

Subject to Board Approval

ACBL Unit 246

Board Meeting Minutes
1st Regular Scheduled Board Meeting of 2010
January 17, 2010
Held at: Hilton Garden Inn, Ajax, Ontario

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Unit 246 Board was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 17, 2010 held at the Hilton Garden Inn boardroom in Ajax, Ontario chaired by Don Lough.

Present:

Board Members Present: Don Lough, David Hamer, David Cohen, Rob Hanly, Helen Johnston, Ian Coats, Bing Wong, Tom Kinnear, Nick Wong. Graham Warren

Absent: Linda Lord

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting of November 7, 2009 were unanimously approved as distributed.

C. Treasurer's Report

Nick Wong presented the cash position and budget to December 31, 2009. The Innisfil regional final reconciliation is still not completed. The cash position shows a balance of \$65,378.38 which includes the deposit from the Innisfil regional but does not include all the expenses of the regional.

A review of the annual budget to January 14, 2010 shows a loss of \$11,873. However, the Innisfil regional held in September, 2009 was not included in the figures. The budget will be changed to a fiscal period, i.e., September 1st to August 31st to correlate to our financials.

The STAC process of reimbursement to the Unit is based upon overall membership in the District and the ratio of this Unit's membership to the District is 18%. Unit 166 treasurer receives all the STAC additional fees directly from the clubs that have them, and at the end of the year, distribute back to the Unit based upon the percentage.

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D. Membership Chair Report

Dave Hamer presented that the current membership is up 22 members to 1,311. The thought is that the new life master rules encouraged people to rejoin so that they would qualify under the old rules.

It was noted that over 60% of our membership have less than 200 mp's. With that fact, it was suggested that we might have a 299er's tournament in our Unit.

David Cohen will investigate the costs of setting up a one-day tournament specifically for 299er's. A proposed date of July 17, 18th was considered. David will report back to the board on his progress.

Unit policy of reimbursing ½ of 2nd year of ACBL membership. David Hamer will investigate with the ACBL whether there is an easy way to identify those members that qualify and, if so, just send the \$20 rebate directly to the member without the member having to officially ask in writing.

E. Tournament Chair Report

Graham presented the Oshawa November tournament financials which showed a 29 table increase from the prior year. His thought is that the increased hospitality and the on-site "Ukrainian food" have encouraged more people to attend to enjoy good food with their good bridge. Even with fully absorbing the additional hospitality, the tournament shows a surplus of \$1,314.33.

Graham will not post the Tournament Procedures Handbook on the website. A note is to be put onto the website that if anyone wishes to have the handbook, to get in touch with Graham directly.

A schedule of regional tournaments was received and reviewed. Graham will clarify with the Regional Coordinator those identified as Oshawa and Barrie and present the results to the Board. The idea would be to identify the regionals in Unit 246 as such.

F. Education Chair Report

It was with regret that the Board accepted Rea's resignation. The Board wishes Rea all the best and a speedy recovery.

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New Business:

- 1) Board members positions. Moved by Bing and seconded by David that the following board members hold the following positions for the current year. David Hamer, Supplies; Graham Warren, Tournament Chair; Ian Coats, Club Liaison; Linda Lord, Judiciary, Charity and Regional Tournament chairs; David Cohen, Special Events. Unanimously agreed.
- 2) Barrie Friendship Day and advertising in the Kibitzer. At some point in time, the Barrie Friendship day tournament (a for profit tournament) was included with the Unit's advertising in the Kibitzer. Since there is a cost now associated with this advertising, the Unit will not sponsor the advertising for the Barrie Friendship Day in future.
- 3) Qualifications for Board Members. A discussion was held and it was agreed that the Board is lacking geographic representation from the Peterborough, Belleville, Trenton, Collingwood, Midland areas. The process to be followed in appointing a new Board member would be to have a mini bio presented by a prospective board member and this would go through a vetting process by the Board. Upon acceptance or denial of the Board, the member would be duly notified. We currently have the Education Chair open and we are looking for candidates to fill the role. It was suggested that a Club communication be sent out informing of our interest in candidates for the unrepresented geographic areas and for the Education Chair.
- 4) Innisfil 2009 Regional. Tom Kinnear presented the financials for the regional. The questions to be answered are: a) What is the Unit 166 (supplies, mileage) in the amount of \$2,562.50? b) What is the Publicity for \$841.25? c) What is the advertising for \$501.95. As well, Tom will supply Nick with all the receipts so that the tournament can be finalized.
- 5) 2010 White House Junior International tournament. There was discussion around the Board's interest in sponsoring the Juniors in this tournament. Since the CBF does not have the funds to sponsor this venture (the majority of board members thought this is where the sponsorship should come from) after much debate it was agreed that our Unit could afford to sponsor some of the costs of the trip as we would like to see Canada represented. Helen motioned and Dave seconded that the Unit contribute \$500 to this venture. Nick is to issue the cheque.
- 6) Letter from Auditor regarding the lack of receipts. Graham will send this out to all tournament chairs to ensure that proper receipts are supplied.
- 7) Donations for memorial plaque. It is with regret and condolences to the family of the deceased when one of our members passes. However, the Unit Board will not make any donations in this regard.

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- 8) Tournament feedback form. Ian presented a form for tournament feedback. Graham will use this form for feedback from the February Oshawa tournament and report back on the findings.
- 9) Review of honorarium for auditor, board positions and tournament co-ordinators. Deferred to next meeting. Linda Lord
- 10) 2011 Regional. Deferred to next meeting. Linda Lord
- 11) Distribution of medallions for McKenney and Certificates for Ace of clubs awards. There was some interest from club managers to have the opportunity to present the awards at a club game to the winners. Ian will send out a communication to the clubs asking for their input, and those clubs that would like the medallions sent to them for presentation.
- 12) Humanitarian Award. This hasn't progressed since the last meeting. Rob Hanly will follow up with David Cohen to present a structured proposal for the next meeting.
- 13) Adventures in Duplicate. David Cohen will arrange with Ian Coats to send out a communication offering this booklet at a reduced cost of \$1.50 each to all clubs in the Unit. This is a one-time offer and will be reviewed next year based upon this year's feedback.
- 14) Incorporation of the Unit. Nick presented the final wording of incorporation and after changes were made to the document, it was agreed to have Nick proceed.
- 15) HST Bing presented the effects of GST/HST on our Unit. Unit 246 will register as a GST/HST exempt and "zero-rated" supplier. Non profit corporations qualify as 'GST tax exempt. We will not charge GST/HST on card fees and will look into the recovery of GST/HST on our purchases.
- 16) Advance for Supplies to Dave Hamer. It was agreed that an advance of \$300 will be given to Dave for purchase of supplies.
- 17) The Unit has 'good cards', 30 dozen that are not good enough for the tournaments but perhaps would be used by some clubs. Ajax club has asked for 14 dozen. This still leaves 16 dozen cards that some club may wish to take. Ian will send out a note to clubs .. first come first served for any club that wishes to take some of the other cards.
- 18) It was noted that our Unit website has not been updated for tournaments. David Cohen to review.
- 19) Sponsors for Regionals. Deferred to next meeting.

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- 20) Unit surplus. Helen will review the prior 2 year's financials and present some base line surplus for board review and agreement. Once the base line surplus is agreed upon, then, if any surplus is remaining we will look at ways of giving the benefit back to the Unit members. Further discussion next meeting.
- 21) The ACBL has renewed their contract with Directors. An increase in director's expenses is expected. Further discussion next meeting.
- 22) Board members were entrusted with 'free plays' for a Unit sectional tournament. These were to be given out to players that do not ordinarily attend a sectional tournament in an effort to encourage them to come out and enjoy the function. This happened about 2 years ago. There was no feedback given. For the next meeting to discuss whether we want to do something similar again, perhaps with club involvement.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Saturday, May 8th, 2010 to be held at a venue to be established (somewhere more central like the Markham area). The meeting will be from 9:30 to 2:00 p.m.