

WBL Board Minutes

October 17, 2023

Board members attending: Hadi Abushakra, Ron Zucker, Lloyd Rawley, Bob Ives, Bob Bell, Clyde Kruskal, Carole Banks, and Kim Gandy. Board members absent: Alex Stille and Alex Gretsinger. Brad Theurer (Tournament Chair) and Linda Marshall (Communications) also attended.

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

Unit Game: Ted Ying sent a written report on the unit game. He reported that recent unit game attendance has remained erratic and that Lloyd is continuing to make admirable progress in mastering the knowledge needed to take over as unit game director. Ted said he plans to play regularly in the January unit game so that he would be available to assist Lloyd with any problems arising in his first few sessions as director.

Ted suggested that in order to cut costs the unit might consider limiting David Solomon's role to duplicating boards and supplying hand records for the unit game, helping set up the room, and picking up the boards from the preceding week. By no longer requiring him to stay for the duration of the game, the WBL would save \$50 per week. The Board agreed to try this. The Board also decided to suspend offering lessons at the unit game due to lack of sufficient demand to justify the expense.

After extensive discussion, the Board decided that on December 7, when the unit game site is unavailable, we would sponsor an online game. Although the Board would have preferred to experiment with holding a face-to-face game at a different site, it concluded that finding an attractive alternative site that offered minimal logistical and set up problems was impossible and that an online game would offer players an opportunity to play that evening.

Kim has agreed to take responsibility for making sure that the unit game has refreshments and related supplies.

The Board discussed ways to increase attendance at the unit game. These included changes to the location of the game (moving west and outside the Beltway; selecting a location that did not have dietary restrictions on refreshments), starting earlier, and contacting absent players and encouraging them to attend. The Board agreed to discuss the future of the unit game further at its next meeting and to consider it further in discussions with the Northern Virginia Bridge Association.

Treasurer's Report: Bob I. reported that recent financial losses were relatively modest, thanks in part to ACBL rebates. The Board agreed to continue holding the unit game for six more months.

ACBL Lapsed Members Initiative: The Board agreed to discuss this initiative at its next meeting. Hadi and Ron expressed interest in working to encourage lapsed members to rejoin the ACBL.

Committee Assignments: The Board plans to ask Alex Stille to head the Non-Life Master Committee.

Communications: Linda plans to beta test the digital directory.

Next meeting: The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 6 at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell