

SALEM BRIDGE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING, September 19, 2017

Call to Order, Attendance: President Paul Graham called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. on September 19, 2017. **Present:** Paul, Zina Galaka, Dave Astle, Jean McKinney, Joan Page, Susan Palmer, and Anita Walker. **Also present:** Dick Pitzer, Club Manager; Allen Carter Game Director; Judy Lathrop, Treasurer, Unit 490.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the August 22 regular meeting were approved.

Financial Report/Table Count. Anita presented the club's financial reports for August, 2017. The club lost \$215.88 in August. Our cash balance increased from \$14,580.50 on July 20 to \$15,061.53 on August 20. Table count for August was 181-1/2 vs. 194 in August, 2016. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Consumer Satisfaction. Susan Palmer presented several suggestions from our suggestion box:

1- ***Turn off running scores on Bridgemates.*** It is felt that this would help to speed up the progress of the session. The disadvantage is that players will not know how well they have done with respect to other pairs on boards played until after all hands are played. No action was taken on this suggestion.

2- ***Do not save N-S seats ahead of time unless there is a medical reason.***

Comment: The club's N-S seating policy has been discussed many times over the years and is well established. It is set forth below:

NORTH-SOUTH SIGN-UP.

To facilitate the physical needs of our players, the game director will maintain a sign-up seating chart. It will be available on a first-come basis with the exception of four seats for members who have difficulty moving and three seats for "C" stratum players to balance the field. When the player's physical condition improves, they shall inform the director that they no longer need a reserved N-S seat. The sign up sheet will be the same for each game.

Players needing a temporary N-S seat should notify the director at least one hour before playing time either by telephoning the club or the director at home.

If a player has a complaint, they will present it to the director. If, after discussing the complaint with the director, the player and/or the director can bring the complaint to the Board of Directors. (*Adopted 3/21/08, revised 8/21/12, reviewed 3/17/15.*)

The board does not believe the policy should be changed at this time, but expects the club manager and game directors to ensure it is followed. **It should also be clear that N-S seats are not to be reserved by telephone except for valid medical reasons.**

3- ***SBC should have one game per month with IMP scoring.*** The Board would like more information about how this suggestion would be implemented and the benefits anticipated in doing so. In the meantime, no action will be taken.

4- ***The noise level at SBC games is too high.*** **Action:** The board agrees and asks game directors to make announcements at the start of the game and just prior to the start of the final round to remind players to be courteous and keep their voices down while others are still playing.

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5- ***When making a ruling at a table, game directors should not speak loudly enough to that players at adjacent tables can hear.*** The board agrees. The club manager will so instruct the game directors.

6- ***Start the Friday game earlier than 12:30 p.m. -- MOTION: AW/ZG. "Ask for a show of hands from players on this subject. If there is strong sentiment in favor of starting our Friday games at noon, and there is no objection from KSAS for us doing so, we will make this change effective November 3, 2017."*** The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's note: A poll of members present at the game following this meeting was strongly in favor of an earlier Friday start.

7- ***Discontinue Swiss Team games at Capitol Manor. -- MOTION: (ZG/JMcK) "Discontinue holding Swiss Team games at Capitol Manor through the end of this year. Re-evaluate this decision in January, 2018."*** The motion passed unanimously.

Club Manager's Report for September.

1. We now are the proud owners of 5,000 convention cards and 144 card decks. They were bought at a good price although the shipping charge, I believe, was exorbitant. Am looking for an alternative.

2. The Pro-AM game happens next week, 9/26. Sign-ups seem to be going well. We currently need more Pros.

3. The STOP card is gone! At the Summer NABC in Toronto the ACBL BOD voted to eliminate the STOP card from sanctioned tournaments starting January 1, 2018. Although ACBL clubs are not required to remove them, they are encouraged to do so. Ours are gone as of this month. The over-riding factors were; players were using the STOP card to pass unauthorized information and newer players do not fully understand its use. (Secretary's Note: See item immediately following the club manager's report.)

4. The new gift cards are being printed. They will go into use October 1.

5. Our games are taking longer to complete and we need to reduce that time. Guidelines indicate a maximum game time of 3^{1/2} hrs for a pairs game and we are pushing that boundary now. Taking boards away from the slower players doesn't seem to do the job since they often elect to take a late play, lengthening the game. It would seem a viable solution is to disable the BridgeMate traveler option.

6. The digital director's log implemented by Judy Lathrop is a marvelous piece of work and we need transition to it immediately, if not sooner. However, there are reservations about using Google Sheets as its medium. Google Sheets is a cloud-based office support system which means we require non-stop internet support for it to work. Apache Open Office is now being tested. If it proves viable, our log will be maintained off-line in a more secure environment.

Eliminate the STOP card? (*Also see item 3 in the club manager's report, above.*)

Since removal of STOP cards from our bidding boxes has not been mandated by ACBL, the board feels that this action should be discussed and sanctioned by the Board before it is officially taken. **MOTION: ZG/JMcK. "Eliminate the STOP card from all SBC bidding boxes."** The motion passed: five voted in favor, one opposed, one abstention.

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Game Cancellation Procedure. At our May 16 meeting, the board discussed adding a short addendum to the game cancellation procedure we adopted on 4/18/17. This addition was also discussed at our May 16 meeting: **"Notify Judy Lathrop as soon as we learn a game is to be cancelled."** Today, the board voted unanimously to adopt this addition.

ICE Project. (See minutes of 6/20/17, page 5.) Judy reports that the ICE (In case of emergency) list is basically completed. She says further that: *"I always invite new players to the Salem area to let me know if they want to be on the ICE listing."* She also recommends that the game directors make periodic announcements that we have an optional ICE listing in case someone wants to add their names.

Remuneration: Webmaster. Dick has been performing the function of Unit Webmaster, so far without additional remuneration. The board will discuss this issue at our next meeting. (*Secretary's note: A revision of SBC's bylaws may be necessary to authorize remuneration for this function.*)

Radio Advertising. (Last covered in the minutes of 6/20/17.) As now contemplated, we will pay KBZY to air two interviews to discuss duplicate bridge in Salem. Gayle and Paul will star in one and Kevin and Shain in the other. Paul is developing the script.

Bylaw Amendment to Authorize Executive Sessions. Our present bylaws do not specifically authorize the Board going into Executive Session. We will discuss adopting an amendment to authorize this option at our next meeting. It is felt that there are occasions when it may be appropriate to close board meetings to visitors, such as when sensitive personnel issues are being discussed.

DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS. The Board asks that game directors make the following announcements at SBC-sponsored games.

1- Pre-game announcements.

PENDING FRIDAY GAME TIME CHANGE

Turn off cell phones, no radios, even with ear buds.

Be quiet between rounds.

Clean up tables after the game and empty coffee cups and place in the proper receptacle in the dining area, put paper trash in receptacles.

Periodically: Keep fragrance use to a minimum.

Advise players of our ICE list.

2. Announcements before start of last round:

Reminder to clean up tables, return purple chairs to sides of room and return empty coffee cups to the dining area..

Be quiet while others are still playing.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on October 17 at 10 a.m.

David Astle,
Secretary