

**Richmond Bridge Association
Unit 109
Board of Directors Meeting
October 28, 2010**

Board Members Present: Paul Anderson, Stuart Clayman, Ellen Hartenberg, Harry Gellis, Ed Kinlaw, Linda MacCleave, Pat McDermott, Paul McGowan, Ruth Miles, and Peggy Ward.

Board Members Absent: Richard Deyerle

Other Unit Members Attending: George Lewis

Peggy called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., welcomed everyone, and thanked Ellen for hosting the meeting.

May Dinner Meetings—2011 and 2012. Peggy informed us that the May dinner meeting has been held in election years (odd years) at The Place and in off years (even years) at The Tuckahoe Moose Lodge and that Mike Fine had made a recommendation at the 2009 dinner that each year's dinner be held at The Place. The Board decided to delay the decision until time for the 2011 dinner arrived because in 2010 we already have it at The Place. Ed reported the table count which he got from Bob MacCleave for the past five May dinners at The Place ranged from 40 last year to a high of 48 in 2006, while the dinner at the Moose Lodge had 26 tables in 2009 and 28 ½ in 2007. Money collected both at The Place and at the Moose Lodge has been \$10 per person. The cost has been \$7.00 per person for food and \$400 for the room at the Moose Lodge. Last year at The Place, the cost was \$4200 for 158 people. There was a loss of \$2,000 at The Place, and we about broke even at the Moose Lodge.

Linda M. brought up the fact that our club games are a source of income, and we are seeing a profit so far. She indicated that several people questioned whether or not we should be spending some of the money we have on food for active members. She indicated that Friendly Bridge is bringing money into the Unit, and some members are questioning what the RBA money is for. She indicated that she was interested in having the RBA look into how the profit could be used in addition to food.

Several options are available: continue what we are doing on even/odd years; have the dinner every year at The Place and lose \$2,000 per year or increase the price per head at The Place and use it each year at a lesser cost. It was suggested that people may be willing to pay \$15 or even \$20 for the dinner. Some Board members thought \$20 was too much. George also pointed out that the Unit takes a loss on other things such as the donation to the Christmas Mother yearly. Peggy brought up that, in addition to more food, some members would like to see a dealing machine purchased and other members wanted the Unit to purchase electronic scoring devices. She indicated that providing parity for geographically dispersed parts of the Unit was a challenge for all of these scenarios.

Peggy suggested a committee to look at our financial situation and come back to the group with some options on how to best leverage funds to serve the membership while keeping enough in the bank to keep the Unit secure. **Paul M., Richard, Linda M., Harry, and Ed volunteered to serve on the committee.** Peggy indicated that the report is needed by January, as we have to do something about a place for the May dinner. Ed suggested that it would be good to have input from outside of the Board, and Peggy suggested that each committee member get input from persons they are in contact with and also poll club owners. **It was moved by Linda M. and seconded by Stuart that there will be a committee as recommended by Peggy for leveraging funds. The motion was carried.**

MABC Bridgemates. Peggy reported that MABC has decided to purchase Bridgemates and a server and has issued an order for the purchase. All directors will be given Bridgemates, according to George. This should happen during the first part of 2011, and MABC will be making it a requirement for their use at all Regionals, and George believes this will apply to our 2011 Regional. Use of the Bridgemates will be optional at Sectionals at 50 cents per table. Paul M. wanted to know if there is any way local clubs can piggy back on this purchase with MABC and take advantage of the discount. Peggy will find out.

October & November Unit Games. Peggy reported that Ruth kindly handled the October Unit game which was a team game and had 16 tables. It netted about \$323 after paying Jim Creech \$75 for structured hands and paying Linda S. for hospitality—this does not include the sanction fee. It was noted that the November 10 game will be in the middle of the VA Beach Regional. Peggy suggested that we make this a team game and a Grand National Team qualifying game, since team games seem to be so much better attended. Peggy also suggested that, for 2011 all Unit 109 open games be team games except the Christmas Mother and May Dinner meetings since members seem to like team games better. **It was moved by Harry and seconded by Pat that all Unit games be team games except the Christmas Mother and May dinner. The motion was carried.**

STaC Games. Peggy has received inquiries from members about why we are not running STaCs and why the District had one in October, and we did not participate. George stated that he believed the district had to sponsor the STaC and the club owner has to schedule the STaC game. The next time is December 13-19, but this does not fall in the RBA game time. Ed suggested we recommend that Friendly Bridge run a STaC if possible during the time period.

Paul informed us that the qualifications period for GNT is September 1 through February 24. Each club is authorized to hold as many games as they choose, so we could have November, January, and February games as GNT. If our Unit game falls with the next date for STaC, we can have one; however, George did not think we could have a GNT game within a STaC.

Christmas Mother Game/Sheila Kleiman Congeniality Award. Peggy has contacted Johanna Beers, The Christmas mother for Chesterfield/Colonial Heights, and she will be at the Christmas Mother Dinner meeting—December 8. The question was raised by Peggy if we wanted to exclude everyone from eligibility for the Sheila Kleiman Congeniality award who had won from

1976 up to now. George suggested that we get someone new, and there was general agreement that the people who won it in the past cannot win it. **It was moved by George and seconded by Pat that since the general membership will vote, not just the Board, that Board members may be included in the nominees. The motion was carried.**

Tournament Report. Peggy reported that there were 74 tables at the NLM tournament and there was loss of about \$200. In 2011 Ed will be our director, as approved by Millard, and Ed also plans to have Paul co-direct, which is icing on the cake! The next NLM tournament is April 29 & 30, 2011. The full tournament we had in August brought in \$890 profit. Our tables were up from the time before, attributed to the change in time for Friday and the turnout of our 0-300 players.

District 6 Director Election. Peggy reported that the Unit voted unanimously for Margot Hennings who won the election.

Treasurer's Report. Richard was absent, but had emailed financial reports to the Board. Paul M. noted that sometimes on the treasurer's report there is a check written after the Sectional on Sunday to the Moose Lodge, and wanted to know if there is a policy for Sectionals purchasing food on Sunday. Peggy reported that at the NLM Sectional, the Moose Lodge provided pizza on Saturday at a cost of about \$60.00, and on Sunday for both NLM and open Sectionals, we pay \$7.00 per head for a hot meal. It was brought out that Fredericksburg charges players an additional \$5-6.00 for the Sunday meal, but that their entry fees are lower. Paul M. requested that the RBA pay up to \$7.00 per head for the Sunday meal at the Fredericksburg Sectional. The fee for the Sunday game in Richmond adds \$8 per team for the meal, so to make it equal, it was suggested that Fredericksburg either increase the fee by \$8 or keep it at \$72 and get a \$5.00 subsidy. **It was moved by Linda M. and seconded by Paul M. that the RBA will subsidize \$5.00 per person for the Sunday meal at the March Fredericksburg Sectional. The motion was carried. [NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting, it was discovered that Fredericksburg charges only \$64, and there is now discussion among the Board via email regarding the lost revenue to the Unit due to the reduced entry fee, and the issue of subsidizing the lunch is not yet resolved as of the finalizing of these minutes.]**

There were other questions about the treasurer's report. Persons with questions should email or call Richard.

Resignation of Linda Seamster. Linda Seamster has sent a letter of resignation to the Board. Peggy followed up with a phone call. Peggy indicated the need for a new Board member and for setting a budget amount for refreshments. Ed suggested that we ask Steve Chaplin to return to the Board since he is back in town, and Paul will ask him. Ellen volunteered to pick up doing hospitality for the monthly games along with Sectional hospitality, and requested a budget. **It was moved by Ed and seconded by Paul M. that Steve Chaplin be asked to rejoin the Board. The motion was carried. It was moved by Stuart and seconded by Pat that Ellen be the new Unit Hospitality Chair as well as Sectional Chair and that the amount of \$75.00 be budgeted**

for RBA games and that if she needs more or less she can come back to the Board and make a recommendation. The motion was carried.

Peggy suggested that Ellen get one or two people to work with her on the hospitality. It was also suggested that some idea of what is desired in refreshments and an approximate number of tables be given. With the exception of Nov. 10, which will be low due to the Virginia Beach Regional, Peggy suggested 18 as an estimated number of tables.

NAP (10/23-34)/GNT (3/5-6) Games. Paul reported that the Fraktins won the first place in the "C" section of NAP and will be going to the Nationals in Louisville, KY. Some amount of their expenses will be paid. Paul commended Cathy Hildebrand for her good job of directing the game, and Peggy commended Paul on the great job he did with NAP, which included him and his wife opening their home to Cathy for lodging.

The southern site for GNT will be The Tuckahoe Moose Lodge, Saturday at noon for the "B" and "C" groups. The "A" group will still be in Northern Virginia. There is particular interest in the District in "C" player participation, so they should be encouraged to participate.

Goodwill Committee Report. Pat reported that 29 cards went out through August, and nothing was reported in September. Six welcome packets were sent out. The packets vary according to where the person lives and the number of points they have. It costs \$1.73 to send packets with a directory; otherwise just a stamp is needed. The packet contains a welcome letter (followed up with a phone call), a copy of Linda's website, information about Stuart's newsletter, a directory (if necessary), copies of "I/N Newsletter" and "What's Trumps," and a laminated scoring card made by Pat (cost \$9.00 for 30). It was suggested that Pat needs a budget. She has spent \$44.42 to date—June through now. **It was moved by Stuart and seconded by Paul A. that a budget of \$50.00 per quarter be given to the Goodwill Committee. The motion was carried.** It was suggested that Pat buy a ream of paper and a printer cartridge and present receipts for reimbursement.

Membership Committee Report. Pat suggested a cutoff for sending out congratulations for members reaching new achievement levels at 2500 and up. **It was moved by Stuart and seconded by Harry that the Goodwill committee send congratulations to new life masters and persons with achievements of 2500 and up. The motion was carried.**

Charity Games Report. Harry reported that there is nothing new.

I/N Committee Report. Stuart reported getting inquiries about gifts to the Lending Library. Linda had talked with Helen Rolfe's sister who wants to donate her books and has a bookcase to sell for \$200.00. Peggy suggested if that we plan to purchase a bookcase, we should provide the Bridge Center with a description, and ask for permission in writing to place the bookcase there. Stanley has offered his books (500). The I/N Newsletter printed 200 copies last time. Nancy and Stuart are working on the mentoring program

Sectional Hospitality Report. Peggy reported that \$183 was spent for the 2-day NLM tournament, not including the \$7.00 per head for lunch. NAP spent \$132 for 2 days but was reimbursed by District 6. Ellen reported that she usually spends about \$450, not including the doughnuts, bagels, and drinks for the 3-day open Sectional.

Educational Liaison Report. Ed reported that a Friendly Bridge session started in mid-September, and they have finished the free lessons. The first sanctioned game was Sunday with 13 tables. He anticipates a lot more graduates this time. It was suggested that instead of using The Times Dispatch for publicity, that something be put in 50+ Free Newsletter for March or Style Magazine and that a number for registering be provided.

Paul M. reported that Judy Haney is running bridge classes in Fredericksburg and wants to know if there are any boards available that she can use to pre-make hands for her classes. The Friendly Bridge policy was noted by Linda—that RBA spends money for books and the students get a copy of the book free. **It was moved by Linda and seconded by Stuart that books and boards be supplied by the RBA to Judy in Fredericksburg for her Wednesday afternoon lesson for one time only and that Judy would be asked to send us a list of her students periodically. The motion was carried.**

Web Site Survey Results Report. Linda reported that 460 invitations to answer the survey were sent. 74 (16%) responded. Eleven additional persons accessed the form on the website and responded. Of the 85 responding, 25% never use the site; therefore, it seems unwise to invest a great deal of time or money in it now. Most people who responded wanted to view scores, add a monthly calendar, and have faster results. Linda indicated that she would like to concentrate on getting the scores up faster. She has already started posting scores by day instead of by week and including a recap sheet. Stuart has agreed to work on the monthly calendar, and Linda has made a template for him. Linda indicated that, at some point, she would like to look at the possibility of getting clubs online.

Other Business. Announcements:

Reminder of the next Sectional—November 19, 20 & 21, 2010.

The Facebook page Jackie created needs to be used more.

The Christmas Mother Dinner is December 8.

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 27, at 6:30 at Linda MacCleave's home.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Miles, Secretary