

New England Bridge Conference of the American Contract Bridge League

Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
Get-Away-Regional
Sheraton Hotel, Nashua, NH
Saturday, June 15, 2024

Officers

President -Susan Miguel, Vice President- Denise Bahosh, Treasurer- Joe Brouillard,
Secretary -Carolyn Weiser, Past President -Curtis Barton,

Unit representatives

EMBA: Paul Harris, Brenda Montague; CMBA - Shirley Wagner (M. Kegan alt.); CBA-
Mike Wavada, Bill Segraves (on-line); RIBA -Joyce Haley; NHBA -William Kennedy;
Phil Sharpsteen (S. Ackerman alt.); MBA-Dan Morganstern; WMBA -Sheila Ryan

Invited Guests

Regional Representative- Mark Aquino; Tournament Manager-Sally Kirtley;
Tournament Advisor/DIC- David Metcalf; Database Manager/Communications- Neil
Montague; Webmaster-Gary Peterson

President Miguel called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

We had our first Unit Presidents Breakfast which was quite good. We were able to help with the Unit requirements of the ACBL 5-5-5 program. The reaction of the presidents was very positive. The collaboration among the presidents was helpful to everyone. We also had a Club Managers Meeting, which was also well received and useful for everyone.

Secretary's Report - Carolyn Weiser - Minutes, Executive Committee Meeting, via Zoom. April 2, 2024.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Minutes of April 2, 2024 as sent.

Treasurer's Report - Joseph Brouillard

With the change in regional dates, the Executive Committee voted to have the financial reports produced quarterly. This was a productive quarter. The Operating Income Statement shows GNT income which was offset by expenses. We have an expense of \$4,455 for new bidding boxes, which will be reimbursed per regional by Peter Marcus. Peter Marcus has been very generous to the District over the years.

The Statement of Financial Position shows a net increase. The National Fund has also done very well. Year-to-date we have earned 9% and for the last 18 months we earned 35% on our investments. It has increased since May. We had a net loss of \$4,495 in Southbridge. The GNT stipends were mailed out this week in the amount of \$8,400. We spend \$10,840 for GNT/NAP Stipends. The ACBL will send us our NAP/GNT money in August. We need to see the necessary Grass-Roots Games from which we need to earn \$11,000 to break even. If the income is not forthcoming, we will have to scale back the NAP and GNT stipends.

(RD. Aquino) Regarding the GNT finances, will we be ok this year?

(J. Brouillard) We have \$4800 left to spend. We usually get about \$10,000 per year. We will know better in August. I will report in Warwick. We had a few years with only \$4,500. If the Unit sectionals designated a day, it would help. For every \$1.00 the ACBL gets, they keep \$.20 and we get \$.80. The NHBA championship did well. Year -to-date we have earned 35% on our investments.

(PP.C. Barton) If we choose not to do an NABC in Providence, what do we do with the NABC Fund? The President had a discussion at last night's meeting. The consensus was to leave it alone and keep it segregated, but it is available if needed. Discussion followed. Tres. Brouillard reiterated that prior to 2024 the District set aside \$.50 per entry to build up the NABC fund. If we decide to use the money, it can be used if so designated by the Board.

Tournament Manager's Report - Sally Kirtley

We lost \$2,543 in Mansfield but made money on the GNT's. The I/N Regional with the Open sectional in Southbridge earned money too. We are in good shape. We have site contracts for the rest of this year and for next year, with tentative agreements for Southbridge and Nashua, 2025. The rooms here are in good shape, though I was surprised that there were no microwaves.

GNT/NAP Report- Bart Bussink/ Coordinator (see addenda for full report)

Bill Segraves, Dan Morgenstern, Sue Miguel and a several A flight players in our district participated in the discussions or were consulted for their input regarding the formats. All events will be held in person for this cycle, and hopefully in the future. These are now locked in for this cycle.

The NAP qualifying events will all be held at the Norwich, Ct. tournament in November 2024. Flight C will be a two-session event held on Wednesday the 20th. B will be two sessions on Thursday the 21st and the A flight will be a two-day event starting on Friday the 22nd with the top approximately 50% of pairs battling it out on the 23rd. This gives schedule gives any pairs that wants to play "up" that opportunity....

The GNT Qualifying will all take place at the Mansfield tournament in February of 2025.

Flight C will take place as a Swiss on February 20th.

Flight B will also be a Swiss taking place in one day on February 21st.

Flight A will be a two-day event with a round robin or Swiss on February 18th with 4 teams progressing to the 19th for the semi-final in the AM and final in the afternoon of the 19th.

The Championship flight will be a three-day event. The event will start with a Swiss or round Robbin on February 20th to reduce the number of teams for day 2 to four. The 21st will start with 4 teams and end with 2 teams progressing to the finals on February 22nd.

Thanks to everyone who was involved in coming to these decisions. We also want to take a moment to thank Peter Marcus for his years of work as the Director in Charge of these events, for his general knowledge of the parameters in which

the game we love is played, and his adjudication of many difficult situations that arose over the years. Thank you, Peter!!!!.

(Pres. Miguel) Everyone did their due diligence and tried to develop a schedule that would accommodate the majority of players. The bridge world has changed. Without Peter, the on-line session director costs would be prohibitive.

As a note, we have to pay for a fire marshal for the use of the tent on Sunday in Warwick.

Unit President's Meeting - Denise Bahosh

President Miguel and I held a Unit Presidents meeting this morning. It was very productive. We would like to be invited to Unit Board meetings, to answer questions and get the feedback from the members. Please invite us.

Regional Director's Report – Mark Aquino

I am part of the ACBL task force that is reviewing regionals and NABCs. We are trying to develop a model for the NABC with the goal of addressing the variability in attendance. Pre-registration limits the number of pairs as some partnership are formed on site. We did a survey of the frequency by mps. 2/3 of those who answered that they go frequently had 750 mps or more and 2/3 who say that they never go had less than 750.

The ACBL is leaning toward a rotation of successful site. There is no support for sites within conference centers. Perhaps these sites might be held infrequently as a lost leader.

D-25 is vibrant. We still run tournaments. D-24 has one regional scheduled this year at the Marriot on the 7th floor. The room rate is \$890 per night. The card fees are \$35 per session. I have a year and a half left in my term. I will do my best to sustain this game and keep the function of the Regional Director alive and well. T. White wanted to retire but no one wanted it so he agreed to do three more years, I want to make the job attractive for someone who is not a millionaire or 80 years old. We need Bronia (Jenkins) to keep coming up with ways of keeping the tournaments fun and attractive to the players.

(S. Kirtley) I heard that Las Vegas is sold out.

(RD Aquino) I heard from Bronia that the weekend reached 70% of their commitment. We need 80%. Westgate is 50% sold out.

Regarding Toronto, the ACBL is looking at developing a “maple-leaf discount” to help offset the value of the Canadian dollar. Regarding the 5-5-5 initiative, we have to do the best we can.

(Pres. Miguel) We had a 5-5-5 meeting this morning that was very informative and useful.

D. Metcalf) The response to the bracketed pairs was very good. The replays were off-putting at the top bracket. We may consider an alternative solution in the future.

(Pres. Miguel) We would like your feedback. Please send your suggestions and feedback to experiments@acbl.org. It is still an experimental format and we need the ACBL to approve it. It fixes lots of problems. It will help us grow players and keep them active and playing as they progress through the ranks.

General discussion followed regarding comments about the format as well as the success of the pro-am. There was lots of positive feedback about the showing of Double Dummy and Zach Grossack's commentary.

President Miguel added that Alyson Rudary has volunteered to start a taskforce on the updating of the website.

A meeting was adjourned at 6:45

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Weiser, Secretary, D-25