

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday February 8, 2023

Location: The meeting was conducted on-line using ZOOM.

Attendees: Dennis Abein, Sandy Bigg, Mark Boswell, Don Chase, Terry D'Amato, Diane Deutch, Ken Obrecht, Steve Russell, Jay Shah, John Welte, and Mark Zellmer

The meeting was called to order at 7:07. All members of the board were present, satisfying quorum requirements.

President's Report:

Mark B started the meeting by expressing his appreciation to Dennis for all of his hard work on the tournaments.

Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the revised minutes was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The report showed that we made money on the sectional. We submitted our income tax form. Steve will get the 2022 Annual Financial report to Terry to post on the website.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was passed unanimously.

TOURNAMENTS

September 2022 499 Tournament Results

There was a correction to a previously announced profit; we ended up losing a little (\$-108.88).

March 2023 499 Tournament Status

flyers printing and going out

need Steve to do a Panola email blast with players less than 500 MP who live within 250 miles

Pianola is an unexpensive way to do emails: ½ cent/email cost

John will send copy of the flyer to Terry to post on the website

Director will be Phyllis Siegel

Mark Z needs to arrange for a speaker for the Sunday Swiss

August 2022 report

The board unanimously approved a motion to waive some fees from the Aug 22 Regional.

District 8 fees were waived, saving us thousands of dollars, and so it only made sense to waive our fees for them. Our loss came to \$-1777 (rounded) for the event.

May 2023 Sectional

--Food Trucks The board agreed that it was impractical to provide lunch after a discussion of the costs of having food trucks come or a caterer provide boxed lunches. Cost was too expensive, and providing meals in a timely way could not be guaranteed.

--Caddies. Jay Shah is taking care of this for the May Sectional Sunday Swiss. Sandy and Jay will get together to discuss caddy role.

--Second Director

The board passed a unanimous motion to approve a second director for the May 2023 Sectional. Dennis is continuing to work on having a local director take the director's test that would allow him/her to be a tournament assistant, which could save the unit in costs.

The board passed a unanimous motion to allow up to \$2500 more in the budget to cover the cost of a second director.

--Entry fees

The board agreed to stay with entry fees of \$14 for the Sectional.

--Hospitality Help

Diane reported that Maddie Scallet has agreed to help Diane with hospitality.

--Clean Up After Sessions

Dennis raised the point that everyone on the board needs to do their part to help with clean up at the end of sessions, particularly on the last day when the director has to pack up the equipment. For the Regional, we should have a sign-up sheet.

August 2023 Regional

Dennis went over changes in the schedule, including:

--adding evening Swiss to the evening schedule; there is already an evening side game

People who are still working had voiced concern over the lack of options in the evening sessions. Karen Walker had recommended an evening Swiss game, saying that it does well. People expressed concern over how things would resolve if not enough players came for both evening events being offered. Some felt that it could be decided at that time by the players themselves, while others felt that it should fold into pairs. Dennis said he thought there would be enough interest in both events that this would not be an issue.

--299 games put back into the schedule

We want to give newer players an opportunity to play among themselves.

--morning side game dropped because too many concurrent events, discussed how players can move into Open Pairs or Gold Rush pairs for single sessions (but a single session would not pay gold pts)

--Saturday evening side game dropped; not enough interest in prior year, may save money if a director can head home if not needed for Sunday Swiss

--night games shifted to 7:00

heard lots of complaints about 7:30 start time—too late

shifting to an earlier evening time dependent on having 24 boards a session so people can get out early enough to have a dinner

Research on this shared; 24 boards a session most common, 27 boards unusual

Board voted on making sessions 24 boards long, and it passed with 10-1. Mark Z wanted to be on the record as reluctant and abstaining.

The Board passed by unanimous vote an approval of the schedule, and the flyer was approved as going with the schedule per Mark B

--entry fees were discussed

The board passed in an 8-3 vote to make all entries \$15/entry, except for the 0-5 free entries in 299er events (not for any events that could pay gold) as previously approved in January.

Jay shared that at his games he had more attendance when the fees were lowered. The majority of board members felt that it doesn't make that much difference in bringing people to the tournament, and last year's Regional lost money.

--hospitality was discussed

Dennis shared that we can't afford the free bar like what KC had. The Renaissance Hotel won't give us a special deal on liquor.; we'd be charged 7 dollars for a beer, \$8 for wine—too

expensive. The cost of donuts--\$4.32 per donut-- was discussed as being way overpriced. **The board unanimously decided to drop the donuts and not offer a free bar.**

The board unanimously voted for a free hot lunch for Sunday's Swiss.

Committees

Mark Boswell's nominations for committee chairs were voted in unanimously:

Dennis as tournament chairperson

John W in charge of 499/Unit Games/NAP/GNT

Jay as membership

Steve R as unit electronic contact

Terry D as website

Mark Z as education chair

Ken as finance chair

Diane as hospitality chair

Mark Z as nominating chair

Mark B as trophies chair

Jay as caddies chair

Ken as publicity chair

Committee Reports:

Electronic Contact: Steve called the ACBL about old elections notices we've been getting. He said that ACBL is updating its elections pages on its website—we don't need to worry about this.

499: John said that we need to change the ACBL list of 499r's. Steve R will update that.

Education: Mark Z is getting lectures set up for May—2 lessons.

Unit Games: John W is working on it.

Website: Terry said that the hotel/restaurant list was still for St. Charles; Diane said she had a restaurant list for St. Louis Bridge Center; she'll send to Terry. Hotel list for sectionals held at St. Louis Bridge Center is still needed. Mark B said he will work on that.

Nominating: We still have a board position to fill.

Jay wants to talk with Mark Z about ways to boost membership.

Badges: Mark B will order badges that reflect the job that board members do. Minimal cost. Dennis will get one that says Tournament Chair; Diane, Hospitality; Steve, Treasurer; Phyllis, Partnership Chair.

Old Business:

Dennis reports that we will have access to a room at the Renaissance on the Saturday before the Regional to work on bidding boxes /tables; Mark Z plans to set up a group to work on the bidding boxes.

Standing rules is being tabled until March's meeting

Player of the Year for 2022

Mark B reports that Milt should be able to calculate the winner in time for the May Sectional.

Annual Meeting in October

talk about this again in March

by-laws require that we hold an annual meeting in Oct.

prior committee looked at by-laws and this should be resumed to update the by-laws which are outdated

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM

Next Meeting:

March 8, 2023