

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
Meeting April 21, 2006

ATTENDANCE:

Present: S. Schuchert, D. Averbach, C. Benedict, M. P. Carns, I. Port, J. Gillette, M.J. Johnson, W. Kelsey, M. McNeirney, D. Mannheimer, V. Simak, A. Ulke

Absent: F. Feldman, R. Franck, W. Holt, L. Joseph, M. Painter, A. Port

[note: Mary Paulone Carns spoke with Bill Holt after the meeting regarding issues which couldn't be resolved during the meeting because of his absence. The relevant information is in the body of this report in brackets]

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Sandy Schuchert

PRESIDENTS REMARKS

Sandy thanked Vince Simak and her committee for doing a good job at the Spring Sectional.

The 99er Swiss Teams, held in April, was a big success, drawing 25 tables. Sandy thanked Bill Holt and Darlene Mannheimer for their hard work. There were teams from as far as Boardman, OH, Meadville, and Johnstown; players ranging in age from 11 to 88, and 8 teams were arranged by Darlene.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of February 10, 2006 had been previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

The only correspondence was with the ACBL regarding a club which was in arrears for its sanction; this has been resolved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Was distributed. The 1st quarter 2006 showed a profit of \$1500 compared with 1st quarter 2005. The difference is attributable largely to the Spring Sectional and the educational program, neither of which was held in 2005.

Phil Miller submitted the Auditor's Report. The accounting data appeared to be adequate; the organization had an increase in equity of approx. \$2600 over the audited period (Oct. 31, 2004 — Oct. 31, 2005).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friendship/Condolence—Maryanne McNeirney sent 1 sympathy, 5 get-well, and one wedding card.

Post Mortem—Arlene Port and Lou Joseph were absent.

Education— Arlene Port and Lou Joseph were absent. Ivan Port presented a financial report for the educational program showing registration receipts of \$3132 however it is unclear how many students this represents. Arlene will be asked to clarify this.

Equipment & Business Managers—Asim has taken over the food service at the Friday night unit game. Mary ordered supplies for the sectional and for awards night and is refurbishing some of the bidding boxes.

Novice—Darlene Mannheimer reported that the 99ers who participated in the Swiss Team in April were anxious to participate in more Swiss Teams, however most wished to have teams dedicated to their group; 99er Teams have been added to the schedules for the upcoming Sectionals.

Darlene went to a Novice Reception with ACBL President Harriette Buckman at the recent NABC in Dallas. Ms. Buckman is a bridge teacher and education is the theme of her Presidency.

Ward Kelsey pointed out that there has been no 299er game at the Unit Game in over a month, due to nonattendance. He suggested that the unit should guarantee to potential players that at least a social game will be held (with the services of the director), even if there are not enough players to hold a sanctioned game. He also pointed out that it is possible to hold a sanctioned game with 2 tables (not 2½), run as a round-robin team game. Ward will poll the group of players who sometimes attend the game regarding their likely attendance if the game format is changed as above.

A discussion followed about education and recruitment of new members. Topics mentioned include Bridge in Schools, the difficulty of teaching high school students who have many other competing activities, and the fact that Warren Buffet and Bill Gates have started a foundation dedicated to teaching bridge. Sandy thought that Bill Holt might have investigated developing a teaching program at local schools. [Mary spoke with Bill after the meeting: he has not investigated this but will look into a program at a couple of private schools].

Membership—Vince Simak had not received new stationery as promised by Bill Holt. She has not sent any letters over the last few months. [Mary spoke with Bill after the meeting: he has provided Vince with some stationery].

Webmaster—Bill Holt was absent

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Sectional—Vince Simak reported that Bill Holt has her formal report; [Mary spoke with Bill after the meeting—he provided a spreadsheet with financial information to Ivan Port. There is no narrative formal report]. The sectional was a success; and attendance was up by 15 tables compared with the fall. This is especially good because a decline was anticipated in view of the unfamiliar site. The site was well received; there were some complaints about the food service; for the future Vince will attempt to train the servers better; the servers are union members and cannot be chosen by us. A light meal during the Sunday Swiss team will be available for sale rather than included in the entry fee.

Novice Swiss Team Game—See report above, under Education

NEW BUSINESS

Club Fees—The possibility of increasing club fees (Friday evening unit game) to \$6.00 per person per session was discussed. The ACBL increased table fees as of April 1, and most clubs in the area have increased their fees. Additionally, the Unit is losing money on the club game. The argument against the idea is that the club is already in a state of declining attendance, and raising the fees may worsen attendance further. Discussion included the possible reasons for poor attendance (all evening games are declining, lack of central location, limited hospitality, aging population). The possibility of having a survey on the website regarding reasons for poor attendance and possible inducements to increased attendance was discussed. [Mary spoke with Bill after the meeting, he is developing a web survey]. The motion that fees be increased was defeated, 5 to 6.

Starting Time—Mary Anne McNeirney moved that the starting time of the unit game be moved to 7:00 PM. The presumed benefit is that attendance might increase if the game ended earlier. Discussion included the possibility of worse traffic at the earlier time, the lack of time for a board meeting before the game, and the difficulty for those who work being able to make it to the game on time. Mary Paulone Carns volunteered to do an informal survey, focusing on those who work, regarding the effect of an earlier starting time on attendance. The motion was tabled and Mary will report the results of the survey at the next meeting.

Awards Party—Is scheduled for May 19. Mary Jo Johnson and Charlene Benedict are Chairs.

Milt Frazier Award—is to honor someone who does extra service to ensure that the unit functions well. Mary Anne McNeirney and her committee will meet in the near future to choose the recipient. Mary Anne McNeirney asked for board approval to go back an extra year in reviewing nominees for this award because there have been very few nominees. The board unanimously approved this change.

Unit Representatives to District 5 Meeting—The meeting is held in Independence Ohio during the Memorial Day Regional. Our Unit is allowed 5 representatives. The board appointed: Sandy Schuchert, Mary Paulone Carns, Arlene Port, Mary Anne McNeirney, and Roni Gitchel.

World Wide Pairs—Is being held on Friday June 2 at the Unit Game. Mary Paulone Carns has ordered the supplies.

STAC Week—Is June 12 to 18.

Thursday Evening STAC—Is planned for June 15. Sandy will speak with Arlene Roberts about having Rodef Shalom as a site. Last year there were 13 tables.

Sunday StaC Swiss Team—Scheduled for June 18. Sandy has been attempting to contact Bill Miller to obtain Blackridge Civic Center as a site.

Summer Sectional—June 30-July 2—Vince Simak is the Chairperson. The theme is “Picnic”. Flyers will be out soon.

Grant Money for Charity—The ACBL has \$321 available for Unit 142 to designate to Charities, based upon the unit’s participation in ACBL Charity activities. The unit may designate up to 3 Charities, who may receive at least \$100. This item will be on the agenda of the next meeting, to give board members time to consider various charities.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on June 16, 2006 at 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.