

SALEM BRIDGE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING, March 20, 2018

Call to Order, Attendance: At 10 a.m. on March 20, Vice-President Zina Galaka called the meeting to order. Present: Zina, Dave Astle, Jean McKinney, Susan Palmer, Joan Page, and Anita Walker. Absent: Paul Graham. Also present: Dick Pitzer, Club Manager; Judy Lathrop, Unit 490 Treasurer; Loren Meyer, Head Dealer; Bill Anning, SBC member.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the January 16 regular meeting were previously approved by email.

Financial Report/Table Count. Anita presented the club's financial reports for January and February. The January report shows a loss of \$18.52. The February report shows a gain of \$189.82. Table count for January was 202 vs. 151 in 2017. The February count was 156-1/2 vs. 155. Our bank balance as of 2/20/18 was \$14,437.51 up from \$14,163.68 on 12/20/17. Anita anticipates expenses will increase in March as we pay directors for giving lessons. (*See discussion of "bridge lessons" on last page..*)

Consumer Satisfaction. Several member suggestions were discussed.

- 1- **Accept donations to defray food costs for Sunday Unit Games.** This would involve placing a donation box in the club's playing areas to accept voluntary donations toward the cost of food at our monthly Sunday Unit Games. The board is receptive to this idea, but it requires Unit action to put in place.
- 2- **Raise masterpoint limit on Wednesday day game.** Currently our Wednesday day game is a 0-500 masterpoints. Bill Anning proposes that we raise the upper limit to 750 MPs. Bill says some of the Wednesday players are approaching 500 points and would prefer to keep playing in that game with their established partnerships while still being eligible to earn masterpoints. At the present time, players with over 500 points may play in the game, but neither they nor their partner can receive points.
SURVEY. Bill took a survey of the Wednesday players. He found that of the 24 survey participants, 11 favor increasing the MP limit, 3 had no opinion and 9 opposed it. He also asked how many are interested in becoming Life Masters: 13 "yes", 7 "no's"..

DECISION: The Board did not reach a decision. Held over to the April meeting

- 3- **Memorial plaque for deceased members.** Bill Anning also proposes creating a memorial plaque to be displayed in our playing area commemorating deceased SBC members. The Board seems to favor this proposal. This proposal will also be on the April meeting agenda for discussion and the fleshing out of details.

Secretary's thoughts: Things to consider: How far back do we go? Who will be included--everyone, including persons who played just a short time, or limit to long time members? Size of the plaque and how names will be entered on it. Who will be responsible for keeping the plaque up to date? -- Instead of a plaque, we might want to consider creating a special page on our website.

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4- **Add opening leads to Bridgemates/Discontinue percentages.**

Opening Leads. Some clubs, including Albany/Corvallis and Seaside, record the opening lead on each hand as part of their hand results. These are entered on the Bridgemates after each hand is played. We are unsure if additional software or programming is required to accomplish this. Loren Meyer will check with Bob Peary and report back to us in April.

Remove Percentages. The suggestion that we remove the display of percentages from the Bridgemates as a way of speeding up the game has been made and rejected by the board on several occasions. **MOTION: SP/AW "Do not remove percentages from the Bridgemates."** The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's note: If speeding up the game is our goal, adding opening leads would seem to be counterproductive. From the standpoint of total time to complete a game, these two suggestions seem to cancel out each other out.

5- **Answer the phone!** Too often, the club's telephone is not being answered. This is not acceptable. We need to move the phone into the playing area. If the game director does not answer it, anyone else can do so.

6- **No lessons during the game.** This suggestion has been endorsed by the board in the past. No one, including game directors, should give lessons to anyone while the game is in progress.

7- **Directors should remain in the playing area.** Games directors should remain in the playing area, except during breaks in play, while the game is in progress.

8- **Ask Directors to ROUTINELY MAKE prescribed announcements.** An integral and important part of each game director's job is to routinely and clearly make pre-game and pre-last round announcements. -- Reasons why: Noise levels tend to get out of control during the game, players frequently disregard instructions to replace the purple chairs, to properly empty and dispose of their coffee cups and dishes, and to remove paper and other debris from their table at the end of the game. The prescribed pre- and post-game announcements are as follows:

PRE GAME ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Every game:

Keep noise levels to a minimum.

No cell phones, no radios (even with ear buds).

Move quickly when the move is called.

Periodically: Keep fragrance use to a minimum.

Do not give unsolicited lessons at the table.

Remind players of the 10-foot no-smoking rule.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BEFORE LAST ROUND:

Keep noise down while others are still playing

Empty coffee cups and place **empty** cups in the bin..

Clean up the tables and put purple chairs away after the game.

Put paper trash in wastebaskets, not in cup bin.

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- 9- **Free plays for last-minutes call ins.** Apparently, a member called in to play at the last minute expected a free play but did not receive one. The club's free play policy in this regard is as follows:
"Other free plays. (a) New players (for their second game). **(b) Persons called at the last minute to fill in a partnership.** (c) When players from out of town arrive at a team game without a full team, they shall be awarded one free play each if we are unable to fill out a team for them." (Adopted 2/15/11)
- 10- **Move quickly when move is called.** This request has been added to the list of pre-game announcements. Too often, after play is completed and the score entered, some players tend to remain at the table to visit.
- 11- **Put board meeting guests first in meeting agenda.** When the Board asks non members to attend its meetings, it should give them the opportunity to participate at the start of the meeting so they can leave. (Loren Meyer made this suggestion.)

Club Manager's Report for March.

1. **Directors.** We now have two new game directors: Courtney Percy and Brian Breckenridge. They will primarily be directing the Capital Manor Wednesday and Sunday games. Courtney will also fill in on Thursday nights. -- Jerry Gordon is now the primary director for the Thursday evening 199er game. He and Courtney will be working to cover games as needed. Miriam Brand is helping out Dick on Tuesdays when needed.
2. **The digital director log** is kaput. Experience shows that our treasurer would rather deal with paper game summaries. A new summary sheet is being developed that will carry the same information as the digital log. With the treasurer's OK, it will be used starting in April.
3. **IMP Games.** As it happens, ACBLScore supports IMP games. The methodology used is to calculate an average score for each board after tossing out any outliers (upper/lower 5%). Alternatively, IMPs can be awarded based on a simple calculated average (outliers included). A pair is awarded IMPs for each board consistent with their score compared to the averages.
4. John Peterson's suspension period has elapsed. Whether he will return has yet to be seen.
5. The Capital Manor Sunday game is doing well. Attendance is consistent with the Wednesday Night game.

Dick Pitzer, Club Manager

Capitol Manor Saturday and Sunday Games. Anita notes that since we started the Sunday game, attendance has fallen off on Saturday night. The result is that the club now subsidizes both of these games. If that situation continues, board members think one of these games should be cancelled. We will ask Miriam Band to inform CapManor players of the problem and get their input on which game to continue. **MOTION: SP/JP "Keep both the Saturday evening and Sunday day games going at Capitol Manor for the next three months."** The motion failed. (Three votes in favor and three abstentions.)

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Machine Dealing: Update. Loren Meyer, Head Dealer, was asked to attend this meeting to bring the Board up to date on how the dealing function is going and to find out if he needs any help in solving problems. Board members have been concerned about the number of games in the last couple of months where no pre-dealt hands were available. Loren said that the only problem has been one of his doing--scheduling dealers and that he has this situation under control. He said he has enough dealer volunteers and does not need any assistance from the Board.

Speeding up the process. We have heard that Albany uses a dealing system that is considerably faster than ours. Loren says that the only way he knows to speed up the dealing process is to purchase boards that are fully open to accept cards so that the machine can deposit the cards directly into the boards. Perhaps this is what Albany uses, but perhaps they have a different system. We will ask Loren to check on this with Bob Peary when he discusses the suggestion of adding opening leads to our Bridgemates.

Restart Swiss Teams at CapManor? The Board had promised to revisit the subject of holding monthly Swiss Team games at CapManor. Miriam Brand has informed us that there is no desire to restart these games.

Unit Liaison. Judy reports that the Unit Board is working on preparations for the Salem Summer Sectional. Also, Unit members participated in an "Ask the Experts" session on contract bridge at Salem Library recently.

Bridge Lessons. It is Board policy to pay those who give bridge lessons on a regular basis at club-sponsored games \$130 every three months. At this time, Gayle Goodman-Wilkins gives regular lessons at the Wednesday day game and is paid for giving them. Jerry Gordon and Dick Pitzer give lessons on Thursday nights. Some players at the Wednesday game have said they feel the lessons are too complex, especially those relating to the 2 over 1 system. Bill Anning provided us with following description of the lesson system Gayle currently uses at that game:

"In 2007, I bought Mike Lawrence's flash card set. There were 12 sets and each set contained 55 flash cards the cost was \$120, I wanted to make the effort to learn how to play. I have worked with Gayle for about 6 years using the cards and people seem to like them. She also uses Sheinwold's "Five Weeks to Winning Bridge" and Victor Mollo's Card Play Technique. The 2/1 section of the flash cards is just a small part of the program.

"The flash card set covers all the basic conventions that are on the back of the convention card. I copy the questions for Gayle, she put the questions on the board then the group discusses the answers. We have been doing this for about 5 or 6 years. We have gone through some of the sets 4 or 5 times. Any time you want to look at the flash card they are in the middle cabinet.

If some players think the lessons are too complex, perhaps we should run a 299 game and a life master game at the same time on Wednesday. Currently you have 6 players who are very close to the 500 point cut off. You could then have two classes: one for the beginners and one for the more advanced players."

Bill

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17 at 10 a.m.

David Astle, Secretary