Corvallis Duplicate Bridge Club  
Board Meeting Agenda  
July 13, 2017

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

Minutes from the last meeting were approved with no changes. Allison will send them to Dennis for posting. Financials were also approved.

1. **Advertising for Learn Bridge in a Day and Fall Classes (Allison)**

The board brainstormed options for advertising for classes at the next board meeting. We can do one pretty costly method of advertising (the newspaper, for example) along with other free advertising (hanging flyers, the sidewalk signs), or we could do multiple less-costly methods of advertising, including facebook, the boomer and senior news, Corvallis parks and rec brochure, craigslist, and/or the Barometer. The options for "less-costly" ads may reach as many or more people, but then we might not get the demographic coverage we get in the newspaper.

In the past, the newspaper ads have done a good job of recruiting for us. Last year, more students said they saw the sidewalk signs than the newspaper. That said, it seems risky to give up the newspaper ads for unproven mechanisms. The board decided to try one new method as a test. Allison will try a $20 FB promotion, and we will advertise LBIAD with Chamber of Commerce and Visitors’ Center. Sandy will look into the HP flyer.

2. **Is it time to have another Open House? (Allison)**

That seems to be a good way to raise awareness of the club. We can’t really put things like classes on the chamber of commerce’s events calendar, but we could put something like an open house on that kind of calendar. The board discussed the idea of something less formal than what we have had in the past, but decided that it’s too much effort for the return. LBIAD seems to produce as good or better results and also funnels a higher percentage of people directly into classes.

3. **Limited point section on 1st Sunday (Mary Alice)**

Data on the Sunday afternoon game show that this game has averaged 6 tables for 4 games from March to July. Sunday evening had averaged 3.4 tables for the same time period, and if we look further back the evening game averaged 2.9 tables from 1/1/16 to 6/30/17. The board voted to keep the 1st Sunday game at 1pm.

We had some email discussion about adding a limited section on the first Sunday game. Outstanding questions include whether to have a limited section, if yes, what limit, and if yes, when would we start the limited section. Walter sent emails to 23 people from Monday night, Tuesday, Thursday morning and got 11 responses. He asked about three options. One response indicated they would like a 0-20 game, two preferred a 0-50 game, four preferred a 0-100 game, and four just wanted to play. One disadvantage to having a 3-table side game is that if there are only 5 or 6 total tables, the open will be very small. We don’t want two very small sections. We could advertise it as a second section only if there are enough players in the
novice. The motion to make the Sunday game a 0-199er if there are a minimum of 3 tables on the novice side passed. This format with start in October.

4. Calendar planning issues (Mary Alice)

There was some concern that the number of Extra Point/Extra dollar games in June and July was not according to the direction the Board gave to the scheduling committee last fall. Jan said no one has been complaining about the extra dollar, possibly because Albany is at $6, and therefore no one minds paying that in Corvallis.

Switching back and forth catches people with the wrong amount of cash. The board discussed whether it would be wise to start charging $6 for all games and only add an extra dollar to the table fees if the ACBL sanction fee is more than $7. Possibly this would not start until Jan. 1, 2018. The board did not make a decision but discussed the following points. It may be inconvenient to go from $5 to $6 from one day to another. Albany has $6 games all the time. We could charge $6 for all games and only $7 if the ACBL charges us an increased sanction fee. Our rent is expected to increase each year. If we had $6 all the time, we might be able to make all games across the board $6 and then no extra dollars for special games.

It seems we cannot likely support the Swiss scheduled for September 9th. A motion was made to cancel the game on Sept 9th, and the motion passed.

5. Should we have an anniversary party? If so, when? Should it be “paper” anniversary for the third year?

The board decided to have the 3rd anniversary party on August 26th with a team game. This will be the third paper anniversary. The game will have a potluck. We need to change the web calendar (Dennis). Motion to have the game as described passes. Volunteers will be recognized at the anniversary party.

6. Debrief of decision to cancel all games for the Eugene and Salem sectionals (Mary Alice)

We lost an estimated 19 tables by cancelling those games. The question is how many of the Corvallis players that played in those tournaments would not have played in the tournaments if we had our game. Seems like the answer is very few. We've made the decision for Newport's sectional this fall, but we should get additional information for the decision next year. It seems as though players at the sectionals are people that would have played in the sectionals anyway even if we had a game. Allison will get a list of people who played and see how many wouldn’t have gone had we had our game.

7. Bagels and Bridge: the bagels

Recently there was a period when no one signed up to bring Bagels Friday morning. Do we just not have bagels if no one has signed up? Or should we drop the bagels if this problem recurs in the future? Last week people signed up for the next 3 or 4 weeks. Dennis and Carol shouldn’t have to pick up the slack when no one has signed up. Directors should remind people to sign up. If people don't sign up, then we don't have bagels. Dennis will work with directors and will
tell Allison if the subsequent Friday has no bagel signup. Allison will then ask for volunteers to bring bagels in the weekly email.

8. New Cards

We have tried our best to not replacing decks of cards with which the dealing machine was having minor issues. After dealing several sets the last week, Mary Alice suggests buying 20 dozen decks of new cards from Tournament Tables. Those cards don’t seem to have the “dirt” problem, and Eugene has had good luck with the ink not wearing off. The decks are $40 per dozen, so the proposal is for $800 for cards. We have ~30 dozen cards total. We some leftover funds for extra expenses. Motion to buy 20 dozen cards passes.

Dennis wants advice on shuffle, deal, play, and enter the hand for the first round, and we could get what we have on the web and for records. The advantage to this is that we need no dealing, so we don’t have to worry as much about card quality. The board decided it would be best to try at one of the smaller night games if people are interested and test its feasibility. Can we have paper records? Dennis will look into it. Dennis will talk to the tech committee and we can first try it outside of the games and then again at a game.

9. Education Committee report on Fall plans.

- We will hold Learn Bridge in a Day on 9/16. Mary Alice will teach it.
- Beginning bridge class will be Tuesday morning (Stan teaching) and Thursday night (Sandy teaching). If enrollment is low we may offer it at one time only.
- Play of the Hand (Eileen teaching) will be offered Wednesday mornings for the second year students and anyone else that wants to take it.
- 2 over 1 (Eileen teaching) will be offered on Monday mornings to all comers
- Tentative Winter plans:
  - Continuation for 1st year students – Competitive Bidding both day and night if warranted
  - Continuation for 2nd year students – Defense
  - Advanced Topics Seminars - 1 to 4 hours—looking for teachers. Probably in winter.

10. Other

An additional topic came up Tuesday night. Sometime in the past, the board decided that there should be no more than 2 free plays given for a game. Five people came Tuesday night and were given free games. The minimum is two tables for a sanctioned game and 2.5 tables for a NAP game. How do we avoid this in the future? Directors could try to have one person on call for a fill in. The board continues to like the ideas of 2 free plays at most. In other words, either two players come in or at most one player is called to play with the director. Dennis will let the directors know.

Action items:

- Allison: try a $20 FB promotion.
- Allison: we will advertise LBIAD with Chamber of Commerce.
• Sandy: will look into advertising the HP flyer for folks who are retired.
• Dennis: change to web calendar to add the anniversary party.
• Allison: will get a list of people who played in Eugene and Salem sectionals and see how many wouldn’t have gone had we had our game.
• Mary Alice: buy 20 dozen new cards.
• Dennis: try shuffle, deal, play, and enter hands into the bridgemat at one of the smaller night games if people are interested and test its feasibility.
• Dennis: will look into whether we can easily generate paper hand records after shuffle, deal, play, and enter.
• Dennis: let the directors know to call in either one person to play with the director or two people to play, but that there should be no more than 2 free plays.