

NASSAU-SUFFOLK BRIDGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF OCTOBER 2, 2018

Board Members in Attendance:

Mark Blanchard, Joseph Byrnes, Bella Chiusano, Lesley Decker-Lucas, Elliot Diamond, Ray Elias, Phil Grella, Lou Grossman, Alan Hyman, Mark Krinsky, Debra LaMountain, Lee Launer (via telephone), Carol Mathews, Dina Schechter, Susan Scholer, David Schwartz, Debra Thaw, Les Toporovsky, and Susan Toporovsky

Board Members Absent:

Bill Dinner, Allen Greenbaum, Lisa Hadar, Mark Inhaber, Alan Kudisch, Mark Leibowitz, Al Levy, Silvana Morici, Diana Schuld, and Drew Tarhan

The meeting was called to order at 7:05.

Opening Remarks:

Joe Byrnes thanked the Board for their service during his presidency of three years.

Acceptance of the Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting of July 17, 2018 were accepted.

Welcome New Directors: LesToporovsky

Election of New Officers:

The Board of Directors elected the following officers:

President: Ray Elias

Vice President: Lee Launer

Treasurer: David Schwartz

Tournament Chair: Bell Chiusano

Secretary: Debra LaMountain

Joe Byrnes was presented with a gift from the Board, in appreciation of his years of service.

Tournament Report: Lee Launer

Lee reported his observations and comments from others, as follow:

Positives:

- 1) The Sunday night life master/non-life master team event was well received and well attended. The possibility of alternating team and pair events was discussed and referred to the tournament committee.
- 2) There was positive feedback on the Chateau Briand as a venue, including lighting, the staff, and the food.
- 3) Participants were generally happy with directors, fast results, breakfast, and the hospitality and partnership desks.

Negatives:

- 1) Table count was down by 14, with a large decline on the last day.
- 2) The change to an Open Swiss team event on two of the days was the source of the overwhelming majority of complaints. Lee believed this change was probably the cause for decreased attendance on the last day. It also created a lot more work for Lee and the tournament committee. Several alternative events were suggested and discussed.
- 3) There were complaints about the timing and length of the lunch break.
- 4) A miscommunication between Silvana and David Metcalf resulted in an insufficient number of boards being prepared for one session. We are all very grateful to Silvana for her efforts in preparing preduplicated boards for all the pairs games over the four days.
- 5) Some caddies had not been fully trained in advance, which created some challenges at the beginning of the event. It was determined there is a need for a Caddie Master at the next tournament.
- 6) An incident of "unsportsmanlike behavior" was reported; Ray will follow-up with the Recorder, Rob Gordon.

Financials: David Schwartz

David reported that even though there were 14 fewer tables, there was \$2,000 more in cash due to savings on hiring fewer directors and caddies, and no dinner being served on Sunday night. The tournament still operated at a loss of approximately \$2,000.

Daily Bulletin, Fast Results and Survey:

The consensus was there is no longer a need to produce the "Daily Bulletin," as long as we can print out the "Fast Results" version of the report.

There seemed to be some problem with the surveys since everyone did not receive it. Ray and Bill Dinner will follow up on both issues.

Many thanks were given to Lee, the entire tournament committee, Silvana, and the Board members who stayed late to clean up on Thursday evening.

In conclusion, Lee felt the tournament was a moderately successful event. He felt there is a definite need to identify a marketing director to increase participation. Lee, Bella, and the Tournament Committee will meet in the near future to resolve the problems and propose recommendations to the Board.

Player of the Year: Mark Blanchard

Ray received a complaint regarding the manner in which determine the POTY awards.

Mark reviewed the eligibility, criteria, and computations. The regional cutoff for "A" vs "B" players has been increased to 3,000 master points; all other criteria remain the same. Discussions about the inequities of the STaC awards ensued, with no solutions. The current formula we use for POTY will continue to be used.

Club Master Schedule:

The history of the "Long Island Master Club Schedule," as appears in the Islander and our website, was discussed. If appropriate, changes to placement and overall format will be considered. Elliot and Debra will be reviewing the issues, and will suggest any changes they deem appropriate.

Committees:

Drew Tarhan will head the Membership Committee.

Diana Schuld will head the Sunshine Committee.

Les Toporovsky will be the email monitor.

Joe Byrnes and Elliot Diamond will be the website monitors.

Education: Carol Mathews

Carol made a plea for more bridge teachers. Someone is especially needed for the Woodhull School in Huntington.

Allison Knockouts: Phil Grella

Phil reported that matches are progressing in a timely manner and will be completed by Christmas.

Participation has decreased over the years. Phil feels pros not willing to give up pay dates and players not wanting to play at night are the main reasons for the decrease in the number of teams. The Board will consider no longer running the event if participation continues to decline.

STaC Report: Phil Grella

Phil reviewed the STaC schedule for the remainder of 2018, 2019, and 2020

2018: 10/15-10/21, 12/14-12/16

2019: 2/1-2/3, 3/11-3/17, 5/10-5/12 (requesting change to 5/9-5/11), 6/3-6/9, 7/5-7/7, 11/11-11/17, 12/6-12/9

2020: 3/9-3/15, 6/8-6/14, 10/19-10/25. Approval is pending for: 2/7-2/9, 5/29-5/31, 7/31-8/1, 8/28-8/30, 11/20-11/22, 12/18-12/20

Income from the STaCs for 2018 to date is approximately \$4,000, about the same as last year.

New Business:

Ray proposed possibly changing the meeting nights from only Mondays and Tuesdays. Lots of discussion with no decision. Further investigation is needed. For now, Monday 12/3 at Sagamore was proposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Minutes submitted by Debra LaMountain