

ROCHESTER DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2020

Board meeting called to order by President Arne Fockler at 10:07am on Wednesday, May 13th via teleconference.

Present were Arne, Ed Prosser, Matt Belau, Mary Jo Kelly, Betty Shidler, Cindy Heins, Gloria Georger, and Linda Grigoleit. Yvonne Steiroff was absent. Ex-officio members in attendance were Sue Greenberg and Kathy Maegerlein.

President's quote: "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."
-- Henry Ford

Board items that required voting included:

- **April 8th Board Minutes** and **April 23rd Board Minutes** were approved (7-0) as submitted (Motion: Linda, second: Ed, Gloria NV as she was briefly disconnected during vote).

Board items discussed that did not require a vote:

- President's report: The quote selected for this month's meeting reflected Arne's sentiment that **everyone has really come together as a group** to help keep the RDBC moving forward. This includes Nate Pike, who's done "some really amazing things" with the online bridge gaming.
 - Arne thought there are **some terrific educational possibilities for RDBC players online**. It's a totally different format, but being able to watch and play at the same time, along with the ability to save a hand and walk through the exact play sequence later can improve post-game analysis of our play in a significant way. He also expressed an interest in keeping some online presence for chat bridge as we move forward, even when bridge is back at the table in person.
- Treasurer's report: The **April Treasurer's report** was presented by Kathy; some of the revenue was estimated based on what Nate Pike had indicated we would be getting – and it did not yet include any ACBL monies from the "Support Your Game" funds. The first BridgeBase Online (BBO) monies will be issued as a check (not yet received), and thereafter as direct deposit. But because the hard numbers were not yet available for the April report, approval of the report was tabled.
 - Kathy also will continue working on the federal application for the RDBC to become a non-profit; she let the Board know that **the State of Minnesota had approved our business** application and that once the past few year's revenues were properly determined the process would keep moving forward.
- Club manager's report: **The ACBL will be running an online tournament** the week of May 25 to May 31, since players are not presently able to go to tournaments; this will provide silver points to online players (not black). The ACBL will be charging an additional \$5 per table during these games. The Board agreed to hold our regular slate of online games during the week of this tournament, but agreed to raise the entry fee to \$10 for these games only.
 - Sue did a tally of the online games for April, with Nate Pike directing 129 tables during the month, with Matt, Greg Caucutt and Joyce Lewis also chipping in. None of the directors have asked for compensation for running our online games at this time, and Sue asked that the Board **think about how in the long term we could honor everyone**

who has done so much to keep the RDBC going (including Sue herself, along with Kathy and Linda who are working on documents to provide players that are not familiar with the computer or computer bridge play).

- **Guest Membership in the RDBC games is limited to 5% of the players** in that game, per the ACBL's rule. (For example, in a 15-table game, no more than 3 guests could be playing.) Since the Board has already established that guests can only play with an existing RDBC player, it was agreed that it would be unlikely to exceed the 5% allowance in any of our games.
- **The Longest Day Fundraiser** would normally be during the week of June 15 to 19 (typically which would include a silent auction and full slate of games on Friday of that week). This year, we could still have a couple of games online that Friday to benefit the Alzheimer's Association, and Matt offered to assist with a silent auction that was online (with bids updated daily). Sue will wait to hear the official "Longest Day" information from the ACBL regarding the games and report.
- Although the Thursday evening game has struggled at the brick-and-mortar club, the online Thursday game has thrived. Sue suggested that if the online games are still an option once the COVID-19 threat has passed that we **keep Thursday evening's games online**. The Board thought this was a great idea.
- Sue, Cindy, Arne, and Bob Roediger made a **facilities visit to St Luke's Episcopal Church** in NW Rochester (near the Post Office). The site has a nice Fellowship Hall with natural lighting, a 20-bridge table capacity, a kitchen, an elevator, coat rack, WiFi, and ample parking (parking being one of the most limiting factors for a bridge playing location). We would have to set up and take down tables when needed, and the storage area would be in a downstairs location. There would also be some conflicts with regularly scheduled church activities (and some irregularly scheduled ones). Cindy offered that funerals, with a luncheon, would likely interrupt our games, and the church's concern for our morning lessons (that would interfere with Bible study groups). It was determined that a change of day for some RDBC morning lessons would not be difficult in helping to resolve this issue.
- **Other future site possibilities** included a shopping center in NE Rochester (which Sue said she would visit Thursday); limitations here included space (only 1,800 sq ft), we'd have to purchase our own chairs, and it would have to be remodeled as an open space. Also discussed was the ShopKo (could we afford the rent?), the back room of Charlie's (currently in use by the Elks, but without storage and without being able to accommodate the RDBC's game schedule), and the Rochester Country Club. Gloria will inquire with the Country Club to see what their facilities and availability would be.
- Arne agreed to make a call to Pagenhart Industries regarding **the building's occupancy and current costs** to the RDBC. We aren't using the building, but without a break in the rent the RDBC will exhaust its current bank balance before the end of the year. Cindy pointed out they do have a lot on their plate in this current business environment, and Sue recommended we not try to get out of our lease before having somewhere else to play.
- Presently, we have four **online Directors**: Nate, Matt, Greg, and Joyce. Available other directors who *could* direct online include Lance Chamberlain, Sue, Layne Vinje, Linda, John Ryder, Ann Van Ryn, and Carole Mataya. Support was expressed to have Kathy take the ACBL's Director test, so that she could direct online (since she knows so much about the online directing experience already) – and that Linda and Kathy could work together as co-directors.

- Kathy suggested some ways to **reach out to existing players that are not computer-savvy and do not play online**. She and Linda have organized some documents to share with newer players to the online experience.
- There was some discussion about **how to make playing safer** when we get back to playing at the Club. With no timetable set for restrictions on gathering or an end to the COVID-19 issues, safer playing ideas were discussed – but nothing formalized by the Board.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made (Cindy), seconded (Betty) and approved (8-0) to end the meeting at 11:15a. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Belau, Secretary to the Board