

NASSAU SUFFOLK BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the meeting of January 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Joe Byrnes.

Attending:

John Abrenica, Joe Byrnes, Susan Calabro, Dori Cohen, Howard Cohen, Lesley Decker Lucas, Ray Elias, Shelley Fishman, Allen Greenbaum, Phil Grella, Jon Kirschner, Mark Krinsky, Alan Kudish, Lee Launer, Mark Lebowitz, Steve Lucas, Rich Morici, Laura O'Reilly, Susan Scholer, Diana Schuld, Susan Toporovsky

Guests:

Matt Rewinski

Absent:

Peter Barbeosch, Susan Denenholz, Rob Gordon, Al Levy, Carol Mathews, Debra Thaw, Silvana Zangri.

Opening remarks/Minutes

Joe noted that the board had sadly lost two of its members recently: Carole Kugler and Mike Stanley. He spoke about Carole and Mike's contribution to the NSBA and noted that they would be missed. He announced that Steve Lucas has resigned from the board, thanking him for his many years of service to our organization.

The minutes for the October 6, 2015 meeting were accepted by Mark Leibowitz and seconded by Lee Launer.

Discussion of the Art Brodsky situation with the ACBL:

Art is appealing the ACBL's decision on the termination of his membership in the organization. This appeal will be heard at the Reno National in March. Joe asked for input by board members on this issue. The sense of the board seemed to be that members feel that what he did was wrong. Members recognized the hard work and contribution that he had done for the NSBA but realized that

was not the issue. Some thought the lifetime ban decision was too harsh.

Tournament Report:

Tournament Chair Lee Launer told us that David Metcalfe would be the Director-in-Charge at our May 11-15 Regional at the Upsy Hotel. The schedule for this tournament is essentially the same as the previous tournament. However, the Thursday and Friday Round Robin team event will not separate the A teams. On Sunday the AX will be separate and the B/C will be a Round

Robin.

The stratum for this tournament will be based on the player with the highest number of masterpoints rather than the average. The starting time for events will be 10:00 and 2:30.

Lee told us that Mark, Susan T. and he had met with the Upsky people and were promised that whatever problems we had previously had with the hotel would be rectified.

We will be serving a bagel/coffee breakfast before the morning events. The fees will be kept the same as the 2015 tournaments.

We received a \$1800 credit for the stolen boards at the last tournament: \$900 to the NSBA and \$900 to the ACBL. John Abrenica will continue as partnership contact but he is looking for someone to work with him.

The tournament committee is considering asking one board member each day to be a non-playing liasson with the hotel to troubleshoot any problems.

Allen Greenbaum and Mark Krinsky spoke about running a tutorial program about the machinations of Swiss Teams at the clubs. In this way players will be more comfortable about playing in team events and attendance may increase. This will be implemented at the major clubs. Diana Schuld spoke about the "Eight is Enough" team game which has had a great deal of success throughout the country. This may be something we can consider for future tournaments,

STACs and KO: Phil Grella

Knockouts are progressing and matches are taking place . The turnout has been poor and some changes such as establishing a play-by date were discussed.

STACs: Our Sectionals at clubs bring in considerable money for our unit. We schedule weeklong and weekend events.

Weeklong multi-unit dates for 2016: Feb. 22-28, June 13-19 and October 26-November1.

Weeklong multi-unit dates for 2017: March 21-27, June 12-18 and October 16-22.

Weekend dates for 2016: April 1-3, July 8-10, Dec. 9-11

Weekend dates for 2017: Dec.8-10 [proposed but not yet sanctioned], Feb. 3-5 and July 7-9.

Player of the Year: Shelley Fishman

Flight A winner is: Geoff O'Connor. Flight B winner is: Harold Hack.

Dori Cohen suggested that the Grand National Team winners be included in the POTY ratings.

Shelley is not continuing as POTY chair and a volunteer is needed for the position.

Financial Report:

Treasurer David Schwartz was not at the meeting. A financial report for the year was distributed. We are doing better financially showing a small net profit last year.

Islander: Lesley Decker Lucas

The input has been positive for the new content features and the electronic Islander. An e-mail blast was proposed for contributions to the next Islander which will be published six weeks before our Regional.

Website: Jon Kirshner and Ray Elias

The website committee {Ray, Jon, Susan Calabro and Allen Greenspan) is researching ways to redesign our website. Ray told us that the results of this search has been disappointing thus far. We have contacted other units with websites we liked looking for insight and suggestions. These contacts have been reluctant to share. They will contact web designers for proposals and estimates. Shelly Fishman will consult with the committee about these proposals.

Education Report (for Carol Mathews]: The program is presenting running well in the Great Neck schools. We need volunteers to work with the students for the program to continue successfully.

We are looking into the possibility of "Bridge for a Day" an ACBL course designed to teach bridge to beginners in one day. Silvana and Rich are accredited to run this program.

New Business: none

Old Business:

Jon Kirshner discussed the increase in the STaC table fee and its affect on club owners. It was the sense of the board that club owners would handle this increase in a way that works for each club.

Phill Grella suggest that a Sunshine Fund be established to send something in the event of death or illness. We will send a \$100 donation to Long Island Bridge for Youth to each of the families of Carol and Mike.

We talked about the idea of replacing one of the LM/NLM games to a new or different event- possibly a charity game or pro-am.

The date for our next meeting is Tuesday, April 19th at Smithtown- 6:30 dinner and 7:00 meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Scholer

(for Susan Deneholz)

