

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday January 18, 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 7:00. All members of the board were present, satisfying quorum requirements.

Mark began by calling for a motion to nominate Jay Shah to rejoin the board. The motion was passed and Jay was voted in unanimously.

This will be considered his first term. His role will include membership; the position of caddies is still under discussion.

President's Report:

Mark thanked everyone who contributed to the Sectional for making it a big success. Special thanks went to Dennis, Diane, Phyllis, and Don for their efforts.

Approval of the Minutes:

Dennis wanted to verify that the minutes accurately reflected that the number of free plays for board members had been reduced from 2 to 0. Mark confirmed it was meant to apply to all sectionals.

It was agreed that this issue and a discussion of the standing rules would be tabled for the February meeting.

Dennis also asked whether the Regional schedule committee had been formed, and Mark B said it didn't happen.

A motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ken asked about where accrued interest is shown on the report, and Steve explained that he reports interest as it is paid out; the report shows the values that CD's and treasury bill will have upon maturity.

Dennis mentioned that we are supposed to get out an annual treasurer's report to the Unit membership, and Steve said that it should go out sometime next week.

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

Sectional Report

Dennis reported that we had 80.3% turn out in comparison to January 2020, and compared to the Oct. 2022 Sectional, our numbers were up across all sectors (499r's and open events). He felt this was much better than expected and attributed it to the covid policy of the ACBL (no mask requirement), the move to the Saint Louis Bridge Center (SLBC), and the move to day games. The event made a profit of \$3485.

Dennis reported that Beth Percich shared that the 499s's had felt neglected by the director. Due to interference with the SLBC's Bridgemate server, there were issues with Peter Wilke's Bridgemates at the 499 event on Friday that were resolved by Saturday. The trophies for the 499r winners were not handed out; the tournament director reported that he doesn't have the time to do this. For this event, Mark plans to ask Beth to hand them out at the Bridge Center. In future sectionals, Sue Perez has volunteered to make sure the 499r's get their trophies.

Diane got pictures of the winners, and Terry posted them to the website.

There were complaints that the event didn't offer food. Some ideas were shared, including offering box lunches or arranging for food trucks (2 or 3 to serve in the parking lot). The food trucks were the favored idea, and someone needs to reach out to vendors to find interested companies. We can inform unit members later about this option via an email blast.

May, 2023 Sectional

The board unanimously passed a motion to hold the May Sectional at the SLBC.

The board also unanimously passed a motion to give Dennis a budget of \$250 that will go towards paying the test fee for multiple local club directors to take the ACBL's Tournament Director's test. A director passing this test would qualify as a *tournament assistant* (TA) who could work under the supervision of an ACBL tournament director.

The schedule was discussed:

499r's: Due to the extremely low turn-out at Sunday's 499r's Swiss teams event, Dennis recommended making them pairs games. He also recommended that the 499r's event on Sunday morning game begin at 10:15 to allow the director time to get the large Open Swiss event up and running.

Discussions about the pros and cons of the different events (Swiss vs. pair games) were discussed, and after analyzing the data about payouts (around 50% less for the single Swiss compared to single-session Pairs) and popularity (open pairs events have higher table counts), the board made the decision to make all events on Friday and Saturday pairs games. Sunday's open event will remain a two-session Swiss. The board also discussed having a morning game vs. an evening game on Friday, and the data showed that the morning slot to be the most highly attended time. 9:30 vs. 10:00 start times were discussed with 10:00 the favored start time based on consistency with StL club games and Peter Wilke's observations about other tournaments.

The board passed a motion to make the Friday and Saturday events all pairs; nine were in favor with two opposed.

The board unanimously passed a motion to approve the time schedule with start times on Friday and Saturday at 10 and 2:30 and start times on Sunday at 10 and 2:30 for the Open Swiss and 10:15 and 2:30 for the 499r's games.

August 2023 Regional

After much discussion, the board arrived at a consensus to use the Kansas City Regional's schedule as a model for our own.

Finalizing the August 2023 schedule was tabled until February.

Decisions about food and hospitality were also tabled until the February meeting. Dennis is thinking that we should replace our usual hospitality with the free lunches, similar to what is offered at KC, but wants to look at what it's going to cost before making a decision. The board felt afternoon coffee service is appropriate since that is the standard at club games.

The board unanimously passed a motion to approve free plays for players with 0-5 masters' points.

The board passed a second motion to make all other fees the same: \$15 per entry, with the exception of students receiving the standard discount offered by the ACBL (half-off). Ten voted for, and one person abstained.

The board unanimously passed a motion to approve \$2400 for a publicity budget for the August 2023 Regional.

The board unanimously passed a motion to authorize the \$200 cost of doing the pre-bulletin/Fast Results daily bulletin/survey for the August 2023 Regional.

John Welte offered his services (for free) to handle the pre-bulletin this year, and Sandy Bigg also volunteered to help with editing and writing.

March 25-26 499 Tournament

John reported he had previously submitted the flyer to ACBL's Tournament Coordinator Crystal Mann for approval, but hasn't received a response. John needs to follow up.

We have always given a lecture for the event. Mark Z said he couldn't do it this time and he will need to find someone else.

Unit Games

John has been assigned to this.

District 8

Mark Boswell has appointed himself, Dennis Abeln, and Debbie Romero as Unit 143's representatives on District 8's Board of Directors.

Caddies

Jay Shah has agreed to do the caddies for the May tournament but has not committed beyond that.

Old Business:

Bidding Boxes/Tables

They will be delivered to the Renaissance the Friday before the start of the tournament. Dennis will contact the hotel to arrange access to the storage room holding the tables and bidding box totes so we can hold a Bidding Box party on Saturday morning. Mark Z will find volunteers. Volunteers will organize bidding boxes and also pick out 100 good tables. Dennis would like to do minor repairs to the tables.

Player of the Year Award

The Player of the Year award will be reinstated for 2022. Milt Zlatic, who has done the calculations to determine the winner in the past, is not available this time. Mark B will meet with Milt to learn more about the process he used.

Sandy asked what happened with awarding the Life Master pins. Mark B handled their distribution.

Education

Mark Z asked about offering free plays to people who give lectures at a Sectional or Regional.; he didn't think it was necessary. Mark B said that could be at Mark Z's discretion.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42.

Next Board Meeting:

February 8, 2023