

## Minutes of Board Meeting Unit 361

**Date:**

September 15, 2018

**Location:**

Denver Metro Bridge Club

**Time:**

10:00 AM

**Attendees:**

Margaret Devere, Wayne Eckerling, Rick Gardner, Alice Kinningham, Vard Nelson, Nancy Rassbach, Bob Stansbury, Rob Vetter

District 17 Representatives: Jennifer O'Neill, Jerry Ranney

Legal Counsel: Penny Coffman

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Gardner.

**Minutes:**

Minutes from the July meeting were approved.

**Financial Reports:**

Our current bank balance is approximately \$109,000. Profit from the Regional was \$19,340.

**Action Items Review:**

Rick            The Front Range Challenge was held, and the result was a tie. There has been further discussion with Colorado Springs about the future of the event, and the possibility of augmenting the Colorado Springs roster with players from other Front Range units. Our board agreed that Colorado Springs can make the decision in whatever way they see fit.

Rob            Has succeeded in acquiring the domain name denverbridge.org. Kitty Cooper has provided access to the denverbridge.com site to transfer existing content via FTP. Content has now been transferred, and Margaret will \will continue to work with the web team of Rob, Rick (and possibly others) to provide content on the new site after the end of her term in December. When the new site is ready we will use DNS forwarding for the next two months to automatically send people from the old site to the new site.

Nancy        Discussion regarding caddy payments. The board agreed that the current staffing for Sectional caddies, one per session for Friday and Saturday, and three for Sunday, appears to be adequate. It was agreed that the head caddy (or only caddy for Friday and Saturday) should receive an additional \$5 added to the

base pay of \$40 per session.

- Wayne Requested and received approval from the board to round up the charity contribution from the Regional from \$440 to \$500. The donation will go to the Diabetes Research Foundation.
- The Regional report shows table counts up approximately 200, room counts up, director and caddy costs down (due to fewer session times).
- The group reviewed a draft of next year's schedule. Some items of note were:
- Change in start times from 10 and 3 to 9:30 and 2:30. This will provide more time between afternoon and evening sessions, which we hope will improve evening attendance.
  - Elimination of free plays for 0-5 (except for "I/N Day"), to be replaced by prizes or other promotion.
  - Change in the Friday Gold Rush game from pairs to teams.
  - Designated "special days": Charity, I/N, Goodwill, Challenge, Hawaiian Shirt
  - No evening games across two days
- It was also agreed that we should increase spending on hospitality, to help make the tournament more attractive to out-of-town attendees.
- The issue of horns from the A train waking hotel guests was discussed, but tabled until next year in the hope that RTD will resolve the problem.
- There was a discussion as to why books are no longer sold at the Regional. The short answer is that the business is not profitable due to internet competition.
- The flyer was approved by the board, and will be printed for distribution at upcoming tournaments.
- Wayne is still working on negotiating the future contract through 2022 with the hotel. One issue still open is making sure that coupons (on which our hospitality obligation is based) will continue to be honored by the hotel restaurant and bar, and that rebates for rooms above the minimum obligation are credited.
- Bob Believes he can now do updates to tournament contacts. After updates are complete, Bob will notify Rick to verify.
- Vard Noted that survey about partnership was generally lower than other categories at the Regional. It was mentioned that Don Henninger has volunteered to take over photography at tournaments, allowing Vard more time to keep up with partnership requests, including being able to monitor people signing up via the internet. We will also explore the possibility of moving partnership to the main playing area on the lower level.
- Vard noted that the ambassador program, which provides a last minute substitute partner, has been working well, and noted that a team at the Sectional that had a last minute cancellation was able to play. The board agreed that this program should continue.
- Margaret Distributed new name tags

### **November Sectional Preparation:**

It was noted that flyers need to state that assignment of brackets is at the discretion of the director. This will allow brackets to be assigned from the top down, and allow the bottom bracket to be as large as necessary and to be run as a Swiss if necessary.

It was agreed that Brackets 1 and 2 should play pre-duplicated boards throughout.

The Friday night event will be a Swiss pairs. We will attempt to set up a rotating schedule of four Friday night events (Individual, Eight Is Enough, Swiss Pairs, Mentor/Mentee) for each of the four Sectionals.

It was noted that Sam Stoxen will be head director, as Bill Michael is stepping down for health reasons.

Additional discussion was deferred until the October meeting.

### **Intermediate/Novice:**

The I/N tournament is scheduled for October 6 and 7 at Denver Metro. Coupons for a \$2 discount at the November Sectional will be distributed.

### **Non-Life Master Regional:**

There was discussion about our unit hosting a Non-Life Master Regional, as the Northern Colorado Unit, which had been hosting the tournament, does not plan to do it in the future.

Bob will check space available at Jeffco to determine the maximum number of tables that we could set up at one time, to determine if the NLM Regional can be held in conjunction with one of the existing Sectionals. Rick will send an email summarizing the various points made during the discussion. All board members are asked to consider the idea and be prepared to make a decision at the next meeting.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Joe, Vard, Wayne, and Bob have agreed to run for another term. In addition the committee nominated Julie Clark to fill the fifth vacancy. As usual, we must be prepared to run an election at the November Sectional if there are nominations from the floor (as required by the bylaws).

### **Table Talk:**

Will be distributed online, as the previous issue, with hardcopy available at the Sectional. The issue will include an article about Hachy Pennell advancing to Platinum Life Master, as well as a Treasurer's report. Brad Moss has now surpassed Jan Janitschke as top masterpoint holder in Colorado. It was suggested that an interview with Brad should be included, but he has so far declined to be interviewed.

### **Other Business:**

At the July Sectional the bottom bracket ended up playing significantly fewer boards than other brackets, due to confusion in setting up the brackets. The board agreed that players in this bracket (a total of 20 people) should each receive two free plays as compensation for this. Members are urged to review board procedures on the website, and update existing procedures or suggest missing procedures.

### **D17:**

Meeting to be held at Colorado Springs Regional.

Number of Regionals to be reduced in future. However, D17 will continue to have the same number due to extra regional granted when National is held in the district.

Las Vegas unit is filing for bankruptcy, but there is a possibility the Unit will sponsor the next Regional in Las Vegas (after the 2019 National).

**Action Items:**

- Rick            Contact Paul Ossip to determine if we can hold board meeting at House of Cards on October 6.  
                  Arrange to engrave Front Range Challenge trophy.  
                  Contact Don Henninger about photography at tournaments.  
                  Contact John Grossman to determine why Northern Colorado is dropping the Non-Life Master Regional.  
                  Work with Bob to ensure Tourney Trax is properly updated for future tournaments.  
                  See if Susan Marshall can persuade Brad Moss to be interviewed.
- Bob             Complete update of responsible people for future tournaments with ACBL, then notify Rick for verification.
- Rob             Work with Rick and Margaret to implement new website. Send out Pianolas for November sectional. Include regional flyer in mailings.
- Wayne         Complete hotel contract negotiation. Manage printing and distribution of regional flyers.

**Next Meeting:**

October 6 2018, at 10 AM. Location TBD.

**Adjournment:**

11:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

NANCY RASSBACH  
Secretary 2018  
Unit 361