

**CHICAGO CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by President Carl Sharp. Also in attendance and constituting a quorum were

<b>Jackie Addis</b>	<b>Jean Faeth</b>	<b>Selma Perlmutter</b>
<b>Jan Churchwell</b>	<b>Les Kent</b>	<b>Suzi Subeck</b>
<b>Adrienne Cohen</b>	<b>Blythe Olshan-Findley</b>	<b>John Vincent</b>
<b>Tom Dressing</b>	<b>Lynn Patinkin</b>	<b>Bob Young</b>

Also present: Unit Administrator Kathy Burt, Director Rick Mueller, former Board member Tom Sucher.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of December 8 were approved. Jackie Addis moved; Adrienne Cohen seconded.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**WinterFest:** The table count was up 21-1/2 tables from 2007, but the tournament lost over \$800 because of two things: the cost of hospitality (specifically free coffee served all 3 days until 12:00), and invoice charges from the Euro Crystal which either weren’t in the contract or which Tom felt were inappropriate, namely Sales Tax charged on top of gratuities and on room rental. Tom hopes that the eventual resolution will bring about \$1,600 back to the CCBA.

**Annual Dinner:** The cost to the CCBA for the Annual Dinner was \$9,449. Tom suggested that for 2010 the count be adjusted down to 200 (from 220).

**WinterFest 2010:** We cancelled the contract with the Euro Crystal, and the deposit of \$1,000 has been returned. WinterFest 2010 will be held at the Holiday Inn-Rolling Meadows, 3405 Algonquin Rd.

**SummerFest:** A few members of the Board, along with Tom Sucher, will go play in Karl Denker’s game in District 8 and then take Karl and his wife out to dinner in order to promote cooperation between the districts for our new SummerFest location. Board members will pay for their own dinners.

We currently have approximately \$112,500 in the treasury.

Tom reported that he has discussed our 501 tax status with Jim O’Brien and that W2’s for 2008 have been issued.

Jan Churchwell moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report; Blythe Olshan-Findley seconded. The report was accepted.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Kibitzer** - No report

### **New Unit Directors**

Carl Sharp circulated a letter he had sent to Chris Patrias asking for his (Chris') efforts in securing a director number for Bob Dolan.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Tom Sucher presented a written analysis of costs for new boards and cards. Nova, which supplied us with the new boxes and inserts a couple of years ago, clearly had better prices. John Vincent said that one club owner had asked whether s/he could "tag along" and order new boards and cards in order to take advantage of any quantity breaks that were offered. Blythe asked that sets for the students be considered as well.

Jackie Addis volunteered to talk to Jackson Storage about how new boards and cards might impact our costs with them, both for storage and for transportation.

Les Kent suggested that he and Kathy Burt could keep supplies privately for club owners who wanted to purchase them. He also suggested that we advertise in the Kibitzer to let club owners know about this plan and timing for ordering if the Board decides to do it.

The Board will vote on the purchase at the April meeting.

Harmon Wilkes Award: Lynn Patinkin said that former Board member Kay Hathaway suggested that the winner's name not be a secret because family and friends might like to attend the dinner. John Vincent reminded the Board that we had agreed in December that we needed a better nomination and selection process anyway, so this idea could be included in the overhaul of the entire process.

## **TOURNAMENT REPORTS**

### **WinterFest** (Jan Churchwell)

Jan stated that the increased table count was almost entirely attributable to the "new" Pair/Team scored game that was held on Saturday morning and that people who played in it enjoyed it. She further reported that Miguel Ellis, Euro's Sales Manager, had done an excellent job of being "present" and attending to problems as they arose.

She also apologized for the large over-budget cost of the coffee; she had looked at the wrong budget and thought she had \$1,000 for hospitality, not \$300. She pointed out that since all sectional tournaments have a hospitality budget of \$500/day she thought it inappropriate for WinterFest to be penalized because the Annual Dinner takes place during the tournament. She suggested that all sectionals should have comparable budgets and that the Dinner should be considered a separate item.

There was an accident report filed when a lady fell on Friday night; the claim is still pending.

Since we're changing sites next year, no further discussion of problems or improvements was held.

### **Annual Dinner** (Blythe Olshan-Findley)

Blythe reported that she had received nothing but positive feedback about the quality of the dinner and that people liked the "Surprise Gift Bags."

### **WinterFest 2010**

Suzi Subeck questioned the 20% room use "service charge" in the Holiday Inn's contract; Tom Sucher said that the room charges (\$750/day for the Grand Ballroom) were supposed to be inclusive. Tom and Carl will straighten that out with Bethany Dolder, the hotel's Sales Manager.

### **SummerFest** (Bob Young)

Bob stated that everything is on track so far. The team -- Carl, assisted by Blythe (Partnerships), Tom Sucher, assisted by Lynn Patinkin (Operations), Angie Clark (Hospitality), and Suzi Subeck (Publicity) -- have been holding monthly meetings to review and plan for the tournament.

Presently the emphasis is on publicity. A separate flyer has been prepared for the I/N group detailing their scheduled of events. Ads for the tournament will also appear in the April and May ACBL Bulletins. Because of the location of the tournament, a major initiative is underway to attract District 8 players. Jean Faeth stated that John Kinst has offered to assist in this initiative. The Board will also work with club owners to try to improve publicity through the clubs.

Carl Sharp will introduce the "Guaranteed Partners" program at SummerFest, and Blythe will handle daily partnership responsibilities. Angie Clark's hospitality program will be largely aimed at the I/N group, and Jackie Addis will be asked for input on setting up a Pro-Am segment. Suzi Subeck will write various pros nationwide publicizing the new site.

### **Central States** (Jackie Addis)

Jackie said that she has information on food costs, and she is working on her hospitality plan. There will be fruit, coffee, and a free lunch on Friday and Sunday. Suzi Subeck will handle advertising.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance**

Tom Dressing reviewed his Free Play plan and stated that ANY free play that did not specifically belong to a stated category should be a SERVICE free play. For instance, if the Partnership Chair hands out free plays to "fill in" players, those are Partnership free plays; HOWEVER, if the Chair plays, that's a Service free play. It's important that the name of the person using the free play be in the box on the ticket so that usage can be tracked. Tom also emphasized the importance of the Directors' NOT accepting free plays that haven't been properly presented or filled out. Rick Mueller said that the Directors shouldn't be responsible for being sure a free play is being presented properly; they should just

reject it if it isn't and let the person come back when it's done. Tom said it is also possible for a person to pay for an entry and present a free play later and receive cash reimbursement.

Tom also reminded everyone that the \$.50 surcharge for a team game is NOT part of a free play.

### **Contracts and Sites**

Tom Sucher passed out a list of sites and contracts, both complete and pending. He said that executed contracts should be sent to Kathy Burt for dissemination.

Re WinterFest 2010 Tom said that the concession cost will be \$500 TOTAL, that food will be available throughout the day, and that we'll be able to bring in fruit. He also pointed out that the hotel is a "Holidome" and that the Annual Dinner will be held in the Holidome space, which is right next to the Grand Ballroom. Jan Churchwell added that there is an entrance at the (east) end where the Holidome and playing space are which could be a plus if the weather is bad that week-end.

The hotel is giving us a room rate of \$89/night, and there are two hotels on the site, the Holiday Inn and a Holiday Inn-Express directly behind it so room space and parking will be ample.

### **Caddies**

Mark Frueh will phase in as Caddie Chair.

### **Scheduling** – No report

### **Communications**

Tom Dressing reported that he had finished changing the Website over to the new ISP. He handed out e-mail addresses for the various Board units and said that it would no longer be necessary to use separate e-mails for the Executive Committee and the rest of the Board; [unitboard@bridgeinchicago.com](mailto:unitboard@bridgeinchicago.com) is all that is needed to e-mail the entire Board.

Tom also reminded the Board that the Past President would serve on the Executive Committee ex officio for one year after his/her term of office ends.

Carl said that he has not finalized committee rosters for 2009-2010. His plan is to appoint chairs and have each chair contact Board members who have expressed interest in that area to complete each committee.

### **Education**

Blythe said that she would like to have some sort of incentive or reward for the adult volunteers who help make the Junior program possible (not to mention successful). Carl suggested that she present a plan for discussion at a future meeting.

Jan suggested that Board members who felt comfortable underwriting entries for student players at tournaments should let the Tournament Chair know at the time. She pointed out that a whole table of student players would only cost \$20. She also said that Angie Clark had done this at WinterFest for all the students who played on Sunday.

### **Appeals**

Suzi Subeck said that she had added Drew Becker and Kenny Zuckerman to the Appeals Committee after the appeal that took place at the end of the WinterFest tournament. She said they had both expressed an interest in participating and she felt that their input had been valuable.

**Newcomers** – No report

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting schedule for the year was handed out. Carl said that he would check with Angie about the December date. He also said that Tom Dressing would like to have the February meeting moved back a week in future to give him more time to prepare reports after WinterFest.

Jackie Addis moved to adjourn the meeting; Adrienne Cohen seconded.

Next meeting: Monday, April 13, at Blythe Olshan-Findley's home, Westchester.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Churchwell  
Secretary

### **RECAP OF MOTIONS**

**Approval of Minutes: Jackie Addis moved, Adrienne Cohen seconded.**

**Acceptance of Treasurer's Report: Jan Churchwell moved, Blythe Olshan-Findley seconded.**

**Adjournment: Jackie Addis moved, Adrienne Cohen seconded.**