



New England Bridge Conference

Bridge League

of the American Contract

Minutes

Executive Committee

Ocean State Regional

Crowne Plaza Hotel

September 3, 2016

Attendees:

Robert Bertoni, President; Lois DeBlois, Vice President; Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer; Carolyn Weiser, Secretary; Mark Aquino, Past President & District Director
Unit Representatives: Robert McCaw (D. Aronson alt.), Neil Montague (B. Montague alt.) EMBA; Shirley Wagner, CMBA; Allan Clamage, Ausra Geaski (E. Watstein alt.), CBA; Paula Najarian (M. Fahey alt.), RIBA; Barry Rogoff (Sarah Widhu alt.) NHBA; Philip Sharpstein (W. Hersey alt.), VBA; Dick Budd, MBA; David Rock, WMBA;

Absent: David Aronson, Brenda Montague, Esther Watstein, Maureen Fahey, Sarah Widhu, NHBA; Wayne Hersey

Invited Guests: Helen Pawlowski, Tournament Manager; David Metcalf, DIC; Marilyn Wells, Director, Mike Wavada, Communications Committee Chair, Peter Samsel, WMBA

President Bertoni called the meeting to order at 5:45. He reminded the Executive Committee that the NAP flight B & C Pairs was scheduled for Mansfield and that the A flight would play as part of the EMBA Watertown Sectional on October 8 & 9. If anyone needs a room, I have a block of rooms reserved at \$136 for Friday and Saturday night

The Tournament Committee voted to use the WBF victory point scale for the top flights of 2/2/2 teams events. D. Budd queried as to whether the Executive Committee needed to approve this change. President Bertoni stated that this would be part of the Tournament Committee Report.

Secretary's Report - A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held in Nashua, NH on June 25, 2015.

Treasurer's Report - Joseph Brouillard

J. Brouillard reported that we have an increase in net assets. This is a bit deceiving as we have significant outlays including \$8,000 in GNT stipends and \$2,500 for increased access to Mail Chip and advertising. The Operating Income Statement

reflects this and shows a net loss. This still compares well to the substantial loss at the same time last year.

The statement also reflects the change in accounting procedures recommended by the Audit Committee. The stipends are now paid by the Treasurer and no longer come out of the Tournament Account beginning in Nashua. The treasurer now has on-line access to the Tournament Account. Only Tournament expenses are paid out of the Tournament Account. Administrative expenses are paid by the Treasurer. This will take approximately \$850 out of the Tournament expenses. Going forward, only tournament expenses will come out of the tournament account.

The NABC Fund was up. The total is now over \$70,000. The Executive Committee approved a budget of approximately \$100,000 for the Providence NABC. Plans need to be developed to increase the available funds to an appropriate level for the 2021 Providence NABC. H. Pawlowski noted that warmer climate NABC's have larger table counts and Providence is projected to be a much larger event. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Tournament Manager's Report - Helen Pawlowski

Nashua was up 113 tables. Every 25 tables equal \$1,000 on our bottom line. We went from a loss in 14 & 15. We had a profit vs a loss in 2015. The profit is not all table count as the two stipends referred to by the Treasurer no longer are reflected as expenses in this report.

Last year this tournament was marvelous. We had high table totals on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Saturday and Sunday were very small. This year the table count was down 45 tables on Tuesday, 42 tables on Wednesday, 27.5 tables on Thursday, then up 17 tables on Friday, and today we are up 57.5 tables not including the ProAm, which will be opposite a side game.

Four weeks before the tournament our room block was sold out. We established a waiting list and replaced these rooms with bridge players when the usual cancellations occurred. We usually have an 8% attrition. This year we are up 100+ room nights.

I received a proposal for a contract for 2019. We have contracts here for 2017, 2018. The hotel is offering 2019 at no increase over the 2018 level. The hotel continues to make improvements. The restaurant has been redone and it now includes a bar. The hotel plans to make improvements in the guest rooms. I would like approval to sign a contract for an additional year to maintain a 3 years term. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve a contract extension at the hotel.

District Director's Report - Mark Aquino

District Director Aquino welcomed the new folks at the meeting. These included Bob McCaw the alternate for David Aronson and will become the President of EMBA in 2017, Paula Najarian the RIBA Vice President, and Peter Samsel who may become the President of WMBA in 2017. Director Aquino pointed out that his detailed and extensive District Director's report sent after the Summer NABC is printed on the District website, www.nebridge.org.

Without repeating the report, Director Aquino pointed out some of the highlights. Anti-cheating activities and proposed Board of Directors reorganization are top priorities

for the Board. At Washington, our New England players did great- primarily the GNT Championship Fight winners and other NABC+ champs.

Our large numbers for the GNT Flight C District Final compared to other Districts is noted in a two-page article in the August ACBL Bulletin (pp.70-71). This is due to Sue Miguel's Rainbow Weekend.

The big news for us from the Washington Board meetings is that the Board approved Providence as the site for the 2021 NABC.

There were some problems for players making fast pass reservations for the fall NABC at Disney World as confirmation numbers for Swan and Dolphin were as yet unavailable. This has been solved.

Tournament / Scheduling Committee Report - Lois DeBlois

Cape Cod and Cromwell for

Copies of the flyers and schedules for Cape Cod and Nashua were passed out with a summary sheet of the changes that were made. (see addendum) The last column of the schedules shows the table count and notes when changes were made at the Tournament Committee meeting. Approval for the schedules, with the changes as noted, is requested so that they can be published and distributed. They are not hugely different from previous years.

The Cromwell Regional is coming up. Cromwell will be advertised on the Website. The Bulletin add, as printed, will be in the December issue. Copies of the of the full and quarter page schedule are in the packet.

The Prize Bags ordered for Thursday in Mansfield (shown) for all section tops should be enough for two years.

In Hyannis, Adam Parish asked that the Tournament Committee change the Victory Point Scale for A-flight teams games to the WBF scale. This would be only for the top flight of a 2/2/2 event. Peter did not feel it was worth doing. EMBA will be using this at its Sectionals in their A-flight events. This received approval from the Tournament Committee.

President Bertoni explained that the difference evens out awards. In the current scale, winning by 5-7 is the same. The WBF eliminates this with fractional awards. It virtually eliminates all ties. The Directors would put a copy of the actual scale in use at any event on the wall but players could approximate the total using the old scoring scale. DIC David Metcalf noted that he is not sure that it is necessary, but there would be no harm in doing it. It would be used only for games open over 5000 (top flight of a 2/2/2). General discussion followed. A motion was made to accept the WBA Victory Point scale for the top flights of a 2/2/2 team event. The motion was seconded. The vote by a show of hands showed 6 for and 4 opposed with most abstaining. Further discussion was called. M. Aquino sees no need to change. B. Bertoni offered that it was cleaner. The motion was again called and was carried.

H. Pawlowski noted that the Friday night KO has been moved to Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, it is being held concurrently with a 0-4000 Swiss. The Friday KO was replaced by a bracketed Compact KO. The Players do not like it when they do not know which bracket they will be in when they buy the entry. This was not the same last

year in Nashua. H. Pawlowski asked why we are tweaking what was successful in Nashua.

Director Wells reminded the Executive Committee that Peter Marcus continually cautioned that when you are going to have an open even we need to have a limited event available.

Nashua was up 112 tables. There was no team game this year in Nashua on Saturday. H Pawlowski added that the players do not like Compact KO's. Last year they dropped from 260 to 130. B Bertoni answered that they are for those who were knocked out of the KO. H. Pawlowski stated that Nashua was up 112 tables this year. It and Warwick are the bread and butter of the District and cautioned that tinkering with the events could raise havoc with the bottom line. President Bertoni stated that we had a 2/2/2 Pair event Saturday last year have was a success and we did not want to pull too many players away from that event. We had no team game that started on Saturday in 2016 in Nashua. H. Pawlowski remarked that we are putting in a new event in a time slot (2:30 and 7:30) that the players do not like. Director Metcalf stated that this year Saturday we gained 57 tables this year compared to last year H. Pawlowski added that the schedule needs to be reviewed. President Bertoni stated that players who were in the money round of the KO would not mind playing Saturday evening. A. Geaski added that horizontal events have not been successful.

District Director Aquino requested that we have to be clear with the advertising of the Grass-Roots Fund Games at the Senior Regional. They will still be silver points, not gold points, but at a premium level. Units can have these games at their Sectionals and increase the awards. NHBA, EMBA, and RIBA have already run them. President Bertoni stated that in EMBA the winners of a single session received 31 mps and the second, smaller separate session earned 17.5. They are available for any two-session event. They give a huge premium in masterpoints.

B. Rogoff commented that players who contemplated entering a compact KO pulled out when they found out what bracket they would be and that they would not get enough masterpoints.

Director Wells added that if they players do not like what happens they will not come back. Open KO's do not work. President Bertoni stated that there is no 0-4000 in Nashua. Saturday is not a huge crowd and cannot handle 3 big events. The lower we make the top, the more the players will be forced into the pairs game. D. Rock added that he thought that we had already agreed not to run Open KO's. Director Wells added that Open KO's do not work. H. Pawlowski continued that Open Swiss do. Anyone can play against anyone for 6 boards. If you lose by a small margin to a great team, players view this almost like a win. B. McCaw stated that we need to clarify this. The top flight KO has a problem. In effect, you will move the Friday night problem to Saturday morning with the hope of growing the event.

Director Metcalf stated that he likes KO's but when teams are forced into the top flight and they get killed, the decide never to come back. That's what happens. The top tear has broken below critical mass. B. Bertoni added that some only come to KO Tournaments. These tend to be Pro-teams. We are trying to resurrect it by bring it to the morning. A. Geaski remarked that this has been discussed over and over again. Open KO's do not work. H. Pawlowski stated that the A flight has to own that they have to

solve and bring in comparable teams. We can no longer subsidize this event by forcing lesser teams into the event.

President Bertoni posited that it was possible that more than 6 teams will show up. Director Metcalf suggested a 0-4000 Swiss as an alternate. N. Montague stated that people who do not live in NE do not come to our regionals, it was that was thirty years ago and it is that way not

D. Rock asked if the flyers for Cromwell were set or was it possible to change the event to a Fight A KO open to all. The flyers are already set. H. Pawlowski reiterated that this is why she feels that we need to get the issue right for Nashua. It was noted that removing the Compact on Saturday forces the A players to join the pairs and skew the event.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the schedule for the Senior Regional and Nashua as amended. (see addendum)

Old Business

none

New Business

NABC Update - Formation of a Committee

President Bertoni began by stating that all we have to do is vote on a chair for the event. A list of committee chairs and their duties can be provided by Joe Brouillard and anyone interested can send their information to him. If you would like to volunteers you should begin emailing an expression of interest to District Director Aquino. M. Aquino asked if we could name a chair at this meeting. The Secretary suggested that pro forma, we should open it to everyone. District Director Aquino added that if we nominate Joe Brouillard now we could begin the process. J. Brouillard answered that it is a bit early to begin the process. The contracts have not been signed. A Geaski added that we waited until it was about 2 ½ years out before we made any assignments for the last NABC. If you start too early, we lose the momentum. District Director Aquino stated that the ACBL Board of Directors voted and approved Providence for 2021. President Bertoni added that we need a group to develop a plan to grow the current NABC Fund to the total we will need. M. Aquino will be the interim point person until a chair has been selected.

A. Clamage stated that today, he had a sit out and played only 22 boards. I would like to make a motion that when there is a sit out, we should play 26 boards. President Bertoni stated that we had agreed that the directors would do everything they could to avoid this, but uneven sections due to last minute entries are a problem. No change in the directions to the Directors was made.

Director Wells announced that in Washington, David Metcalf was promoted to associate National Director. We have a trainee, Director Murray, from Canada at the tournament. The ACBL has paid all expenses related to his being here.

P. Sharpstein commented that the Daily Bulletin is excellent and we should expand on the section on curtest and add “full disclosure” when questions are asked. You

should not have to quiz your opponents to get full information on a pairs agreements. D. Metcalf asked that he write up something to be included in the Bulletin. P. Sharpstein.

A. Clamage repeated his request to make it a requirement that there be 26 boards when there is sit-out. It will be brought to the Tournament Committee for a review.

Room for the Vice-President

Currently the President, Treasurer and Secretary get a room for the full tournament when there is an Executive Committee meeting. I would like to see that the Vice President receive 7 rooms per year. Treasurer Brouillard suggested that this would be inadequate.

M. Aquino stated that it is his recollection that the Vice President never got a room and that the Secretary and Treasurer got a room for one or two nights. This was disputed by Ausra Geaski, H. Pawlowski, and A. Clamage.

A. Clamage confirmed that the President, Secretary, and Treasurer have rooms for the full tournament and that it has always been that way. H. Pawlowski stated that she is the one who reserves the complimentary rooms and that she has followed this format for all the time she has been Tournament Manager. It was done this way when she was a trainee under Bill Lenville.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted that the Vice President receive a complementary room for 10 nights per year.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to have the meeting continue in executive session.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Weiser
Secretary, District 25

Addendum

Senior Regional and Cape Cod Sectional (remove Ethel from title)

Thursday Change in time of expert panel to 1:45-2:15 and the same for future schedules

Friday Sectional - Open Pairs - from 3 sessions to a two-session event
7:30 becomes the first session of a two-session Grass-Roots Game -
second session Saturday - same time

Nashua Regional

Tuesday Remove Choice Pairs - replace with two-session Open Pairs and a Side game at 7:30

Wednesday Change in time of expert panel to 1:45-2:15

