

New England Bridge Conference of the American Contract Bridge League



Minutes Executive Committee

June 25, 2011

Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA

Attendance

Officers: Robert Erwin, President; Ausra Geaski, Vice President; Richard DeMartino, Treasurer/District Director; Roy Green, Past President; Carolyn Weiser, Secretary;

Unit Representatives: Mark Aquino, Bill Hunter (J. Rasmussen, alt.) (EMBA); Phyllis Bausher, Allan Clamage (CBA); Bruce Emond (CMA); Sue Erwin (RIBA); Joe DeGaetano, (NHBA); Wayne Hersey (P. Sharpsteen, alt.) (VBA); Richard Budd (MBA); David Rock (WMBA)

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

Absent: J. Rasmussen (EMBA), P. Sharpsteen (VBA)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Erwin at 4:45 pm.

A Contract was awarded to Megahurtz Computer to develop a new District Website. The Website Committee met on Friday evening and training is in progress. Joe Brouillard and Bob Bertoni are here and will attend the Board of Governors meeting tomorrow to demonstrate the new website .and give status. This will continue as a standing committee.

The Audit Committee met on Tuesday and found we are in excellent shape. After lengthy discussions over a six month period, the Committee determined that a budget would not be workable for the District.

After consultation with P. Marcus and H. Pawlowski a request from D-3 to hold a Regional in competition with our Fiesta Regional scheduled for Warwick over Labor Day weekend was denied.

A request has been made to remove the "balance of power" amendment from the agenda for the Board of Governors meeting tomorrow. This will be taken up under the Bylaw Report by A. Clamage.

Secretary's Report - C. Weiser

A motion was made by R. Budd to accept the minutes of February 19, 2011 in Cromwell, CT as e-mailed. Seconded and so voted.

Treasurer's Report - Richard DeMartino

The Treasurer's Report was e-mailed and will be reviewed in more detail at the Delegates Meeting, Sunday. We sustained losses on the Individual and Grand National Teams, but made a small profit at the Knockout Regional in Cromwell and a more significant profit at the Senior Regional in Hyannis.

District Director's Report - Richard DeMartino

Motions are currently being accepted for the next meeting of the Board of Directors. No items can be brought up at the meeting without a written motion in advance.

A Strength of Field concept was initiated in 2007 for Bracketed KOs. This has worked very well and the ACBL Board is presently determining whether or not it is advisable to implement a similar concept for pair/non KO team games. It will be brought up to the Delegates. Frank Hacker is part of the group that is trying to determine a formula that could be used.

The ACBL is in the process of hiring a new CEO. The candidates picked by the CEO Search Committee will be brought into the Board Meeting in July in Toronto. If so voted, the individual could be on board early. The current plan is for Jay Baum to leave in July of 2012. Both Bob Blanchard and Steve Beaty are on the search committee. Both have done a great job.

The updating of the ACBL website was progressing. The ACBL will wait 3-6 months and then re-evaluate it.

Regarding the updating of ACBL Score, it was decided that we need a project manager. All work has stopped until someone is chosen.

Tournament Manager's Report - Helen Pawlowski

Copies of the report on the Senior Tournament and Cromwell were e-mailed. Both the KO and Senior Regionals showed a profit. The table count at the Cape was higher than expected and the I/N held their own. No direct comparison can be made as we have been at three different properties in the last three years. Properties in Boxboro, MA and the Raddison in Nashua were visited. There is only a two year contact at Warwick. The Radisson in Nashua is under bank management. There is a new buyer who should be taking over after Labor Day. The first three floors were trashed by University of Massachusetts law students. We need 220 room renovated and they will be personally checked before anything is signed. Several alternate sites in the northern tier were visited or considered. If a tournament were floated it should be the Masters as it is the smallest of our tournaments. We are contracted to Mansfield until 2015 and a Warwick for only two years.

Tournament Committee Report - Ausra Geaski

The Tournament Committee shared its meeting time with the Scheduling Committee. Only two items were discussed: the follow-up on the Individual and Masters Regionals for suggestions and Electronic Scorepads.

Regarding the Individual, the sense of the group was that we should continue the Regional as it draws individuals from across the country and some from Canada. If we give it up, we will never be able to replace it. The Individuals, because of the stratifications, focuses on the Novice players and we need to get the I/N into that event. Currently with a separate I/N event we are bumping heads with ourselves. H. Pawlowski will do some follow-up regarding the details and report back to the group. The Individual is a "grandfathered" event. Because of its unique nature no competing two-session regionally rated event can be run on Saturday or Sunday.

Information of the various types of electronic score pads was compiled. The two major types are the BridgeMate Pro and the Bridgemate II. Both were investigated and representatives were contacted. Comparisons showed that the BridgeMate II was the best available at this time. We would need 160 units to cover the Gold Rush events. We would need multiple servers because of our room configuration. The final cost for 160 units with accessories for the BridgeMate II would be just under \$17,000. There would be on going costs for storage, transportation, damage, replacement and insurance. We would not be able to recoup the costs in either lower director fees or fewer caddies and would have to see this as a service to the players. This will be brought up to the Board of Governors on Sunday.

Scheduling Committee Report – David Rock

Review of the Senior Start Time Survey was put on hold by the Scheduling/Tournament Committee due to time.

P. Marcus raised concerns regarding KO Events with a large gap in points between the top and bottom teams of the top flight in an 8-9 team KO. The problem exists especially in the mid-week KOs. Even handicapping can't fix. After general discussion the Committee decided to recommend that we publicize on the web that, "starting in Warwick, for Mid-week KO's, Bracketing will be done at the Director's Discretion." If there are only 6-7 teams in the top bracket, they may have to have a shorter number of rounds.

Regarding multiple start times, the Committee reviewed the survey of start times utilized by other districts. After a thorough discussion the Committee recommends that we harmonize all start times for all weekday events as 9:30 - 1:30 and 7:00. The Friday night events would retain their 7:30 start time and Saturday would remain at 9:00-1:00 and 7:00. We will start the 9:30, 1:30, 7:00 times in Cromwell.

President Erwin asked for a show of hands in support of the unified start times as presented. All showed agreement.

Old Business

Bylaws - Allan Clamage -

A. Clamage asked if there was to be a vote at the Board of Delegates meeting. President Erwin opened the floor for discussion He noted that we have sent out the information on the bylaw changes in October 2009 and May 2010 and October of 2010 and May of 2011. We have had people coming with the intent to vote for four times. At the last meeting of the Board of Delegates the Delegates directed that the vote on the last amendment to the bylaws would be the first item on the agenda.

A lengthy and thorough discussion followed in which multiple issues were raised. There is a difference of opinion among some people on what is being proposed. Multiple views regarding the historical record of events were brought up and reviewed in depth.

A motion was made by B. Hunter to table the vote on the bylaw amendment by the Board of Delegates until the details can be publicized in whatever manner the President deems correct and revisited in meeting of the Board of Delegates in November.

Seconded by R. DeMartino. Accepted unanimously.

A committee consisting of David Rock, Wayne Hersey, Bruce Emond, and Joe DeGaetano will go review the matter and determine if an amendment is required, and if so, what the amendment should be. The committee can meet in Warwick and report to the Executive Committee there.

Tournament Director P. Marcus stated that we are about 70 tables below last year's record turnout. Yesterday morning and afternoon were huge but the KO's almost disappeared. The Monday and Tuesday games are what make the Wednesday and Thursday games so big. The Wednesday game was approximately 200 tables.

Table Fee Recommendations- R. DeMartino and H. Pawlowski

R. DeMartino reviewed the Financial Analysis for Use in Determining Effect of Increasing Table Fees that had been sent via e-mail. The last increase was in January of 2006. We have used the same \$11 rate for five years. The income we earn from tournament is needed to cover our non-bridge expenses including the NAP and GNT stipends, bonding, and others.. At the end of every rate cycle there tends to be increased losses at tournaments. We will also have to be able to fund our portion of the 2014 NABC in Providence After a discussion R. Budd made a motion:

to accept R. DeMartino's recommendation that we raise the rates \$1 per player per session starting at the Fall Regional in Warwick. One-half of the increase would be earmarked for the National Fund and other half for our use.

A vote was called: Only 2 opposed. The motion was passed. 11 yea and 2 nay
The I/N would continue to be discounted two dollars.

Web design - R. Brouillard

President Erwin asked Joe Brouillard and Bob Bertoni to make their presentation regarding the new website. J. Brouillard thanked B. Bertoni for all his work on the new website. The website is now on-line. The I/N has a separate site. Discussions and updating will continue. Any ideas or suggestions should be forwarded to B. Brouillard. There is a link for a separate I/N website on the main D-25 page. B. Bertoni is working with Sue Miguel to make the I/N website engaging for the I/N players.

Charity Committee Update - S. Erwin

The Charity Committee met yesterday morning and voted to give \$5000 to food banks in every state. That in Massachusetts will be earmarked to the area devastated by the tornado.

President Erwin congratulated P. Bauscher on her election as President of CBA.

R. Budd made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded and so voted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25. Respectfully submitted: Carolyn Weiser, Secretary, D-25