

Minutes of Unit 249's Board of Director's Meeting

Via Zoom

Saturday, January 22, 2022

10:00 AM

Present: Jennifer Verdam-Woodward, Hazel Hewitt, Tom Ramsay, Jed Drew, Ted Boyd, Louise Caicco, Raj Seth, Brian Clark, Gary Robertson, Lee Gallacher

Regrets: Tom Jolliffe

Meeting: A quorum being present, the meeting chaired by Tom Ramsay was called to order at 10:06 AM

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Ted Boyd and seconded by Hazel Hewitt that the agenda be approved – **CARRIED**

Approval of the Previous Minutes:

Moved by Ted Boyd and seconded by Hazel Hewitt that the minutes of the last Board Meeting held August 21, 2021 be approved as circulated – **CARRIED**

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

2021 Final Financial Results

Our auditor, Gary Westfall, has completed his Review Engagement of the books for the year 2021 and his report is attached.

There have been no changes from the preliminary results I provided to you last week, but the presentation is in the final form required under Canadian accounting standards, like what we have seen for the past several years.

I wish to thank Gary for completing this work promptly and thoroughly.

Moved by Jed Drew of the Review Engagement Report for Year 2020 and acceptance of the Financial Statements for the year 2021, as presented, seconded by Raj Seth. - **CARRIED**

2022 Financial Results to Date

Our only income YTD comes from dues, and we have received 1,583.89 YTD. We currently have 37,561.77 in the bank.

Moved by Jed Drew that the financial reports for YTD 2022 be accepted, seconded by Brian Clark – **CARRIED**

Approval of Honoraria

Honoraria

Motions for approval to pay the following honoraria for service to SWOBA Unit 249 ACBL over the past year:

Moved by Jed Drew, seconded by Louise Caicco that we pay the Secretary's honorarium of \$500.00 – **CARRIED** Jennifer Verdam-Woodward abstained.

Moved by Ted Boyd, seconded by Jed Drew that we pay the Webmaster's honorarium of \$500.00 – **CARRIED** Tom Ramsay will contact Tom Jolliffe.

Moved by Jennifer Verdam—Woodward, seconded by Gary Robertson that we pay the Treasurer's honorarium of \$700.00 – **CARRIED** Jed Drew abstained.

Secretary's Report

No correspondence that falls into the purview of the Board

Tournament Chair's Report

Regional: We were not approved for a regional this year but do have approval for the 2023 regional and July 4-9, 2023 has been tentatively booked with Bingemann's. They have a \$2,000 deposit already.

Ted Boyd has now had discussions with the ACBL about whether we can run Unit games, and we can. There was a discussion regarding whether we want to hold unit games.

Jennifer said that the CBF has been successful with their monthly games, but questioned whether there is a need to hold a Unit game, given our current solid financial position. Jed agreed and said that we would be putting ourselves in competition with the clubs. Ted Boyd stated that at this point we have no plans to run Unit games.

Sectionals: London isn't running, Guelph is not running, and Cambridge probably isn't running. Tillsonburg had considered a two-day event but their venue is administered by the Thames Valley School Board and the TVSB isn't entertaining plans for the summer until the COVID situation has clarified. Lee is not sure about the Goderich tournament. There will likely not be any sectionals in the Unit until the fall.

Finally, Ted believes that we should clarify our liability relating to COVID. He will contact Allison Burkett and we may end up getting a legal opinion.

Education

Bridge Education in Unit 249

Submitted by Hazel Hewitt

January 22, 2022

Bridge Education is alive and well in Unit 249. We purchased a LBIAD? subscription that is good for any club to use in 2022. We are giving free plays to those taking beginner sessions that can only be used

later for face-to-face bridge. Responses to a quick survey follow but it is certain that other efforts are happening too.

Grand River:

From Isabel Hetherington –

Regarding the LBIAD we did not have enough registrants to make it worth our while. As such we were able to get five of them to start beginners right away. Typically, we have done one in January and September, and I will see about doing one in September again.

From Alan Pengally -

- At the end of November, we "graduated" 18 players from our Beginner 2 Lessons.
- These players were also given 3 weeks of coaching from more experienced players.
- The players were also given a lesson on how to play in online games, and we are hoping they will participate in our Thursday night games for players with <20 MPs.
- Unfortunately, we did not get enough interest to hold a Learn Bridge in a Day session this semester.
- We just started the first lesson of a new round of Beginner 1 lessons. We have 9 students on this go round.
- The opportunity to teach online has allowed us to teach students from outside the area. This time we actually have one student from Wyoming!

From Malkin Dare –

Further to Al's report, I am attaching spreadsheets showing which courses we have been able to run since last September and their enrollment. We are very limited in what we can offer, since we have only three teachers who can teach online - plus our members tend to prefer face-to-face learning and so our enrollments are low.

Bridge Over Troubled Waters:

From Tom Rajnovich and Lee Gallacher

Both indicated that Pat Barker is doing a Zoom session each Wednesday morning from 8:30 - 9:30 am.

Tillsonburg:

From Jed Drew –

Jed is conducting weekly lessons for a select group of 4 novice/intermediate players. Done on BBO with Google Meet voice chat open. There are no club sponsored courses currently underway.

London Bridge Centre:

Marie Wiley, Peter Tuttle, Dwight Bender, Hazel Hewitt, and Audrey Craig are doing multiple Fifth Chair sessions.

Peter Tuttle did some face-to-face Tuesday bridge labs during the short opening.

Mary Howe and Barry Onslow are doing advanced online sessions teaching from Florida.

Hazel Hewitt is doing Beginner sessions online with seven groups of four currently involved.

Membership Report

Year 2020	ACBL Unit249 Membership Report											Year 2021
period	Dec		Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Sept	Oct	Nov	DEC
New Members	3		11	19	8	7	9	5	6	8	10	2
Reinstated Members	5		7	5	11	1	8	6	3	2	7	4
Transfers into Unit	3		3	1	7	2	3	0	2	3	3	2
Transfers Out	0		0	3	0	1	2	2	6	5	3	2
Inactive Members	16		12	25	13	20	25	17	7	9	12	14
Deceased/Deleted	2		1	0	5	1	2	0	1	3	0	1
Net INCREASE/Decrease	10		5	7	4	9	6	8	21	1	6	4
TOTAL MEMBERS	1329		1334	1327	1331	1322	1316	1308	1287	1286	1292	1288

The membership numbers are down around 3% which is less than the ACBL's overall reduction so probably as good as can be expected considering the current state of the world.

As a note, District 2 is number 2 in the ACBL for new/retained membership in 2021.

Supplies

The Bridgemates are still in Cambridge and we can access them whenever we need them. Diane Bourdeau says that she is fine to store them for the moment but it is unlikely that the Cambridge club will reopen. It was decided that we should get them from Diane and move them back to London.

Webmaster

No report

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

District Board: We will need a new representative as Tom Ramsay will be leaving the Board. Jennifer Verdam-Woodward and Jed Drew are the current representatives and will carry over. Ted Boyd was named to replace Tom Ramsay.

Jennifer Verdam-Woodward will sit on the planning committee

Hazel Hewitt moves that Ted Boyd be appointed as a representative of Unit 249 to the Board, seconded by Lee Gallacher - **CARRIED**

Tom Ramsay will notify Flo Belford

Discussion regarding getting new players

Friends who play duplicate bridge is the best way of bringing in people. All of Hazel's new players are coming from friends – she had a client who bought Hazel's services as Christmas presents for 12 people. Our own membership is the best option for recruitment.

To attract younger players, we need night games but older people will not come out. Jennifer said that she is not suggesting that we run night games in isolation but as a part of a larger marketing strategy, such as perhaps going to universities and offering to teach/direct if they want to run a bridge club. London used to run an assisted play game on Monday nights, at the same time as an open game. People could come and get assistance in bidding/play from the director/any player who was waiting for the next round. They would get to know some of the players and see the game running without actually having to go into it before they were ready.

If it is true that we need a source of new players and we are targeting younger players, we need to do something at night or on the weekends. Otherwise, our demographic is retired people and the independently wealthy, neither of whom is impacted by a marketing strategy aimed at attracting younger people.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 28th at 10:00 am on Zoom

Adjournment: Moved by Ted Boyd that the meeting be adjourned - **CARRIED.**

**CLUB MANAGERS and DIRECTORS,
PLEASE, POST and ANNOUNCE THIS
ASAP TO THE PLAYERS IN YOUR AREA.**