



BOD Meeting Minutes August 2026

DATE: 8/10/26

Meeting called to order at: 1:30

Attending: Keenan Romig, John Hurley, Glenn Barnett, Vicki Willis, Mike Russell, Sherrie Goodman, Beth Bayer, Hans Jonassen, Charles Waldrop, Carolyn Stolz and Newt Jackson

Absent:

RSVP Presentation by Linda Morrisson and Denise Dufour

RSVP is a relatively new to the market web based system for managing the registration, payment, seating and scoring for a session. At present, we know of 13 other clubs using this system; Linda and Denise queried several of them for their experiences with the system. They reported that the overall response was positive.

- Players wanting to play can register online before the game.
- Players are seeded and can have seating assigned automatically when the Director deems it ready. Seating adjustments can be made easily when needed.
- If the game is seated in advance, notification of seat assignment is sent to each player and a list can be posted at the club.
- A partnership “desk” is available at the time of registration.
- Game results are sent to ACBL for crediting any Master Points won.
- Walk-ins can be managed at director’s desk.
- Clubs that were queried reported that they did not experience loss of players due to difficulty learning how to use the system.
- Scoring and game management can be made via bridgemates or smart phones.
- Scores will be immediately available and can be shown on our TV screens.
- Swiss games are simplified by the immediate scoring and directions to seat for next set.

- Payment can be made online with “bank” balance that is created in same fashion as in use with BBO.
- Costs:
 - There is no license fee to use the system; clubs pay as they go for the various services they use.
 - To RSVP: 0.15 per player for preregistration or 0.40 per player for preregistration and scoring/management.
 - Additional 0.50 per player to a third party that manages the “bank”.
 - Currently our costs via Square amount to approx. 0.41 per player.
 - John Hurley projected that full use of RSVP would have cost us \$6,000.00 more YTD than current system.
 - Linda reported that clubs found that added revenue resulting from the Partnership Desk covered all or most of the cost of the system.

After some discussion, especially focusing on added costs when our finances are very tight, the board asked Linda and Denise to gather a few more details and thanked them for their efforts. The matter was tabled for further discussion at next meeting.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Finance: QuickBooks Online is now fully in use. John reports that it has been improved with AI providing time-saving assists.

Fee increase has improved our situation; the bottom line for YTD is a positive \$1,059 and projected to be positive for the year.

Cash flow wise, we have to be cognizant of an insurance bill for Feb 27 of \$24k. Hans will investigate options for spreading that payment out.

Currently, we process the checks to the participating online clubs and the bank prints and mails the checks to the participating clubs. We investigated having the bank send an ACH transfer to the clubs, but Gulf Coast Bank would require a separate bill paying system and they would charge us \$20 per month. The system would also require the participating club to set up an account with the bill paying system. We will continue to investigate alternatives but, in the meantime, we will continue to let the bank print and mail the checks. Clubs with minimum participation likely will be dropped or not paid.

A food budget of \$600 was approved for the Holiday party in December.

Club Manager: A vote was taken at the Wednesday 750 game re whether to have 2 more NAP games. One issue is that players who are Life Masters with less than 750 would not be eligible to NAP qualification via that game. The vote by players who were present was to NOT to have NAP

games in August; there have already been 4 this summer. Subsequently, Sherrie reported that 3 players who voted NO felt they were intimidated to vote against more NAP games in the 750-game slot.

Maintenance: The club does not have a copy of the contract with Jani King. Apparently there is an auto-renewal of the contract that took effect in July. If we break the contract, we would have to pay a penalty of \$3,400. There is much dissatisfaction with the quality of the work that is done and repeated instances of doors being left unlocked. Going forward Beth will obtain a copy of the contract, demand new personnel to replace ones currently assigned, get a detailed list of what is supposed to be done each night and the club will document issues with a view towards establishing grounds for cancelling the contract if issues continue.

The Fire Marshall was onsite and reviewed work done and our Green tag. He is satisfied that all is now in order.

Defibrillator at the Club needs to be checked to confirm that it is operational and instruction needs to be given for usage if needed.

Wednesday Coffee Mentor Game: Carolyn provided an update with handout summarizing activities to date. The game has been received very favorably by those being mentored and the participation continues to grow. The mentors have shared that they enjoy mentoring every bit as much as the players enjoy being mentored.

Handicap Games – The purpose of these games is to afford more opportunities to play at the club on Mondays for players who have 200 to 499 MPs and on Wednesdays for players with more than 750MPs. Additionally, this format offers an opportunity for bridge players who do not normally play together to interact during a bridge game. A spreadsheet summary of results of first four games showed 204.88 points awarded. The MPS distribution showed that players at all levels won points.

Respondents to surveys following the first Monday and the first Wednesday handicap games overwhelmingly wanted a handicap game to be offered at least once a month on both Monday and Wednesday.

Partnership: Information is now on the Partnership Board and in the Kibitzer. Denise is currently working on our website to upgrade Partnership option there.

The LBA provided partnership support for the ABA National Tournament held at the NO Marriott August 6 through August 15, 2026. The ABA tournament flyer was posted at the club as well as partnership requests. Several LBA players participated in the tournament.

Education: The Fall series planned for Lowen have been cancelled as Lowen has had family issues come up that he must attend to. That series will be re-scheduled for January. Sherrie is working on an option with another visiting teacher.

Wayne will present a series of one day lessons on the 3rd Friday of each month, starting in September. The cost will be \$25 per session.

Insurance: The Board authorized the renewal of the Workers Comp insurance policy and authorization to pay the full annual premium of \$800.

New Business:

Arlene Goldincastle and Cathy Keeney were given 3 Free Plays each as a token of the Board's appreciation for their efforts in chairing the July tournament. Neither chose to use their passes.

Keenan has agreed to take over directing the Monday games on a trial basis.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:20

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Russell, Recording Secretary