

## WBL Board Minutes

September 7, 2022

Board members attending: Hadi Abushakra, Bob Bell, , Mary Tenenbaum, Lloyd Rawley, Kathy Kopnisky, Alex Gretsinger, Clyde Kruskal, Alex Stille, and Linda Marshall. Board members absent: Herb Schulken and Lena Maman. Ted Ying (Club Manager) and Brad Theurer (Tournament Chair) also attended.

**Minutes:** The Board approved the minutes of the July meeting.

**WBL Sectional:** Linda reported on the tournament committee's plans for the next WBL sectional (September 29-October 2). The ACBL approved Ted Ying as chief director for the tournament based on strong recommendations even though he does not hold the rank of ACBL Tournament Director. Terry Lavender, who recently retired from her position as ACBL Tournament Director, was approved by ACBL to work in lieu of a second Tournament Director and has agreed to "mentor" Ted so that the ACBL is comfortable. The Board agreed to invite Terry to work the two Friday sessions in addition to the weekend sessions.

The Board discussed moving to a cashless system for entry fees and acquiring necessary equipment to make the move possible. Ted noted that it might be possible to rent equipment from the Northern Virginia Bridge Association (NVBA), which already owns some necessary items. He said he would raise this issue with the NVBA. The tournament committee will decide if this will be a cashless tournament, but several Board members cautioned that it would be better to defer the move to a cashless system until a time when players had been given ample notice of this change. The Board agreed that publicity for a cashless sectional would need to prominently feature information about this change and the importance of being prepared to pay by credit card. There was also considerable support for eventually enabling players to purchase entries online in advance of tournaments, possibly including financial incentives for advance purchases, especially if these purchases were nonrefundable.

The Sectional will adhere to Montgomery County rules for mask wearing. In addition, players will be required to don masks if they play at a table where an opponent requests that they do so. The Board instructed the chief director to expel players who refused an opponent's request to wear a mask.

**Unit Game Survey:** In light of disappointing attendance at the face-to-face unit game, the Board considered developing a survey to learn more about players' reasons for not playing and help it make decisions about whether and in what form to consider holding a unit-sponsored evening game in the future.

**Next meeting:** The annual membership meeting will take place between sessions on Saturday of the Sectional (October 1, 2022). The next Board meeting will be October 12, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell