

Present: Janelle Courtright, Paul Grygier, Toni Bales, Bob Jiobu, Trish Jones, Sherry McArdle, Cheryl Schneider, Joe Wernet, and Judy Williamson

Absent: Tom Bishel, Dave Maul, Frank Paynter, Lew Rakocy, and Peter Wahl

President Janelle Courtright called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Aloha Bridge Club.

Minutes from the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

### **October Sectional Post Mortem**

Table counts were approximately the same as last year. Joe Wernet received several complaints about the format of the Sunday Swiss game. In addition, an email was sent by John Stubbe (see below) to the board with several of the same complaints. This game was handicapped and stratified. The amount of handicap points (3 for teams differing by one level, 6 for teams differing by 2 levels) did not seem to be adequate. First round pairings were random, which meant that some inexperienced teams were matched against very experienced teams. For the next sectional, it was decided that there would be two brackets: the lower bracket will have 8 teams and the upper bracket will have the rest and be stratified. Janelle will check with tournament director Mike Roberts on whether this arrangement is permitted.

Despite several announcements at the start of the Swiss game, several players did not realize that they must order lunch at the start of the game. Note: Because lunch was not being prepared on site, it was necessary for the players to place their lunch orders before the start of the game so that the order could be called in ahead of time so it would be ready in time for lunch.

### **January Sectional**

This tournament will be chaired by Joe Wernet and Lew Rakocy. Lunch on Sunday will be handled in the same manner as the October Sectional. Joe made the suggestion that duplicated boards be used for the Sunday Swiss game.

### **Other Business**

Toni Bales volunteered to write a letter of commendation about Mike Roberts to be sent to ACBL.

Cheryl Schneider will check with the Miami Valley Bridge Association to see if our tables can be stored in Dayton as they will be used in next year's Regional Tournament.

The next meeting will be at 5:45 p.m. on December 11 at the Aloha Bridge Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Grygier

The following is the letter from John Stubbe addressed to the board about his concerns with the October Sectional:

To: COBA Board of Directors

Subj: Sunday Swiss - 10/21/18

All,

I want to express a strong objection to the format of the recent Swiss at our Sectional.

I (and quite a few others) find it outrageous that:

- A team with 600 masterpoints has to play a team with 20,000 points, on the first round, no less (though which round is not the issue), of only a six round event. I always encourage players to “play up” but not to the point of absurdity.
- Another team, with 3000, had to start against a team with 40,000
- There was a flat handicap of 6 IMPs for an A playing a C team. Is that a joke?

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? Do you think this is fair? Fun? The weak team surely doesn't enjoy playing against a team that far over their head. And any good player/team would/should not enjoy or find it a challenge playing against them. This should not be a contest as to who can beat up the weak teams the most.

Swiss Teams in Sectionals have been struggling for some time, and this format will make it worse. While I will always encourage otherwise, I predict that you will lose “C” teams as a result. We need to encourage newer players to continue to learn/play the game – not chase them away by running bad events.

Bracketed events at least solve the major part of the problem. I'll bet if you put it to a vote, a significant majority of B and C players agree, and probably most of the A players as well.

If we lose a top team because they can't beat up on weak teams, so be it. Bridge tournaments are a competition, not an entitlement to play weak teams or win points. At the top level, players should thrive on playing against their peers, not run from it. None of them 'need' points. I'd much rather have us lose one or two of them, than any less experienced team. You can't keep everyone happy.

I'm not sure what the best solution is, but a couple options:

- Except for a couple disgruntled A players, the Bracketed format worked just fine.
- Flighted (not Stratified) Swiss with only two flights (call them 1 & 2 if you want). That's more work for Mike, so consider a second Director – we used to have two.
- Eliminate the Swiss and run another pairs game

- Don't make them play at all... just show up, pay their money, spin a wheel to see how many points they get (that's not much different that's what just happened), and then go off and actually enjoy their day.

Above all the goal should be to run a fair, quality event that players really want to compete in and where they can take pride in doing well (and learn something when they don't)

Best of luck figuring this out.

John Stubbe