

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

London Sectional

London Bridge Centre

1107 Dearness Drive, London, ON N6E 1N9

Saturday, January 25, 2020

8 :00 am

Present: Tom Ramsay, Ted Boyd, Tom Jolliffe, Jed Drew, Hazel Hewitt, Pat Simpson, Ewoud Van Goch

Regrets: Jennifer Verdam-Woodward, Raj Seth

Meeting: A quorum being present, the meeting chaired by Tom Ramsay was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

Approval of the Previous Minutes:

Moved by Tom Jolliffe and seconded by Jed Drew that the minutes of the last Board Meetings held October 6, 2019, be approved as circulated - **CARRIED**

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: Jennifer Verdam-Woodward

Correspondence received by the secretary since the last meeting:

- Jan 9, 2020 Email from Maria Deaves to Tom Ramsay resigning her seat on the Board and indicating that she will still be organizing the Goderich bridge tournament and remains interested in running a regional in London in 2023.
- Jan 10, 2020 Email from Randy Breuer to Tom Ramsay updating the Board on the Sarnia tournament and requesting a subsidy from the Board for the purpose of covering the additional fee for non-members
- Jan 13, 2020 Email from Randy Breuer indicating that he would be interested in the vacant Board seat.

Treasurer's Report: Jed Drew

I am progressing with the finalization of the 2019 books. It is my goal to have them ready to submit to the auditor by the end of January. All tournaments have been reported. However, I still need to ensure I have captured all GST items prior to submitting our final GST payment.

I am enclosing PRELIMINARY financials for you to review before our Jan 25 meeting in London.

- PS PRELIM 20191231.pdf Income Statement
- BS PRELIM 20191231.pdf Balance Sheet
- CF PRELIM 20191231.pdf Cash Flow Statement

I am still working on the Schedule 1 comparison of tournament results and it will follow in a couple of weeks.

My first pass at the results shows that we made a small profit of just under \$1,000 for the year. Considering that this was a year in which we did not hold a regional and we took significant losses on a few tournaments this is very encouraging.

Our bank balance is just over \$36,800. We owe approximately \$1,200 in current liabilities and will receive about \$1,700 in dues later this month from ACBL. Thus, our available working funds are in the range of \$37,300.

The 2018 Signed Review Engagement report as well as the Preliminary financial statements are attached as separate documents to these minutes.

Tournaments: Ted Boyd

As at Jan 7, 2020

Lots to tell.

To date in 2019, we have held nine Sectional Tournaments with a total of 1,421 tables (29 tables less than 2018) and have a surplus of \$2,470 (\$1,742 less than 2018). The reduced surplus is primarily due to losses in Sarnia and Chatham, with good gains in Stratford.

The Stratford Sectional has been moved to October 9 to 11, 2020 and the new Tournament Chair, Kevin Smith feels this will avoid the snow that always seemed to plague the tournament.

Lee Easterbrook, on the other hand, has abandoned the Chatham Sectional after moving it to December and getting stung by the weather.

The Cambridge Sectional is taking a one year pause primarily because the CNTCs and a Niagara Regional were sanctioned on the exact dates of the traditional Cambridge Sectional.

The Sarnia Tournament was disappointing, 35 tables over 2 days, and as we decided at the last meeting, Randy Breuer will be offering the Sectional at his club, moved to its traditional dates, May 2 and 3.

Members of the Parkhill Bridge Club will run a Sectional on June 20, 21, 2020 in the North Middlesex Community Centre. The dates and location mirror the previous successful Port Franks Sectional which was abandoned due to fatigue of the members.

This means eight Sectionals for 2020.

The Unit 249 Regional (South West Ontario Regional) is scheduled to run on July 7 – 12, at Bingemans. The site was well received in 2018 and attendance is debatable since the Summer Nationals are in Montreal the following week.

The Grand River Bridge Club had previously voted not to support this tournament, but subsequently has rescinded that Motion at the insistence of the Tournament Committee.

As requested at the June Board Meeting, Jen, Tom and I developed a Tournament Policy to specify how and why we run tournaments, how we pick the site and Tournament Chair and other details of our tournament activities. The report has been previously sent to Board Members.

The Board needs to discuss how supplies are moved from London to tournament sites.

Ted Boyd

Tournament Coordinator

Some concern expressed by Ted that the upcoming regional will be impacted by the NABC in Montreal that will be held the week following the regional in Waterloo. Ted expects that attendance will be modestly less than in 2018 due to the NABC's being held in Montreal.

Several board members suggested that the temporary membership fee imposed by the ACBL on non ACBL members who attend ACBL tournaments acts as a disincentive for non ACBL members to attend Unit 249 tournaments. The consensus favoured the elimination of the temporary ACBL membership fee. Motion: Unit 249 will absorb the temporary membership fee to non ACBL members who attend Unit 249 sponsored tournaments.

Moved by Ted Boyd and seconded by Hazel Hewitt - CARRIED.

Membership: Raj Seth

Raj Seth has indicated that he will not assume the role of Membership. Tom Jolliffe will temporarily assume this role until a new board member volunteers for the Membership position.

Webmaster: Tom Jolliffe

No report

Education Committee: Hazel Hewitt

Free Plays

The Free play voucher dispersal is serving a function that was unexpected to me. It shows what lessons are taking place in the unit because the teachers are applying for and receiving the vouchers. This provides a record. It's almost forcing them to report their lessons to the unit.

Attached are the dispersal records so that you can see what is happening in Education throughout the unit. Classes that did not apply for free vouchers are not known or recorded. Six hundred and forty vouchers were given out in 2019 with three given to people finishing their first set of lessons and one being given to those taking additional courses. I have dispersed 90 more so far in January but those are not used yet.

Beginners are not flooding to sanctioned games with or without a voucher. I don't think many are being used yet. I have had queries about using them for bridge labs and non sanctioned games. I think that this defeats our purpose which is to encourage playing at the clubs in sanctioned games.

Learn Bridge In A Day?

We have purchased the right to perform this five times from January to December 2020. The 2019 purchase was used 3 times – twice by GRBC and once by Goderich.

Grand River used it on January 11, 2020 and London Bridge Centre will use it on March 28. That leaves three more presentations available.

Grand River has had great success with attracting new lesson participants using this program. On January 11 they sold out and have a wait list for future presentations.

The London Bridge Centre reviewed their membership and identified that many who attended their two LBIAD? presentations in 2015 and 2016 are functioning players and members two years later. At least 10 of 36 participants are playing regularly at the Club now, including one

who is now chairing the Education Committee.

Free Play Vouchers – Unit 249

2019



Date	Name of Teacher	Location	Course	Number of Vouchers	Start Number	Finish number	Cost to deliver	Notes
March 4	Randy	Sarnia	Sample	1	000		0	
March 4	Hazel	London	Sample	2	000		0	
March 28	Doug Rogers	<u>Tillsonburg</u>	Beginners	6	101	106	2 stamps	
March 27	Hazel	London	Beginners 15 people	45	001	045	0	
May 10	Tom Raj	Kincardine	Various	111	046 107	100 162	\$5.63 postage	
May 13	Wm <u>Ju</u>	Waterloo Students	Advanced Beginners	14	163	176	0	
May 22	Barb O'Brien	London	Beginners 5 people	15	177	191	0	
May 22	Marie Wiley	London	Hand Play 12 people	12	192	203	0	
May 26	Malkin Dare	Kitchener	Various	50	204	253	0	
Jun 10	Hazel	London	BB2	15	254	258	0	
Jun 10	Doug Rogers	TB	Beginners	3	269	271	1 stamp	
Jun 21	Mary Howe	London	Advanced Beginners	31	272	302	0	

2019

Date	Name of Teacher	Location	Course	Number of Vouchers/students	Start Number	Finish number	Cost to deliver	Notes
Sept 30	Mary Howe	London	Advanced beginners	31 31 students	272	302	0	1 each
Sept 30	Audrey Craig	London	Intermed	8 8 students	303	310	0	1 each
Oct 30	Raina King	Grand River	Beginners	48 vouchers 16 students	311	358	0.85 1 stamp	3 each
Oct 30	Hazel Hewitt	London	BB3	18 vouchers 18 students	359	376	0	1 each
Nov 6	Barb O'Brien	London	BB1	57 vouchers 19 students	377	433	0	3 each
Nov 7	Lyn Whelen	Parkhill	BB1	18 vouchers 6 students	434	451	delivered	3 each
Nov 16	Audrey Craig	London	Hand play	33 vouchers 33 students	452	484	0	1 each
Nov 23	Hazel Hewitt	London	BB1	45 vouchers 15 students	485	529	0	3 each
Nov 30	Marie Wiley	London	BB1	42 vouchers 14 students	530	571	0	3 each
Nov 23	Hazel Hewitt	London	BB1	3 vouchers 1 student	572	574	0	3 each
Dec 1	Tom Rajnovich	Huron County	BB2	40 vouchers 40 students	590	629	Electronic sent	1 each
Dec 1	Lyn Whelen	Parkhill	Hand Play	26 vouchers 26 students	575 630	589 640	2.15 mail	1 each

Moved by Ted Boyd and seconded by Hazel Hewitt that 3 Free Plays may be redeemed in non-sanctioned bridge sessions such as Bridge Lab. - **CARRIED**

Supplies:

Maria Deaves has resigned from the board which leaves the position of Supplies Co-ordinator vacant. Tom Jolliffe offered to assume this role. Tom will ensure supplies are maintained at appropriate levels and will undertake to renovate card sets and bidding boxes where needed. Tom along with Bruce Moor will be the primary contacts for sectional tournament chairs to coordinate the transfer of supplies to and from Unit 249 tournaments.

Disciplinary Committee

The ACBL has eliminated the role of Unit Disciplinary Chair and Recorder. In its place a District Disciplinary Committee has been implemented. The District 2 Recorder is Martin Hunter and Disciplinary Chair is Paul Cronin Disciplinary. Unit will be asked to provide Disciplinary Committee members for any disciplinary issues that arise within their respective units. Ewoud VanGoch and Pat Simpson offered to volunteer should a disciplinary meeting be requested within Unit 249.

Approve Honoraria for 2019

Moved by Ewoud Van Goch and seconded by Pat Simpson that the honoraria for 2019 be approved - **CARRIED**

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

- Ted Boyd will notify tournament chairs that Tom Jolliffe will be the Supplies Coordinator and to contact Tom regarding the transportation of supplies to and from tournaments.
- The London Bridge Centre has added a rider to their insurance policy to insure the contents of the Unit 249 locker at the London Bridge Centre. The annual insurance premium for this rider is \$37.44. To implement this insurance rider, the insurer requested a Rental Agreement between the London Bridge Centre and Unit 249 be created. The Rental Agreement has been prepared and signed by Tom Ramsay and Judy Stirling, President of the London Bridge Centre. Moved by Ewoud Van Goch and seconded by Jed Drew that Unit 249 reimburse the London Bridge Centre for the annual insurance premium rider that insures the contents of the Unit 249 storage locker held at the London Bridge Centre. - **CARRIED**
- Paul Janicki indicated that the ACBL is planning to eliminate the temporary membership fee. No action will be taken to place an announcement in the Kibitzer regarding temporary ACBL memberships.
- Motion: The board should wait until the next board meeting to discuss the nomination of new board members. Moved by Hazel Hewitt and seconded by Ewoud Van Gogh. After some discussion the motion was withdrawn.
- Jed Drew advised the board that due to the resignation of Maria Deaves the Unit 249 board was no longer adequately represented in the London area. Tom Jolliffe volunteered to canvass members from the London Bridge Centre to seek candidates interested in serving on the Unit 249 board.
- Tom Ramsay will contact Raj Seth to inquire if he wishes to continue serving on the Unit 249 board.
- Discussion on the Policy Procedure Update was deferred until the next meeting.
- Ted Boyd advised the board that he is willing to Chair the 2020 and 2021 Regional Tournaments at Bingemans in Waterloo. At this point no proposals have been received regarding the hosting of the 2023 Regional Tournament.
- The Sarnia and Parkhill tournaments will proceed as planned.

- It was clarified that the Unit will compensate clubs who close during the Regional tournament \$100 per session, not per section, inclusive of bridge lab.
- Jed Drew suggested that it would be helpful to incoming board members if a Job Description was prepared for each position on the board. Each board member was asked to prepare a Job Description of their current role and to submit it to Jed prior to the next board meeting.
- The next District 2 Board Meeting will be held on April 10, 2020
- Paul Janicki, the District 2 rep on ACBL board provided an update on current and prospective initiatives being undertaken by the ACBL. Paul also addressed several questions asked by unit 249 board members.
 - o Question submitted by Jed Drew: Please discuss the temporary membership issue. We are losing the support of local club members who are not ACBL members. In the past we used to get good support from local bridge players, but we have lost much of this support over what appears to be a “money-grab.”
Paul stated that the ACBL is reviewing the temporary membership policy and that he expects that this policy will be rescinded.
 - o Questions submitted by Raj Seth: suggestion that in the near term we hold tournaments on Fridays for non ACBL members with trophies for winners. We could get local directors since no MPs are involved. Get them hooked. This should be ok since the ACBL is trying to bring in rubber bridge. In the longer term, ACBL District boundaries have to be redrawn to keep the transactions in the same currency across the Unit (payments to directors, table fees, travel costs)
As Raj Seth was not in attendance, this question was not raised with Paul Janicki.
 - o A concern was raised about the costs incurred by ACBL board members to attend board meetings at NABC tournaments. Paul suggested the reimbursement of travel and lodging expenses to attend board meetings at NABC’s was reasonable and encouraged volunteers to seek the District 2 board position.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at May 9 1:00 to 4:00 at the London Bridge Centre.

Adjournment: Moved by Tom Jolliffe that the meeting be adjourned - **CARRIED.**

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