

## **Minutes of the Northern Kentucky Bridge Club February 10, 2009**

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Cindy Tretter, at 2:10 p.m.

### **Attendance**

Cindy Tretter, Cordell Coy, Dan Hance, Michiko Natsume, and Sheila Dippel were present for the meeting. Imogene Enzweiler and Jack Mehalko were unavailable.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting were read by the Cordell Coy. Dan Hance made a motion to approve the minutes as read, which was seconded by Michiko Natsume, and passed by all board members.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of Jack Mehalko, no Treasurer's Report was given.

#### **Club Manager's Report**

Sheila Dippel reported that members would like to be able to redeem their free birthday game at any game during the month. The board concurred with Sheila's recommendation to make this change.

She also indicated that we will be participating in an ACBL inter-club tournament on Wednesday evening March 18. This will be the first time we have participated in such an event as they do NOT usually coincide with our game schedule. The tournament works essentially like a STAC. The difference being that extra points are awarded, but no silver points. The game results will be forwarded to ACBL. ACBL will re-score the event with all other participating clubs. Players who score well at the club may earn additional points if they do well overall.

Sheila apologized for not being able to provide a February newsletter. The board acknowledged Sheila's donation of time and talent and is grateful for her willingness to create the TableTalk whenever she can.

Cindy Tretter indicated that she had received complaints about balancing the strength of players NS versus EW. Sheila indicated that, except at tournaments, balancing is NOT an ACBL requirement. She noted that many clubs make no effort to do this (i.e. arrive early and sit where you like). However, at NKYBC, we do make an effort to balance the players. The directors have a sheet where they assign players to a direction. A and C pairs are specifically split NS/EW on an as they arrive basis. On occasion, balancing is NOT perfect, such as when 199er game joins the open game or when several pairs arrive late. Sheila will remind directors that players appreciate their efforts and want them to balance the tables even if they cannot be seated where they desire.

Rick O'Connor also suggested that we ask the directors to make a concerted effort when there is to be a sit-out to balance whether it will be EW or NS. He noted that most often it is EW making it unfair for EW pairs. Sheila agreed to bring this to the attention of the directors.

Cindy Tretter also mentioned a request to try to increase the speed of play. Several people have indicated that the lateness of the games, both evening and day, is part of their consideration when deciding whether to play at the club or not. Sheila noted that most other clubs (including CBA) only play 24 boards. NKYBC members prefer to play 27. Our agreement from the discussion was to continue to play 27 boards. We acknowledge that some games seem to move a little slowly and Sheila will encourage the directors to 'crack the whip' to get us to play at speed.

Independently, both Jean Sturtevant and Gary Fan suggested that at each game we provide a stand-by partner. In that manner, someone without a partner could come unannounced and still be able to play. Many of us have certainly had occasion to have a last minute cancelation, and not had a partner. We had a long dis-

discussion regarding the how's and the should we, etc. We discussed using standbys that live close by, using multiple standbys of different playing level, what if the tables are already full, and different forms of compensation. In the end, we decided to run a trial for 3 months to see if we could make it work. The trial period will be from March through May. Jean Sturtevant will try to get a volunteer for each game during the period. The standby will arrive at the game expecting to go home. If they are needed, they will play with the arriving single and the club will pay for their game. If they are NOT needed, they will go home with a certificate for free game. After the trial period, we may continue, cancel, or adjust the program based on feedback from members.

### **Webmaster Report**

Cordell Coy reported that we are continuing to see increased web traffic in the amount of approximately 50% over last year. He confirmed that the additional traffic was due to people accessing the partnership and hand record pages. Traffic is roughly 600-650 page loads per week being accessed from 150-200 unique IP addresses.

Gary Fan requested that the NKYBC provide listing service for Boone County Bridge Club's (BCBC) game results and hand records. He said that BCBC does not have anyone qualified to be a webmaster so that maintaining their own site was not possible. It was also noted that all the players at BCBC are NKYBC members and so it would be a service to NKYBC players to have the results available. Gary also offered to pay for any development time needed to accommodate the new results and hand records. The offer for payment was gratefully acknowledged, but declined by Cordell.

Cordell Coy moved, and Dan Hance seconded that we provide a set of subsidiary pages on nkybridge.org that would show BCBC results, hand records, schedule, and directions to the club for the benefit of NKYBC members playing at BCBC. The motion passed. BCBC directors will be responsible for uploading game results and hand records.

Tom Hassett discussed adding a bridge column to the website. After a lengthy discussion, we concluded that each month Tom would provide a (set of) bridge question(s) that people could email their answers to. Gary Fan agreed to moderate the email and formulate a synopsis which he would provide to Sheila Dippel to include in the TableTalk.

### **Organizing Equipment**

We have selected March 3rd as a clean-up/organizing day. After the game that day, those who wish, will stay and organize and clean our cabinets and equipment. Cindy Tretter will provide an itemized list of all that needs to be accomplished.

### **Advertising**

Cindy Tretter finally was able to contact and speak with Brian Mains regarding placing ACBL hands in the Community Recorder. Brian indicated a willingness to place the article, but said he usually did NOT have space. If provided, he would place the articles whenever space was available.

Sheila Dippel noted that ACBL would cover half of our advertising costs if we wanted purchase space in the Community Recorder. The common feeling was that we would wait to see how often Brian would be able to place our article.

Don Duritsch will be asked to provide details on getting the ACBL article when he returns from vacation.

### **Library**

Cordell and Karen Coy have added library cards to the back of each of the books in our library. There is also a listing of books available for loan on the website. Club members may borrow books by removing the card, signing their name, adding the current date, and leaving the card in the library card box. The default loan period is 30 days. Book loans may be renewed as long as desired.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

We are instituting a new process for minutes approval. After the secretary creates the minutes, s/he will distribute them electronically via email to all board members. Board members will review the draft minutes and send changes or approve the draft within a week of receipt. If changes are made to the original

draft, the secretary will redistribute and again ask for approval. Once approval is secured, the minutes will be posted to the website. Elimination of reading the minutes will shorten the board meetings and speed distribution of the minutes to club members.

**Open Forum**

Gary Fan said that in celebration of the Chinese New Year he wanted to present Cindy Tretter with a gift. It is the custom of the Chinese to present a 'red envelope' to others who have helped throughout the year. Gary was appreciative of Cindy's NKYBC leadership and of her support for BCBC.

Gary also wanted to inform NKYBC that BCBC is growing. They now have an average of 4 tables at each game, and are planning to add a Monday morning game and change the Saturday afternoon game to every week. The location for the Monday games has yet to be determined. These changes will occur in May.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Dan Hance motioned, Michiko Natsume seconded for adjournment. Meeting ended approximately 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cordell Coy  
Vice President