

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
Meeting June 15, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Present: I. Port, M. P. Carns, C. Benedict, F. Feldman, J. Gillette, W. Holt, M.J. Johnson, P. Katz, M. McNeirney, A. Port, V. Simak, A. Ulke

Absent: D. Averbach, B. Bergman, K. Bergman, R. Franck, L. Joseph, W. Kelsey, D. Mannheimer, M. Painter

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Vice President Bill Holt.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The meeting is being run by Bill Holt in the absence of President Lou Joseph.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of April 20, 2007 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

Was distributed. There was discussion about whether better returns could be obtained through other investments. However, the return over the 1st six months of the year is close to what could be achieved with other investments

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friendship/Condolence—Maryanne McNeirney sent out 3 condolences and one 90th birthday card. Maryanne will ask the ACBL to notify her of 90th and 100th birthdays of unit members.

Post Mortem—Arlene reported that we need to assure that the Post Mortem gets distributed. Currently, PM's are distributed to the PBA games, at games run by Marge Tamres, in the South Hills, and are taken to Coraopolis/Washington by Maryanne. Arrangements will be made for Lois Huffman to pick up PMs at Rodef and take them to Greensburg.

Arlene apologized for omitting the ad for the Spring Sectional from the Post Mortem. Also, the Thursday STAC was not in the calendar portion of the Post Mortem. There were many other factors which probably contributed to poor attendance at the recent Thursday STAC (3 tables): not on the website, not

publicized by flyers, no chair. It was agreed that there needs to be better coordination of the STAC special games. The board will request that Lou appoint a chair for the December Thursday STAC, and in the future chairs for each Sunday and Thursday STAC will be appointed at the planning meeting.

Education—Arlene reported that classes are finished and the program was successful. Students who take classes haven't often successfully made the transition from classes to playing duplicate. Therefore, she is trying to arrange a site, possibly Rodef Shalom, for supervised play on Thursday evenings. Also, starting in September there will be supervised play on Friday mornings from 10 to 12, and she needs volunteers to help supervise.

In response to a question, Arlene said that classes aren't being held in the summer because of difficulties presented by vacations. The board strongly recommended that supervised play begin as soon as possible, in an attempt not to lose the graduates of recent classes.

Business Manager—Mary reported dates for sectionals in 2008, all at the Palisades:
Feb. 29-March 2
June 20-22
October 17-19

Operations Manager—Asim is selling raffle tickets on behalf of Blackridge. The planned paving of the parking lot has been delayed by price increases related to the price of asphalt. Also, the original estimate was for resurfacing only, but the entire lot needs to be rebuilt. The Blackridge Civic Association is applying for loans, and is trying to raise the money. Fran Feldman offered a referral to a financial officer.

Novice—Darlene was absent. On her behalf, Mary reported that Darlene is putting together novice teams for the sectional. There were nine 299er teams at the Friday evening Swiss team held in May.

Membership—Marilyn Painter was absent but provided a report that all is well.

Webmaster—Bill Holt apologized for the lack of web advertising for the recent Thursday evening STAC. The website has a new feature, "Jimmy Sez", in which Jimmy Klein presents a hand with analysis. This has been successful, as indicated by hundreds of page visits.

Asim suggested that the Board members' portion of the site does not need to be password protected. It was moved and passed that the password be removed. The treasurer's report will not appear online.

Unit Improvement/Site Search Team—No news

OLD BUSINESS

Bridge Survey—John Gillette reported that he received approximately 100 surveys. Many were only partially complete. The majority of respondents play 2 or 3 sessions weekly. The most frequent choice of time for a new game was Thursday evening. Preferred sites were Squirrel Hill, Oakland, Southside, and Blackridge. The large majority preferred starting times of 10-11AM; and 7 PM is better than 7:30 PM. Novices would like to see supervised play and 1-session Swiss Teams. In response to “why don’t you play in the Friday night unit game?”, the answer almost always related to availability—either time of day or not driving at night. Many mentioned lighting and the parking lot.

Awards Night—Mary Jo Johnson reported that all went well. Attendance was 78, compared with 84 in 2006. Mary Paulone Carns relayed thanks from Lou Joseph for a job well done.

Summer Sectional—Bill Holt reported that all is ready for the upcoming sectional. There will be free meals between sessions both Friday and Saturday, and late night snacks. Fran Feldman reported that she recruited people to bring homemade cookies.

Summer STAC—See discussion above under Post Mortem. The Sunday STAC was cancelled because of lack of a site.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial Games at Sectionals—Ivan Port asked Roni Atkins to help. Roni appeared and reported that she is working on a schedule for the District 5 regionals, which she will present to the PBA for consideration. Bill reported that he had received a request from Dr. Somani for a game to be named after the late Nirmala Somani (“Nimmy”). After discussion the board passed a motion, made by Maryanne McNeirney, for an award, associated with a pin, for the newcomer (possibly novice, 199er, or 299er) who receives the most points in a year. The cost would be \$2500 one-time payment. Bill Holt will be in charge of the details. He will discuss this with Dr. Somani and implement it if he agrees.

Pro-Am Game—Is scheduled for Sept. 7. The committee will consist of Vince Simak, Marilyn Painter, Arlene Port, and Patty Katz. Fran Feldman volunteered to assist.

Charity Game for Blackridge—Asim proposed that the unit hold a Charity game for Blackridge Civic Association. The board agreed. The previously scheduled Swiss Team on August 10 will be run as a charity Swiss, and there will be a novice section, if Darlene Mannheimer can participate.

Bridge Olympiad—Bill Holt suggested holding a contest for players to win a “scholarship” to the District 5 Olympiad. There will be five qualifying games: be the four Friday evenings in July and the first Friday in August. Players must play in at least 3 of the 5 games, and their best 3 percentage games will count. The two highest scorers will have their entry fees and half of their hotel rooms paid for by the unit. It is hoped that this will increase attendance at the Olympiad, as well as at the Friday night game. The committee will be Bill Holt and Mary Paulone Carns.

Sectional Dates for 2008—reported above (Business Manager).

GNT Support Game—Mary reported that the ACBL has a new type of game, which is run as a charity game, with the portion of the fees that would normally go to the ACBL, instead going to the District to support the winners of the Grand National Teams. The board agreed that the unit should hold such a game, which will be scheduled starting in 2008. Members should also encourage their local clubs to hold such a game, and a notice will be put in the Post Mortem about this type of game.

Fall Sectional Nov. 9-11—Bill Holt, reporting for the Bergmans, reported that plans are progressing well.

Election Chair—It is reported that Don Averbach will be resigning from the board. His position as election chair needs to be filled. Maryanne McNeirney volunteered to be acting election chair.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on August 10, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.