

Minutes from Fort Collins Duplicate Players Club Meeting
February 26, 2006

Present at the meeting were: Larry Mason, Larry Matheny, Bill Stoltey, Dawn Foltz, Mark Spaeth and Ed Yosses.

The meeting was called to order by Larry Mason at 4:00 pm.

Previous meeting minutes were presented and accepted.

The first order of business was to elect new officers for the coming year. Duly elected were:

President: Ed Yosses
Vice President: Mark Spaeth
Secretary: Dawn Foltz

Ed Yosses, as the newly elected President, presided over the remainder of the meeting. Several items were discussed and decisions made.

Victory Points vs. Win - Loss

The type of scoring used for the monthly team game was discussed. Pros and cons for each type of scoring were weighed. ACBL Guidelines seem to be leaning toward using Victory Point scoring when appropriate. It was the belief of some of the Board members that the Club had changed to Victory Point scoring several years ago, from Win - Loss, at the request of the membership of the Club. It was decided that at this time the Board would not decide this issue but rather allow the director to decide the method of scoring for the monthly Swiss Team game.

Action Item: Larry Matheny will research this issue further through ACBL and conduct a survey of players' preferences. If that survey yields results that would warrant this Board reviewing our current policy, it will do so at that time.

Shuffle/Deal vs. Predealt Hands (Hand Records)

The Board discussed the fact that this was voted on by the membership of the Club within the last eighteen months. At that time, it was agreed that team games would be hand dealt and that the other games would have hand records supplied. The Board decided for the present to continue to provide hand records for all but the monthly Swiss Team game.

Discussion was held on the "randomness" of the hand records that are being used. There are players in the club that "do not like computer hands". The Board felt this was an educational issue and would do the best it could to combat the perception that hand shuffled hands are "more random" or somehow different from computer-generated hands. Emphasis was made on making the game enjoyable for the majority of the players as well as accommodating all players' views whenever possible.

Action Item: Larry Matheny will research this issue and will put together something for one of the upcoming newsletters regarding this topic. This topic will also be included on the Unit survey and those results will drive further discussion by this Board about the use of hand records.

Team Game Movements

This issue was discussed at length. Different movements are possible with the different number of teams we frequently have. The Board decided that there was no movement that was significantly better than another to warrant mandating the use of such movement.

Therefore, the Board will not decide this issue but rather allow the director to decide the appropriate movement for each game.

Action Item: Ed Yosses will announce this decision and how the Board arrived at the decision prior to start of play at the next team game.

Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and Responsibilities of the Club Manager, Directors and Board were specifically defined. Additionally, ACBL Handbooks outline the general responsibilities and are used as a guideline in addition to what is spelled out here.

Club Manager: Finances - pay the ELKS on time each month, collect money at each game and pay for club management services;
ACBL Reporting - deliver the reports and money to the ACBL by the 15th of the following month;
Local Website - get the results for the game to the web master (Bill Stoltey) at the end of the game Wednesday night and forward corrections to him by no later than noon on the Thursday following the game.
Logistics - purchase supplies, renew the sanction, duplicate the boards, copy the hand records, set up and put away supplies for each game (with the help of club members);
Directors - arrange for a director to be in charge of the game each week;
Refreshments - purchase or supply refreshments from the Club bank each week; and
Special Games Schedule - set up a calendar of special games such as Charity Games, quarterly Club Championships and NAOP Qualifier games and provide this schedule to the web master for posting on the website. This schedule should always cover a minimum of the next two months.

Payment for the club management should go to the person performing the duties that week. In most cases this would be the person who is present at the game setting up the room and collecting the money.

Director: Movement - The Director will select the movement to be used for the game they are directing.
Director Calls - The Director will respond to director calls and make rulings at the table. The director's ruling will be final. There is no appeals process available at this Club.
Scoring - The Director is responsible for entering the names and scores for the game and providing this information to the Club Manager.

Board: Hiring a Club Manager - The Board is responsible for hiring a Club Manager and overseeing that the Club is providing an acceptable, fair and pleasant place for sanctioned bridge games.
Adhering to the By-Laws - The Board is responsible for adhering to the By-Laws and recommending changes to them as needed to meet changing needs of the Club.
Following ACBL Handbooks - The Board is responsible for following guidelines in ACBL Handbooks and for following the rules set out by the ACBL for conducting sanctioned games.

ELKS Facility

This was briefly discussed. The ELKS is acceptable at this time. Other options are for the most part non-existent. If that changes, this will be discussed again.

Making the game more palatable for players coming up through the ranks

It was noted that the Wednesday night club still has a reputation for being "Rude and Unfriendly". Various ways to combat this reputation were discussed. The Board recognizes the importance of trying to increase attendance. Suggestions that came from some players that feel intimidated and uncomfortable on Wednesday evening were: greet people when they come to your table, remember their names and call them by name, compliment good play by opponents and partner, and do not provide unsolicited advice or comments about another person's play or bidding. Additionally, call for a director in a polite tone rather than an accusatory tone and if possible explain why a director is needed. Do not make your own rulings at the table.

Action Item: These suggestions will be conveyed to the club membership by the Club Manager. Infractions that are brought to the attention of the Club Manager will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

There was a concern by the Board that even if the behavior changed on Wednesday night, players who have had one bad experience still might not return. It is not clear how to deal with this. However, the Board should encourage local bridge teachers and other club managers to encourage their players to give Wednesday night a try, and maybe send one or two tables together so an individual pair is not feeling so isolated.

Next Meeting: The Board will have another meeting no later than June to discuss concerns that were raised in this meeting and to evaluate any feedback that has been received either through the Unit survey or by personal comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.