

Washington Bridge League – February 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Submitted by Lena Maman (WBL Secretary)

Attendees

Hadi Abushakra, Bob Bell, Herb Schulken, Linda Marshall, Lena Maman, Lloyd Rawley, Mary Tenenbaum, Alex Gretsinger, Kathy Kopnisky, Clyde Kruskal, Brad Theurer (Tournament Chair), Carole Banks (Guest)

Absent: Alex Stille

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes of the January 2022 meeting.

Online Unit Game Report

Herb provided an update on the unit game.

Since the Board's last meeting, the table count for the Thursday evening game has been 45, 46, 45, and 42, respectively. The Monday night game was cancelled on Feb. 14th and Feb. 21st due to low attendance. After a third consecutive cancellation on February 28, the Board decided to suspend it indefinitely.

Treasurer's Report

Overall, the WBL is in excellent financial shape. We received \$2900 from District 6 for participation in the East Coast 99er game and \$1500 from the ACBL.

Communications Committee Report

Linda sent out email updates to all WBL members about the resumption of face-to-face bridge on Thursday, April 28 and the upcoming round robin competition.

Preparations for Reopening

As of February 2022, all persons entering Ohr Kodesh Congregation (OKC) must be fully vaccinated, and adults must have had a booster. OKC will make available an OKC VaxPass card that an individual can present to gain admission to the building. To enable bridge players to enter the building quickly and bridge games to start on time, OKC strongly recommends that players register for an OKC VaxPass before the start of face-to-face bridge on April 28th. Players may also gain admission by presenting vaccination cards, but may encounter delays.

OKC's current policy is available here:

<https://images.shulcloud.com/4744/uploads/Website-Images/COVID-19/OKCVaccineRequirementPolicy.2022.pdf>

Update on Face-to-Face Tournaments

- Hadi provided an update on the current state of face-to-face tournaments, per his conversation with Margot Hennings. Overall attendance is about 40% of attendance in pre-pandemic years. Intermediate/Novice attendance has collapsed. Evening game attendance has plummeted as well. Tournament attendees generally prefer morning and afternoon games – 10:30am and 3:00/3:30pm.
- The Board discussed whether to offer food at future WBL tournaments. Bob suggested local food trucks as an option. The Tournament Committee will investigate this further and report their findings to the Board.

NABCs – Start Times, Business Model, and DC/Baltimore

- The Nationals' model is currently under review. The ACBL created a committee to look into a hybrid model that would integrate face-to-face and virtual. No further details are available at this time, according to Hadi.
- ACBL is interested in hosting an NABC in Washington, D.C. or Baltimore soon. Dates under consideration are the summer of 2026 or the spring of 2027 at the Gaylord Convention Center at National Harbor in Maryland or the Hilton Hotel in Baltimore, which will host a regional in August 2022.

Royal STAC

In order to incentivize face-to-face play, the ACBL Board has agreed to offer a new game at clubs, the Royal STAC, in March and April. The event will offer special masterpoint awards: 25% gold, 25% red, 25% silver, and 25% black.

The Longest Day

The Board agreed to have WBL register with the ACBL to take part in The Longest Day. The Board also discussed fundraising options, such as corporate sponsorship(s), onsite donation collection, and an expert auction in collaboration with the NVBA.

Proposal for Quarterly Electronic Newsletter

The Board discussed the possibility of creating an electronic newsletter. Several members were skeptical that there were communication needs that were not already covered by the website and Linda's email blasts.

Hadi will reach out to Georgette Weiss, NVBA President, to discuss how much cost and work has gone into the creation of their electronic newsletter.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 29th, 7:30pm.