

**Richmond Bridge Association
Unit 109
Board of Directors Meeting
June 8, 2010**

Board Members Present: Paul Anderson, Ellen Hartenburg, Harry Gellis, Doug Jennings, Ed Kinlaw, Pat McDermott, Ruth Miles, Linda Seamster, and Peggy Ward.

Board Members Absent: Steve Chaplin, Stuart Clayman, Richard Deyerle, and Linda MacCleave.

Other Unit Members Attending: Paul McGowan

Peggy called the meeting to order at 7:35, welcomed everyone, and thanked Harry for hosting the meeting. Ruth called the roll.

ACBL Reports: Peggy explained that the ACBL sends various reports to Ruth, our electronic contact, at various intervals. Ruth will then email the reports to all Board Members. She asked Paul McGowan if he wanted copies as well, and he said yes. Reports include the “In and Out Report”, containing new members coming in and old members going out; “Ace of Clubs” and “Mini-McKenney” (both can be obtained from the web); and a statistical report on how we rank in the ACBL on various measures. The reports are informational. Peggy and Ed should be informed if you see anything that needs to be done.

Membership Chair: Peggy indicated the need for a member to chair the Membership Committee, including addressing the “In and Out” report. She indicated that Stuart had volunteered if no one else wanted it, but stated that Stuart had already taken on quite a bit. Pat McDermott volunteered and is now the Membership Chair.

North American Pair Games: Paul Anderson passed out a draft summary that addressed questions he had gotten the last time he was chair in order to give people an idea of what the games are all about. Paul is in the process of determining what qualifying games are scheduled during June, July, and August at the various clubs in the Unit. He noted that those scheduled at the Bridge Center were listed in “What’s Trumps.” Harry suggested that the August Unit Game be sanctioned as a qualifying game.

North American Pairs Playoff: The Open Flight will be held in Silver Spring, MD. District 6 has agreed to host two sites for the NLM and 0-2000 Flights—one in Maryland and the other at the Tuckahoe Moose Lodge, October 23 and 24.

Fredericksburg Representative: Paul McGowan from Fredericksburg was introduced to the Board. He will provide input from Fredericksburg and take back messages to them. He informed us that Fredericksburg has two clubs and a new invitational club that just came on board.

Goodwill Committee: The Board discussed establishing a Goodwill Committee to send out congratulations, sympathy, get well, etc. cards, when appropriate, in whatever medium appropriate. Channels suggested include email and hard copy cards depending on the recipient. Pat indicated that a site in England will provide as many cards as you want to be emailed for an annual fee of \$8.00. Linda Seamster has a large number of cards she will donate. This committee will keep up with deaths and those of family members during the year and provide this information to Stanley for the May Dinner. It was moved by Pat and seconded by Linda Seamster that the Goodwill Committee be established. The motion was carried. Pat McDermott agreed to chair the committee.

Committees and Committee Chairs: Peggy read the list of Committees and Chairs: Unit & Charity Games—Harry Gellis; Education Liaison—TBD; Goodwill (committee approved at this Board Meeting)—Pat McDermott; Intermediate/Newcomer—Stuart Clayman; Membership—TBD; NAP & GNT—Paul Anderson; Publicity—TBD; RBA Bulletin Boards—Linda MacCleave; Sectional Hospitality—Ellen Hartenburg; Sectional Tournaments—Peggy Ward; Tri Unit Competition (Hampton Roads)—Ed Kinlaw; Unit Games Hospitality—Linda Seamster. Others that also work for the club are: Business Manager—Bob MacCleave; Disciplinary—George Lewis; Nominating—TBD (Nancy Thompson, previous chair, has moved to North Carolina); Recorder—Stanley Ford; Webmaster—Linda MacCleave. Ed Kinlaw agreed to be the Education Liaison. Peggy suggested that chairs get at least one to three persons to help to lessen their work load, give input, and help groom them to be Board Members. Names of committee members should be provided at the next meeting, and we can recognize them on the web site.

Unit Games Hospitality: Peggy stated that Linda Seamster had done a wonderful job of providing hospitality at the Unit game held on the Second Wednesday. She suggested that Linda may wish to have a committee to also provide some amount of hospitality at the Unit Friendly Bridge Games on Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday.

District Six Election: Peggy informed us that the position of District 6 Director is open. She read pertinent information about the election from p. 55 of the May 2010 ACBL Bulletin. Nadine has held this position in the past, and she is stepping down. Two known persons, Mike Cappelletti, Sr. and Margo Hennings (2009 Washington National Chair and Former President of District 6), are running. Margo has asked to come and address our Board. Peggy has sent our addresses and email addresses to her. Mike Cappelletti has not contacted the unit. The election is in late August or early September, and each member of our unit has a vote.

Lending Library: Pat gave information in Stuart's absence on establishing a lending bridge book library at the Richmond Bridge Center. Various suggestions were given as to how to implement the library. Paul McGowan stated that Fredericksburg has one and could use any duplicates received. Doug suggested use of the RBA Room (now a coat closet)—the room has been straightened up by Stuart. Doug explained that the RBA rents the Bridge Center, which is privately owned. RBA Unit Games are held there on the 2nd Wednesday of each month; and weekly on Saturdays at 1:00, Sunday afternoon and evening, and Tuesday evening. It was

moved by Paul Anderson and seconded by Ed that Stuart proceed with the lending library if we can get space. The motion was carried

Partnership Mentoring Program: Peggy had put Paul in touch with Deb Kendall, who has tried a partnership program and provided information from a North Carolina unit. Doug informed us that Mike Spooner has information on a mentoring program from Northern Virginia. He will get the material from Mike and give it to Ruth to send to Board Members. Ed asked about mentors receiving a benefit. Suggestions offered included a free entry for the experienced player and the averaging of masterpoints. Paul has averaged masterpoints of pairs at Ginter Park and is working on a mentoring program. Doug indicated that the Pro-Am Game has been successful.

Treasurer's Report: Peggy clarified that our financial year is June 1-May 31 (coincides with the RBA term of office). There were questions raised about certain items on the Income and Expense Report which was the one provided at the May Dinner, including amounts reported for Monthly Fees, Christmas Mother Game, and May Dinner. Peggy will get with Richard for explanations. Any pressing issues should be given to Peggy for discussion with Richard or held to the next Board meeting. On Dec 1, rent of \$5,000 was paid to The Richmond Bridge Center for 12-1 to 5-31, and rent is now due. Doug also suggested that Peggy have someone look at the books, as it is usually done when a new Board comes in.

Sectionals: Peggy reported that the times for the Friday games at the August 6-8 Open Sectional have been changed to 10:30 and 3:30. This change, approved by the previous board on 8-3 vote, is being tried to see if attendance increases. This information has been placed in "What's Trumps."

Peggy announced that the next OPEN Sectional is August 6-8 and next NLM Tournament will be Sept. 18-19. There is also an Open Sectional scheduled for Nov. 19-21 (changed from October because of conflict). District 6 has given the dates for 2011 to Peggy, and she will send them to the Board. The facility, Tuckahoe Moose Lodge, must be locked in before getting a sanction. Doug commended the Tuckahoe Moose Lodge for accommodating us. We store our tables there, and they set them up and take them down for the sectionals. Also, they didn't charge anything when we had to cancel for bad weather during the winter. There have been some suggestions regarding finding another place, and if someone finds a better place, we can look into it for 2012. We need adequate parking, restroom facilities, and the ability to bring in food, and storage, setting up and taking down tables would need to be addressed.

For the August Sectional, the average team points will be used for stratifying the open Swiss Team Game. Even though some like A/X games, a 0-300 section is needed because of the large number of Friendly Bridge players.

At the NLM Sectional in September, Paul will help Peggy and Chuck, as Will and Jack will be out of the country. Ed and Richard will be the lecturers. The NLM Tournaments have been losing money, so the fee for the Swiss Team will increase from \$72 to \$80. It was reported that Millard said we don't have to have a tournament director at sectionals at a cost of \$150 per

session plus supplies, mileage etc. For the April 29-30, 2011 game, Peggy stated that she is considering utilizing our local directors.

Charity games: Harry informed us that Charity Games pay more masterpoints than regular games, and suggested that all the RBA games become charity games and charge one dollar more per table. For every other charity game, an ACBL charity gets the money. For the other 6 games, we can determine the charity, such as the Food Bank, Massie Cancer Center, etc. Harry will work with Bob MacCleave to get the sanction for a Charity Game for July 14 and look into doing the same for the Wednesday monthly Unit game as well as some of the Unit Friendly Bridge games. In Fredericksburg, Paul McGowan said Judy runs a charity game every month—not to make a profit—try to break even.

Ed suggested that we do outreach for RBA games with Friendly Bridge members and expects that if we told people on Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening about special Unit Games and the lesson before the game and triple masterpoints and hold a 0-300 game (if there are enough payers for that), we may be able to get 10 tables playing with peers. It was suggested that we call/email to invite, in addition to announcing the game. Harry will get names of intermediate players and form a committee to call players, which Pat had suggested, Harry and Peggy will show up at a couple of games (Tuesday and Sunday afternoon) to encourage participation. Peggy stated that she could create fliers for the RBA bulletin boards once the sanction is obtained.

Harry informed us that the ACBL runs special events 3-4 time a year—Instant Matchpoints, etc. It was suggested that we run the Instant Matchpoints game and that we try asking the Bridge Center to run the special games that are on Friday since they have the Friday night game. Harry will discuss this with The Bridge Center persons.

Change to Sheila Kleiman Congeniality Award: Doug stated that, in response to members' desire to have more input into who receives the Award, Richard had suggested that members will vote for candidates by ballot at the Christmas Mother Game. Criteria for the award and the ballot will be included in the invitation to the dinner. The person with the most votes will win. Persons not playing can send in their nominations. It was moved by Doug and seconded by Pat that those members in good standing get one vote each for whom they would like to have receive the Sheila Kleiman Congeniality Award, at the time of the Christmas Mother Dinner. The motion was carried.

RBA trophies: Doug informed is that in the past, the RBA trophy winners were determined only by points won at the 12 RBA Wednesday Night monthly games. Peggy suggested that the trophies should be inclusive of the Unit's Friendly Bridge games and that a change be made. The question was raised as to whether we can run more than one Unit Game per month, though we already do in the restricted Unit games known as Friendly Bridge. It was noted that some units run them more often (some once a week, Northern Virginia and Virginia Beach for

example). Doug suggested that we form a committee to come up with a method. Ed, Harry, and Peggy volunteered, and Linda MacCleave will be invited as well.

Intermediate/Novice communication: The report was given by Pat. Stuart wants permission to send newsletters to I/N club managers as well as I/N players, and he will be accountable for providing the content. The delivery of the newsletter was discussed as being via email and website posting. It was moved by Pat and seconded by Linda that Stuart will email the newsletter to Board members and give them 5 working days to provide comments which Stuart will address and that Ed, the Educational Chair, will have the final editorial say before the newsletter is sent. The motion was carried.

Other Business:

Bylaws—Peggy stated that the newly revised Bylaws state that the Board is composed of 13 members, "... including the immediate past President." She stated that Doug, the immediate Past President, is moving to Abingdon. She stated that the Board may wish to consider whether or not there is a need to change the bylaws to remove the word immediate. She advised that she has consulted with former Past President George Lewis who is willing to attend the meetings and not vote, unless we want to change the Bylaws—lots of rule to do this. She asked the Board to give this thought for the August meeting.

There has been email traffic about updating scores more frequently and on uploading club reports to ACBL (Paul Anderson will try this and let us know). Linda is not paid much to update the website. If she wants to do it weekly, that's fine with Peggy. It was suggested that Linda is not getting paid enough, \$25 per month. It was moved by Pat and seconded by Harry that Linda MacCleave's pay be increased to \$50 a month. The motion was carried.

Peggy stated that Linda MacCleave now has responsibility for the RBA Open and Friendly Bridge big cork boards. Pat will do any handwriting for the other white RBA board.

Motion to adjourn by Harry at 10:05 was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Miles, Secretary