



Unit 431 Regular Board Meeting

Date: May 2, 2023
Location: Home of Jill Plasteras
Chair: Ernie Tradewell, President
Attendees: Farhad Rohani, Jill Plasteras, JP Weber, Ruth Davies, Ele Gibson, Madeleine Tremblay, Janice Closson
Via Zoom: Maureen Trappe

Call to order at 4:10 pm.

1. Approval of agenda:

Moved by Jill; seconded by Ruth; that the agenda be approved as amended. **Carried.**

2. Approval of minutes:

a) The minutes of the March 14th, 2023 were not available for approval.

3. Matters arising from minutes:

a) D-Lite project

It appears attendance at D-Lite has plateaued, and there was discussion of ways to promote the event and improve attendance. Participation in bridge often decreases during the summer, but as the Unit has received funding support from the ACBL, it was suggested some of these funds be used for a publicity campaign, beginning in August., using posters, print and online media, etc. As well, there was discussion of moving from the current incentive plan of 3 half-price games for new participants to a 'Buy one, get one free' format. It would also be useful to have data regarding the level of participation. Ruth will contact the project coordinator, Jill Stainforth for her input.

4. Reports:

- a) President: No report.
- b) Financials: Current balance approximately \$ 12,000.00. D-Lite costs to date: \$ 1,530.00. Fewer free plays being used as number of new players decreases.
- c) Membership: no report
- d) Tournament Coordinator:
 - d.1) The Fall Sectional will be held at the Monterey Recreation Centre. Ruth and Madeleine have discussed our concerns regarding limited parking with the Centre. Other matters well in hand.
 - d.2) The Ace of Spades will probably use the Knox Church, on Richmond Road.
 - d.3) Spring Sectional to be discussed at a future meeting.
 - d.4) Unused Unit Games: Ruth to discuss with ACBL the issue of venues where these Unit Games may be used. Can they be offered under the auspices of a club, or must it be an separate, independent event?
 - d.5) Christmas Party: Elaine has things well in hand for this event, to be held at the Strawberry Vale Community Centre..
- e) Inventory: Madeleine, Ernie and Ruth to coordinate an inventory of the MoBox unit contents in the near future.
- f) Regional Tournament:

JP reported that the tournament went very well, with attendance at 65% of the 2019 event, much higher than the 50% expected. It was a great success, due to a hardworking term. Hospitality, Partnerships, Vaccine Check, very well organized, and successful. Peter Herold's friends financed and sponsored the Hawaiian Shirt day in his memory, and it was a very well-received event. Generally, everything ran smoothly. Participation statistics for the tournament to be available soon. Six D-Lite players were excited to earn points at the event.

There was a discussion about the two-session schedule of 1:00 pm/7:00 pm, and JP indicated that guidance from the District determined these times. It was suggested that 10:00 am/3:00 pm might appeal to more players, with side games and other one session events in the evening. JP to draft and circulate an online survey.

- g) Webmaster:

JP is constantly updating the website, and will announce the list of Unit members who attained Life Master status at the event, as soon as this is confirmed by the ACBL.

There was a discussion of the criteria required to publish 'In Memoriam' information were no obituary is available.

Members are encouraged to submit articles for the website.

h) Tournament Hand Coordinator:

Ernie mentioned that there are two more sets of boards which are incompatible with the automatic hand sorter. It was suggested they be included in the upcoming Longest Day silent auction.

In keeping with our efforts to support other D-19 units, Ernie will be duplicating the boards for the Qualicum Sectional tournament.

5. **New Business:**

- a) What's App – not being widely used at present. Members encouraged to install app.
- b) Elaine's position – Elaine has done a great job of organizing the details for the Christmas party, and we look forward to a successful event.
- c) Mentor Game: there was a discussion of the decrease in participation at these bi-monthly on-line events. It was suggested it be more widely publicized to D-Lite participants.
- d) Trophy Policy:

It was discussed whether we should completely discontinue the practice of awarding trophies. Ruth and Janice will meet to develop a policy. Ruth moved, seconded by Ele, that a draft proposal be presented at the next Unit meeting. **Carried.**

6. **Next Meeting date:**

- a) Next meeting will be held on August 1st, venue to be determined.
- b) Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Janice Closson, Awards/Historian

Approved by Ernie Tradewell

Nominating committee report

Introduction

At Unit 431's board president behest, a nominating committee for new board members was formed as specified in Article VI, Section 3a of our Unit bylaws:

3) NOMINATIONS:

a. A Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members of the ACBL Unit 431, at least two (2) of whom are current Unit 431 board members, shall be appointed by the Unit Board of Directors by October 31. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of candidates to Unit Board of Directors by mid-January of the following year.

The three members include two current board members, Maureen Trappe and JP Weber, as well as Holly Boudreau.

Methodology

The Unit currently has 488 members with only a small fraction interested in serving on the board. Experience has shown that soliciting members via e-mail would be unlikely to yield any results. We opted instead to identify potential candidates who were currently actively participating in duplicate bridge, using YTD masterpoints as a proxy. From the November 2021 roster, we initially selected 123 names, eventually winnowing them down to 30. Each committee member was assigned 10 names to call. Several candidates were found. Additional calls and referrals elicited a few more. Some of the candidates expressed preferences for specific positions, others have not. The incoming board will decide attribution of specific position at its post-AGM meeting.

Results

The following candidates, listed in alphabetical order, have confirmed their interest in standing for the board for the 2022-2024 term.

- Gail Arbatoff
- Elaine Busch
- Ruth Davies
- Ele Gibson
- Kay Kerr
- Alexis Martfeld

Report submitted by Maureen Trappe, Holly Boudreau and JP Weber

January 18, 2022

Report of Communications Director

The position of Communication Director is new this year and its role remains ill-defined. During the pandemic, most communications to the membership were done via mass emails, generally by the webmaster.

This year the Bridgebuzz was published twice, in the spring and late summer. It was published electronically only and was added to the website as well as sent by email to all members. Finding contributors has proven very challenging and there was no input from the readership, despite specific requests for feedback and submissions of questions to our contributing experts. Club directors/owners were invited to participate but opted to communicate directly to the membership via emails and notices on BBO, when necessary. One expert contributor opted out after the spring edition, and I was unsuccessful in finding a replacement.

A review of the relevance and/or format of the Bridgebuzz seems indicated at this time. This may need to be reassessed when F2F bridge restarts and, hopefully, members and clubs become more actively engaged again.

Respectfully

Madeleine/Madogirl