

Nassau – Suffolk Bridge Association

Minutes for the meeting of

July 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President Joe Byrnes.

Attending:

John Abrenica, Peter Barbeosch, Joe Byrnes, Howie Cohen, Susan Denenholz, Bill Dinner, Ray Elias, Shelley Fishman, Anita Goldman, Rob Gordon, Phil Grella, Jon Kirshner, Mark Krinsky, Alan Kurdish, Lee Launer, Mark Leibowitz, Al Levy, Carol Mathews, Rich Morici, Laura O'Reilly, Susan Scholer, Diana Schuld, David Schwartz, Debra Thaw, Susan Toporovsky, Silvana Zangri

Absent:

Susan Calabro, Allen Greenbaum

Guests:

Bill Begert, Mark Blanchard, Bella Chuisano, Lesley Decker-Lucas, Mark Inhaber, Debra LaMountain, Karen Ruben, Dina Schechter

Opening Remarks / Minutes:

Joe asked all those present to introduce themselves. Rob Gordon pointed out that he was absent from the April 19, 2016 meeting. As corrected to reflect that fact, the minutes for that meeting were approved.

Nominating Committee:

Diana Schuld reported that the following new people have been nominated for Board membership: Bella Chuisano, Mark Inhaber, Mark Blanchard, Debra LaMountain, Dina Schechter, Karen Ruben, Lou Grossman. Anita Goldman was nominated to be the new Secretary of the Board. The annual membership meeting to elect the new Board will be held on Sept. 14, just before the LM/NLM game at the Regional. Shortly thereafter a Board meeting will be held to elect new officers.

ACBL Board Election:

Joe indicated that an election will be held electronically, on a date after August 15 (as per directions yet to be supplied by the ACBL), to select the District 24 representative to the ACBL Board. The incumbent is Al Levy and the challenger is Bill Begert. The results of the elections by the two unit boards will be apportioned as per their membership counts (approximately 2500 NSBA, 3500 GNYBA).

Each of the candidates gave a brief presentation describing his qualifications, accomplishments, and goals relating to the ACBL, and a lively discussion followed.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Dave Schwartz indicated that we lost \$8 – 9,000 on the Spring 2016 Regional, and that some expenses, which he estimated at \$2,000, were not included in that figure. At June 30, 2016, we had approximately \$10,000 more in cash than the year before, but this was essentially a timing issue.

Tournament Report:

Tournament Chair Lee Launer reported that the Spring 2016 Regional elicited many fewer complaints, and more positive comments, than the one before. Nonetheless, the table count of 691.5 was the lowest ever, down from 811 for Fall 2015.

Lee suggested waiting until after the Fall 2016 Regional before making any major schedule changes, in order to give our new Marketing Committee a chance to increase attendance through new marketing initiatives. Lee felt it was too late, in any case, to make major changes for Fall 2016. For 2017, one approach might be to bring back Wednesday and drop Sunday (since Sunday is now by far the lightest attendance day). This and other ideas will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Education Report:

Carol Mathews circulated a written report showing the 11 schools where we expect to have programs this fall. She stressed the need for more volunteers for these programs. Since most of our teachers teach for free, we are often hard-pressed to use up the money in our Education Fund.

Wireless Tournaments:

Al Levy reported that the ACBL is discussing sponsoring online events as part of a Regional or National, or on a stand-alone basis, with an experiment due to begin shortly in District 9 in FL. Silvana thought that having such events as part of a Regional was a bad idea.

Website:

Mark Krinsky indicated that we need a Content Committee to revamp the front page of the website, and we can then go live. Joe appointed Shelley Fishman, Ray Elias, and Allen Greenbaum to this committee.

Islander Report:

Lesley Decker-Lucas indicated that the next Islander will come out about August 1, and she encouraged people to deliver content to Mark Shaiman promptly.

Marketing:

Rich Morici reported that the Marketing Committee (himself, Karen Ruben, and Silvana Zangri) will seek primarily to grow Regional table counts, with a secondary focus on club attendance. One possibility being discussed is a flat price for “all you can play” at a Regional.

Stacs and KOs:

Phil Grella circulated a sheet showing our receipts from the last several Stacs, and the schedule for the remainder of this year, as well as 2017 and 2018.

The Double Knockout tournament for 2015 has still not been completed. We will skip doing the tournament this year, but may try again next year, with stricter play-by dates.

Old Business:

Joe indicated that we need a place to store 800 bidding boxes and other supplies. Mark Leibowitz said he will work on this.

New Business:

A date for North American Pairs was set for Sun, Sept. 25, at Sagamore.

Joe indicated that new members in the unit will get a free play at a novice game in a Regional (rather than at a club game). Rich Morici will be new-member coordinator.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Denenholz