Meeting minutes for the Corvallis Bridge Club  
11-9-16

Present: Sandy Allen, Allison Evans, Dennis Harms, Karla Layton, Becky McKenzie, Eileen Milligan, and Mary Alice Seville

Absent: Paul Hochfeld and Bob Peery

Call to order my Mary Alice at 4:45pm.

1. Approval of the minutes

The Board needs to settle differing opinions regarding the decision about having a playing director in the Tuesday afternoon game on the A side. Discussion included the following points: Prohibiting a director from playing in A may tie the directors’ hands when the director determines that playing in A is the best option for administering the game. Leaving this decision up to the director affords flexibility. The director may feel he/she can more efficiently help the B side when playing in B. Playing in A may, in some situations, be the best way to administer the Tuesday day game, but generally, the director should not be expected to play in A when playing in B is the better way to administer the game. Players should be reminded that they should call the club 30 minutes in advance if they are coming single, and we now have a list of a few people who are willing to be called on Tuesday afternoon.

The following motion passed: “The Board recommends the director should not play on the A side on Tuesday day.”

The minutes were approved, including the above correction. Allison will send the revised minutes to Dick for posting on the web site.

2. Acceptance of financials

Board members had no questions on the financials. Mary Alice advised that she may have to revise her recommendation about table fees depending on the final solution for payment for janitorial services.

3. Mentor Program

The Mentorship Committee’s proposal was provided to the board. The proposal involved having a continuous-enrollment mentorship program (as opposed to discrete mentorship events). One concern was having some kind of follow-up after players have their mentor games. The Mentorship Committee was encouraged to make sure newer players are introduced to other players at games, and we need to encourage mentees to continue to play after the mentor games. Mentoring will be aimed at people over 20 points. Players who aren’t comfortable with open games will be encouraged to take advantage of the Monday night game and Thursday practice sessions. Players with under 20 points who self-select for mentorship can ask for a mentor, but the committee will target players over 20 for enrollment.

Another topic of discussion was how to involved interested contract bridge players. In general, lack of awareness of the bridge center is not the major reason that contract players don’t come play duplicate. Experienced contract players would be welcome to be mentored if they were
interested in transitioning to duplicate. Becky will send Allison email addresses for some contract players she thought might be interested in being mentored (Lucy and Susie).

A motion passed to have the mentor program as described in the Mentorship Committee’s proposal. The Committee should aim to start the program in January.

4. 2017 Calendar

Dennis’s proposal for the 2017 calendar was circulated to the Board. The following decisions were approved by vote:

1. **Approve the Corvallis Unit game schedule**: Approved by vote as described in the proposal.
2. **Approve the 2nd Saturday Team Game schedule**:
   - Jan. 14: Stratified  GNT
   - Feb. 11: Stratflighted (A plays alone) – practice for Vancouver Regional within your bracket
   - Mar. 11: Stratified
   - May. 13: Stratified
   - Jun. 10: Stratified
   - Jul. 9: Stratflighted (A plays alone) – practice for Eugene Regional within your bracket
   - Sep. 9: Stratified
   - Nov. 11: Stratified  GNT
   - Dec. 9: Stratified

   All other Swiss games are club championship, membership, or charity games.

3. **No fifth Wednesday team games.**

   Because: (1) Wednesday Swisses would be stacked on one or more other Swiss events for 3 of the 4 possible games and (2) Saturday Swisses net a far greater increase in table count than the Wednesday day Swisses, Dennis recommended no Wednesday day Swisses, and compensating for that by having 9 rather than 4 Saturday Swisses.

4. **Approve Tuesday night extra points schedule**: The principles lined out in the proposal were approved. Dennis will check with Albany as to whether or not they are using a unit charity game.

5. **Special games**

   - **June 2, Friday Evening, Worldwide Bridge Contest**: The Board voted not have this game because of the very expensive sanction fees.
- **June 21, Wednesday, The Longest Day:** This would be one extra dollar per person per day. The Board voted to have this game.

- **October 25, Wednesday Afternoon, ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint game:** We have done this in the past and players seem to like to have the chance to compete for the gold award. The Board voted to have this game.

- **November 21, Tuesday Evening, ACBL-wide Charity Game:** The Board voted to have this game.

- **Inter-Club Championships:** These are US-wide games. They send hands, so there is some administration. However, this is not like a STAC game in that there are no extra points at the club level. There aren’t that many clubs that participate, which makes it less appealing than STAC games. The board voted not to have these games.

6. **Charity games**

At the October meeting, we decided on 1 charity game per sanction per quarter, with the ability for players to sponsor charity games as availability and sanctions allow. Allison will publish availability of dates and causes. The months of January, April, May, and September are dedicated to Special Funds. In 2016, we had one charity game per quarter per sanction, but we added one extra game per quarter in the Special Fund month (Jan, April, May, and Sept).

There are 2 kinds of charity events. There are ACBL charity games with the funds going to the ACBL Charity Foundation. The Foundation funds projects and allocates funds to Districts which then allocates funds to organizations recommended by clubs. There are also local charities. Only half of a club’s charity games can be local charities. The ACBL charities include the: Jr. Fund, GNT fundraiser, International Fund games, and these subsidize players to go to tournaments. ACBL also has the ACBL charity games, the funds from which go to the ACBL Charity Foundation. In the 4 Special Fund months, every game of every sanction could be a for that Fund. We collect an extra dollar for the Special Fund and local charity games. We can have as many local charity games as we like, as long as we have at least the same number of ACBL charity games. Local charities can be any 501 3(c) organization. Allison will send any requests to sponsor a charity game to Mary Alice and Dennis. The web calendar will not show the sponsored “extra” games until they are sponsored.

A motion passed to approve the allocation of charity games similar to that in 2016, which is approximately six games a quarter (one per sanction), which is 24 per year, with 4 more per year (essentially one extra special fund/charity game per quarter) in the four special charity months.

7. **Spread extra point games out**

A motion passed that the club championships, NAP’s, and memberships games will be spread out as opposed to concentrated in one week or one month.
5. Handling Howell movements when more than one pair needs to be stationary

Extra-point games with 6 or 7 tables are supposed to be Howell movements. Seven tables is difficult because that movement has only one stationary pair. The Board agreed to the following: We can create two stationary pairs by having one stationary pair where the boards go to the second stationary table. Dennis has made a special movement card. If we get to three pairs needing a stationary table, we would have a Mitchell. Dennis will notify directors of this policy and of the new movement card.

6. Table fees for GNT, STAC, ACBL Wide Charity, etc.

At a meeting last summer, we said we would charge $8 per person for GNT and STAC. After further analysis, Mary Alice suggested we would be fine with $7. In a regular game, we clear $19 per table after ACBL fees. Last summer when ACBL increased their fee, we said we would start charging $8 per person. Albany was going to also charge $8 per person but decided to change to $7. Mary Alice proposed that we charge as much as we need (in whole dollars) to clear $19 per table. This would mean that Club Championships, Club Appreciation, and Membership games would remain $5. NAP games and Special Fund games (including ACBL and local charities, Junior Fund, GrassRoots Fund and International Fund games) would be $6. ACBL-Wide Charity games, GNT Fund games, and STAC games would be $7, and GNT games and ACBL Instant Matchpoints games would be $8. Allison will alert the membership to the cost for special games when the game costs $7 or more.

A motion passed that we set the table fees for all special games at the lowest whole dollar rate that allows us to clear $19 per table.

7. The Longest Day Committee

The Longest Day Committee requested permission to raffle off five ten play cards as a fund raiser. The club would get $50 for each card and the remaining funds would go towards the Longest Day. Five cards may be too many. Mary Alice will advise the Longest Day Committee that we should auction off enough cards to net funds for the Longest Day. This plan was approved by a vote.

One area the Longest Day Committee is seeking input is ideas for how to bring in donations from outside of the club. Mary Alice will suggest they talk to Kathleen Petrucela, as she may have some experience in this area.

Karla suggested having a silent auction, perhaps as part of the Christmas party (but we save the money for the Longest Day in June). Mary Alice will pass this information on to the Longest Day Committee.

8. Board election procedures

Bob, Becky, and Eileen are up for election. We need to notify club members of the Annual Meeting 30 days in advance, but Allison will announce the Annual Meeting and describe the nomination procedure on approximately December 1st, as many people travel during the holidays. The Board set the Annual Meeting for Jan 17th: Allison will ask Dick to put it on the web, and will send a note to calendar committee to make it a special game.
9. Christmas party

The Christmas party is scheduled for Friday, Dec 16th in the evening. The Hospitality Committee is working on the details. They requested we have a 199er section. This will be a potluck.

10. Tasks hanging from earlier meetings:

a. Social bridge player event – Karla: We do not think there is much reason to do something like this immediately.
b. Volunteer recognition - Eileen and Becky: They still like this idea and will think about how to best do this once classes are over (in the next two months).
c. Is it feasible to play a club game online? - Dennis: Will report at the next meeting.

Action items:

Allison: Players should be reminded that they should call the club 30 minutes in advance if they are coming single.

Allison: Send the revised minutes for the October meeting to Dick for posting on the web site.

Becky (and Karla): send Allison email addresses for some contract players she thought might be interested in being mentored (Lucy and Susie).

Dennis: Check with Albany as to whether or not they are using a unit charity game in 2017.

Dennis: Notify directors of the policy about how to handle a 7 table Howell when two pairs need to be stationary. Also notify directors about the new movement card that is available for this movement.

Mary Alice: Advise the Longest Day Committee that we should auction off enough cards to net funds for the Longest Day, and this number may be less than 5 cards (or more) depending on participation. Suggest that the Committee talk to Kathleen Petrucela about how to raise funds outside the club. Pass along Karla’s idea about the silent auction.

Allison: Announce the Annual Meeting and describe the nomination procedure on approximately December 1st. The Board set the Annual Meeting for Jan 17th (day game). Notify Dick that the Annual Meeting will be on Jan 17th for the web calendar to put it on the web. Send a note to calendar committee to make the Annual Meeting a special game.

Eileen and Becky: Think about how to best recognize volunteers and report at the January meeting.

Dennis: Report about the feasibility of playing a club game online at the next meeting.