

## GNYBA Board Meeting Minutes 2024-01-23

### Honoring the masterpoint race winners:

- We're going to have 2 games for them, the evening of Wednesday February 28 and the afternoon of Saturday March 2.
- These games are open to everyone like normal, but the masterpoint race winners will play for free. Honors and GNYBA will split the cost of their entry fees.
- Adam Parrish might have certificates for the previous years' winners? We should check with him and if so make sure we can hand them out. Although this year's winners are already finalized, there won't be certificates or other recognition from the ACBL until April-ish.
- There are over 100 winners, and we don't want to spend too long honoring each one. Maybe we read out their names but ask to hold applause until the end? Maybe we don't read out names at all and just get a group photo of the folks who come.
- Some tension between only honoring the 1st place winners and risking too small a game, and honoring more (top 3 or top 5?) and risking having too many people.
- We need a volunteer to take the list of winners and make it presentable to post on the wall at Honors for that week. No one in the meeting offered to do that, but if you know anyone with good visual layout skills, please speak up! We don't remember who has made posters in years past.
- Melanie Petsch, Lee Lin, Alan Davidson, and Jeff Bayone will hammer out the details of how these games will work another time.

### GNT:

- We have fewer flight C players this year (last year's players have self-graduated up to flight B), so the C field is wide open. Flight A seems to be very popular this year.
- "Grand National Teams" sounds intimidating to newcomers. We need to make an effort to explain that it's not so scary.
- Amy Rhodes has been hyping it in her beginner class. Tom Romeo has been hyping it in the Monday limited games. Barbara Marcin mentions it to every opponent she faces. The rest of us should follow their lead.
- People might not read emails, especially when GNT info gets lost in the noise of other announcements. Sending an email and assuming people will read it is not enough.
- Lee Lin can help pairs organize into teams: if a pair is interested, they should contact him.
- Not many Long Island folks have registered yet this year.
- ACBL is seriously considering either adding a fourth flight to the NAPs or removing a fourth flight from GNTs, so both competitions have matching flights. Given how much interest there is in GNT A this year, Lee hopes they'll pick the former option (because if A and Championship get combined to a single flight, perhaps the people who are competitive in A won't bother coming, because they're not competitive in Championship).

#### 5/5/5 Funding:

- We used to get a flat 11% of dues from the ACBL, but this is changing. We'll get a base 5%, but can get up to 5% more for retaining lapsing members, and up to an additional 5% for recruiting new members.
- The new plan is starting in April. Unfortunately, this means that for the next couple months we're disincentivized to actually help lapsing members or new recruits. Save it until it counts.
- It's possible this means our revenue for the year will decrease. There is uncertainty around our funding, and we should be prepared for that.
- Jeff Bayone wants to do some kind of joint thing between the club and the unit to work on this, but we did not discuss details. If you have ideas, talk to him.

#### Regional tournament:

- Phil Lentz points out that we should create more well-defined committees to hash out details for everything we've discussed before the full GNYBA meets: we've spent a lot of time so far this meeting discussing things that a smaller committee could have done.
- Phil got a cold email from the Marriott Marquis hotel in Times Square, asking if we want to host a regional there. They're booked in September, but would be available in December in the times we used to hold a regional, between Christmas and New Years.
- It would be something like \$9500 per day plus a 25% (?) administrative fee. The price to go back to Astoria World Manor is comparable (Astoria will be more expensive than last time, because we'd have a Sunday game).
- We discussed whether to aim for September at Astoria World Manor, or December at the Marriott Marquis:
  - Manhattan is a better location: folks from New Jersey did not come to Astoria, and Times Square is very centrally located and easy to get to.
  - Abigail Weinshank heard from many attendees that a fall tournament is preferable to a winter one. People go on vacation over the holidays, or want to spend it with family, rather than playing bridge here in town.
  - We probably shouldn't try to do both: they're fairly close together (so, we might not get as many out-of-towners for the second one), we lose money on regional tournaments every year (so, we'd lose twice as much as normal), and the uncertainty of the new 5/5/5 funding scheme means we shouldn't take too many chances with funding right now.
  - Rough consensus was to lean towards doing December in Manhattan, with its better location and potential for working people to play on weekdays.
  - Phil Lentz and Bill Sigward will do a walk-through to double-check that it's really what we're expecting.

#### Water damage to the equipment:

- Bill Sigward and Phil Lentz moved the equipment to the dry CubeSmart storage locker, but have not returned to check on it yet.
- 30 cases with 36 boards each would have a replacement cost of around \$5,000, if they need to be replaced.
- Drying out cards is a real pain: there are over 50,000 individual cards that would need to be aired out separately, dried, and put back in place. The two choices we're seriously considering are saying there is little enough damage that we can use them as-is, and buying new. If we need to buy new cases, they likely come with new boards/cards, though depending on the damage perhaps we only need to buy new cards or something.
- Jeff Bayone thinks that if we bought new, we'd have a large enough bulk order that Baron Barclay might give us a better price than the default.
- Bill and Phil will return to CubeSmart soon to see how things are.

#### Wednesday evening 49er game:

- Maya Jonas-Silver has recently started this. She encourages us all to come to the Wednesday evening open game (which is a fun crowd!) and then to stay afterwards to review boards with the newcomers and make friends with them. Both sections (open and 49er) will play the same boards.
- Maya has written a thing about how to teach people who have never played before, and has emailed out a link to that. Take a look, if you've been meaning to teach someone in your life!
- Lee Lin recalls allocating funds in the past year to promote the game to new players: what's going on with that? Part of those funds will be used for wine and cheese to entice the newcomers to Wednesday evening, but most haven't been used yet.
- The Pro-Am-Am-Am is a great way to introduce beginners to teams games. However, organizing one is a lot of work and the person who used to do it (Sherry Ann Kavalier, as I recall) is no longer available. If anyone else wants to take up this mantle, it would be greatly appreciated but might be a lot of work.
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