Corvallis Duplicate Bridge Club Board Meeting Minutes
2015/08/06 7:00pm at the Bridge Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:05.

Minutes from the last meeting (2015/05/08) were approved.

July financial report was approved.

**Agenda item 1: Zero Tolerance – review and renew commitment to.** Recent incidents are a concern.

The board agreed that our club wants to renew its commitment to being a zero tolerance club. This item sparked several disparate discussions, resulting in a recommendation from the board for directors to assess penalties to offending players. Penalties may range from changing a board score to ‘average-minus’ to a zero, or assessing a score adjustment of half-board, a full board, or asking the offending player to leave.

Another discussion about interruptions of play to collect table fees resulted in a suggestion to the directors to be more careful about the process of assigning tables and collecting the table fees.

**Agenda item 2: Finances – how to cut expenses or increase revenue.**

- We need to increase by ~ $2000 = 2 tables a week
- Dennis is considering offering a class (half an hour or hour) for intermediate players before the game on Wednesday. Hopefully those that attend will stay and play.
- Analysis of a proposal from Mary Alice (checked by Rick) indicates that if we raise the table fee to $6 per person and take advantage of every extra point game, we would increase revenue enough. ~ 80% of the games would then be extra point games.
- If Dennis hasn’t changed his mind about (b), I recommend we try that for the rest of the year. We could then revisit the issue in December.

Dennis proposed to teach a class (along with other invited speakers) prior to the Wednesday afternoon game from 12pm to 12:30pm. People pay a fee for the class, then play in the game for free. The board approved this concept in the hopes that it will generate more tables at the Wednesday games.

Other ideas of raising fees and offering more extra-point award games were discussed but no actions were taken, and it was suggested that fees not be raised until the September or
October time frame, at which time the board will be able to assess the impact of Dennis’ class proposal. The proposal to raise table fees was tabled.

**Agenda item 3**: Special games (extra point and extra $) schedule for 2016

a. Continue Tuesday nights as extra point games - usually?
b. Have a STAC game on Saturday? 
   i. The one in May wasn’t well attended.
c. How many team games
   i. On Saturday
   ii. During the week – Tuesday night and other days
d. Take advantage of every NAP? Every charity? IMP game if possible?
   How many GNTs?
e. Other funds?

The board supported continuing Tues eve game extra-point games. The board supported adding fifth Wed and fifth Fri team games in addition to occasional Saturdays. The August STaC games will not include Mon evening nor Saturday.

**Agenda item 4**: Slow Play – points to consider

a. Some games are very slow 
b. Players, including board members, are ignoring the “x” minute warning.
c. Late plays penalize the rest of the players - have to hang around to see final results 
d. Some players probably play as fast as they can, but others could play faster if they wanted to. 
e. Eugene’s warning says – “Check with the director before starting another board.”
f. We could try, after adding minutes to the clock for the second or third time, announcing that the there is a full clock for this round, anyone playing slow from now on, will get a no play. Or something gentler that says the same thing

Dennis presented a document with several ideas to remedy slow play.

The first idea was approved. It is similar to the announcement in Eugene, (4e in the agenda list above), with the wording “Check with the director before starting another board.” All board members are expected set the example for Zero Tolerance and, after the round alert, call the Director before starting new boards.

The board voted to eliminate suggestion #4 also, by a vote of 3 to 2, with one abstention. It states, “Don’t allow late plays. Pull the board for a team that is perpetually behind.” The suggestion probably meant “pairs” instead of “teams”, but the board voted on the proposal stated above.

The board reiterated its approval for directors to assess penalties for slow play.
The board also discussed problems with the Sunday “fast pairs” game running slow. The
director’s committee was asked to take up this issue and provide some guidelines about that
special case of slow play.

**Agenda item 5: Keep same game schedule – Friday 0-50? Fast pairs?**

a. Haven’t had a real 0-50 game for months.
   i. Make Friday night one session 0-499 or 0-749 or some other limit?
b. If we play more than 18 boards, fast pairs often last past 8:30
   i. Designate Sunday as a short game, but not give an ending time?
   ii. Push players to play faster?
c. If change, when?
The board did not have sufficient time to fully consider this agenda item. No actions were
taken and discussion was postponed until a later meeting.

**Agenda item 6: Silent game occasionally**

a. Ruby suggested it and others have commented on the amount of noise
   i. Greet your opponents
   ii. Alerts, calling of cards, and other necessary talking should be heard only at your table.
   iii. Visit between rounds (that is after the round is called) or in the breeze way
   iv. $1.00 to charity if you violate silence
The board did not have sufficient time to fully consider this agenda item. No actions were
taken and discussion was postponed until a later meeting. **Agenda item 7: Use of Audrey’s bequest suggestions are**

a. Window coverings
b. Fans to even out the temperature in the room
c. Electric sign on building
d. Sound dampening material

There was interest in addressing the problem of noise by buying sound dampening panels using
the bequest from Audrey Swygard’s family. It was agreed that the board should investigate this issue. Another suggestion to keep noise down was to spread the location of tables out across the entire room when the game is small rather than having all of the tables in very close proximity.

**Addendum: Fri. 8/7/15:** It was decided that the base penalty for starting another Board without calling the director would be an average minus for that board.