

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

Via Zoom
Saturday, May 9, 2020
10:00 am

Present: Tom Ramsay, Ted Boyd, Tom Jolliffe, Jed Drew, Hazel Hewitt, Pat Simpson, Ewoud Van Goch, Jennifer Verdam-Woodward, Raj Seth

Regrets: Ewoud Van Goch, Louise

Meeting: A quorum being present, the meeting chaired by Tom Ramsay was called to order at 10:14 a.m.

Approval of the Previous Minutes:

Moved by Jennifer Verdam-Woodward and seconded by Jed Drew that the minutes of the last Board Meetings held January 25, 2020, be approved as circulated – **CARRIED**

Moved by Tom Boyd and seconded by Raj Seth that the minutes of the Board meeting held October 19, 2020 as amended - **CARRIED**

Appointment of new Board Member

Moved by Jed Drew and seconded by Jennifer Verdam-Woodward that we appoint Louise Caicco to the board in order to increase our London representation – **CARRIED**

Approval of the 2019 Auditor Report

2019 review engagement showed no issues and no adjustments were required. The statements are included as Appendix A

Moved by Jed Drew and seconded by Tom Jolliffe that we accept the statements as presented - **CARRIED**

Approval of the Treasurer's Honorarium

Moved by Jennifer Verdam-Woodward and seconded by Ted Boyd that the treasurer's honorarium be approved - **CARRIED**

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Jed Drew

Attached please find the following for discussion at our Board of Directors Meeting on May 9th.

Profit and Loss Statement Jan-Apr 2020

Balance Sheet as of Apr 30, 2020

We are in a solid financial position, despite the COVID-19 impacts.

Year-to-date we have a net loss of \$308.

The balance sheet shows that we have cash and accounts receivable (ACBL) of \$36,471 with Accounts Payable of only \$165. Thus, our working capital is slightly in excess of \$36,600.

We have no major issues with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, other than the cancellation of our scheduled events through to the end of August. Obviously, we will lose any potential income from these events, but we do not have outstanding liabilities related to the cancellations.

We have a receivable from the ACBL of 1.7k to be received and very few expenses in the next three months (around 1k).

Ted Boyd moves the acceptance of the report seconded by Raj Seth - **CARRIED**

Secretary's Report: Jennifer Verdam-Woodward

Correspondence received by the secretary since the last meeting:

- Feb 20, 2020 received communication that billing rates and sanction fees will increase on April 1, 2020. (attached as Appendix D
- Mar 5-13, 2020 Discussions around cancelling the Puslinch tournament due to COVID-19. It was finally decided unanimously that the tournament should be cancelled and Tom Ramsay communicated with Pat Fung on March 13, 2020
- Mar 16, 2020 Randy Breuer indicated that if he cancelled soon, he could get a refund on his deposit. It was decided that it was unlikely that we could hold a tournament May 2-3, 2020 so we indicated that he should cancel
- Mar 26, 2020 decided by email to pay any unrecoverable expenses for the cancelled Puslinch and Sarnia tournaments
- Mar 30, 2020 Received information from Nancy Strachan regarding the availability of virtual clubs on BBO. Clubs set the fees, which are in USD, and receive 80% of the revenue, while the ACBL gets 20%, and players may play in virtual clubs where they have played in person within the last year and have their ACBL numbers on file with the club.
- Apr 6-10, 2020 Emailed conversations around sending out a letter to the clubs asking how we can support them during the COVID-19 crisis. Final version agreed upon and sent April 10, 2020 to all clubs in the unit
- May 7, 2020 Email from Jed Drew indicating the cancellation of the Tillsonburg tournament originally scheduled for August 7 – 9th due to COVID-19

Pat asked how many unit club championships we had available to us and could they run one online. Nancy said that it wasn't possible now but perhaps in the future. Tom R will check to see if it is possible now.

Tournaments: Ted Boyd

There are only two tournaments that are still uncanceled for the year (St Thomas and Stratford). We are waiting to see whether these two tournaments will go ahead as planned.

Ted will reach out to tournament chairs to confirm the 2021 sanctions.

Tournament chair volunteer free plays will be calculated in 2021 based on 2019. 2020 free plays will be extended to 2021. Tom and Ted

Membership: Raj Seth

Year 2020	ACBL Unit249 Membership Report			
period	Jan	March	April	
New Members	10	8	8	
Reinstated Members	9	12	12	
Transfers into Unit	4	21	21	
Transfers Out	7	0	0	
Inactive Members			7	
Deceased	2	1	1	
Net INCREASE	14	40	40	
TOTAL MEMBERS	1362	1391	1391	

Tom Jolliffe reviewed all new memberships since August 2019 and issued Welcome Letters plus two Free Sectional Plays to all new members from August 2019 through March 2020.

There were 23 new members who joined in April. Tom has yet to send out welcome letters and free plays because it seemed premature. It was decided to send the welcome letters now along with free plays with extended expiry dates.

Raj will take all the responsibilities for the membership role and we will revisit at the end of the year.

Tom said that duties include running the report and sending out welcome letters and welcome free plays. It should also include retention (following up on inactive members to see if we can get them back into the ACBL).

We will circulate job descriptions for all the roles within the next two weeks.

Education Committee: Hazel Hewitt

There has been a youth coordinator appointed for District 2.

There have been some online courses in Kitchener by a man named Steve Carpenter, and there seem to be a number of online lessons happening.

Webmaster: Tom Jolliffe

Nothing to report

Supplies: Tom Jolliffe

Supplies have been inventoried and with the exception of decks of cards, all supplies are sufficient for the remainder of 2020. Cards were replaced in 50% of the board sets during February and early March. Additional cards will need to be ordered for the 2021 tournament season.

This position remains vacant with the recent resignation of Maria Deaves. As the supplies are held in London, the individual responsible for the ordering of supplies and the co-ordination of supplies for tournaments should be from London. Tom Jolliffe will volunteer to manage this position and will seek volunteers from the London Bridge Centre to assist with the co-ordination of supplies for tournaments,

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Most of the items we were working on have been made redundant by the Covid19 shutdown. All our tournaments have been cancelled through August. The focus of this meeting will be on how to help clubs survive the shutdown and how best to restart safely at the appropriate time. We should also consider cancelling our August and maybe September tournaments.

We are authorised by the district to obtain a sanction for a July 2025 regional. We can apply for the sanction now and determine the location -Kitchener or London- at a later date. Ted will do that.

Nader Hanna, president of the Canadian Bridge Federation, is preparing a proposal on the CBF relation to the ACBL (attached below as Appendix C). Pat Simpson would be interested. Tom will forward Pat's name and he and Nader can hook up.

Moved by Ewoud VG that we get a zoom account to host future meetings and the AGM. Seconded by Tom Jolliffe - **CARRIED**

Policy 2020-001 Complimentary Temporary Memberships was approved in principle in the meeting of October 19th Moved by Jennifer second by Ewoud **CARRIED**

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be August 8th at 10:00 am with the AGM to be held at 1:00 pm

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

Appendix C

Dear Canadian unit president,

For several years now many Canadian bridge players and administrators have expressed concerns about the state, and indeed the future, of our beloved game. Some of the commonly voiced concerns are:

1. The negative impact of escalating costs on tournament attendance, and on unit and club financial health.
2. The persistent increase in the average age of our players due to the limited success in appealing to young and middle age players.
3. The absence of ACBL French language resources available to the 20-25% of Canadian players whose first language is French (e.g. bulletin, website, etc.).
4. The financial health and long term survival of the ACBL.
5. The recently approved reorganization of the ACBL Board of Directors which will lead to reduced Canadian presence on the board, and likely even less attention to Canadian issues.
6. The lack of attention, and services offered, to the significant “social bridge” population.

In its capacity as our national bridge organization, it was suggested that the Canadian Bridge Federation should lead a collective effort to assess the current challenges facing the game in Canada, and recommend a way forward.

Accordingly, I invite you (or a representative of your unit) to participate in a task force representing all Canadian units as well as the CBF. The objective of the task force will be to conduct a study defining the issues and current challenges facing the game in Canada, look at how other more successful countries manage and grow the game, and to propose any necessary changes to our current business and governance models.

I hope that your unit will see fit to participate in this effort, and to be a part of designing a better future for the game in Canada. I would appreciate receiving your response by May 31, 2020.

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