

Unit 431 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: April 22, 2020, 7:00pm

Place: Zoom Meeting, due to social distancing

Attendees: Shelley Burnham, Ernie Tradewell, JP Weber, Gail Richardson, Jill Stainforth, Maureen Trappe, Al Romanchuk, Madeleine Tremblay

Regrets: Gloria Dorrance, Nev Hircock

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Chair: Shelley Burnham

No Separate Agenda or Formal Approval: Topic is to discuss how to keep our members engaged and support local clubs during period of social distancing. No reports at this time, as meeting is limited to 40 minutes per Zoom account. Meeting will be round table format, with each member given opportunity to share. Goal is come away with action items.

Discussion:

Shelley - There are several initiatives being developed involving online play, mainly through BBO, including ACBL and Virtual Club Games at a cost, with MasterPoints available. Heather and Terry are trying to organize a Mentor Game. They propose creating a VBC Virtual Game, and any profit would go to the club. It would not use a Unit Game sanction number as in the past. The Unit role would be to support. Feedback from newcomers and some experienced players is that they can play casual games on BBO at no cost, so aren't supporting the Virtual Club Games.

JP - Enjoys online. It is challenging for some people. Has posted support materials on unit website, tutorial, video, list of local BBO handles so players can look each other up. Discussion about combining membership distribution lists from the clubs and the unit to ensure we are reaching as many as possible.

Ernie – Based on current Virtual Club Games table counts, estimates we are seeing about 30% of prior face to face participation. May need to accept that we will lose some membership participation but what can we do to keep people? Suggestion to develop a list of users who will assist newcomers to BBO on a one on one basis.

Gail – Suggests 18 boards is not enough. Jon Preston will run a 21 board game. Need more advertising.

Madeleine – Likes BBO features, and it has some advantages over face to face games. The games and help need more promotion. We could send email on how to contact the directors, so if a player is having trouble signing in, they can get help. Suggest players sign in an hour ahead to leave lots of time in case they have trouble.

Jill – Discussion about mentor games. Initially, there was little response, but Terry and Heather have contacted players and Jill has communicated with the D-Light players and there is enough interest to hold a game on May 3. Audrey Mactier, Dolores Johnson and Jill have been phoning everyone in the directory. This serves two purposes – to update the directory and to personally touch base with our members.

AI – Some people will find ways to play, some will never play online. We need to encourage people on the fence. Find out what it is that those people need to feel comfortable playing online.

Maureen – Some people who initially said they would not play online are now starting to come on. Some longterm partnerships are beginning to play online. There are ways to make it more fun – chat, ...? It will likely be several months before we are back at club so need to find ways to make it fun.

Meeting end at 7:40.

Next meeting TBD.