

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, June 8, 2022

Location: The meeting was conducted on-line using ZOOM.

Attendees: Dennis Abeln, Mark Boswell, Don Chase, Maureen Curran, Terry D'Amato, Diane Deutch, Ken Obrecht, Jan Potts, John Welte, Mark Zellmer. Non-board members Mike Carmen and Linda Whitaker

Absent: Kelly White

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Dennis Abeln at 7:04pm. (President John Welter was having audio problems with Zoom.) Ten board members were in attendance, satisfying quorum requirements of six.

The minutes from the May board meeting were approved as submitted.

The June treasurer's report was submitted by Kelly via email. The report was approved as submitted.

Committee Reports

Committee reports were dispensed with so as to focus on the May Sectional and August Regional.

May Sectional

Dennis led a discussion of results of the May Sectional.

Mike Carmen's tournament report showed a loss \$1514, less than the \$2,222 loss at the May 2019 Sectional. Significant changes were the avoided losses of providing Sunday lunch, a 1/3 reduction in director fees due to fewer directors, a 32% reduction in Blanchette rental fee due to less space used, decreased hospitality expenses and decreased postcard expenses. Overall sectional table counts were down 46.1% from May 2019. 499er table counts were down 65% from May 2019. The decrease in 499er table counts must be addressed.

Sunday lunch delivery did not go smoothly. Lunches were delivered at noon, well before the morning session was finished. The Jimmy John's delivery guy insisted on lunch buyers personally collecting their lunches from him and sign for their order, even though all lunches had been prepaid. This was apparently to ensure him an opportunity to collect tips. There was no opportunity to add a tip when pre-ordering. The unit had agreed to tip the delivery person \$20 from unit funds, and this was done, but may not have been communicated properly. Lunches were delivered at noon, while play was still active. If we do use Jimmy John's again, we need to arrange tipping with the manager and not let lunch delivery disrupt play.

Linda Whitaker had submitted an email to John Welte outlining some complaints about the 499er events. Diane Deutch reported similar complaints from an anonymous source.

- Distracting noise from the open section players who had finished play in the Sunday Swiss games. Also, the allotted time per board was different for 499er and open sessions so open team movements were disruptive to the 499ers who were still playing.

- Overhead PA system announcements were made while the 499ers were playing which was a distraction.
- The director-in-charge was unsympathetic to the 499er complaints about noise and disruptions.
- No explanation of Swiss movement or scoring. The odd number of tables in the 499er Swiss made things more confusing.

The primary 499er complaint was about not having a separate room for the 499er games to avoid the disruptions caused by the open players finishing play ahead of the 499ers. This is a recurring complaint and needs to be addressed. John had shared post-tournament correspondence with Director-in-Charge Peter Wilke where Peter explained he had nixed the separate room due to the low table counts of the 499er events. Peter expressed openness to having a local director run the 499er events. John had offered alternate approach of having a caddy dedicated to the 499er room who would notify the directors of a director call. Adjustments need to be made before the next Sectional in October.

Future 499er Swiss sessions should be preceded by an explanation of the movement and scoring. This has been provided for the Sunday Swiss games at the recent 499er sectionals (March and September) but something needs to be done for the Swiss games at the open sectionals as well. We also discussed having some experienced players act as non-playing mentors during the game.

August Regional

John Welte joined the meeting and led a discussion on plans for the August Regional.

Kelly had submitted an email on May 31, 2022 reporting the cost of distributing email announcements to 21,850 ACBL members within 500 miles of St Louis via Pianola would be about \$153. Per John's response to Kelly, the email blast should go out after the regional flyer is finalized.

Mike Carmen said the Renaissance Hotel had not changed its addendum offering from what was reported at the last board meeting.

John, Mike and Peter Wilke have been working on the game schedule. The starting point was the August 2019 Regional. John had distributed a draft of the flyer with his board meeting agenda. Changes from 2019 made prior to the board meeting included the following:

- Drop all evening single-session 499er pairs games due to expected low table counts. Change the lowest strat of the evening side games to 0-499 to accommodate the 499ers who wish to play in the evening.
- Add a 2-session Gold Rush Pairs event on Wednesday morning and afternoon.
- Drop the Wednesday afternoon and Saturday afternoon single-session Swiss events to due to expected low table counts. These were the only team game opportunities for losers of Round 3 of the Knockouts.
- Drop the 2-session A/X Pairs game on Thursday afternoon. Dennis contended this would lose the benefit of increased master point awards due to Gold Rush table counts, but the change stood.

- Change the stratification of the Gold Rush events from 0-300 / 300-750 to 0-150 / 150-300 / 300-750. Mark Zellmer commented that new 0-150 strat will not award gold points – this needs to be confirmed.
- Free donuts and pastries available for Tuesday – Sunday morning sessions.
- There is concern that the schedule has too many events. Low attendance may require cancelling and combining some events. A remark 'Events are Subject to Change based on Participation' was subsequently added to the flyer.

The following additional changes were discussed:

- Dennis proposed increasing the entry fee from \$14 to \$15. Set the entry fee for all 499er events including 499er strat of all evening side games to \$10. Mike Carmen did not favor the \$15 entry fee change but the board supported it without objection. (The Gold Rush events are not 499er events and will have a \$15 per session entry fee.)
- Dennis proposed changing the new Wednesday 2-session Gold Rush event from Pairs to Swiss. The reason was to have the Gold Rush table count inflate the awards of the concurrent 2-session open Swiss event. There is no concurrent two-session open pairs event on Wednesday. The two events must be of same type (pairs or teams) for the open event to benefit. Agreed to without objection.
- Dennis proposed changing the two four-session Knockout events to follow the Mini-Soloway format used by Cincinnati in their June 2022 Regional. All teams would play two Swiss sessions the first day, and winners of the day would advance to day 2. All teams in day 2 play two knockout sessions that that day and all earn gold. The format is better for team scheduling and keeps more teams playing longer. The proposal was withdrawn for lack of support.
- Dennis contended the side games award gold to the top strat only. Mike disagreed. Dennis subsequently got clarification from Peter Wilke that overall side game awards are not stratified.
- Diane proposed adding a Friday pairs event for players with about 1200 master points. Mike explained the schedule is already too full and cannot accommodate special events like this. The proposal died for lack of a second.
- Dennis proposed providing free coffee in the afternoon as well the morning, with coffee set out 30 minutes before game time. Agreed to without objection.

John and Mike will work to finalize the flyer and get it approved by ACBL.

The next board meeting will be July 13, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Dennis Abeln June 13, 2022.