

GNYBA Board Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2020

In Attendance (by 'Zoom')

V. Apter, J. Bayone, D. Garber, B. Gellas, U. Ivatury, P. Lentz, F. Levine, S. Levine, L. Lin, R. Marchione, J. Meyers, G. Minitier, D. Moss, A. Parrish, A. Rhodes, J. Rothstein, W. Sigward, K. Todd, N. Trabulus, G. Wallach, J. Wank, M. Warren, L. Weisbrod.

President's Report

B. Gellas reported there will be a contested election for the District's 2nd-Alternate position. The election will be between Lee Lin from GNYBA and Alan Kudisch from Long Island. Board members will receive an electronic ballot from the ACBL, sometime in August.

Treasurer's Report

J. Rothstein reported that the Hilton has returned our deposit from the cancelled May Regional, and continues to hold our deposit for the November Regional.

Regarding the local clubs, the Aces Bridge Club has been closed, with the space relinquished, due to the pandemic and failure to negotiate a better outcome with the Aces landlord. The situation at Cavendish and Honors looks better, with landlords working with us to keep those clubs open.

Tournament Report

Regarding the November Regional, S. Levine reported that subsequent to negotiations with the Hilton, the Hilton has offered to permit GNYBA to cancel the November tournament without penalty. The Hilton will continue to hold our \$13 thousand deposit but agrees to apply that deposit to a future tournament, presumably in 2021. Following discussion, the Board voted to accept the Hilton's offer and thereby to cancel the November Regional. Following the Board Meeting, Steve sent the Hilton an email confirming our decision to cancel the November tournament.

At this time we have no committed 2021 dates on which to hold a tournament. The Hilton will revert to us at some point with prospective availabilities.

J. Bayonne stated that if the Honors Club was re-opened by November, then Honors could potentially host a tournament. After discussion, Bonnie stated that GNYBA would take Jeff's offer under advisement, and wait and see.

GNTs

A. Rhodes gave a status-report on the Covid-impaired GNT matches. The Open Flight competition has concluded with the the Peter Trenka Team the winner. All other Flights ('A', 'B', and 'C') remain in various stages of completion, with each outstanding tournament expected to end by mid-July.

Amy stated that, given the circumstances, the 2020 GNT's will award only master points to contestants, and not representation in a future NABC tournament.

L. Lin, who will take over GNT responsibility, is already planning ahead for next year's GNT's. D. Moss expressed interest to begin to schedule GNT dates for 2021. Lee, David, and A. Parrish are working together to revise the Conditions of Contest for 2021.

District Representative Report

D. Moss reported on current developments at the ACBL.

- The ACBL has done an amazing job getting virtual clubs up and running on BBO (the number of Club tables actually increased in May vs. last year), but has been forced to furlough tournament directors.
- The ACBL has formed a long term strategy task force to determine what bridge "will look like" in the future. David is a member of this task force, and stated that current thinking at ACBL is that virtual clubs are here to stay as are the real physical clubs. David invited comments from anyone regarding the future of bridge.
- There is ongoing discussion at the national level regarding the awarding of master points for online games, including a proposal to reduce the level of mp's awarded on BBO. Some feel that award-levels for the 18-board games are too high because the number of boards played is too low. With respect to the online regionals, some at ACBL are concerned that, given the nature of the online format, some players could resort to cheating; therefore, there is a possibility that ACBL might reduce the mp's awarded in these online regionals. In general, the proposal is to reduce awards by 20%. Discussion ensued among GNYBA board members regarding this matter – concerns expressed ranged from "the ACBL is shooting itself in the head" with these proposals, to "people are winning too many masterpoints" in the online games.
- The ACBL was unhappy that District 7 announced their intention to conduct Regionals in Columbia SC in late July and in Atlanta over Labor Day week. D-7 had not informed ACBL of their plans

Other Business

There was discussion whether GNYBA should sponsor/operate an online event. There was back and forth on the subject, with a prevailing view emerging that there was not a need at present for GNYBA to do so; while there was a need from a financial standpoint for the clubs and the ACBL to conduct games.

There was agreement that GNYBA's Player of the Year award would be suspended for 2020.

Respectfully Submitted by
Bill Sigward, Secretary of the Board

June 19, 2020
