

Subject to Board Approval

ACBL Unit 246

Board Meeting Minutes
4th Regular Scheduled Board Meeting of 2009
October 3, 2009

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Unit 246 Board was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on October 3, 2009, the meeting being held at the Trenton sectional playing site.

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Present:

Board Members Present: Don Lough, David Hamer, David Cohen, Rob Hanly, Helen Johnston, Rea Rennox, Ian Coats, Bing Wong

Absent: Linda Lord, Tom Kinnear, Nick Wong. Graham Warren

The meeting was called to order with Don chairing the meeting.

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting of July 12, 2009 were unanimously approved as distributed.

C. Treasurer's Report

- 1) Advances. D. Goden \$1,000. A motion by Rea and seconded by Bing to remove the \$1,000 advance from the financials to show as it should have been shown for an initial grant for the start up of the Peterborough Youth bridge programme. Unanimously agreed that this \$1,000 will be removed from advances and absorbed as an expense.
- 2) Advances. D. Goden \$500 float for supplies. Motioned by Bing and seconded by Dave Hamer that this advance be absorbed into the Markham July 2009 tournament. Unanimously agreed that the fee due to D. Goden for the Markham tournament (around \$450) will not be paid and the funds will be applied against the \$500 float owing to the Unit. Any excess or deficiency over the \$500 will be absorbed by the Unit.

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D. Membership Chair Report

Dave Hamer presented that the membership has increased to 1,290 members. The majority of the members fit into the 50-500 match point ranking. Ten people took advantage of the discounted 2nd year renewal offered by the Unit. Even though this has been advertised through the Kibitzer, it was felt that a lot of new members may not realize that they have to 'ask' for this rebate. Ian Coats will add this to his Club Managers' communication. An exact wording of this reimbursement policy to be provided to Ian from Dave Hamer.

E. Tournament Chair Report

- 1) With Graham absent from this meeting, the only item raised was the progress of the posting and circulation of the Tournament Handbook.
- 2) Cell phones. Directors should announce, along with zero tolerance, the shutting off of all cell phones. Paul will find out what penalty is imposed at the National level. The majority of the board members feel an 'imp' penalty is more appropriate than a \$ penalty. The board will vote on the policy for this Unit once all information is available. Deferred to another meeting.

F. Education Chair Report

a) Youth Bridge

Rea presented the findings to date on Youth Bridge. In summary, the general consensus from other Units is that the ACBL has an excellent Youth Programme available and all we have to do is to avail ourselves of this programme. The ACBL provides the Club Series textbooks, the EZ deal playing cards, t-shirts, certificates of participation and a trophy for those youth completing the course. The ACBL offers a stipend of \$350 to a teacher who instructs at least 8 students for a minimum of 16 hours.

In order to increase the youth participation in our Unit we require two things: teachers at the local schools to support this programme as an extracurricular activity (part of a gifted math class or as enrichment) and accredited bridge teachers from our area to take on the rewarding challenge of teaching the programme to the youngsters.

As a first step Rea and Rob will compose a letter to be sent to all Club Managers and posted in the Kibitzer, to ask our bridge members to refer themselves or anyone they may know (who are currently teaching in a school) as a point of contact to get into a school system in order to even present the merits of the Youth Programme. At the same time or as a second step, a poll of the accredited bridge teachers in the Unit to build a data base of ACBL accredited bridge teachers that would be willing to participate and an enquiry of the membership for anyone interested in becoming an ACBL certified bridge teacher and the possibility of holding a TAP seminar at one of our tournaments.

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b) Adventures in Duplicate Beginner Handbook

It was agreed that this booklet is a useful tool in bringing people from playing House or Rubber Bridge over to contract bridge. The cost of the booklet is currently \$5; however, the price decreases with the quantity purchased. David Cohen will produce an order request to be sent to all Clubs with the intent of the Unit picking up half the cost of the booklet. This would be a one-time purchase for the year and the Board would address further purchases as the request or need arises. The distribution of the booklet would be done with Dave Hamer to the local tournaments or by Board members back to their local areas.

Other Business:

1) Humanitarian Award

The humanitarian award is 'Humanitarian Service by a member of Unit 246 within the community'. Nominees would be asked via club e-mail and the kibitzer. The award to the winner would be \$200 plus a plaque on their humanitarian service as well recognition at their local club with a party of some sort and one of the board members to present the award. David Cohen will write up something to present to the Board members for final vote.

2) Incorporation of the Unit

Nick will proceed with the incorporation. Bing Wong has offered to assist. This is still in the works.

3) HST

Bing will investigate and report back on the whether or not our tournaments will need to absorb or charge HST as of implementation date of July 1, 2010.

4) Tournament Manager Collingwood Sectional

It is noted by all that John Lightfoot has done an exceptional job in bringing back the Collingwood tournament. His resignation as tournament chair effective the 2010 tournament is a concern. Don will follow up with John on a potential referral to replace him.

5) Request for a hospitality subsidy from the CBF for Canadian Nationals of May, 2010. Don motioned and Rea seconded a \$750.00 subsidy to be provided to the CBF for hospitality. Unanimously accepted. It was felt by the board members that the 2 non qualifying events; in particular, the IMP pairs and the Swiss Team were not advertised enough as 'open' to any bridge player. Helen (having taken on the Hospitality Chair for this CBF national) will advise Nadar of the subsidy and the concern of the advertising on the 2 open events.

6) Greg Coles as a potential board member recruit. Don will follow up with Tom.

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- 7) Barrie Regional of 2009. There was a 12% increase in participation to 1025 tables. Tom has recruited Joan Richardson to do the accounting of the regional. There was scratching of the floor that has to be fixed and Tom estimates that this will cost around \$200.00. Tom was congratulated on doing a superb job of this tournament.

Some comments received from members:

- a) This was the best facility ever for ease of parking, lighting, space and proximity to restaurants.
 - b) The playing site was too cold. No feedback was given to participants as to a reason why the heating could not or would not be adjusted.
 - c) The second session was published as a 7:00 start and it became a 7:15 start.
 - d) The length of time in between sessions was too long.
 - e) 24 boards were played in the IMP games as opposed to the minimum of 26 boards.
 - f) Hospitality was not very good. The participants did not realize that the Catering Company bailed on Tom at the last minute and it is felt by the Board that Tom did a great job of recovery.
 - g) The \$15 cost per session was too much money.
 - h) Advertising for the tournament should have both the correct times and the per session charge.
- 8) 2011 Regional
- a. There seems to be a conflict in regional times as Unit 238 has a regional in 2011 around the same time as ours. Rob will check with Unit 238 and report back.
 - b. The 2011 regional sanction with the ACBL needs to be filed.
 - c. The regional is a huge responsibility. Steps will be taken to form a Regional Committee from the Board Members (perhaps similar to what London does), to run the next tournament. A mentoring process should be introduced so that our Unit regional has a documented plan of action. To be further discussed at the next Board meeting.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. by Don Lough. Thanks and appreciation was given to Loretta, on behalf of the board, for providing the venue and excellent hospitality for this board meeting.

The next meeting of the Board will be the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 7th at 9:30 a.m. with a regular board meeting scheduled immediately after the AGM as time permits.