

WBL Board Minutes

September 6, 2023

Board members attending: Hadi Abushakra, Ron Zucker, Lloyd Rawley, Bob Ives, Bob Bell, Alex Gretsinger, Clyde Kruskal, Carole Banks, Alex Stille, and Kim Gandy. Brad Theurer (Tournament Chair) and Ted Ying (Club Manager/Chief Director) also attended.

Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the June meeting.

Unit Game: Ted reported that recent unit game attendance has been erratic, as is often the case over the summer. Lloyd had his first Thursday night training session to prepare him to become unit game director when Ted steps down from that position. Ted said the session went well and that additional monthly sessions are planned. Hadi thanked Lloyd for being willing to become the director of the unit game after Ted Ying retires from that position.

Treasurer's Report: Bob I. said he was in the final stages of the transition from Herb Schulken's records as treasurer. He reported that the August sectional tournament lost approximately \$1600 and that the unit game averages a weekly loss of approximately \$250. He noted that Grand National Team qualifying events, which often generate somewhat larger attendance, might yield smaller losses. Bob said the WBL has made a payment to the D.C. government for nonprofit licensing fees for past years and that that issue is now closed.

Awards: Bob B. reported that the Machlin sportsmanship award committee had selected the winner for the 2023 award. It plans to announce the winner and bestow the award at the WBL January sectional. Bob agreed to take this and other WBL trophies to the engraver to have the names of recent winners added.

Sectional issues: Some players complained that Swiss team events should be designed to have six eight board matches rather than shorter matches with fewer boards; a smaller number of longer matches enables the events to finish earlier and players to get home earlier. Some board members noted that there were advantages to playing against more opponents, especially in larger fields. The Board agreed on the following policy:

"The structuring of Swiss team events at sectional tournaments includes the following considerations: (1) They end relatively early to help players get home at a reasonable hour and enable us to vacate the playing site in a timely manner. (2) There are enough rounds to reasonably expect the top teams to have played each other. (3) There are few enough rounds to reasonably expect the top teams to always play opponents with similar records (which is only relevant in later rounds). (4) If there are an odd number of teams, there will be an even number of rounds to incorporate three-ways.

With the anticipated number of teams, this will typically involve running six matches of eight boards each. The Chief Director may do otherwise when circumstances warrant."

In light of recurring concerns about finishing play in a timely manner, the Board also discussed the design of sectional two session pair events. Noteworthy observations included:

- Most players dislike events with only 21 boards and a three board sit out. Fewer boards mean less value for money and a lower quality event.
- Single session pair events are simpler to run and finish faster.
- It can be good to vary the event schedule for different tournaments, which accommodates players with different preferences.
- For two session playthrough events, we should avoid special events (e.g., award ceremonies) during the dinner break to ensure we can end on time.
- In the past, we had a more experienced directing staff that enabled us to design and administer more complicated movements effectively; less experienced directors require more supervision by the chief director and more reliably handle less complex movements.
- Qualifying and barometer events are harder to administer than two session playthrough events.

It was suggested that the unit might save money by providing fewer free plays to volunteers. It was noted that some volunteers deliberately forgo taking some of the free plays to which they are entitled.

Committees: The Board reiterated that it plans to streamline its committee structure and more clearly define the roles of its committees. The executive committee, which was designed to enable the WBL to make emergency decisions between Board meetings, was abolished, since the Internet enables emergency deliberations and decisions without meetings. Most committee memberships remained unchanged, with continuing Board members still serving on their current committees. Changes included: Linda Marshall added to the membership committee; Kim to be the parliamentarian; Ron added to the unit game committee; Ron, Carole, and Bob I. to be on the ways and means committee; Ron, Linda, Alex S., and Carole to serve as the policy maintenance committee; Ron to replace Kathy on the club relations committee. The WBL needs a new Non-Life Master tournament coordinator. Peter Boyd wishes to resign as historian; Alex S. may be interested in replacing him.

Next meeting: The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 17 at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell