

NORTH JERSEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
September 29th, 2022  
Held remotely via Zoom

President Pat Rogers Linnemeyer called the meeting to order at 5:06 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
Carole Gelfer	Administrative Secretary
Mark Whitman	Treasurer
Robert Sorce	Recording Secretary, Tournaments, Site
Pam Mills	Tournaments, Hospitality
Doug Cestone	Distribution
Susan Koster	Newsletter Editor, Club Coordinator
Joel Lipset	Pairings, Membership
Kathleen Lathrop	Flyers
Richard Podkowik	Webpage, Player of the Year
Tod Thorgersen	Bob Johnke and Nelson Reitman Teams, Prizes
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: None.

Absent: Sam Ghosh, Ron Nelken, and Linda Endy.

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

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Pat said she is happy we are finally able to have some events. There are still some Covid restrictions, such as checking attendees for proof of vaccination and increased table spacing.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark reported we lost about \$3,500.00 on the September Sectional, which was in line with expectations. The previous Sectional held in April lost approximately \$500.00. The additional loss in September was due in part to a change from a two-day event to a three-day, which resulted in an increase in rent. Pat said attendance in September may

have been impacted by the Covid outbreak at the April Sectional. Fifteen participants came down with Covid. We are not aware of any Covid cases resulting from the September event, which may help increase participation going forward.

We also spent approximately \$165.00 on advertising and subsidies for the Pros for the recent ProAm.

## TOURNAMENTS

Pam started a discussion of the proposed flyer designed by Rui. There is apparently some confusion about the price of the Sunday session. The flyer indicates the game will cost \$20.00 per person per session, which would be a total of \$40.00. Both Pam and Fred felt this might mislead people into thinking the entire game cost \$20.00. Susan explained the wording Rui used on the flyer reflected the way the ACBL does its accounting. She agreed it could be misinterpreted and should be changed.

Tod asked how the entry fee for a five-person team would be handled and whether the fee for the team should be \$160.00 or \$200.00. Some felt the lesser fee was correct since two players would only be playing one session each. Others felt the higher fee was appropriate since they may all be eating the food provided. Gale pointed out this may be a non-issue since we haven't had five-player teams in previous tournaments. Bob suggested we leave it to Rui's discretion, should a five-person team show up. It was generally agreed the flyer should say \$40.00 per person.

## HOSPITALITY

No report.

## SANCTIONS

Michelle asked for the dates for next year's events that still need sanctions. Pat said the January Sectional is scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. The dates for the April Sectional are the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>. Gale said the Johnke is May 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Reitman is October 28<sup>th</sup>.

## SITE COMMITTEE

Pat said Sam is willing to remain Chair of the site committee. He can no longer do the more physical outside work due to health concerns. Fred, Richard, and Bob volunteered to be appointed to the site committee and will handle the outside work. Several other board members affirmed they would be available to help if necessary. Gale asked when an equipment inventory was last taken. As it's been a while, she suggested an inventory of capital equipment be done. We have an annual equipment budget for tables, chairs and bidding boxes, so having a baseline will help us determine when replacement equipment is needed. Bob volunteered to take an inventory on the Thursday prior to the November Sectional.

## PAIRINGS

Joel reported activity increased for the September Sectional. There were eighteen individual entries in September compared with ten in August. We are still down from the last pre-pandemic Sectional, when we had twenty-eight individual entries.

Pat speculated we may see better attendance in November and we may break even. Richard asked if there was a way to convey the lack of Covid infection at the September event to the membership. It was generally agreed it would be improper to make this claim publicly. Tod suggested we instead inform people the Covid restrictions implemented by the ACBL and the Unit have been effective.

Michelle suggested increased advertising and email blasts to make sure members are aware of the event. There was a discussion on how to best notify membership of coming tournaments well in advance. Kathy pointed out the section of the flyer set aside for directions to the event is antiquated, now that GPS is available in most cars. She suggested eliminating this and replacing it with a "Save the date" box mentioning the next two Sectionals. This suggestion was well received and Susan said she will talk to Rui to see if it can be implemented for the November flier.

## CADDIES

Pat said we will need one caddie for Sunday in Allendale. She will speak to Ron to see if one of his children is available.

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Richard said he has updated results for the year to date and published them on the website.

## ANNUAL BRUNCH

Pat reported the Annual Brunch will be held at the Crowne Plaza on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Check in will be at 11:30 am, with brunch at twelve, followed by the game. Awards will be given out at the brunch. Our cost this year has increased by two dollars per person. Cost to attendees will be \$25.00 per person.

## JOHNKE & REITMAN TEAMS

Tod reported interest in the Reitman has been lukewarm and asked for another email blast publicizing the event. Pat said she had personal knowledge of six additional teams that will be sending in entries. Peri and Abby will take care of hospitality.

## PRIZES

Tod stated we will be presenting prizes based on achievements going forward from January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

## PRO-AM

Pat reported the ProAm went well and we had thirteen tables. Carole wondered if we shouldn't further restrict the master point limits going forward, to level the playing field. We had Ams with point counts ranging from 25 to 280 in this year's event. Pat thought lowering the qualifying point count will hurt attendance. Bob pointed out the next ProAm is a year from now, and a lot can change in a year. We might be back to normal by then. Both Pam and Carole agreed we might be able to change the Am master point requirement to 0-100, or perhaps 0-199.

## NOVICE PROMOTION

No report.

## MEMBERSHIP

Joel informed the board of a decline in paid membership in the unit of 23% since 2019. As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, membership in the Unit has dropped from 1,015 to an approximate 871 members. He also reported his attempt to reach out to and engage lower masterpoint players was unsuccessful. Carole asked if we could send an email blast targeted to this group. Joel said this was possible, and he will compose a draft and send it to Susan and Pat for review.

## FLYERS

Pat informed the board of Kathy's intention to retire from the board. Her position will be filled by Amy Nellissen.

## DISTRIBUTION

No report.

## CLUB COORDINATOR

Susan reported the New Bridges Club of Rockland County, run by Marlene Case, is expanding its point count limit beyond the current 0-100 to attract more players. Susan said it is important for us to have a presence in Rockland County.

## NEWSLETTER

No report.

## WEB PAGE

Richard reported the website is up-to-date. He also asked board members for their input regarding webpage content.

## CONDUCT / ETHICS

No report.

## OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

## NEW BUSINESS

No new business to discuss.

A motion was made by Michelle at 6:09 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Pam, and passed without objection.