

District Twenty-Two

Organization of Bridge Units, Inc.

Riverside Minutes

District 22 Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Friday, February 4th, 2011

Location: The Riverside Marriott Hotel
3400 Market Street, Riverside, Ca 92501

Presiding: D22 President Jon Wright

Representatives: Area I: Warren Cederborg & Teri Atkinson
Area II: Irv Kostal & Patrick Page
Area III: Bill Grant & Jon Wright
Area IV: Fran Schwartz & John Kissinger

National Representative: Ken Monzingo

Guests: Betty Bratcher, Tony Mascari, Bill Wood, Jon Brissman

Prior to the meeting a discussion was held concerning the matter of Ann Nixon vs Mark Itabashi. The two Units (537 and 538) involved are unwilling or unable to undertake a resolution of the matter and it was decided it was appropriate for the District to handle it. A committee of five, chaired by Jon Brissman, will be formed. Jon will not be a voting participant, his function being to make sure that proper procedures are followed. Tony, Bill and Jon were then excused.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM. In addition to the 2011 Board, present was Betty Bratcher.

On a motion by Fran Schwartz, seconded by Teri, the Palm Springs Minutes were approved unanimously.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Report – Jon Wright

Jon brought up the matter of keeping track of the various supplies that are used in a tournament. This includes such things as pencils (not a major issue), pencil sharpeners, time clocks and the remotes that operate them, and the stanchions on which results are posted after each session. This is not a problem of theft as much as a matter of not knowing just where things are. Jon suggested there is a need for someone to keep track of these kinds of supplies.

There was then a general discussion of various complaints that have been heard. The dot-matrix printers don't print dark enough for many people, so the results are hard to read. In addition the stanchions are too tall and short folks have difficulty with that. Jon says he will see what he can do about chopping off a foot or two at the beginning of the San Diego tournament.

A special point was made about the wonderful performance of the caddies at this tournament. They were unfailingly efficient and cheerful and it was noticed by many people.

III. TREASURER'S Report Patrick Page

Patrick is looking at using online banking rather than actually writing checks and has received, just yesterday, three boxes of old material that he will be going through. He will come up with a policy for retention of old records.

There was a discussion of the handling of the daily receipts at tournaments since it is unreasonable to expect the District 22 Treasurer to actually be present every session and bank it himself. Currently it has been handled by various people, including the Board President and the Tournament Manager. Some concerns were expressed about the security of both the money and the person carrying it, since the daily receipts are quite considerable. No final conclusions were arrived at.

Patrick will email the financial report for the Palm Springs tournament to the members of the board.

IV. Secretary Report – Irv Kostal

No Report.

V. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT Ken Monzingo

Ken filled us in on the funding of the ACBL's International Fund. This is an ACBL account, separate from the General Fund. It was created when there was an attempt to get Bridge included in the Athletic Olympics. At that time the ACBL wanted to sponsor a junior team, but found that such sponsorship could only be done via a 501C3 type organization, so the United States Bridge Federation (USBF) was created. It is partially funded by a surcharge at National Events of \$1.50 per session.

When the attempt to have Bridge included in the Olympics failed, the USBF took over the task of sending teams to international events for four areas, the USA, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda. The USBF conducts team trials to choose representatives and then funds them, to the tune of \$100,000 per team, the actual amount depending on just where the event is being held. These trials are advertised only on the USBF web site, and to USBF members. These events are restricted to USBF members (membership is available for a fee of \$50.00 per year) and card fees are quite expensive. The ACBL does

not advertise them at all.. Yet the ACBL supports the USBF with about \$200,000 per year. In addition, the ACBL is a member of the World Bridge Federation (WBF), which charges the ACBL \$1.00 per ACBL member as yearly dues. This comes to approximately \$165,000 per year and comes out of the General Fund.

Ken feels that our membership in the WBF does little or nothing for most ACBL members and the USBF has turned into an “old boys club” which benefits a small number of professionals and quite wealthy patrons who use donations to the USBF as charitable deductions to finance their participation. He is going to present two motions to the ACBL Board of Directors.

- 1) Stop the practice of giving the USBF \$1.50 from session fees at National Tournaments.
- 2) Let the \$165,000 to the WBF come out of the International Fund, rather than the General Fund.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Tournament Committee Chairman – Bill Grant

1. General Report -Bill

Bill started a discussion of the number of directors per table we are using. The national average appears to be somewhere between 16 and 20, while we are averaging something like 14-16 at regionals, 18-20 at sectionals. The Board (or the tournament managers) don't have the authority to hire and fire directors, but they do have some say in who might be used at a particular tournament. It is the sense of the Board that we would like to see our tournaments using fewer directors, if possible.

Once again the subject of inventory has come up. Jon points out that there is no need to count the small stuff, but timers, pencil sharpeners, stanchions and tables need to be accounted for. Stanchions and tables have a tendency to turn up broken. This could be happening at the tournament site, or in transit before and after the tournaments. There is no way to know unless someone is taking a look at these items at the end of tournaments. It was suggested that the Caddymaster, (especially if it is Cedric Pang) be the logical person to do this since he will be there at breakdown..

Pursuant to this, Cedric found a place to stay while working the recent Palm Springs Regional. If he is unable to find a place to stay for himself, Teri made a motion that Cedric be provided with 6 nights accommodations, at staff rates, at the host hotel, seconded by John Kissinger and agreed unanimously.

2. Tournaments:

Riverside, January 31 to February 6, 2011, Riverside Convention Center
Managers: Teri Atkinson and Ken Monzingo

San Diego April 18-24, 2011.

Managers: Alice Leicht and Bill Grant

Orange County – September 5-11, 2011, Hyatt Regency, Irvine CA.

Manager: Fran Schwartz

Ventura, October 24-30 2011

Managers: Teri Atkinson and Joe Conti

Palm Springs, December 12-18, 2011, Rancho Mirage.

Manager: TBD

3. Tournament Policies and Procedures Manual – Jon Wright

Rex Latus has been working on the Tournament Manager's Manual, which is turning into quite a large document. Roberta Grubb has asked if it can be broken down into several parts. Ken's job also needs to be detailed, a task Rex has agreed to assist.

B. GNT/NAP: John Kissinger

The Conditions of Contest are detailed, approved and flyers were distributed to all the Board members to distribute to the Units in their area. John wants the members of the Board to talk up the Grand National teams, and in particular to make sure that everyone knows that you don't need to play on the team you qualified with, and if you have no team he will be happy to help you find one. Last year he put together 8 teams for the GNT event.

Because of health problems, John may not be able to supervise the event as he did last year and has suggested John Jonas as a person to whom he could delegate authority if necessary.

C. Frequency of Meetings

It was suggested by Ken that we might want to eliminate the Riverside meeting of the Board altogether, but Teri pointed out that after the Palm Springs meeting, there is a special meeting of the new board. The activity of the Board at this meeting is limited to voting for new officers, so Riverside is the first chance for the new Board to do anything. Warren asked, if the meeting isn't required, just what we had been doing for the last four hours. Ken then withdrew his suggestion.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Warren Cederborg asked that everyone start coming up with nominations to the Goodwill Committee. The suggestion was made that the number of appointments by Ken be increased from one to two. This was tabled until the next meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Fran Schwartz informed us that she had attended a meeting with four administrators from Saddleback Community College. They have appointed a faculty advisor for the formation of a Bridge activity at the College, and they are now looking for at least five students to participate. If this goes well they may be able to do the same thing at Irvine Valley College, an associated institution.. Currently there is a lot of enthusiasm for the idea.

Ken then announced that he will shortly attend a meeting of the Western Conference Board, at which Teri Atkinson will be elected President of the Western Conference. He also commended her for doing a sensational job of tracking down the sanction fees, which involves over 9,000 tables, 15 states and Canada.

He also reported that more modern software has been purchased and the process of rebuilding the Conference Website is starting.

Regionals at Sea were also discussed. Rather than private parties getting the sanctions, running these events (and pocketing all the profit) the ACBL has now limited them to three per year, one on the East Coast, one on the "South" Coast, and one on the West. The sanction for 2012 on the West Coast has already been assigned, but Ken has suggested the Western Conference grab the sanction for 2013 (and maybe beyond) so that the local Districts can get a piece of the pie, which promises to be considerable.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM. The next meeting is in Irvine, on Friday, September 9th, 2011.