Corvallis Duplicate Bridge Club  
Board Meeting Minutes  
April 19, 2017

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

Absent: no one

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Mary Alice.

Minutes of the last meeting (sent earlier via email)  Allison

5 min action

Minutes of the past meeting were accepted with one correction.

March Financial Statements (sent earlier via email) Mary Alice 5 min action

Financials were accepted.

Review of Board Decision Making (attached) Mary Alice 30 min action

The MOPP contains an outline of how the procedures the board uses to prepare for meetings. Does the procedure need to be as complicated as it seems relative to bringing a voting item in front of the board? One perspective was that board members are representatives of the club, and we should be able to ask for votes without requiring board members to provide a summary of the issue on which we are voting. Providing something in writing is complicated and takes preparation that is more than should be expected from a volunteer organization. Another perspective was that knowing what board members are being asked to decide in advance allows board members to think about the issue and, if desired, ask other club members for their opinion. Some felt we should clearly set out in the agenda whether or not something is a voting item, whereas others felt this was not necessary. Some topics do not really require that we poll members because it is not possible to really get the data one would want.

Consensus was that voting items should be identified in advance of meetings. Consensus was that some information should be provided as to what decision members are being asked to make. This could be as brief as several sentences or as long as a page or more. The content depends on the degree of complexity and controversy of the issue. For example, one might expect that to set a date for a special game or party, the statement explaining the issue for voting would be very short (one or two sentences), whereas the issue of setting the calendar for the year might include a page or two, possibly with a table of options or dates if this information helped the board understand the proposal put forth by the calendar committee. Consensus was that the process in
the MOPP is acceptable. Sandy will look at MOPP (section 1.2) and suggest any edits that might improve the representation of the discussion above.

**Future team games**

| Handicapped (info attached) | Sandy | 10 min action |

This discussion was motivated by the Thursday morning players being hesitant to come to a Swiss because they don’t know much about how the format works. They don’t have information about basics such as where to sit, how to score, what to do at the end of the round, etc, which would allow them to be comfortable playing in the scheduled Swiss at the club this May. Walter and Mary Alice are planning to use the first Thursday practice in May for an informational Swiss training session in which players are taught the basics so that they feel more comfortable playing. Some of these players have never really been to a duplicate game.

After this informational Swiss training session, how do we ensure that these newer players have a pleasant/encouraging Swiss experience? One option is running an 8 is enough, but this may not be the best idea because this format has not really been anyone’s favorite in the past. Should we have a regular stratified Swiss team, should it be handicapped, or should it be flighted?

- **Stratified:** One advantage is that all players play in one pool. Eventually C-level players need to learn to play with more experienced players and this is a step towards that goal. Another advantage is that newer players get to “meet” more experienced players (but, in reality, there is not really a lot of socializing at the table,). Another advantage is that all the experienced players are familiar with this format. One disadvantage is that players who may have never been to a duplicate game may have to play against advanced players playing systems they do not understand.

- **Stratifiedlighting:** One advantage is that the lowest flight could play fewer boards at a slower pace, with the ability to ask the director questions, and this flexibility would not be afforded by other formats. Another advantage is familiarity. Another advantage is that players who may have never been to a duplicate game may have to play against advanced players playing systems they do not understand. One disadvantage is that newer players do not really get to “meet” experienced players. Another disadvantage is that eventually we want the C teams to play with A players, and this format does not aid in that goal. Another disadvantage is that this format may be less appealing to A and B players; however, this kind of flighting is not unlike what is routinely done in KOs or regional Swisses.

- **Handicapping:** One advantage is that all players play in the same pool. Another advantage is that newer players get to “meet” more experienced players. Another advantage is that this makes it more likely that lower flight players will either win matches or finish more highly than the same game that is simply stratified. One disadvantage is that our club has never run a handicapped game, and neither directors nor regular players are experienced with this method.
Another disadvantage is that if experienced players know they must overcome a handicap to win a round, they may be likely to make more aggressive calls than is typical or may be less forgiving than they would be if there was no handicap. Another advantage is that players who may have never been to a duplicate game may have to play against advanced players playing systems they do not understand.

The consensus was that stratiflighting would be the best option given that we are expressly trying to encourage very new players (as opposed to targeting less experienced duplicate regulars), and we all remember how challenging it can be to play an experienced team when you are very new. The two options favored to achieve the goal of integrating quite new players to the idea of a team game were 1) stratiflighted, in which A and B play together in a stratified game and C play alone) or 2) two separate events: a side limited (299er?) Swiss and an open stratified Swiss.

Questions included: Can a Swiss contain a limited section, such as in a pairs game (i.e., Tuesday afternoon), and if yes, do the tables from that limited section count towards the “open” Swiss. Eileen and Dennis will look at these two options and let us know. A motion passed to have Eileen and Dennis look into these two options and that we would schedule the format for the May Swiss according to their recommendation.

In regards to handicapping a team game in general, the board decided that the best venue for testing this mechanism would be the standing Tuesday night Swiss. Reasons for this are: the usual Swiss mechanism cannot work when there is a shortage of teams in each strat, all Tuesday night players will understand the purpose of testing this, and there is a fairly wide range of skills/experience at that game. If this mechanism will be tested on a Tuesday night Swiss, the format should be announced in advance. There are multiple ways to determine the handicap, and we should consider which would be best prior to the start of a game.

**Civil War Challenge (info attached)**  
**Sandy**  
10 min action

Saturday, October 21 is the best day for the Civil War in the fall. Because this game is near the holidays, we would like to support LB Food Share. Sandy will verify that LB Food Share can buy more food with donations than to have donations. Sandy will also think of creative ways that we can still have a competition with Eugene even if we don’t bring food items. This will be a pairs game. Sandy and Mary Alice will think about how to accommodate number of pairs. Motion passes.

**Date for Nonagenearian Party**  
**Mary Alice**  
5 min action

Last year, we had this game in September on a Friday morning last year. Tuesday is crowded and noisy, which might not be the best for this event. It might be nice to hold this event earlier in the year. Wednesday, June 28th was selected as a good time for this event.
Anniversary Party this year, if so when.  Mary Alice  5 min action

We will have our anniversary party of Friday, August 25th, at both the morning and evening games. The theme will be paper (i.e., 3rd 1st (paper) anniversary party) because we can always use paper products.

Cancel games during Eugene Regional  Mary Alice  10 min action

    Many day players won’t go to Eugene
    Night players will go to Eugene

The Tuesday night and Friday night games did not have enough tables for a game during Vancouver. It seems prudent to cancel these games in advance. One question about the day games is whether we can get a director. The board voted to have the Tuesday day, Wednesday day, and Friday day games pending director availability.

Ratify email discussion of cancelling games for a tournament for which all are not eligible (i.e., limited point tournament)  Mary Alice  5 Min action

This item was a ratification of a decision made by email earlier that our general policy will be to not cancel our opens for a neighboring limited tournament in which many players are ineligible to play. 1 opposed, 8 in favor.

Education committee report (attachment)  Mary Alice  10 min action

The board voted to give graduates of the first year of lessons one free play to Thursday morning (coached practice session) or a Mon evening game.

The proposed date for Learn Bridge in a Day is Saturday, September 16th. This may cost $150, but last year we had 17 students, so it pretty much pays for itself. The date and cost were approved by the board.

The fall education program is shaping up to be:

- 1st year lessons day and evening: Intro to Bridge
- 2nd year lesson (day and/or evening): Play of the Hand
- Intermediate: probably 2 over 1
- Advanced classes or seminars being explored

Will there be a mentor program this year?  Allison  5 min info

Yes. Allison and the mentorship committee will have information to the club next week.
Will there be volunteer recognition this year?    Becky/Eileen  5 min  info

Plan to have this on August 25. Becky and Eileen will provide additional information at the next meeting.

2017 Longest Day (attachment)      Mary Alice  5 min  action

Glenda is still working on some fund raising ideas but it’s unclear whether we will have something large-scale together in time for this summer’s Longest Day. Wednesday, June 21 will be the “Longest Day Game” for extra points with an extra charge ($6 or $7). We will have a way to collect donations on the Tuesday games as well, given that they are larger, but we need to have the official Longest Day game on the 21st. Individuals are welcome to provide donations at these events. We would like to find a way to involve the community at large but that has proven difficult. Glenda may have some ideas forthcoming.

Club Phone:
The club phone is a pay-as-you-go phone and it ran out of money this month. If we change the phone number, we can save money by bundling the phone and internet, but only if we change the phone number. Dick will change it on the web site, and Eileen will change it on the club info.

Stratifying games:
ACBL guidance suggests we have at least 2 pairs in a strat. We should have some guidance on stratifying small games where this is difficult.

Summer coached practice session:
These sessions will continue on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays this summer when there are no classes. The 1st and 3rd Thursdays will be coached (9-11; $5), and the 2nd, 4th, 5th will be for-fun practice (10-12; $1)

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Action items:

Allison: Obtain access to the website and post the minutes.

Sandy: look at MOPP section 1.2 and suggest any edits that might improve the representation of the discussion noted above.

Mary Alice: Talk to Allison about sending out an email for May’s Thursday Swiss training session/coached practice. (I am unclear as to whether this is because you want me to
seek experienced players to help or to advertise this to new players, or recruit coaches for the summer supervised practice sessions, or all three).

Eileen and Dennis: Find out the answer to this question: Can a Swiss contain a limited section, such as in a pairs game (i.e., Tuesday afternoon), and if yes, do the tables from that limited section count towards the “open” Swiss? Look into these two options

1) stratiflighted, in which A and B play together in a stratified game and C play alone) or
2) two separate events: a side 299er Swiss and an open stratified Swiss

and recommend a solution for the May Swiss given the goal of integrating quite new players.

Dennis: Ask Dick to add the following information to the web calendar:
- Saturday, October 21st is the Civil War
- Wednesday, June 21st is the Longest Day event
- Wednesday, June 28th is the nonageneanarian party
- Friday, August 25th (both games) is the 3rd anniversary party,
- Saturday, September 16th is Learn Bridge in a Day.
- Remove the Tuesday night, Friday night, and Sunday day games the week of the Eugene Regional.

Dennis: Ensure that Learn Bridge in a Day is not in conflict with a scheduled Saturday Swiss.

Sandy and Mary Alice: verify that LB Food Share can buy more food with donations than to have donations. Brainstorm ways to have a competition for with Eugene without bringing food. Brainstorm ways to handle the likelihood that we could have more pairs wanting to play than we can accommodate.

Allison: Circulate an announcement about the mentorship program.

Becky and Eileen: Provide an update on the plan for volunteer recognition at the next meeting.

Dennis: change the club phone number. Put a message on the only phone that the number is changing. Ask Dick to change it on the web site (many locations) and have Allison put out an announcement once we have the new number. Remind Eileen to change the club phone number on the club manager paperwork.