

## **CHARLOTTE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

### **Board Meeting October 4, 2017**

#### **Call to Order:**

Susan Lohr, President, called the meeting to order. Members in attendance: Dave Weber, Martha Harrington, Don Lassiter, Jim Bender, Colleen McMahon, and Marta Heise. Also in attendance: Dave Sutherlin, Marilyn Goodrich, and Janet Case.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report/ Finance and Legal:**

Marilyn Goodrich, Treasurer, distributed the September financial report. At present, the club is \$1000 to the good of this year's budget target. The \$1000 donation designated to offset the cost of the bidding boxes will be deposited as soon as the estate paperwork is completed. With this donation and the upcoming addition of the \$1,200 check from ACBL, the club will be \$3,200 ahead of the projected budget.

#### **Facilities:**

Dave Weber reported that the problem with the doors locking properly has been addressed. The inner doors are now closing correctly.

Owens has sent a repair person to assess the issue of the leaking AC unit in the library. Dave is not sure if the problem has been fixed, but the company is working on it.

The carpet in the playing room needs to be cleaned, and Jim Bender has called the company currently used by the board to ensure that this will be done during the week of the Charlotte Regional. He has not yet received a definitive date for the cleaning. Colleen McMahon suggested that the carpet be cleaned more often than once a year. The board then discussed when this could be done, how to schedule spot cleaning for particularly bad areas, and if we should contact other companies regarding pricing and contracts for overall and spot cleaning. Jim will follow up on this.

The board revisited the topic of purchasing new white boards. Colleen noted that after the sectional, Jack McMahon cleaned the white boards in the main playing room with white board cleaner, and the boards were restored to excellent condition. The result obviates the purchase of new boards at this time. It was suggested that teachers should be responsible for cleaning and maintaining the white boards in the teaching room, and the board discussed asking someone to be responsible for cleaning the white boards in the main room.

The issues with the dealing machine were discussed under the topic of Facilities. Dave Sutherlin distributed a comprehensive handout which included images of the error warnings

routinely displayed on the computer screen. Dave identified six recurring errors and tracked the frequency of the errors. The most common error is card jams. Also, the machine frequently reads a card incorrectly; most of the time this is the machine reading a diamond as a spade. Another problem is that at times, cards do not go into the boards correctly, but rather stand vertically next to the board. Sometimes, the machine displays an error and when checked out, the operator discovers the error display was not accurate, and there are other warning errors that are simply unclear. The issues with the dealing machine seem multifaceted, and it is not easy to determine if errors are a software or hardware problem. The problems are so severe that at least one proprietor is making up boards by hand. After considerable discussion, the board agreed that during the Charlotte Regional, we will send the dealing machine out for the normal maintenance repair. Thanks to Dave, the club can include a detailed analysis that documents the specific problems that have occurred and ask that these issues be addressed.

Janet Case added that in the past two weeks there have been many problems with the bridgmates, with common game issues, with the computer, and with the printer. Janet and Len have spent many hours after and before games trying to fix these problems and ensure that things run smoothly at the club. Janet mentioned two specific concerns: problems with the printer because the settings had been changed and complications with virus protection. The board acknowledged that there have been several frustrating situations and thanked Janet (and Len) for all the extra time they spend at the club working to keep games running smoothly.

Susan Lohr suggested that the board look into asking different people to accept responsibility for one particular issue, i.e., someone would accept responsibility for maintaining the printer, someone would clean the main room white boards, someone would be in charge of maintaining routine cleaning of the dealing machine, etc.

## **Tournaments**

The fall sectional was very successful, netting the club \$4,000 in profit. This was considerably higher than last fall's sectional, which was held in August. The board thanked Colleen McMahan and Jim Bender for their exceptional organization and management of the sectional. Special thanks also goes to Alice Gray who once again did an excellent job with the partnership chair.

## **Communications:**

The new club directory is out. This is a much more accurate record of our members. Thanks to Janet Case, Bob Fraser, Marilyn Goodrich, Paula Brewer and all who worked on this project.

## **Events:**

The Annual Meeting of the club is scheduled for Saturday, December 2.

Lauren Campbell and Martha Harrington have agreed to co-chair the Non Life Masters tournament in January 2018. Alice Gray has agreed to chair partnerships for this event.

Chairs are needed for the 2018 spring and fall sectionals, and there is an urgency to have overall chairs in place, so that Arnold Hoffman can include sectional information in District 7 publications. Martha volunteered to chair partnerships if the 2018 dates do not conflict with other obligations.

### **Player Development:**

Julie Arbit's Barometer Game for 299 players was approved and will begin in January, 2018. The board expressed excitement about this new game and anticipates that it will be a great opportunity for players to learn and play at the same time.

### **Old Business:**

The question of moving Awards Day to a day other than Saturday was again deferred to consideration at a later date.

Susan noted that the nominating committee for the 2018 board is underway, and the candidate slate will be ready for approval at the November board meeting.

Susan also followed up on a suggestion box request that books on bridge etiquette be available for those on the limited side (or other players). The board discussed purchasing pamphlets available for \$1.00 per pamphlet. Janet noted that there are several recent changes that contradict earlier "rules" and etiquette. Colleen and Susan will look into the matter further.

### **New Business:**

The board received a request to eliminate the charge for use of the dealing machine for directors of games held outside the club. The board discussed the fee for this and voted to continue charging for using the machine for outside games.

Colleen reported that she has received responses from several sources interested in purchasing the club's used bidding boxes. There are 160 new bidding boxes in the main room and forty boxes in good shape currently being used in the teaching room. Colleen is going to go over the other boxes, making sure they are complete with inserts and in decent shape and ready for sale in November. The board suggested a price of \$5.00 per box. Janet suggested that the club purchase extra inserts for the new boxes; the board agreed.

The Gold Point game for this year is cancelled due to the conflict with the Charlotte Regional.

### **Suggestion Box:**

There were several requests to create additional 499 limited games at the club. This decision rests with the proprietors of the games, not with the board. The board will include a message to this effect on its E-blast. Concerned players need to take this up with the proprietor of the game they wish to have changed to a maximum of 499 masterpoints.

Another request asked that proprietors and teachers ensure that the outside doors remain unlocked. The inside doors are locked during games, but, particularly in case of inclement weather, players should have access to the space between the doors.

Dave brought up a suggestion that the club provide a new training session on using the defibrillating machine and said that he would make sure the machine is properly charged. Susan noted that in the past the fire department had provided such a training session. Dave is going to look into this.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 1, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta Heise, Secretary