility of providing some free plays to these students to encourage them to come out and play.

Motion by Angela Duczek, seconded by Lance Connell, that participants in the Friday evening workshops, if they are new to lessons, be given two free plays each upon completion of the workshops. **Carried**.

- Fall lessons – a series of eight level 1 lessons to begin in September. At the end of the lessons, Gaylene plans to check with her students to see how many will be available and planning to attend level 2 lessons if offered in January. Another possible option, if there is interest, is instead to extend the fall lessons to include level 2 lessons at that time.

- Open House is scheduled for September 10th, 2017. Details to follow.

8.5 **Relocation Committee**

Leslie Mortin said that as we seek a new location, we will need to consider: accessibility, parking, safety, and lighting. We will need at least 2000 sq ft.

9.0 Club Management

Jim Bingaman mentioned as a heads up for future consideration, and as purely informational at this time, that STaC did not result in extra people; however STaC does result in extra cost to the Club. He suggested that it was even possible to consider holding fewer STaC games, and that we do not need to have every game a STaC game unless we choose to do so. This is an opportunity for members to get silver points, however, so we would need to weigh options in future.

10.0 Tournament Chair

Nothing to report

11.0. Date of Next Meeting – June 3rd, 2017

12.0 General discussion

1. Website:

- Need to change start time of AGM to correct time of 6:00
- 8-Is-Enough dates will need to be corrected on the calendar into fiscal year 2017/2018

2. AGM: Will we offer free plays again? Consensus was yes, for those who are there by 6:00. It was felt that this is good way to encourage attendance at the meeting.

Leslie Mortin moved meeting adjourned.