

Board of Directors

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz, Unit 550

2020 Meeting Minutes

Click below to bring up that month's minutes.

[January](#) [February](#) [March](#) [April](#) [May](#) [June](#)
[July](#) [August](#) [September](#) [October](#) [November](#)
[December](#) [Annual Meeting](#)

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the entire set of minutes.*

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

January 14, 2020

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order at the Santa Cruz Bridge Center at 2:35 PM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, David Harken, John Hullman, Carol Avenmarg, Sydney Reuben, Tom Burke

Absent: Laura McCabe, Robert Johnson

2. Approval of Minutes: The December minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- CAM reconciliation coming in April.
- Webmaster requested a \$25/month increase due to increased software costs. Motion approved.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting: No incidents to report.

b. Sectionals

- i. *Rising Stars*: **March 28-29, 2020** Chairs: Ken Gamble and Carol. Ken L to acquire additional bidding boxes and confirm Bridgemates with Monterey.
- ii. *Surfs Up*: **October 31-November 1, 2020** Chair: Robert Johnson with Laura to assist. A flier needs to be sent to the district to complete the process for getting our sectional on the ACBL and D21 online calendars.

c. 2020 Goals

- i. Goals to include Social Bridge and Marketing. No specific targets were developed at this meeting. See January minutes for 2019 list.
- ii. In 2019, table counts across SCBC were down 140 from 2018.

d. Game Update

- i. (Nothing to report)

e. Education Update (Sydney)

- i. *Beginning Bridge I*: Nancy and Bette's classes are expecting 6 and 3 tables.
- ii. *Supervised Play*: Sydney is combining her groups.
- iii. *Introduction to Defense*: Nancy will teach 9:45 on first and third Wednesdays starting February 5. Nancy expects 7+ tables.
- iv. *2/1 Workshop*: Ken G will be starting Phase II in February.
- v. *Successful Slam Bidding*: Ken L expects 5+ tables starting Monday, February 17.

- vi. *Expert At Your Elbow*. Nancy is organizing a free event on February 12th for new players to observe “experts” playing a couple of hands and then the “experts” observe and assist the newer players. By sign-up only.

f. SCBC IT

- i. New dealing machine and computer will be set up in January – February timeframe.
- ii. The old computer will be moved to the classroom and networked to the new Windows 10 computer. With the old Dealer4, this will allow making boards in the classroom during games.

g. SCBC Maintenance

- i. New dealing machine and computer will be set up in January – February timeframe.
- ii. One set of blinds in the classroom won't come down.

5. Member Programs:

- a. **Mentor Program:** A request was made for a status report on mentor/mentee games played. Subsequently, Ken L. extracted game counts of 20 mentor/mentee pairs and distributed the list.
- b. **Social Bridge:** After discussion, the objective was clarified as targeting students of *Beginning Bridge* classes to give them a practice venue. Initial sessions will be free with snacks provided by the Unit. There will be no lesson unless the attendees express such interest. These sessions will be on Saturdays hosted by Carol, who will check with Nancy for email list.
- c. **Marketing Programs:** Tom Burke will develop a marketing plan with a budget for presentation to the Board. The plan will focus on generating more attendees for SCBC games. In particular it will not include non-bridge related activities, such as bingo, etc.
- d. **Suggestion Box:** None.

6. Next meeting: February 11, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ken L for Robert Johnson, Secretary

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

February 11, 2020

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order at the Santa Cruz Bridge Center at 2:35 PM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, John Hullman, Carol Avenmarg, Sydney Reuben, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, Michael Burk

Absent: Laura McCabe, David Harken

2. Approval of Minutes: The January minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The treasurer's report was accepted.
- The IRS complained about last year's taxes. David Harken contacted the center's tax consultants and got the issues resolved at no cost to the center.
- The 2020 budget, previously distributed was discussed and approved.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting:

- i. A sweater and vest were mistakenly taken from the coat rack. Carol Avenmarg will post a notice on the bulletin board.

b. 2020 Goals

- iii. Goals were discussed and approved, with 2 added: Marketing and Social Game.

c. Sectionals

- iii. *Rising Stars: **March 28-29, 2020*** Chairs: Ken Gamble and Carol. Additional bidding boxes have arrived. Confirmed that Monterey will provide their Bridgemates. Carol took flyers to Monterey. John Walker will take some to San Jose; Angie & Sydney to Palo Alto; Carol to Calvin. Board members should promote sign-ups for play and volunteers.
- iv. *Surfs Up: **October 31-November 1, 2020*** Chair: Robert Johnson with Laura to assist. Ken L. will draft a flyer for the tournament.

d. Game Update

- ii. Friday expert-at-your-elbow sessions now include optional subscriptions to Vu-Bridge lessons online at \$49 per year, per student. Ken G. will inquire about a site license with Vu-Bridge.
- iii. The Sunday game 2/9 was delayed due to traffic (wind storm). Multiple boards were taken away and late play was discouraged although it may have affected results. Michael B. to follow up with the director.

e. Education Update (Sydney)

- vii. *Beginning Bridge I*: Nancy and Bette's classes are fielding 6 and 3 tables.
- viii. *Review class*: Nancy filled the room with 8 tables on this one-day event.
- ix. *Supervised Play*: Sydney is combining her groups.
- x. *Introduction to Defense*: Nancy will teach 9:45 on first and third Wednesdays starting February 5. Nancy expects 7+tables.
- xi. *2/1 Workshop*: Ken G will be starting Phase II in February.
- xii. *Successful Slam Bidding*: Ken L expects 5+ tables starting Monday, February 17.
- xiii. *Expert At Your Elbow*: Nancy is organizing a free event on February 12th for new players to observe "experts" playing a couple of hands and then the "experts" observe and assist the newer players. By sign-up only.

f. SCBC IT

- iii. New dealing machine is operational and fast!
- iv. New computer is set up as the primary computer (and also fast!).
- v. The old computer has been moved to the classroom and networked to the new Windows 10 computer. With the old Dealer4, this will allow making boards in the classroom during games. The old Dealer4 will be sent out for refurbishing later.

g. SCBC Maintenance

- iii. The set of blinds in the classroom that wouldn't come down have been fixed (thanks Tom and Michael!).

5. Member Programs:

- e. **Mentor Program**: One new mentor/mentee pair added: Ken L. and Rick Zinman.
- f. **Social Bridge**: The Saturday social bridge game will be held monthly with the first game on March 21 at 10:00 for two hours. The social game will be promoted at beginning classes, outside social organizations and by word-of-mouth. The dates will be placed on the center calendar. If the social game grows and fees are charged, the social game tables will be added to the center table count.
- g. **Member Survey**: Tom Burke and Ken L. to collaborate on a survey using Survey Monkey or Google survey.
- h. **Marketing Programs**: Tom Burke will develop a marketing plan with a budget for presentation to the Board. The plan will focus on generating more attendees for SCBC games.
- i. **Suggestion Box**: None.

6. Next meeting: March 10, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

March 10, 2020

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order at the Santa Cruz Bridge Center at 2:40 PM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, John Hullman, Sydney Reuben, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg

Absent: Laura McCabe, Michael Burk

Note: The meeting primarily addressed the Covid-19 issue. **Actions taken after the meeting are noted in red.**

2. Approval of Minutes: The February minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The treasurer's report was accepted.
- \$10,000 was withdrawn from the US stock fund to the checking account in anticipation of upcoming bills like the 2019 CAM and PG&E bills.
- Future withdrawals will come from the bond fund to balance the portfolio.
- **A teleconference meeting was held on 3/24 to discuss a proposal to rebalance the portfolio in light of recent market activity. A decision was made to transfer 3 months of unit expenses into a safe Money Market fund (perhaps the Federal Money Market). A decision on the rebalancing will be revisited by June 30, 2020.**

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting: none

b. Dealing with Covid-19

- i. Noted: Santa Cruz Department of Health recommends avoiding groups of more than 50 participants. **This was subsequently amended to "Stay At Home" plus the ACBL recommended closing the center until May 31 at a minimum.**
- ii. Mid-County Senior Center (site of the Rising Stars sectional) is meeting today to determine their response to the guidance. If they close, we cancel. Ken L. to follow up. **The Rising Stars has been cancelled for 2020, see below.**
- iii. Noted: Palo Alto has canceled all games; Gilroy canceled 2 of 3 games; Monterey has not canceled; District 21 has not announced additional cancellations.
- iv. An advisory will be distributed and posted at our center that players should practice increased hygiene and take their own assessment of risk to themselves and others before participating. Directors will be requested to

sanitize the tables before and after each game. Tom volunteered to prepare a poster to be placed at the entrance to the center.

- v. A vote was taken on whether to cancel the sectional tournament at this time. The vote was divided so no action was taken. **In response to the worsening crisis, the board decided on Thursday, 3/12, to cancel the Rising Stars tournament and to suspend all games at the center following the Friday (3/13) game, until further notice.**
- vi. **The landlord of our center has agreed to waive the rent payment for April.**

c. 2020 Goals

- i. Tom presented the marketing plan for 2020.
- ii. Carol presented the plan for the social game on 3/21. **Subsequently canceled.**

c. Sectionals

- i. *Rising Stars: **March 28-29, 2020*** Chairs: Ken Gamble and Carol Avenmarg. Carol volunteered to organize the making of sandwiches. **Subsequently canceled.**
- ii. *Surfs Up: **October 31-November 1, 2020*** Chair: Robert Johnson with Laura to assist. Ken L. will draft a flyer for the tournament.

d. Game Update

- i. Ken G. to order achievement medallions for the Annual recognition game on April 11. **Subsequently canceled.**

e. Education Update (Sydney)

- i. no updates

f. SCBC IT

- i. no updates

g. SCBC Maintenance

- i. Tom and Ken replaced some fluorescent lights. More to follow.

5. Member Programs:

- a. No updates

6. Next meeting: April 14, 2020 (meeting to be virtual)

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

April 14, 2020 (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order online at 3:30 PM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, John Hullman, Sydney Reuben, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg, Michael Burk

Absent: Laura McCabe

2. Approval of Minutes: The March minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The treasurer's report was accepted.
- No charges for cleaning during the shutdown.
- April rent was waived. May rent is to be discussed.
- \$6,000 was withdrawn from the US stock fund to a new federal money market fund in anticipation of upcoming bills.
- BBO revenue: \$900 earned during the first week of operation from 7 games with 57 tables. Until the Unit receives the revenue, we will not recognize this amount.
- The mailbox is inaccessible. David will check on how the mail is getting delivered during the closure.
- Club owners should investigate getting an SBA loan under CARES, the new economic stimulus program. David will send out an email.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting: none

b. Dealing with Covid-19

- i. Reopening date discussion: too early to estimate at this time. The website says states the assumption of the end of May. This is subject to change.
- ii. We should consider incorporating the best features of BBO virtual games into our center after we reopen the SCBC. Keep notes on what you like and dislike about the online games.

c. 2020 Goals

- iii. Needs revision in light of the pandemic.

d. Sectionals

- iii. *Rising Stars*: The Mid-County senior center will hold our deposit to be used for the fall sectional.
- iv. *Surfs Up*: **October 31-November 1, 2020** Chair: Robert Johnson with Laura to assist. Ken L. will draft a flyer for the tournament.

e. Game Update

- ii. Ken G. reported on BBO free games: 4:00 game is 199-er 6:30 game is open. Community remains together, thanks to our BBO directors Ken L. and Ken G. 4:00 game gets about 2 tables. 6:30 gets about 3 tables. Ken G. is proposing increasing the point limit to 499 for the 4:00 game.
- iii. Jonni ran his first vClub game on Tuesday charging \$5.00. He is thinking about a game on Thursday evening for 0-749.
- iv. Ken L. is considering for mentor-mentee game on Wednesday nights at 7PM. This will be a vClub game with proceeds benefiting the SCBC.
- v. The Saturday vClub game will run at 10:00am. The Sunday game continues at 1:15pm.

f. Education Update (Sydney)

- ii. The Kens are considering moving his bridge classes into the virtual realm.

g. SCBC IT

- ii. Ken L is undertaking a project to have results and game schedule on the website.

h. SCBC Maintenance

- ii. Tom will continue planning a remodel of the classroom. This will involve additional shelving and a more efficient use of the space.
- iii. Ken L and Shirley L will remove batteries from the BridgeMates to reduce corrosion.
- iv. Ken L will ship the old Dealer4 to a service center for refurbishing.

5. Member Programs:

- b. No updates

7. Next meeting: May 12, 2020 (via Zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

May 12, 2020 (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order online at 3:50 PM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, John Hullman (audio only), Sydney Reuben, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg, Michael Burk

Absent: Laura McCabe

2. Approval of Minutes: The April minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- ACBL target date for sending out checks is May 10, but the checks have been delayed. The amount for the 3 week period of April 7-April 31 will be \$3380.
- David updated the report to include BBO income.
- Income from BBO will be reported in the current month, rather than the next month as was the practice previously.
- Table fees: BBO takes 20% off the top; there's a small 3-4% "credit card" charge and generally the ACBL takes \$1 per table (this can change with special games)
- Expenses have been trimmed while we are not using the center. Stopping:
 - Cleaning service
 - GreenWaste trash service will be discontinued
 - Internet is \$62/month for router and modem: this will be discontinued
 - Refrigerator is turned off
 - Air conditioning turned off
- 2020 budget: David went over significant changes
 - BBO income projected at \$35,000 per year, net
 - Reductions based on trimming items above
 - Tournament facility fee (approximately \$1400 for the two 2020 tournaments should be reimbursed by Mid-County SC
 - New projected loss for 2020 is \$12,400.
- Negotiations with the landlord over the rent are ongoing. We are waiting on a reply. We have not paid the rent for April and May. We explored the ramifications of cancelling the lease.
- Our rental agreement allows us to sublease the space. Tom is authorized to approach GrowBiz to see if they would be interested in subleasing our space.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting: none

b. Dealing with Covid-19 – the online bridge world

- iii. Tom Burk offered to draw up a letter to encourage members who are not participating in BBO games to join the online community.
- iv. Ken G will create a 99er or 199er game Tuesday evenings. Ken L will poll the community for level of interest.
- v. Ken L estimates that 50 to 60 members are frequent players in our vClub games; over 120 members have joined BBO.
- vi. We should consider incorporating the best features of BBO virtual games into our center after we reopen the SCBC. Keep notes on what you like and dislike about the online games.

c. Important questions regarding re-opening our center

1. *Under what conditions can the SCBC resume Face-To-Face (F2F) bridge?*
Not until we have an effective and easily available vaccine for our membership.
2. *Can F2F bridge meet social distancing requirements?*
Based on our demographics and the nature of F2F bridge: No.
3. *What is our best estimate for our membership having access to a vaccine?*
Consensus is it will take about 2 years. We are contractually obligated to pay about \$110,000 to the end of the lease (28 months).
4. *Will players return to the SCBC when a vaccine is available and they have received the vaccine?*
This is hard to estimate. Some who don't play online will be back. Others will never return. Perhaps less frequent games could be held in a new venue on a temporary rental basis. A reduced schedule would not be able to fund the rental obligations.
5. *During the period F2F bridge does not meet health guidelines, is there any usage of the SCBC facility for a purpose consistent with our mission and in compliance with Health Directives?*
6. *What is best deal the Unit can get with the landlord for the remainder of the lease?*
7. *If the Unit gives up the SCBC lease, what is the new business model?*
8. *What are other units with similar business models to Unit 550 planning?*
9. *Will the ACBL continue vClub games after Stay-At-Home orders are lifted?*
10. *Is there a hybrid business model combining F2F and BBO? What forms might this take?*

d. Sectionals

- v. No sectionals for the foreseeable future.

e. Game Update

- vi. Jonni is successfully running a vClub game on Tuesday charging \$5.00. He also runs a game on Monday night and Thursday evening for 0-749.
- vii. Ken L. reports that the mentor-mentee game on Monday and Wednesday nights at 7PM is not well-attended.

f. Education Update (Sydney)

- iii. No update.

g. SCBC IT

- iii. Ken L has linked BBO to our website so that results are immediately posted on our website. The schedule also reflects the vClub games.
- iv. Ken got our website certificate renewed.

h. SCBC Maintenance

- v. Tom completed a remodel of the classroom with additional shelving and a more efficient use of the space.
- vi. Ken L and Shirley L removed the batteries from the BridgeMates to reduce corrosion.
- vii. Ken L shipped the old Dealer4 to a service center for refurbishing. The refurbished unit has been received and it works great.

5. Member Programs:

- c. No updates

8. Next meeting: June 9, 2020 (via Zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

June 9, 2020 (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order online at 3:35 PM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg, Sydney Reuben

Absent: Laura McCabe, John Hullman, Michael Burk

2. Approval of Minutes: The May minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Landlord offered a 2 month waiver and a 6 month half-off discount of the rent which Unit 550 accepted.
- Other assets include \$4350 account receivable (net) from BBO/ACBL for May. We have already received the April receipt from BBO/ACBL.
- A new item is a liability of \$3732.50 for a set-aside for directors' fees.
- David walked through the revised 2020 budget. Through the end of the year the net balance will be negative \$17,426.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting: none

b. Dealing with Covid-19 – the online bridge world

- vii. Tom Burke presented a letter to encourage members who are not participating in BBO games to join the online community.
- viii. Ken G added a 199er game at 2P Friday afternoon.
- ix. ACBL has presented guidelines for bridge centers regarding reopening.
- x. District 21 meeting will be discussed later.
- xi. Subsequent board meetings will be moved to second Monday at 10A.

d. Sectionals

- vi. No sectionals for the foreseeable future.

e. Game Update

- viii. Free games that conflict with vClub games have been eliminated.
- ix. The 199er game on Friday had 5 tables.
- x. The mentor/mentee game continues.
- xi. Ken L. is investigating a free unit game on BBO. These are currently not allowed.

f. Education Update (Sydney)

- iv. Ken L. is running a Wednesday morning review of the Tuesday night game.

- v. Nancy is running several classes on BBO.
- vi. This Thursday Ken L. will run a 2/1 essentials class.
- vii. Social bridge online. Individuals are setting up games on their own. These people may want to join us at the vClub table or taking classes. Ken L. will do outreach to our member list.

g. SCBC IT

- v. Our website links BBO so results are immediately posted on our website. The schedule also reflects the vClub games.

h. SCBC Maintenance

- viii. No updates

5. Member Programs:

- d. No updates

9. Next meeting: *Monday July 13, 2020 at 10:00 am* (via Zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, *Secretary*

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

July 13, 2020 (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order online at 10:00 AM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg, Sydney Reuben, John Hullman, Stu Goodgold (guest)

Absent: Laura McCabe, David Harken

Resigned: Michael Burk

2. Stu Goodgold:

- Stu gave an update on what other centers are doing relative to leases
- Stu is running for District Director which is a member of the ACBL Board of Directors.
- Sectional tournaments on BBO: Stu agrees that units should be able to run sectionals. ACBL has a different opinion. We should bring this to Jackie Zayac, the current District Director.
- BBO game paid for by the sponsor, free to the players, but awarding master points.
- Stu says we can run a unit game as a virtual club game. We would need to establish the unit as a newly registered and sanctioned vClub on BBO.

2. Approval of Minutes: The June minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The CAM bill (expected) was paid and was a large negative.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting:

- i. We had a case of two players playing too slowly. The recommendation: (1) Call the director after 15 seconds; (2) Don't start another hand rather than rushing to finish. Simply do not bid. This will result in a 'no play' result even though it appears as an average result.

b. Dealing with Covid-19 – the online bridge world

- i. Tom Burke prepared the recruitment letter. It will be distributed soon.
- ii. Betsy Allen, a new player, is interested in recruiting for a 0-5 master point game.
- iii. Tom Burke has also prepared a survey to poll our BBO players on what changes or improvements we could make. This list of questions needs

- tuning and will be sent out today for the board to review and cull to the essential questions. Tom will investigate the Google survey application.
- iv. We have 15 virtual club games running per week, including Jonni's games.
 - v. Ken has a limited game on Tuesday nights. The review on Wednesday is very popular.
 - vi. We will continue to discuss options for face-to-face bridge in the future.
 - vii. Members should be encouraged to post an image on BBO.

d. Sectionals

- i. No sectionals for the foreseeable future.

e. Game Update

- i. Ken L. is investigating a free unit game on BBO. These are currently not allowed. After the discussion with Stu, we will push for this capability. If we are not able to arrange this type of game, we will revert to a minimal cost game, which is \$3 at this time. We will schedule a Dolores Abrams game in the fall.

f. Education Update

- i. Nancy Wainer is running two classes per week. Some of these players may be interested in a beginner virtual club game.
- ii. Thursday Ken L. continues his 2/1 essentials class. This class will conclude at the end of July. There are 10 constant students and 3 intermittent.
- iii. Ken G. will begin a class in mid-August to early September on declarer play. Some topics will include planning, transportation and entries. Ken G plans on 8 to 9 weeks of classes.
- iv. Social bridge online. Individuals are setting up games on their own. These people may want to join us at the vClub table or taking classes. Ken L. will do outreach to our member list.

5. Next meeting: *Monday August 10, 2020 at 10:00 am* (via Zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

August 10, 2020 (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order online at 10:00 AM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg, Sydney Reuben, John Hullman, Jackie Zayac (guest), Joanne Wicker (guest)

Absent: Laura McCabe

2. Jackie Zayac (campaigning for District 21 Director):

- Jackie was instrumental in increasing the number of single day sectionals from 3 to 6; added 0-2500 Swiss and Pairs to NABC; mixed light pairs for regionals; she switched to online newsletter, saving the district \$20,000; added Regional 0-99 events.
- Reorganization is coming up. District 21 and District 20 will be represented by the same person.
- Foresees a mix of F2F and online bridge for future.
- Motion to increase timeline for platinum points.
- Ken L. asked for the ability for units to run BBO sectionals that are geographically limited. The units make more money that way. Jackie answered that this proposal will not be accepted.

2. Approval of Minutes: The July minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The unit doing well with BBO income, but the November end of rent reduction is a real danger to the financial stability of the unit. We were lucky to get a break on the rent.
- General approval for starting negotiations for further rent reductions beyond December. Discussion of possible lease breaking; if a review of the lease indicates some possibility of breaking the lease, a lawyer will be engaged to review the lease further.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting:

- i. No update.

b. Dealing with Covid-19 – the online bridge world

- i. Tom Burke prepared the recruitment letter. The letter was sent out. There were no responses to Tom. The torture will continue until more people respond.
- ii. Tom Burke prepared a survey to poll our BBO players on what changes or improvements we could make. Robert and Sydney sent suggestions. Tom prepared a second and third version. Tom will utilize the unit Google account to distribute the survey.
- iii. Our game attendance has not diminished and might be increasing.
- iv. Sydney presented a list of players that have played on BBO before but have dropped out or play less frequently. Some players will receive calls to let them know that we miss them and to encourage them to return to U550 games. Issues from these conversations should be relayed back to Tom.
- v. Sydney is running a table of instruction incorporating a zoom meeting.
- vi. Ken has a limited game on Tuesday nights. The zoom review on Wednesday is extremely popular.

d. Sectionals

- i. No change: no unit sectionals.

e. Game Update

- i. Ken G discussed the Friday night game. This game was frequently too small to start. Ken initiated a joint Santa Cruz / San Jose game that is proving quite popular. The table count has increased to 9+. Our weekend games are also small and may be candidates for joint games with San Jose. Joanne reports great interest expressed to her.
- ii. Ken L suggested making the Tuesday night game a vClub game charging \$3 and run as a Fast Pairs game. This type game might be enticing to Open players who are looking for a later game which is played at a quick pace. Ken G. will try this next week (8/18).
- iii. Jonni is having trouble filling the weekend games. These games may be candidates for 0-199 game or San Jose collaboration games. Ken G. will pursue this with Jonni. This will be suggested as a unit game.
- iv. The mentor/mentee games are not thriving.

f. Education Update

- i. Nancy Wainer is running supervised play.
- ii. Ken L continues the Tuesday Evening game reviews.
- iii. Thursday Ken L wraps up the ninth week of his 2/1 essentials class. There are 10 constant students and 3 intermittent. There will be practice game with curated hands.
- iv. Ken G will begin a class in early September on declarer play. Some topics will include planning, transportation, and entries. Ken G plans on 8 to 9 weeks of this class.

h. SCBC Maintenance

- ix. Toilet flushing periodically is necessary. Ken L and David are taking care of this.

5. Member Programs:

- e. No updates

6. Next meeting: *Monday September 14, 2020 at 10:00 am* (via Zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, *Secretary*

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

September 14, 2020 (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order online at 2:30 PM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg, Sydney Reuben, John Hullman, Joanne Wicker (guest)

Absent: Laura McCabe

2. Approval of Minutes: The August minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The unit is doing well with BBO income.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting:

- ii. Slow play issues have been ameliorated.
- iii. A sub came into the 9/14/2020 game and was rude and not nice. This player has been placed on the 'ignore' list.

b. Dealing with Covid-19 – the online bridge world

- xii. The center's existing property manager has been let go. There should be no impact to us.
- xiii. Board election: John Hullman expressed a desire to resign from the board. Laura McCabe has been too busy to attend to board business and it is assumed that she will resign from the board. Other board members expressed a desire to remain on the board. Joanne Wicker has volunteered to join the board in a general board member capacity. The opportunity to join the board will be sent to the membership. If we have an equal number of candidates as board positions, we will invoke the new rule to skip the formal election process.
- xiv. The ability to combine zoom with BBO bridge is being investigated. Some clubs have incorporated zoom into their club games. If the burden is wholly on the director, it can be overwhelming to the director. We may attempt a dry run tournament to see if this technology will work for us. The Kens will participate in a currently running "zoom game" to see how it works.
- xv. The Diamond in the Ruff newsletter will be released quarterly from now on.

c. Recruitment

- i. Tom Burke and Ken Llacera have jointly been improving the survey and are going to launch this from the SCBC google account.

- ii. Ken L. has received several requests for a Social Bridge game. Carol Avenmarg will contact Nancy Wainer about how to initiate this program for students or players not currently engaged in BBO games.
- iii. Joanne Wicker mentioned that Palo Alto offers an informal review on zoom of hands that were just played. We think this could be valuable to our 199 players. The Wednesday review of Tuesday's game by Ken L. takes hours to prepare and this level of preparation would not be provided at an immediate review.

d. Game Update

- xii. The Unit will sponsor 25% gold games all next week (9/21 through 9/27).
- xiii. The Unit will sponsor club appreciation games the week of 10/26 through 11/1. Double points will be awarded.
- xiv. The Saturday and Sunday 199-er games are having difficulty getting a quorum of players (10 player minimum).

e. Education Update

- viii. Ken G's class had 26 attendees for the class on declarer play. Some topics will include planning, transportation, and entries. Ken G plans on 10 weeks of this class.

f. SCBC IT

- vi. No updates

g. SCBC Maintenance

- x. Toilet flushing is proceeding smoothly.

5. Member Programs:

- f. No updates

10. Next meeting: *Tuesday October 13, 2020 at 2:30 am* (via Zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

October 13, 2020 (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order online at 2:40 PM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg, Sydney Reuben, John Hullman

Guests: Jonni Faircrest (club owner liaison), John Wesolowski, Joanne Wicker

2. Approval of Minutes: The September minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The unit is doing well with BBO income.
- The rent has been increased a modest amount.
- Loss for the year to date is \$3500.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting:

- iv. Two subs came into our games that were rude. These players have been placed on the 'ignore' list. Directors try to select subs that will be appropriate to the game (e.g. for a 199er game).

b. Dealing with Covid-19 – the online bridge world

- xvi. Still no date for a reopening date.

c. 2021-2022 Board Election

- i. The positions held by John Hullman, Laura McCabe and Michael Burk will provisionally be filled by Joanne Wicker and John Wesolowski. Jonni Faircrest will join the board as the Club Owner liaison. As there's an equal number of candidates to open board positions, the bylaw rule to skip the formal election process will be invoked

c. Member Recruitment

- iv. Tom Burke launched the member survey from the SCBC google account. There were 7 responses out of 114 recipients. Most of the respondents were already playing BBO bridge. 4 responders liked the idea of a social game and would like a lesson.
- v. Plans for the social game may leverage Sydney's Tuesday Supervised Play game (12:30 – 2:30PM). The game is both on BBO and zoom. One of the students sets up the zoom session. Ken will send out an invite to the same group of 114 members to join in Sydney's game.

- vi. Carol Avenmarg contacted Nancy Wainer about how to initiate a social game for students or players not currently engaged in BBO games. Monday and Thursday afternoons would be the preferred days.

d. Game Update

- xv. The Unit sponsors (pays for) substitute players to come into our games to fill out a table. As the Unit recovers 70% of the entry fee and gets a member into the game, the program essentially pays for itself.
- xvi. Tuesday night Fast Pairs game has not had enough tables on occasion. Wednesday night games also are suffering and have been canceled twice in the last month. These games will continue to be scheduled, as the winter may increase attendance.
- xvii. Club Appreciation games are scheduled the week of 10/26 through 11/1. Double points will be awarded with no extra charge by the ACBL.
- xviii. The Saturday 199er games are getting improved attendance.
- xix. We discussed the 99er game suggestion from Ray Yuenger. We have 111 players in the range 5-99 master points. 69 of these players are not on BBO. Ken will respond to Ray that our Unit will participate in this program. These games start 10/19/2020, Monday through Thursday evenings at 7PM. Unit 550 will authorize 99er participation on Monday and Wednesdays.
- xx. Special games (Recognition, Dolores Abrams, Annual Meeting and Holiday Party) are proposed as a combined game for Saturday December 5. Research to find out if the game can be paid by the Unit so that masterpoints can be awarded.
- xxi. Ken L. researched playing a zoom game (in a Seattle unit) and got feedback from a District 22 Unit who also tried this approach. Feedback was that it is really complicated. Moving from table to table is difficult and confusing. More investigation is required before we can incorporate zoom. A zoom social meeting before the game could be used for one of the special games (like the combined special game, proposed for December 5, 2020).

e. Education Update

- ix. Ken G's class had 29 attendees for the class on declarer play. The class is in week 6 of 10. The class is \$10 a week for two sessions.
- x. Ken L is constructing his *Play & Defend* class. This is planned for 10 weeks. The class is \$10 a week for a 2 hour session. Payment by PayPal, Venmo or check.

f. SCBC IT

- vii. Minutes and treasurer's reports are posted online.

g. SCBC Maintenance

- xi. Toilet flushing is proceeding smoothly.

5. Member Programs:

- g. No updates

11. Next meeting: *Tuesday November 10, 2020 at 2:30 am* (via Zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 4:00P

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, *Secretary*

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

November 10, 2020 (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order online at 2:30 PM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg, Sydney Reuben, John Hullman

Guests: John Wesolowski, Joanne Wicker (D21 representative)

Absent:

2. Approval of Minutes: The October minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The unit is doing well with BBO income.
- Loss for year-to-date is \$3421. The projection for the year is better than predicted.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting:

- v. Instructors and directors should be on guard against putting players or students on the spot with challenging questions or negative comments.

b. Dealing with Covid-19 – the online bridge world

- xvii. Lease reduction from the previous negotiation (1/2 off the rent) expires this month. Discussion about trying to negotiate an extension of the lease extension. We will ask for 6 more months. Our fallback would be 4 more months, till April 2021.
- xviii. Reopening date & plans – no change.
- xix. BBO & zoom – Ken L.'s *Play and Defend* class will use both simultaneously. This may serve as a trial for games later.

c. 2021-2022 Board Election

- i. Members joining for 2021-2022 Term: Steve Smith, John Wesolowski and Jonni Faircrest (Club Owner Liaison)
- ii. Joanne Wicker has agreed to replace Laura as D21 Representative from Unit 550. She will be reporting on District and ACBL Board meetings and decisions.
- iii. Members leaving the board: Michael Burk, Laura McCabe, John Hullman

d. Member Recruitment

- vii. Member survey: Tom Burke: no new responses
- viii. Social game: Carol Avenmarg: some folks have been reluctant to play on BBO because they are concerned that the expectation might be too high.

There is another platform, www.socialbridgeonline.org, that might be less intimidating and more welcoming for these players. A subset of the board will try this platform out.

- ix. Mentor program: John Hullman / Sydney Reuben. No requests for new mentors; the program is static at present. Sydney and Ken L. will discuss the direction the mentorship program should take.

e. Game Update

- xxii. Unit-subsidized subs program is working well.
- xxiii. Tuesday night Fast Pairs game is getting only sufficient players perhaps twice a month. Wednesday night games have been more successful of late.
- xxiv. There will be a club championship (25% gold) series from 11/23 to 11/29.
- xxv. One pair from our unit has attended the inter-district 99er game. Ken L will approve any pairs wishing to join this game. These games run Monday through Thursday evenings at 7PM. Unit 550 authorized 99er participation on Monday and Wednesdays. Ken will resend the notification to this subset of our membership. Some of these members may have mentors (but this is unlikely).
- xxvi. The special games (Recognition, Dolores Abrams, Annual Meeting and Holiday Party) will be held as a combined zoom meeting and BBO game on Saturday December 5 (later changed to December 12). The zoom meeting will be free; the BBO game will cost \$3 per player, in order to award masterpoints. The meeting will include: introducing the new board, advancements, financials, memorials, Q&A. The meeting will be followed by a BBO game with two sections: 299er and open. BYOB.

f. Education Update

- xi. Ken G's declarer play class is finishing 10 weeks of education. 28 players started the class and at least 20 completed all 10 weeks. A second class has been requested.
- xii. Ken L is constructing his *Play & Defend* class. 40 people have signed up for this class, which is planned for 10 weeks. The class is on Mondays at 9:30 am. The class is \$10 a week for a 2 hour session. Payment by PayPal, Venmo or check.

f. SCBC IT

- viii. Minutes and treasurer's reports are posted online.

Next meeting (the annual meeting): Saturday December 12, 2020 at 10:00 am (via Zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Johnson, Secretary

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

December 8, 2020 (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order online at 2:30 PM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Joanne Wicker (D21 representative), Steve Smith

Absent: Jonni Faircrest (Club Liaison member)

2. Approval of Minutes: The November minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The unit is doing well with BBO income and reduced expenses, including an extension of the lease reduction.
- Cash reserves are up to about \$12,000.
- We are breaking even with the reduced expenses. November revenue was down a little, but less than projected.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Play Nice Reporting:

- vi. No new reports.

b. Dealing with Covid-19 – the online bridge world

- xx. Lease reduction (1/2 off the rent) for an additional 3 months (through February) was offered by the management company and we accepted.
- xxi. Reopening date & plans – we should require proof of vaccination (both doses, if required) before we allow players to return to the center.
- xxii. BBO & zoom – Ken L.'s *Play and Defend* class has had its first lesson, using both BBO & zoom simultaneously. This was successful.
- xxiii. Voice Chat on BBO: Ken L. and Ken G. have tried out this out once and will try it again. This can be nice for socialization after the boards are completed in a round.

c. 2021-2022 Board and Officer Election

- iv. Board members joining for 2021-2022 Term: Steve Smith, John Wesolowski and Jonni Faircrest (Club Owner Liaison)
- v. Joanne Wicker is our new D21 Representative from Unit 550. She will be reporting on District and ACBL Board meetings and decisions.
- vi. The following officers were elected:
 - a. President: Carol Avenmarg
 - b. Vice President: Tom Burke
 - c. Treasurer: David Harken
 - d. Secretary: Robert Johnson

c. Member Recruitment

- x. **Social game:** Carol Avenmarg: The www.socialbridgeonline.org platform might be less intimidating and more welcoming for players that are intimidated by BBO. Robert Johnson tried this platform and found it less appealing than BBO "Casual" bridge. The board will at least let our members know about this platform so they can try it.
- xi. **Member Outreach:** Steve Smith volunteered to lead the recruitment effort going forward. Ken L will provide Steve with a list of players to exclude from the phone list: players who are already playing on BBO and players with 0 master points. Robert will recontact Nicci and Dick Winner and Ann Sydes to see if we can get them involved in our club games.
- xii. Tom Burke will resume the email surveys early next year.
- xiii. **Mentor program:** Sydney Reuben. Sydney surveyed the mentors and mentees to find out the status of the program. Of the 18 matches active at the beginning of 2020, only 2 are still active. Sydney is working on formalizing additional mentor relationships but the 199er game limits restricts certain partnerships. Ken L. suggests increasing the maximum point range for the 199er games to 299er to allow players and mentor-mentee pairs who have reached 200MPs to participate.
- xiv. **Supervised Play:** Sydney is running a supervised play table. Nancy Wainer runs a free supervised play table.

d. Game Update

- xxvii. Most evenings have two games. Ken L. will ask Jonni if he could add a limited game, perhaps 499er. Another option might be to change an existing game to be a limited game. Jonni currently runs 4 games.
- xxviii. The Tuesday night Fast Pairs game is suspended until mid-January.
- xxix. Three pairs from our unit are playing in the inter-district 99er game.
- xxx. The Dolores Abrams / Annual Meeting and Holiday Party will be held as a combined zoom meeting and BBO game on Saturday December 12. The zoom meeting starts at 10:00 and will be free; the BBO game will cost \$3 per player, in order to award masterpoints. The meeting will include: introducing the new board, advancements, financials, memorials, Q&A. The meeting will be followed by the Dolores Abrams game on BBO with two sections: 299er and Open.

e. Education Update

- xiii. Ken L held Week 1 of his *Play & Defend* class. 44 people have signed up for the 10-week class.

5. Member Programs:

- h. No updates

12. Next meeting (the annual meeting): **Saturday December 12, 2020 at 10:00 am** (via Zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, **Robert Johnson, Secretary**

Minutes of Annual Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

December 12, 2020 (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order: President Ken L. called the meeting to order online at 10:00 AM.

Present: Ken Llacera, Ken Gamble, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Carol Avenmarg, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Joanne Wicker (D21 representative), Steve Smith, Jonni Faircrest (Club Liaison member)

2. Introduction of 2021 Board of Directors: John Wesolowski, Steve Smith, Jonni Faircrest (Club Owner Liaison), Joanne Wicker (D21 Rep)

3. Financial Report

- Revenue: \$6300. Expenses: \$6600. Net: -\$300
- Net worth in December: \$562,000 (Net worth in January: \$518,000)
- Board made a donation to Community Foundation of Santa Cruz of \$5,000
- Why play in SCBC games?
 - Play with friends
 - Support SCBC to allow face-to-face bridge in the future
 - Special game reviews

4. Covid-19 Plans

- xxiv. No reopen until vaccine is widely available
- xxv. Members will be required to have the vaccine before entry to SCBC
- xxvi. Lease runs to 9/2022 and we cannot break the lease. Landlord has been very accommodating with a half-off lease agreement for a full year.

Remembrances

- i. Candace Dauphinot
- ii. Judy Ford
- iii. Jerry Goodell
- iv. Jerry Kibbey
- v. Carol Maggipinto
- vi. Peggy Williams

2020 Achievement

- i. Alan Chase Bronze
- ii. Steve Smith Bronze
- iii. Mick Friedberg Sapphire
- iv. Janet Tainty Silver
- v. Nancy Wainer Gold
- vi. Joanne Wicker Ruby

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am

Respectfully submitted, **Robert Johnson, Secretary**