

New England Bridge Conference of the



American Contract Bridge League

Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Warwick, RI
August 31, 2019

Present: Lois DeBlois, President; Jack Mahoney, Vice President; Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer; Carolyn Weiser, Secretary; Robert Bertoni, Past President/District Director

Unit Representatives: EMBA- Curtis Barton, Brenda Montague ; CMBA-Carol Seager; CBA- Sonja Smith, Michael Wavada; RIBA - Marshall Williams; NHBA - Sarah Widhue (D. Lawrence alt.) VBA - none; MBA - Daniel Morgenstern; WMBA - Peter Samsel - Invited Guests :Sally Kirtley - Tournament Manager; Peter Marcus - DIC; David Metcalf- DIC Absent: NHBA: David Lawrence, VBA: Karen Randle

President DeBlois called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm. She stated that she was thrilled about the participation in the Knock-In Knockout. We will pursue small bracket KO's with the ACBL. She thanked Marshall Williams for his work for the Pro-Am. Rhode Island has provided gifts for the players and Sally (Kirtley) has planned special hospitality.

Minutes - As there were no corrections or questions, the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at the Nashua Regional on June 29, 2018 were accepted as sent.

Treasurer's Report - Joseph Brouillard (see addendum) presented by President DeBlois

Treasurer Brouillard reports that our total assets are down relative to last year. The NABC fund is healthy, two years out. We have a long-term liability of \$795 from vouchers sold but not redeemed. We show a consistent loss at all our tournaments, though less in each case than last year. We are doing better than last year but still have almost \$9,000 in losses. There is nothing glaring that Joe (Brouillard) has asked me to speak about.

D. Morgenstern stated that it would be nice to have more historical information on the two regionals we have had. President DeBlois will ask Joe (Brouillard) if there is any way to add this to the statement. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the report as presented. J. Brouillard sent out an email on the NABC Fund, which President DeBlois read (see addendum)

Tournament Manager's Report - Sally Kirtley

We have contracts for 2020. We still need to find a site for the Goldmine Regional in 2021 and for a location for the Senior Regional in 2021. M. Wavada asked where we are in alternate locations.

We have looked into a lot of locations. Most are out of the question, financially. Marlboro said that our commitment to \$13,000 in hospitality was not enough to cover the ballroom space. They did not provide any specifics on room rates or rental rates. The General Manager was away, but I still have not heard anything even though I have tried. I told the General Manager we would pay a sliding scale for the ballroom based on room rental, but the scale suggested will never be good enough. Newton was even higher. Springfield still wants us

for 2021. The room rates are a bit higher than what we have been paying for the Sturbridge Host and the Red Lion.

C. Seager - Parking had driven us away from Springfield. S. Kirtley answered that it is now free for overnight guests. There will be a cost to daily guests. I am pursuing dates with Nashua for wither the Mine and Seniors. They are hesitant as the timing brings them into prom season. We would have to pay considerably more. They asked if we could give up the big ballroom, but I doubt that we would fit without it. We are looking for a location in later April or early May. Nashua may work out.

C. Seager - What about Southbridge?

S. Kirtley - I have reached out to them, but they have not gotten back to me. They seem uninterested. They say they have never waved ballroom rental.

L. DeBlois - At least we have Springfield to fall back on.

S. Kirtley - We have the right of first refusal on Hyannis, if all else fails. We will be in Hyannis in 2020.

P. Marcus - Where will the GNTs be in 2020?

Tournament / Scheduling Committee Report - Jack Mahoney

Regional Schedule

The C- GNT will be with the Mine, probably Saturday and Sunday. We will hold the A & B with the Seniors.

P. Marcus - Why is the C on Saturday?

J. Mahoney - It could bring in business and they might stay and play on Sunday,

P. Marcus - People who don't care about the GNTs will be less enthusiastic with a break in the middle (of the week) Teams are traditionally on Sunday. The C-GNT should be with the Mine and left on Sunday. We need to get more bodies in the chairs this year.

L. DeBlois- Things are in flux. We will have a place somewhere.

J. Mahoney- For the 2020 Senior Regional there is an issue with the Knock-in/Knockout as to whether we can hold it; It will come up with the Board of Directors in San Francisco. We will be able to run it in Mansfield. We hope to be able to run it in Cromwell. Lois put the schedules together and they were approved by the ACBL. There is a different schedule. Friday will be expert day with a lecture and a panel discussion.

P. Marcus - The team games will be part of the GNT's

J. Mahoney- The Executive Committee has already approved the end to the \$5.00 chit on Sunday. It will go away after Mansfield. We decided, in committee, to not make a big deal of this and to try to deal with the complainers individually. There are no changes in the Nashua schedule, except that if it's still legal, we expect to have the Knock-in/Knockout Thursday and Friday.

D. Morgenstern- If the Knock-in Knockout is such a success, why don't we do it both days.

L. DeBlois- The Flight A is very unhappy having the Open KO on the Knock-in Knockout days. It is under discussion. R. DeMartino is polling all who played. We will get an email response to see if they would like a 4-5 team bracket in Round-robin form.

P. Marcus- You have to recognize that the ACBL may kill this or structure it so it doesn't work well. I encourage this Board to let the ACBL President know that tournaments are dying and this gives the players a reason to come and they want to kill it. This caused the KO numbers to be up 60% and 15% the next day. The idea that they will kill it is misguided. Some have said that they have sent email to Board members and that one has been writing back in a derogatory manner complaining that they are sending him their opinions. I would like to have that person reprimanded. He should be called out publically. This event did well at both ends of the spectrum. This event is not as great for the bottom (regarding awards) but it is outstanding for the middle group where 80% got overall awards. Sue (Miguel) has been coordinating this for the Gold Rush group. We need someone to do the same for the Flight B and send out targeted mailings to the 751-2500 players. These are the players we need to come back.

Many District players have sent email to the ACBL expressing how much they like the Knock-In Knockout format. Discussion followed.

S. Widhu- Do we only have the Pro Am in Warwick.

L. DeBlois- No, it rotates through the Regionals.

M. Wavada- In Mansfield, there is no Swiss listed on Friday.

B. Bertoni- We need to correct that.

L. DeBlois - 1000 flyers have already just been printed. We will have corrected copies on the website. Mike can emphasize this when he sends out his reminder and emphasize the schedule change.

Update- Warwick

D. Metcalf- We are 15 tables ahead of 2018, entirely due to the 91 KO teams that played Thursday and Friday. The last time we had numbers like that, the teams were free.

P. Marcus - All played for two sessions. Normally 91 would have become 28. Here there were 64 on Friday. Yes, some would have played in some other event, but this way, it was guaranteed. We were 10 tables down on Tuesday and Wednesday and p 24 on Thursday and Friday. We are up 34 today.

Sponsorship

We need a chair for Sponsorship. We will start selling days, games, and events. We have a verbal agreement from a company in Maine that specializes in Senior Health Care. He would like to buy Nashua next summer for \$1,295. He was informed that he has to buy his own banner. We can also sell individual games. Some want to advertise in the Bulletin and one add will pay for the whole thing. We will charge \$200 and the complete publication only costs \$200.

C. Seager- We need to identify potential conflicts.

B. Bertoni- We can set up an interactive calendar on line that will identify the sold events.

L. DeBlois - We will try to find an individual to chair this before Mansfield.

District Director's Report - Robert Bertoni

One of the most important things directly affecting D25 that came up at the last meeting is the change in the age determination of Senior and Super Senior. I was in favor of the 1 year every 2 years format that would match the WBF System. This was modified for an immediate change to 65. The super Seniors would go to 75 immediately (January 2020)The Senior Pairs would be modified to 65 in 2020. I support a move up but I reminded the Board that District 25 has contracts and the plan as presented would take away 5 years of eligibility. I got eventual support for one year at a time starting in 2020. This would mean that some players would never reach the eligible age. In 2020, it would technically be 62 for anyone. This will find many who were just eligible would no longer be eligible. They will, in effect, be freezing the Senior population as of January 2019. This was the best I could do at the time. I will try to rework it, but I do not hold out much hope.

The ACBL is upping the Club Championship awards and offering 25% gold with a limit of 1 point.

I did not support the new Guest Membership, as it was an incomplete motion as it was unclear and left too many issues and questions, such as who would get the recruiting bonus, unanswered.

Governance ByLaw change Non-agenda item. It is illegal to have suspension of the rules to change the bylaws. An un-named number functioning as an executive committee would make the decisions. It sounded as if you had voted for me to vote for someone else to make the decisions. It was an incomplete motion as it did not define how many, how they would be selected. Nine are needed to block a motion and therefore a group of nine could never be overturned, as this would need a 2/3 vote. We had just enough vote to turn it down. Board governance changes without a defined plan are wrong.

Las Vegas was terrific. I loved the Cosmopolitan, but the Cosmopolitan did not love us. They are actually looking in to how much it would cost them to break the contract and not have us come back again. We don't gamble enough. Reno wants us. We are working to find a new space.

{I left Peter's comments about the Directors pool on what the Cosmopolitan would do to get out of their contract with us}

The other tournament is in the fall, much more prime time for them. Summer is OK, but not fall. They wish they hadn't been so nice. No one even complained about the lack of coffeemakers in the rooms.

Old Business- none

New Business-

The NABC will appear under New Business at each meeting. We have almost the same team we had in 2014. We are missing only one chair, the Caddymaster. Maureen and Stan do not want to do it again. The job is not as difficult as it was been in the ACBL comes with experienced caddies. I have a lead and will report in Mansfield.

P. Marcus- You will need 14 to 20 local caddies.

A suggestion was made that our regular caddies be asked if they would like to work.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:14.

Respectfully submitted: Carolyn Weiser, Secretary