

SBU Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting held: November 2, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., via Zoom teleconference

Board members in attendance: JC, Susan, Tom B, Monty, Ann, Ray, Bill, Scott, Karen, Tom L, David D, Mike

Board members absent: None

Also present: incoming board members Cliff Feldman, Jeff Ford, Gene Gousie, Aidan Klein, and first alternate Carlyn Gauen

1 SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

Ref	Motion	Moved By	Seconded By	Vote Result
20201102-1	Approve the minutes of the October 12 meeting	JC	Karen	Carried, 12-0
20201102-2	Appoint Jeff Ford as the new corporate registered agent, and make his home the new registered office of the corporation	Ann	JC	Carried, 12-0

2 SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

2.1 ACTIONS ON HOLD

Action	Assigned To
Consider possible increase in entry fee for Unit tournaments.	Deferred until after it is known when sectionals can resume.
Appoint committee to review the Bylaws for possible changes.	Deferred until the new Board convenes.

2.2 ACTIONS CONTINUING (STILL OPEN)

Action	Assigned To
Inspect trailer and contents for possible damage.	David D

2.3 NEW ACTIONS

Action	Assigned To
Arrange a mechanism for nomination of persons deserving recognition by the Board for contributions made to Seattle bridge during the past year.	JC

Action	Assigned To
Provide Karen and Tom L a copy of the existing welcome package for new Unit members.	David D
Review the In-and-Out report and develop recommendations for ways to welcome newcomers to the Unit and to recognize achievements such as rank advancement.	Karen and Tom L

3 SUMMARY OF AGENDA AND DISCUSSION

JC called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. She welcomed the incoming Board members and the alternate, and she thanked them for their willingness to serve.

3.1 APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On motion by JC, seconded by Karen, the minutes of the October 12 meeting were approved unanimously.

3.2 REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

JC reviewed the action items from the October meeting:

- Ray has notified club owners and managers of the availability of Unit games.
- The ACBL has not responded to David D's request for information on tournaments and other events being held by other Units during the pandemic. David noted that without ACBL authorization for Units to hold sectional events, it has been difficult for some members to obtain the silver points they need for rank advancement.
- David D has not yet inspected the trailer and its comments for possible damage; this item will be left open.
- Ann has sent a follow-up email to NSC, but has had no response either to emails or phone messages confirming that we will not be holding a Sweetheart Sectional next year. We are under no contractual obligation to NSC.
- David Taylor has confirmed that he does not want the games that he manages publicized on the Unit website.
- Scott has confirmed with local clubs that masterpoints won during certain games run during the ACBL Championship Week in November will count toward the Jabon and Microsoft trophies. JC has sent out some related publicity, and will send more to those in a position to compete for the trophies.
- Scott has not surveyed players in the Homestyle Swiss event; but the most recent event concluded in a timely manner and there were no complaints.

3.3 TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom B reported on the Unit's healthy financial situation. As a result of the pandemic, there has been little financial activity.

3.4 PUBLICITY REPORT

JC reported on recent publicity activities. Ann expressed a desire to encourage participation in the Homestyle Swiss event, particularly by less-experienced players.

3.5 UNIT GAMES UPDATE

Ray reported on the Round Robin. All regular-season matches have been completed. The Group A semifinals will be complete by November 15. Groups B and C are aware of the need to schedule and complete their championship games. Discussion followed about ways to improve the experience of C players in the Round Robin, with no immediate resolution. Circumstances forced some C teams to compete against much more experienced teams, leading some to feel overwhelmed.

Scott led a discussion of the Homestyle Swiss event and ways to improve participation, especially by less-experienced players. David D suggested that Board members invite persons other than their regular partners to play in this event with them. Ann suggested recruiting standby players who can fill in on short notice when needed.

3.6 REGISTERED AGENT AND OFFICE

A motion by Ann, seconded by JC, to appoint Jeff the corporation's new registered agent and to make his home the corporation's registered office carried unanimously. The Board expressed its appreciation to Jeff for his willingness to serve in this role.

3.7 DECEMBER EVENT

The Unit has traditionally held a potluck holiday party in December in lieu of a Board meeting, and it has invited persons not members of the Board who had made a significant contribution to the Unit and its members to attend, as a way of showing its appreciation. That will not be possible this year because of the pandemic. JC led a discussion of what should be done instead.

The Board agreed that the December meeting should focus on bringing new Board members up to speed on the roles of Unit officers and the activities of Board committees. JC suggested a general Zoom meeting followed by breakout rooms to discuss particular areas of activity.

The Board also agreed that some form of recognition should be given to non-Board members who have made substantial contributions to Seattle bridge during 2020. **JC will** arrange for Board members to make nominations, and the Board will consider further at its December meeting what form the recognition should take.

3.8 HOSPITALITY

Tom L observed that "hospitality" should go beyond providing snacks at Unit-sponsored tournaments. He led a discussion of ways in which the Unit could be more welcoming and encouraging to those new to competitive bridge or new to the Seattle area, or both. Among the ideas discussed were:

- Revising and reviving the welcome package sent to new Unit members. **David D will** provide Tom L and Karen with a copy of the current welcoming letter and enclosures.
- Recognizing and publicizing rank advancement and other achievements by Unit members.

- Encouraging greater participation in the Homestyle Swiss event. Follow-up with those who have participated to determine what they liked and disliked.
- Enhancing the “mentoring” program and games.
- Creating LM/NLM games.
- **Karen and Tom L will** review the “In and Out” report and make recommendations to the Board.

3.9 NEW BUSINESS

Cliff observed that the online bridge experience would be enhanced if players provided their true names in their profiles, and if accurate and complete convention cards were more widely used. Jeff reported that when the issue of names was raised at the ACBL level, Fred Gitelman of BBO responded that experience showed cause for concern about harassment of women players. Ann suggested an article in the SUN to encourage better compliance with the requirement of convention cards in online games.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for **December 7, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.**, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Monty Gray, Secretary