

## **GNYBA Board Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2022**

### **In Attendance (by 'Zoom')**

J. Bayone, A. Davidson, J. Hu, M. Lawson, P. Lentz, F. Levine, S. Levine, L. Lin, A. Parrish, M. Petsch, A. Rhodes, J. Rothstein, W. Sigward, N. Trabulus, G. Wallach, A. Weinshank.

### **Regional Tournament Recap / Discussion of 2023 Tournament Plan**

Adam Parrish began the review of the October Regional by extending thanks on behalf of everyone to Tournament Chair Marla Lawson and all the tournament volunteers, for organizing and executing a successful bridge experience at the Hilton Regional. Adam stated the success of the tournament exceeded his expectations and Marla deserved a huge amount of credit for that outcome. Adam asked Marla to provide her thoughts on the tournament, and she made the following points:

- The 'Newcomer Games' were a big success, "a huge win"; with thanks to Amy Rhodes for organizing the successful newcomer events.
- Players liked the October date (vs. end-of-the year), and the playing-card giveaway; other feedback from attendees included the desire for a shorter break between morning and afternoon sessions, and a strong suggestion to schedule Pairs events on Sunday (rather than a team-game-only format on Sunday).
- The tournament directors (including Sol Weinstein) recommended in future they be included in planning the tournament schedule; and suggested we plan a grassroots (charity) game (in which an increased number of masterpoints may be awarded).
- The people from District 3 were extremely helpful (with logistics concerning the tables and boards) in making the tournament a success.
- Going forward, we should consider -
  - Securing our own storage space for our supplies and equipment needed to operate a tournament;
  - Hiring our own movers to transport supplies and equipment to the playing site;
  - Sharing expenses with District 3 with respect to the foregoing.
- Attendance, as expected, was lower than previous regionals run by GNYBA –
  - The professional players were there, with students in many cases;
  - Newer players attended in good numbers;
  - We had lower turnout from the "middle group" of players (mid-level);
- We should explore putting the Partnership Desk online;
- If we continue at the Hilton, would a smaller room there make better economic sense? (There are smaller rooms available at the Hilton, but probably not much cheaper.)

Treasurer Jeff Rothstein reported that the tournament's expenses exceeded revenue, as expected; and that the total table count this year numbered 572, about 50% fewer tables than in prior years (also as expected).

Adam asked the Board to discuss how the Board would like to proceed with respect to future tournaments. Discussion ensued, which included the following points:

- The Board agreed it does want to hold one (or more) tournaments a year going forward.
- Holding a regional during the last week in December, as in the past, is off-the-table;
- Instead, the October date seems like a great time for a regional;
- We could perhaps hold a regional plus a sectional; possibly more than one sectional; possibly hold a joint-tournament with another Unit/District.
- At the present time, Long Island seems to be done holding tournaments;
- We can afford to raise the card fee, and do not need to offer discounts;
- Jeff Bayone stated his new space on 55th Street (with space for 30-34 tables) is not big enough to hold a sectional, but there might be an opportunity to hold a sectional at 55th Street if he retains his space on 87th Street; i.e., use both clubs to hold the sectional.
- Adam stated that even the 55th Street location alone might be large enough to hold a limited sectional, or a newcomer sectional. Lee Lin agreed that a sectional along those lines at the 55th Street club (when it opens) is an attractive idea.
- In addition to the Hilton, potential sites for future tournaments might include the New Yorker hotel, the Marriott in Brooklyn, space at NYU, as well as smaller spaces at the Hilton.
- Attendance at 50% of pre-covid levels may be the "new normal" at tournaments for the foreseeable future.
- Amy Rhodes suggested it would be a good idea to hold a sectional that targeted mid-level players.
- Jeff Rothstein and Jeff Bayone both suggested we petition the ACBL to change its rules concerning directors in order to reduce related director's-fees;

Adam completed the discussion by charging the Tournament Committee to develop options for future tournaments, and report back to the Board at its next meeting.

### **Nominating Committee for 2023**

Adam reported that the 2023 Nominating Committee has been created (comprised of Adam, P. Lentz, S. Levine, M. Petsch, A. Rhodes, and W. Sigward). Adam invited Board members to suggest potential new candidates for Board membership, and mentioned there are several candidates with whom he has already spoken. He also requested that any current board members who wish to stand down should let him know their intention. Adam noted that we no longer have term limits on board members, as per the most recent change to the by-laws.

## **NAP's**

Lee Lin reported on the North American Pair qualifiers, which concluded on Sunday, the 23rd. There were 14 tables, with the 'B' and 'C' flights combined into one game, a turnout that represented a decline from the number of pre-Covid tables. Lee said we will revisit whether to hold future NAP's in-person, vs online (as was the case this year). There was discussion whether future NAP's and GNT's should be held as Face-to-Face games, and a straw poll taken of the board confirmed the board would likely vote to hold F-t-F games going forward. Discussion centered on ways to ensure greater participation in future NAP's.

## **NYC Youth Bridge**

Adam reported that there is interest in the city to lead youth bridge activities in New York. Some of the interest includes students from Hunter College and Stuyvesant High School. Adam confirmed that if any of these groups actually get going, the GNYBA would support them financially, and with supplies and volunteers.

## **Other Business**

Jeff Bayone reported that the prior evening he held a 10-table 0-750 game, a good sign. In the same vein, Amy Rhodes reported that she now has 27 people in supervised play with additional players planning to join who are coming in from online classes.

Adam told the board that GNYBA will hold its annual membership meeting sometime in December. The tentative plan will be to hold the annual meeting in conjunction with our next board meeting. The date for the next board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 15th. Amy Rhodes will be conducting a session of supervised play at that time, and her students may be able to participate in the annual meeting and contribute to the quorum for the meeting.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled via Zoom for the morning of Thursday, December 15, 2022. Specific details for the meeting will be worked out prior to that date.

\*\*\*\*\*

Respectfully Submitted by  
Bill Sigward, Secretary of the Board

November 2, 2022