

Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
January 7, 2012
Newton, MA

Attendance:

Officers: President -Ausra Geaski; Vice President- Mark Aquino; Secretary - Carolyn Weiser; Treasurer/District Director

Unit Representatives: Dean Panagopoulos, James Rasmussen (EMBA); Sonja Smith (CBA) (P. Bausher alt.); Bruce Emond (CMBA); William Shockley (RIBA); Wayne Burt (NHBA); Wayne Hersey (VBA); Richard Budd, (MBA); David Rock (WMBA)

Invited Guests: Helen Pawlowski, Tournament Manager; Peter Marcus, Director

Absent: Allan Clamage, Phyllis Bausher (CBA); Robert Erwin, Past President

President's opening remarks - A. Geaski

President Geaski welcomed the new members to the Executive Committee with introductions all around. Re-contacts have been made regarding the District appointments for 2012 and the completed list will be available by Cromwell.

Secretary's report – C. Weiser

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes for Executive Committee meeting, Mansfield, MA of November 19, 2012. So voted.

The secretary noted the correction of Board of Governors for Board of Directors in the Minutes of the Board of Governors meeting for November 20, 2012.

Treasurer's report - R. DeMartino

The District saw a net loss for the calendar year.. Contributing factors were: losses from the Individual, Grand National Teams and the Masters tournaments; extraordinary expenses for the design and implementation of the new website; and the purchase of new inserts for the bidding boxes. Overall the District remains in excellent financial shape. The National Fund money has been purposely omitted from the D25 financial reports as that figure does not affect the funds available to the District. Comparison columns will be provided to the Board of Governors in future reports to show prior and current year financial results.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. So voted.

District Director's report - R. DeMartino

The new ACBL CEO will take over in July. The updating of ACBL Score has fallen behind schedule. The Seattle NABC was a success and interest in the next NABC in Memphis seems strong.

Tournament Manager's report - H. Pawlowski

The preliminary report was e-mailed to the Executive Committee members. Even though table count was up in Mansfield the District suffered a loss largely because of the lack of room pickup which was 65 rooms short of our guarantee due to many more commuters than expected. This resulted in a loss of comp rooms. Through negotiations with the hotel additional hospitality was made available to players using the money that would have gone to cover the cost of the additional 65 unused rooms. This saved the district from having to pay function rental for the playing space. Gross receipts were up for the tournament, but were offset by additional costs. The timing of the tournament so close to Thanksgiving and the Nationals had a negative effect. J. Rasmussen asked who is entitled to comp rooms. H. Pawlowski answered that we are contractually required to provide rooms for the Directors as well as the Tournament Manager, President, Secretary, Treasurer, Head Caddy, Bulletin Editor and Tournament Chair. R. DeMartino added that this has not changed in the last 15-20 years.

As the District has changed from a fiscal to a calendar year, H. Pawlowski will be filing a short-year tax report for 2012.

A problem was identified with the site for the NAP this year. In checking out bookings with Sturbridge H. Pawlowski was informed that there was no reservation for 2012 and the hotel had sold the NAP weekend in 2007. The only alternative in October is a weekend in which two Units have already scheduled tournaments. Two suggestions for the issue were offered. Separate the A and B/C events to two locations and change the length of some events. The B and C events could be one day in one location and a two-day event held for the A events in a second location if needed. This would allow keeping the same date. M. Aquino added that the one day event would be Saturday. He added that some Districts are using "rolling" A/B/C events. This allows strong B teams to play in the A event and, if they fail to qualify as an A pair they would still be able to enter the B event. R. DeMartino added that with more sites more Directors would be required. H. Pawlowski reminded everyone that the Sturbridge Host did not require any room pick-up and agreed to host the NAP and GNT events primarily as a favor to the District because we run the Summer Regional there. Any other hotel would be unlikely to supply the needed space without some expectation of room rental. Possible options will be investigated and the information will be brought to the Executive Committee in Cromwell.

The Nashua site, which is liked by many players, has been bought by a corporation with a successful track record of buying and refurbishing hotels. Helen Pawlowski is investigating its use for our Summer Regional in 2014 and 2015. Sturbridge is a wonderful location but the hotel is in need of significant repair. Complaints about the rooms have been increasing. The same is true of the Lancaster Rose which is owned by the same corporation. If the District leaves Sturbridge it will need to pay function rental for the use of the site in January and October. It is a major decision to move a successful tournament. There are always complaints when moving to a different site and this is a decision that needs to be considered and weighed carefully. The Nashua site will be revisited again in June when more information will be available regarding the refurbishing and rates.

We have a contract with Warwick through 2015 and with Sturbridge for 2013 and 2014. The first possible date for a return to Nashua would be 2015.

Tournament Committee- M. Aquino

D. Rock and M. Aquino have agreed to combine the Tournament and Scheduling Committee meetings. The GNT's this year will start at 10:00 Sunday morning. The meeting of GNT Coordinators at Seattle was fruitful. There will be a featured article in the ACBL Bulletin regarding grassroots events which will be very informative. Twenty-two of the 25 Districts have their GNT finals from March to June.

A Geaski reported regarding the current status of obtaining electronic score pads. The Board of Delegates voted for their purchase and several additional options were explored to obtain the best deal for the district. A lease option was presented to the Executive Committee which would be for a 4 year rental agreement. The purchase of the equipment and all logistics would be handling by the leasing agent. The score pads would be available as soon as feasible with Cromwell as a possibility. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the offer to provide Bridgemates for D-25 Regionals at a rate of \$2,500 for the first 12 month period that would include all auxiliary transportation and maintenance costs. So voted, none opposed.

J. Rasmussen asked if the number of Directors and Caddies would be affected. P. Marcus responded that there could be a slight reduction in the number of required Directors, but that it would depend upon the configuration of the site, and would probably not be significant. Regarding the caddies, their duties would be less affected as we run team games every day and they perform other tasks that would still have to be done. The final affect on the number of cadies would be minimal.

Scheduling Committee Report –D. Rock

The last Executive Committee voted that all non-Friday night KO's would become flighted events. R. DeMartino stated that this change would make D25 the only District with all flighted events which would run the risk that A players would come and find that there would not enough tables for them to have an event. D. Rock added that the real problem is the first night. By midweek the numbers are better and brackets are possible. For Sturbridge, D. Rock proposed that the on the first night the event should be a Compact KO finishing Tuesday morning. The schedule would remain the same for the rest of the week. In the discussion that

followed it was noted that KO's are generally losing popularity and other Districts have tried flighting which has failed. H. Pawlowski added that in two years the KO's have dropped by 40 tables.

A motion was made and seconded to substitute the 4-session first night KO at the Summer and Fall Regional with a two-session Compact KO followed by a 2-session Swiss the following afternoon and evening. So voted.

It was determined that general review of our Conditions of Contest and events should be undertaken by the Scheduling Committee.

M. Aquino remarked that problems have developed regarding our website and how information is updated. H. Pawlowski added that tasks that are simple for someone with website experience may that an inordinate amount of time for someone who does the same task infrequently. A. Geaski acknowledged that issues have been raised and that it will be put on a future agenda.

Old Business

A. Clamage has agreed to review the remaining items relating to the bylaws for presentation to the Board of Governors in June. The issue of ultimate authority was dealt with at Mansfield and the current Bylaws stand on that issue.

A. Geaski reminded the Executive Committee that it is clear that the Board of Delegates wants more transparency and more detail, particularly on financial matters. Unit Representatives will determine what precise information is desired and bring this to the Executive Committee in Cromwell.

New Business

Planning for 2014 Nationals in Providence – A. Geaski

The District needs to develop a timeline for the next Nationals and select the Chairs. The positions and their requirements will be posted on the website so that interested individuals can apply. The NABC Chairs and Committee Chairs can come from any Unit not just RIBA. The only position that should be local is the Restaurant Guide to have someone who is familiar with the area restaurants.

Joe Brouillard has agreed to head up the Website Support Committee which will follow up with any issues about the new website. M. Aquino suggested that someone with a specific technical skill set is needed to handle the uploading of materials. The website provides the only means of communication between events and needs to be as current and informative as possible. J. Brouillard will work with his committee to provide options of the best way to resolve this issue of uploading data. Various suggestions for individuals who could take on the task of updating the site were made by the Executive Committee. A. Geaski asked that the names of anyone interested be sent to her. R. DeMartino suggested that an interim appointment be made so that time could be spent determining the exact job description and in making the best selection.

R. Budd made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 6:35. So voted

Respectfully submitted: Carolyn Weiser, Secretary