

NORTH JERSEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
December 8th, 2022  
Held remotely via Zoom

President Pat Rogers Linnemeyer called the meeting to order at 5:08 P.M. Attendance was taken by Carole and it was confirmed that a quorum was present. Board members in attendance were:

Pat Linnemeyer	President
Fred Shubert	Vice President, Site
Carole Gelfer	Administrative Secretary
Mark Whitman	Treasurer
Robert Sorce	Recording Secretary, Tournaments, Site
Sam Ghosh	Caddies
Doug Cestone	Auditor
Susan Koster	Newsletter Editor, Club Coordinator
Joel Lipset	Pairings, Membership
Richard Podkowik	Webpage, Player of the Year, Site
Abby Brawer	Johnke and Reitman Teams
Michelle Lanigan	Sanctions, Hospitality Committee, Annual Brunch
Gale Mirro	Conduct/Ethics
Peri Namerow	Novice Promotion

Honorary board members and/or guests in attendance: Marilyn Wells.

Absent and excused: Pam Mills, Ron Nelken, Kathy Lathrop, and Tod Thorgersen.

The minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed. Michelle made a motion to approve the minutes, and Carole seconded. The motion was approved without objection.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Pat reported the recent Allendale tournament was not a success. As to the Reitman team game, three teams cancelled at the last minute due to Covid infections. We have to accept Covid will continue to cause unpredictable last minute cancellations.

We need to consider finding a new venue for the Sectional, as the rent is increasing again, and we no longer need such a big room as attendance has decreased. One possibility is Immaculate Conception church in Mahwah, which is large enough and has plenty of parking. We have to find storage for our equipment. If off site, we will have to arrange transport to and from the venue for each event. Michelle pointed out some of the difficulties we have encountered in dealing with management at the current venue. After discussion it was generally agreed finding a new site should be a priority. Susan suggested someone be appointed chair of a committee to research possible locations

and report back to the board. Fred volunteered and will be joined by Michelle and Susan.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark reported we incurred a loss of approximately \$2,000 on the recent sectional, vs. \$3,200 at the September event. Table count was 154, up slightly from 146 at the previous tournament. Gale pointed out if losses continue at the current rate, we will be bankrupt in seven years. Mark said we may have to charge more, or perhaps reduce the number of events. Susan said our events are too close together, and the January event is a candidate for elimination. Gale and Michelle pointed out the January event has traditionally been a money loser, even pre-Covid. Bob added unpredictable winter weather events can lead to cancellation or significantly reduced attendance. It was generally agreed if we decide to eliminate one of the tournaments, January is the best choice.

Pat also stressed it is important for board members to show their support for the tournament. We can't expect the membership to come out and play if it appears board members are unwilling to do so.

Susan asked why we are not getting financial reports as we have in the past. It is impossible to do any analysis without documentation. Unless we have that analysis, we cannot make reasonable decisions on how to go forward in the future. Pat said Gale will work with Mark to generate the reports at year end.

## TOURNAMENTS

No report.

## HOSPITALITY

No report.

## SANCTIONS

Michelle reported we have sanctions for all of the 2023 sectionals. After confirming the Johnke will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the Reitman on October 28<sup>th</sup>, she said she will move forward on those sanctions as well. Pat advised once the sanctions are obtained, Michelle should contact the district coordinator so he can keep the calendar clear for those dates. Michelle also asked to receive the dates of events for 2024 and 2025 as soon as they are available so sanctions can be obtained.

## SITE COMMITTEE

Pat announced Fred will be taking over as Chairperson of the Site Committee and Sam will move to Chairperson of Caddies. Bob reported a table inventory was recently taken and we have Seventy Four tables, five of which, while currently usable, will need to be replaced soon. Most of the chairs belong to the church. If we change locations, it is

likely we will have to buy new chairs. Sam has a list of site committee responsibilities and will forward it to Richard. Bob pointed out the need for volunteers to help with the Thursday setup. Gale said we have always had non board members on the Site Committee to help on Thursday. The most time consuming task faced during setup is the taping of individual trash bags to the tables. After a discussion about the necessity of these bags, it was decided to eliminate them for the January tournament and assess the impact afterward.

## PAIRINGS

Joel reported individual entries, while not yet at pre-pandemic levels, are increasing with each tournament.

## CADDIES

No report.

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Richard said everything is up to date and Tod has the list.

## ANNUAL BRUNCH

Pat reported thus far attendance is not what she expected. So far we have fifty six players. We were hoping for at least fifteen tables. Susan suggested we send out another email. Richard said he would take care of it immediately.

## JOHNKE & REITMAN TEAMS

No report.

## PRIZES

No report.

## PRO-AM

No report.

## NOVICE PROMOTION

No report.

## MEMBERSHIP

Joel reported Unit membership continues to decline. As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, we have 820 members compared to the previous December when we had 906. Pre pandemic membership was 1,093. He unfortunately has not had any response to his efforts to reach out to lower masterpoint players. Joel pointed out Richard has done a great job on the Unit website, and it could be a good tool for reaching out to newer players, perhaps by adding content of specific interest to them. Joel will prepare a mass email

for the newer players. Susan suggested we bring back the 0-99 lunch, lesson and game, which was a popular event in the past. Peri said she would be interested in running the event. Michelle commented many people who have been playing on line have more points than this, although they have never played at a club. Joel commented Richard did a search of unit players who have less than 100 masterpoints and have earned at least one masterpoint in the last year. 140 members met these criteria. Carole said we have to cast a wider net and reach out to players who haven't been coming to the clubs, regardless of their masterpoint levels. We have to get them to the website and make them aware of events that are going on.

## FLYERS

Kathy Lathrop has retired from the board. Amy Nellissen has been appointed to replace her. Susan said we have decided to return somewhat to our previous flyer design, which was crisper. Susan also said we can accommodate Joel's request to update the timeframe required when looking for a partner.

## DISTRIBUTION

Pat thanked Doug for his many years of service to the unit, as he is planning retirement. She asked if Doug would consider some involvement with the unit as Auditor. Doug agreed to continue as outside auditor, and proposed the next audit should be done in February of 2023.

## CLUB COORDINATOR

No report.

## NEWSLETTER

No report.

## WEB PAGE

Richard said some have commented the President's message on the webpage is dated back to the beginning of 2022. He would like to automatically update this message to reflect the message in the most current newsletter. All agreed this was a good idea.

## CONDUCT / ETHICS

No report.

## OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

## NEW BUSINESS

Pat said the ongoing Covid crisis has made it difficult if not impossible to hold our regular board elections. Therefore, she is asking all members whose terms are expiring

to extend those terms for another year. Pat polled all members who were present as to their willingness to extend their terms for another year. All agreed Ron Nelken and Pam Mills have also agreed to the extension. Richard made a motion to acknowledge and accept the one year extensions of term, and accept and acknowledge the appointment of Amy Nellissen as board member. Carole seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat suggested our next meeting should be held in February, when a new budget can be presented. She will poll board members via email as to whether they prefer the meeting live, or on Zoom.

A motion was made by Susan at 6:41 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Doug and passed without objection.