Meeting minutes for the Corvallis Bridge Club
7-27-16

Present: Bob Sandy Allen, Allison Evans, Dennis Harms, Paul Hochfeld, Becky McKenzie, Eileen Milligan, Bob Peery, and Mary Alice Seville

Absent: Karla Layton

Call to order at 4:45pm.

Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting. Allison 3 min

Bob moved that we accept the minutes of the 5-4-16 minutes. Becky seconded and the minutes were approved.

Approval of the May and June Financial Statements. Mary Alice 3 min

Sandy moved that we accept the May and June financial statements. Bob seconded, and the financial statements were approved.

Debrief of Saturday, 7/9, Team Game Mary Alice 15 min

A summary of the team game on 7-9-16 was provided by Mary Alice. The food was very good and people enjoyed the potluck. The game was advertised as a team game, and the details of the format (stratified or stratiflighted) were not provided in the announcement describing the team game. It was decided to make the game stratiflighted after talking to representatives of 5 of the 6 top teams (reaction ranged from hesitant ok to great) because of the following statistics relative to teams:

- 4 teams with a top player with 58 or fewer points, average of less than 45 and team total less than 180.
- 4 teams with top player between 340 and 800, average between 228 and 470 and team total between 911 and 1881.
- 6 Teams with top player between 1893 and 4442, average between 1216 and 2219 and team total between 4865 and 8876.

Four players were decidedly negative about making the game stratiflighted. Reasons included:

- changes like this should not be made at the last minute
- would have chosen different team members if had known stratiflighted
- B/C players were precluded from playing with and learning from the A players
- didn’t get to chat with friends in the B/C flight or get to know newer players
- Will not play in another stratiflighted team game
- didn’t get to play with and get to know any of the newer players. Will not play in another stratiflighted team game
- did not like the round robin in the A Flight.
Positives about the decision to stratiflight the game included:

- The A flight had a nearly perfect game setup – everyone played the same predealt hands with hand records and played all of the other A teams.
- The A flight finished at least 45 min sooner than B/C flight and played one more board.
- The B/C flight had a relaxed game and had lots of fun. Several B/C flight players thanked the director for this format.

Discussion about how to handle future team games included that the complaints about not making decisions at the last minute, choices about selecting a team appropriate for the format, and players being disgruntled about not knowing the format in advance can be avoided in the future by advertising the format in advance so as to eliminate confusion. However, one challenge with advertising the format in advance is that sometimes a format is suggested by the nature of the teams that show up, which can be hard to know in advance. The complaints about not liking the stratiflighted format were noted. In general, the B/C players prefer the stratiflighted format, and the few players who were vocal about not liking the stratiflighted format were A-level players. Many A-level players were positive about the stratiflighted format.

The Board consensus was that if team games are going to be stratiflighted, they should to be advertised as such in advance. Flights could be either A and B playing together with C playing separately, or A playing separately with B and C playing together. The Board thought having 2 stratified games both held before tournaments, as flighted games are good practice for tournament knockouts, and 2 stratified games held at other times. Wednesday day team games will be stratified. Teams should be stratified based on team average rather than on top person of the team.

Additional formats that the board decided to consider at a future date include 8-is-enough team games, pro/am team games, and having a limited-point team game at some time. Other ideas were included putting A and B and in one flight and C in another, or having only two flights, each with 2 strats. Another idea was an Albany-Corvallis challenge.

Hand records for team games have been very well received. Thanks to Eileen for having them.

**2016 Civil War challenge**

Sandy 10min

Eugene is proposing a team format with each club fielding 4 teams in 3 strats. Don suggested strats, which were approximately top players of 0-300 in C, 300-1600 in B, and above 1600 in A. Sandy will contact Don to find out what Eugene’s strats are going to be. The format will be 3 totally segregated 8-team Swisses in which each team plays all the opposing teams within its strat. Corvallis teams will only play Eugene Teams. Jeff Jacobs will direct.
The Board discussed how to determine who the 12 teams would be. Consensus was to have a sign-up sheet. If too many people are in any strat, we can have a playoff for that strat. Saturday, October 8th is the deadline for sign-up.

Do we want to charter a bus? Paul will research a bus for 48 people.

**October team game – when should we have it?**

Mary Alice 10min

The October schedule is very busy:

1st Sat is Seaside
2nd Sunday is Salem Challenge in Salem
3rd Sunday is Unit game
4th Sat. is the Civil War Challenge
5th Sat if Newport Sectional

The calendar committee originally scheduled a team game for the second Saturday in October. Do we want to have a team game on the 2nd or 3rd Sat? Because October is so busy, we will move the Saturday Swiss to Nov 12th.

**Cancel which games during Newport sectional?**

Mary Alice 5min

The weekend of the Newport Sectional, we will cancel both the Friday night and Sunday night games.

**Cancel Fri. evening 8/12 and/or Sun. evening 8/14?**

Mary Alice 5min

This is the weekend of the Boise regional. Several people that usually play on Sunday evening will be gone this weekend. Some people that usually play on Friday evening will be gone that weekend. We will cancel Sunday night, but will have the Friday night game.

The weekend of Labor Day, we will have the Sunday night game but not the Monday night game.

**Anniversary party**

Karla 5min

For our second anniversary party, we will have a potluck at the Friday night game. Sandy and Karla will plan it. We will ask people to contribute paper goods.

**Gay nineties party**

Karla 5min

It is Albany’s turn to host the gay nineties party. Do we want to give the honorees a gift? Last year Albany gave them a small plant. We will give a free game and a card. Karla will make arrangements and coordinate with Albany.
Report on Tasks from the May meeting: 10min

- Volunteer recognition – Becky and Eileen…still thinking.
- Fall event for Social Bridge Players – Karla will report at a future meeting
- Simultaneous pairs/team game – Eileen said that clubs can’t have such a game. Cross-IMPing a pairs game is an option that achieves some of those goals (i.e., teams practice in a pairs setting without the hassle of having a team game). Consensus was that Tuesday night would be a good night to try that format if anyone was interested.

Discussion of Evening games – increasing table count  Dennis until 6pm

Evening games are small, so the Board discussed ways to increase table count.

All of the night games have been suffering low table count. Considering the open games of Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday night it seems like Friday night is the best night to focus first on making bigger.

There was consensus that the Friday night seems to be going well with Ask the Expert and a shorter game. We may want to build on that success. One idea was to have a partnership contact that makes sure people who want to play are matched up with a partner. It might be best to have one of the newcomers be the coordinator. Another idea was to ask for volunteers to bring in the food. Another idea was to identify novices who have played and query them on ways to improve the game for them and have them develop ideas on how to get more novices to play. Explaining stratification was given as another idea so that newer players understand that even in an open, they get to compete at their level. We need to make sure to stratify the games properly. These ideas were discussed, and the Board decided to monitor attendance on Friday nights over the next several months before making any changes.

Other business:

- Can a club have a game on BBO online game in the evening? Dennis will look into it.
- Bob has a club t-shirt. Would we want to go in with them on it? There was no decision on this item.
- Bob is going to teach beginning classes in Albany this fall.
- Mary Alice plans to take the people who have helped with the Thursday morning supervised practice session to lunch as a thank-you.

Action items:

- Sandy will contact Don to find out what Eugene’s strats are going to be for the Civil War.
- Paul will research a bus for 48 people for the Civil War.
- Sandy and Karla will plan the anniversary party.
• Karla will arrange for a free game and a card for the Gay Nineties party.
• Volunteer recognition – Becky and Eileen will report at a future meeting.
• Fall event for Social Bridge Players – Karla will report at a future meeting
• Dennis will look into whether a club can have a game on BBO online game in the evening.