

SALEM BRIDGE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING, June 20, 2017

Call to Order, Attendance: President Paul Graham called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. on June 20, 2017. **Present:** Paul, Dave Astle, Joan Page, Susan Palmer, and Anita Walker. **Absent:** Zina Galaka, Jean McKinney. **Also present:** Dick Pitzer, Club Manager, and Judy Lathrop, Unit 490 board member.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the May 16 meeting were approved.

Financial Report/Table Count. Anita presented the club's financial report for May, 2017. The club gained \$552.28 in May. Our cash balance increased from \$13,747.26 on April 20 to \$14,600.99 on May 21. Table count total for May was 202.5 vs.164.5 the year before. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Consumer Satisfaction. Susan read the suggestions from members this month. There were four separate requests that we no longer hold Swiss Team games at Capitol Manor. There also was a suggestion that we start our Friday game earlier. Both of these subjects will be included in our next survey of the membership.

Club Manager's Report. Dave read Club Manager Dick Pitzer's report for June:

1. **Calendar.** The Unit events calendar through the end of the year (June through September) has been completed, with Unit buy-in, and published on the unit web site.
2. **Session Hand records** are now posted on the web site.
3. **Bridgemate software update.** A massive BridgeMate system update is has been accomplished in two sessions: Thursday, 6/15, the system at KSAS was updated and the system at CM was updated on 6/17. The update affects the BridgeMate Control system, the USB communications software (PC to BridgeMate server), and the BridgeMate II scoring units (remote handhelds).
4. **New storage locker.** – The 'new' locker has been installed in our storage room and has been dubbed the 'Unit locker'. It is not so wide as to impede access to the roof. It will house all the unit's stuff; hopefully preventing some problems the unit is now facing; *i.e.*, sectional tournament supplies missing. The handles have been removed from the doors so keys can be made for them.
6. **Sectional** – The Salem sectional is this month, June 23-25. Accordingly, there will be no club games on June 23 and June 24.
7. **New Director.** Jerry Gordon is doing well during his quest to become a club director. He will direct the 6/20 session and then, hopefully, take the director test.
8. **Gayle.** Gayle has served out her imposed suspension and is again directing our NLM and Friday games.
9. A **Barometer Game** will be held August 15. ACBLScore supports this type of movement so the burden on the director(s) is less than it was previously. Flyers will be posted on the website and in the KSAS playing area on July 18.
10. A **Pro-AM game** will be held September 26. A flyer will be posted online and in the KSAS playing area August 19. It will be announced at the Capitol Manor sessions starting September 6. Sign-up sheets will be present at both locations.

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Club Manager's Report (cont.).

11. **Serious infraction reported.** It has come to my attention that a director told a club member to "leave and don't come back" when that player had committed no offense that warranted any discipline at all. Evidently the player was slow. I invited that player to play in the 06/02 Friday session. The player kept up just fine; was no problem at all, and finished each round ahead of more than half the field. This issue requires some discussion among board members so a clear understanding is achieved. *(See next item.)*

Dick Pitzer, Club Manager

Discussion and Action relating to Item 11 in the Club Manager's Report. To assist in the board's discussion, Dick provided the following information (abbreviated), read aloud by Dave:

As outlined in ACBL's "Handbook of Rules and Regulations, Chapter 4, Section 3 IV, H, Club Discipline," disciplinary action within an ACBL-sanctioned club is vested in the Club Manager. Matters involving improper conduct and/or unethical behavior should be dealt with quickly and efficiently. The Club Manager can handle these cases personally or establish a review committee to deal with them. A member cannot be barred because (of a lack of) proficiency at bridge.

Most behavior problems can be handled by issuing a warning/and/or a period of probation. Repeat offenders or those committing egregious offenses may be barred permanently or for a specific period.

(The rules further prescribe notification requirements to ACBL and to the club's board and the rights of appeal.)

Dick further states that ***"for disciplinary action within our unit/club, if a member is to be barred for an extended period, an ad-hoc committee will be formed to review the case prior to notification."***

Board Discussion: Board members asked Dick about witnesses to the alleged infraction. Dick said he heard about it from more than one source, including a player at the table when the infraction occurred. -- It is understood that ***no one has the right to bar a player for slow play.*** We have urged our game directors keep the game moving along at a reasonable pace. The standard procedure for dealing with problematic slow play is to take a board away during the round(s) in question, either for late play or permanently. If the board will not be played at that table, the score for that board is to be adjusted appropriately. -- In this case, if the game director did attempt to bar a player simply for being slow, with no other justification, ***this constitutes a serious violation of ethics and procedure.***

Proposed action. Dick will talk with the offender and send this person a letter of reprimand. The board agrees this action is appropriate.

Game Cancellation Policy: Expanded. *(See 5/16/17 minutes.)* Judy asked that this item be postponed to our next meeting.

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Website Upgrade. (5/16/17 minutes.) Judy, Jean McKinney, Loren Meyer, and Miriam Brand are the members of a committee formed to develop a list of proposed upgrades to Unit 490's website. Judy says they still need to do an analysis of the Albany/Corvallis website before making their recommendations.

Advertising Duplicate Bridge On the Radio. (Minutes of Sept, Oct, Nov, 2016, 3/21/17, 4/18/17, and 5/16/17) Paul says the current plan is that we (SBC) will produce two ads to be aired on KBZY radio promoting duplicate bridge in Salem. In addition to advertisements providing information about SBC, KBZY is offering us two free 15-minute interview spots. As now contemplated, one interview will feature Paul and Gayle Goodman-Wilkins and the other Shain Oleson and Kevin Kacmarynski. Paul suggests that our ads start running in September after vacation season is over. The board agrees. **MOTION: DA/JP "Authorize spending up to \$150 to pay KBZY for advertising SBC."** Passed unanimously.

Thursday Night Game. (See Club Manager's report for January, 2017, the Financial Report in 3/24/17 minutes, Anita's financial analysis in the 4/18/17 minutes, and the 5/16/17 minutes.) To save money, Judy suggests we consider moving the Thursday night game to the KROC Center, thus saving the rental cost (assuming KROC Center is willing to host this game) We will ask Allen Carter, the game director for Thursday night, for his input on this proposal. (Secretary's note: Allen does not think this is a good idea.)

Partnership Chair for Tuesday and Friday Games. (Minutes of 3/24/17 and Club Manager's report for April, minutes of 5/16/17.) This relates to Gayle's offer to act as partnership chair for the club's Tuesday and Friday games. -- We will invite Gayle to attend our next meeting to clarify her proposal for free plays in compensation providing this service.

Free Plays and Monetary Compensation. (5/16/17). Judy and Anita have developed a comprehensive series of proposals for how the club can compensate those who provide certain services to SBC. Their proposals are summarized below (but it should be noted that the board has not yet reviewed numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6 below):

PROPOSALS.

1- Dealing Machine Operators. *Current policy, adopted on 2/17/15: give each of them one free play every six months. The club's treasurer distributes the free play tickets to the head dealer (currently Loren Meyer).* -- Proposal: Give each dealer three free plays every six months. The Head Dealer will distribute the free play tickets which will be provided by the club's treasurer.

2- Head Dealer. *Current policy: Receives same number of free plays as the dealing machine operators.* Proposal: Compensate the head dealer at the rate of \$20 per month by check issued by the club's treasurer.

3- Webmaster. *Current policy: No compensation.* -- Proposal: SBC and Unit 490 will each pay \$25 per month to the Unit's webmaster for maintaining the website.

4- Game Directors. *Current practice: Directors are paid a base amount of \$40, plus \$3 for each table over five.* Proposal: Increase the base pay to \$45.

5- Partnership chairs. (These are club members who consistently are available to find partners for specified club-sponsored games) -- *Current policy: one free play per week (adopted 11/17/15).* -- Proposal: No change proposed as yet. As noted on the previous page, Gayle Goodwin-Wilkins has offered to provide this service for our

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Free Plays and Monetary Compensation (cont).

PROPOSALS (cont.) -- Partnership chairs (cont.)

Tuesday and Friday games in return for four free plays per month. Miriam Brand will be providing this service for our Wednesday and Saturday games and will be entitled to receive compensation as well. The board will review its free play policy for this service. (*Secretary's note: Also see related item on page 3.*)

6- Other Free Plays. *Current policy: Free plays are awarded (one per instance) to: (a) new players (first time at a club game), (b) persons called at the last minute to fill in a partnership, (c) players who arrive from out of town, not knowing a team game is being held and no team members are available for them. (Adopted 2/15/11) --*

Proposal: No change proposed in the level of compensation. However, Anita and Judy recommend implementation of recordkeeping and free play management procedures as follows: For (a) and (b) above--game summaries should be revised to include the names of those receiving these free plays and the reasons they were given. For (c) above--free play tickets should be numbered and accounted for on a log that includes: name of game director giving the ticket, date given, recipient's name, reason the free play was given. Unredeemed tickets will be void after one-year of issuance. The club manager will produce the game summaries that record free plays given.

7-Gift Cards. Gift cards are not covered by any club policy, but are available to those who want to purchase them. Anita and Judy recommend that they be entered by the game director when purchased into the log described under (6) above.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF ADOPTING PROPOSALS.

Webmaster. \$25.00 per month, **additional cost to SBC = \$300 per year.**

Dealers: Current cost = \$10 per year. Proposed cost = \$80. Additional cost - **\$70.**

Head dealer. Current cost = \$10 per year. Proposed = \$240. Additional cost = **\$230.**

Game directors. Current cost = \$10,080. Proposed = \$11,340. Additional = **\$1,260.**

Partnership chairs. Current and proposed costs are not known. However, we may be considering paying them at the rate of one free play per week. If so, the total annual cost would be approximately **\$660 per year.**

Bridge lessons. Current cost = \$720 per year (for lessons on Wednesday mornings).

No change is contemplated at this time; however, the club manager does not believe directors should be paid for giving lessons at the club. (Email dated 6/18/17.)

Total cost increase if all proposals adopted = \$2,550 per year.

Income analysis: An increase in table fees by \$1 would yield about \$7,100 additional income for SBC per year. Since we now have over \$14,000 in our cash account and are currently close to breaking even on an annual basis, no increase in table fees seems necessary at this time.

Board Action on Free Plays and Compensation. MOTION: JP/SP. "Compensate the head dealer \$20.00 per month." Passed unanimously. MOTION: PG/SP.

"Compensate dealer-volunteers at the rate of three free plays every six months. The head dealer will distribute the free play chits to the dealers." Passed unanimously. No other action was taken at this meeting on the other proposals set forth above. The board will consider these in the future.

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Emergency Contact List (ICE). The board is interested in developing a list of emergency contact persons to use in case an emergency involving a member arises at a game. Judy has offered to develop such a list. Participation is voluntary. Each club member will be asked if they want to provide this information for themselves. Paul will make an announcement to this effect at today's game.

Sportsmanship Award: Name Change. The club's major award is its Sportsmanship Award, currently called the "Jack Lathrop Good Sportsmanship Award." (It was originally called the "Virginia Rogers Good Sportsmanship Award.") It is awarded annually to the player selected by SBC's game directors whom they believe has best exemplified good bridge etiquette and sportsmanship at our games during the current year.

MOTION: AW/PG. ***"Change the name of this award to the 'Good Sportsmanship Award.' Continue to announce the recipient at Unit 490's annual Christmas Party."*** The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held August 15 at 10 a.m.

Submitted by
David Astle, Secretary