

New England Bridge Conference of



the American Contract Bridge League

Minutes

Executive Committee
Presidential Regional
Radisson Hotel
Cromwell, CT
February 18, 2017

Present:

Officers: Robert Bertoni, President; Lois DeBlois, Vice President; Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer; Carolyn Weiser, Secretary; Mark Aquino, District Director and Past President

Unit Representatives:

EMBA: Neil Montague (B. Montague alt.); CMBA: Shirley Wagner; CBA: Allan Clamage, Esther Watstein; RIBA: Paula Najarian (M. Fahey alt.); NHBA: Sarah Widhu; VBA: none; MBA: Richard Budd; WMBA: Peter Samsel

Invited Guests: Helen Pawlowski, Tournament Manager; David Metcalf, Peter Marcus, Marilyn Wells, Directors; Mike Wavada, Communications Committee/Webmaster

Absent: EMBA: Robert McCaw, Brenda Montague; RIBA: Maureen Fahey); VBA: Wayne Hersey

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

President's Opening remarks

President Bertoni stated that he was pleased to see the great turnout. Earlier this week the numbers were no encouraging but as of today, Cromwell is shaping up to be a great tournament. We had 49 teams in the KO's and the new Extra Point Pairs had 17 tables Thursday night and 20 Friday night. The have been a success and give the players a reason to come early. He reminded the members of the Executive Committee to weak their red badges when they play as this is a great way to get feedback from the players.

Secretary's Report - Carolyn Weiser

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held in Mansfield, MA on November 13, 2017 as sent.

Treasurer's Report - Joseph Brouillard

We are doing well financially. Compared to last year our total assets are up just over \$22,000 to \$167,713. Our Operating Income Statement shows tournament income of \$16,257. Our tournaments are still not making much money. Our biggest increase is in the Grass-roots Fund money we receive from the ACBL. We received \$16,593 this year, which was a huge increase. This was a big chunk of our increase in income.

Expenses are up \$5893. We spent \$2,500 for email advertising. The cost of the GNT's increased by \$3,000. The Treasurer and Secretary stipends now are part of administrative expenses and no longer are reflected as a tournament expense. Our net income was \$17,934.

The NABC fund is currently \$86,325, which is up \$18,837. This includes the \$15,000 that the Executive Committee authorized to be transferred from general funds.

Our total cash is \$66,056.

Tournament Manager's Report - Helen Pawlowski

I was unable to have copies of the Mansfield financials printed in time for this meeting. I will see that they are sent to you via email.

It was impossible to give a three year comparison of Mansfield with the inclusion of the B/C NAP's during the weekend. Table count seemed strong but all costs were relegated to the Regional as it was impossible to accurately separate many of the cost factors such as director that were used by both. The NAP B had 121 tables and the C-flight 173. Last year it was 108 and 125. We have been losing table count at Mansfield. This year we had a total of 828.5. The NAPs brought the total up to 936.5, but the benefit is only the reduction in cost of the NAP's. The figures showed a combined profit of \$6,118.10.

Attendance here is incredible. I would like to think that the changes made by the Scheduling Committee made the difference, but we have to admit that the weather has been great. The bid surprise was the success of the night games. We have had two sections every night. I was one on the naysayers but with the results today, I was amazed. It was a risk worth taking. We are up 45-50 tables currently. E. Watstein commented that she was amazed at how many out-of-state players were here.

We have contracts for all properties through 2019. Only one may have to be adjusted. President Bertoni noted that we have a year-over-year increase. If we do well at the rest of the Regionals this year will be very impressive. District Director Aquino added that the last 12 months were great compared to the previous year. He asked if we have the figures for the whole ACBL for that period. He stated that he expected that there had been a tremendous decline in attendance at Regionals and Nationals throughout the ACBL. H. Pawlowski said that she would check those figures and report on the comparison. President Bertoni remarked that he felt that we were plus not because of the weather but because of all the work that we have done to improve our tournaments and attract more players.

Tournament / Scheduling Committee Report - Vice President Lois DeBlois

Regarding the flyers and advertising for Nashua, we had a meeting today and plan to adjust a few things.

We approved and advertised that there would be free entries for Junior players and defined them as those under 26. The ACBL uses 25. In the future, it will be non-life masters, under 25.

President Bertoni was asked to do a lecture Saturday morning at Nashua and at the Rainbow weekend on playing in KO's. If he is unavailable, he will send a replacement. We continue to promote Nashua heavily.

The committee is considering changing the Pro-Am to a once-a-year event. It would be held on a rotating basis at the various Regionals, excluding the Senior Regional. We will be better able to get a feel for its popularity here at the session tonight. We intend to rotate it regardless of the numbers tonight.

The Warwick schedule was provided to the group and two minor changes were considered. The schedule shows a change in the rotating sequence starting with Pairs on Tuesday (or day one) instead of Swiss. We are considering adding a super-point Pairs series on Sunday. A. Clamage noted that this creates 3 days in a row that are primarily terms. There are actually players who like playing in pairs. L. DeBlois stated that we would have a better feeling for this after tomorrow. D. Budd stated that it seemed like a no-brainer. Why change what is working. L. DeBlois added if there were Super Point Games available, those who were knocked out could still play in two sessions and earn gold points. The Monday schedule works here because it is a holiday. At a regular Regional tournament, we would not be surprised if the losers on Sunday morning just went home early. President Bertoni stated that

some might still want to play. Vice President DeBlois reminded the Executive Committee that the schedule is still a work in progress.

M. Waveda questioned as to whether, as we now appear to have learned how to run a successful Regional, would it be possible to add one. President Bertoni reminded the Executive Committee that by ACBL rules every District is only allowed to run 4 Regionals. We have five because the Senior Regional is a grand-fathered regional that cannot be changed or moved off the Cape.

District Director's Report - Mark Aquino

District Director Aquino commented that he had talked to a player who had been away from Regionals for a long time and who likes our new schedule very much. L. DeBlois commented that she felt that the new schedule has helped attendance.

ABCL CEO Robert Hartman has resigned effective 7/31/27. His reasons for leaving were not very clear. Our codification specifies a one-year notice is required for the CEO resignation but the board's Executive Committee has granted a waiver to leave in July. Jay Whipple, Florida's District Director is the leader of the Search Committee which is comprised of the current BOD CEO Review Committee, augmented by top bridge players Sylvia Moss who is an HR Consultant, and Bob Blanchard who has served as CEO of two companies and has also served on the previous Search Committee.

My real concern is the amount of money that is being paid for the position despite the overall decline in the revenues of the organization.

Old Business

Review of Audit Committee Report

A motion was made, seconded and so voted that the Executive Committee move into Executive Session.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted that the Executive Committee leave Executive Session.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to increase the gross pay for caddies by 30% and to file 1099s as required by law. The motion passed – 9 yes – 3 opposed. Caddies will be required to provide all necessary information to make this possible.

Change in location for Superflight GNT's

The motion was requested to ratify the emergency decision to move the Superflight GNT's to the Senior Regional. R. Budd noted that there is no alternative. H. Pawlowski asked if the same conflict will occur next year. The change will affect the bottom line for the Rainbow weekend and the GNT's in Sturbridge as it will definitely affect the room block pick up. This will be reviewed.

President Bertoni added that he has spoken to the Hartford Bridge Club regarding their hosting the A-flight NAP's in 2018. The club is looking into it. The District would prefer that the site for the event be rotated, if at all possible. The event will be held in Watertown in October of 2017. District Director M. Aquino suggested that the EMBA administration and Bill Braucher be brought into the discussion. President Bertoni noted the support that the Hartford Bridge Club has always shown to the District as it closes during the whole period of the Cromwell Regional. District Director questioned whether there was sufficient housing. He was assured that was plentiful housing possibilities near Hartford.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carolyn Weiser
Secretary, District 25