

# Board of Directors

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz, Unit 550

## *2021 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](#)

*This is one file, intended for online viewing.  
If you print it out, you will get  
the entire set of minutes.*

# Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

**December 14, 2021 (at SCBC)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Robert Johnson, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Ken Gamble, Steve Smith, Tom Burke, David Harken, Kris Smith

**Absent:** Joanne Wicker (District 21 representative)

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The November minutes were approved.

## **3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken**

- Both November and YTD continue to show negative results. I expect our December YTD to be over \$20,000 loss now that we began paying full rent as of November 1st.
- I have sold \$15,000 of Vanguard assets since September to help fund our cash flow. I may need to sell more Vanguard funds in late December to fund our January rent.
- As I mentioned at our annual meeting our monthly expenses including (full) rent, cleaning, trash, internet/web services, insurance, repairs, supplies, CPA, taxes, etc. now amount to about \$4,700. Our monthly income continues to be about \$1,200 net for BBO, club and unit owned games. The \$3,500 monthly shortfall needs to be dealt with. Options are:
  - Increasing our F2F game fees,
  - increasing our table count and unit games,
  - Renegotiating our current lease or find a new space with lower rent
  - Fund our monthly deficit with Vanguard funds for some period of time
  - or any combination of one or more of the above

The board discussed these options. See Lease Negotiations below.

- The treasurer's report was accepted.

## **4. New (or Continuing) Business:**

### **a. Play Nice Reporting:**

- i. There were two incidents where a member was dismissive of their partner or other players. Carol will have a chat with this member.

### **b. Covid-19 protocol proposal**

- i. Carol will update the signs to indicate that masks are required.

### **c. Mentoring program – Sydney Reuben**

- i. Sydney reported that there are now 22 mentor/mentee pairs.

#### **d. Lease Negotiations**

- i. The landlord has indicated that there will be no more reductions in the rent amount.
- ii. The current lease runs through 9/2022 but a decision about exercising the 5-year extension must be made by 3/1/2022, which means that we have to act expeditiously to research options. The board considered a few additional options besides the ones David mentioned in the treasurer's report:
  1. Terminate the lease (9/2022) and have infrequent, hopefully large, events in a different location (e.g. Mid-county Senior Center).
  2. Terminate the lease (9/2022) and find another venue for a full schedule of F2F games.
  3. Renew the lease for 5 years and offset losses with the Vanguard account (as we are doing now).
  4. Renegotiate the lease for (a) reduced rent and/or (b) reduced duration. Tom to help craft a list of negotiating points. Contacting the landlord or management company may include other individuals besides Sara to ensure that we get timely responses.
  5. Augment income for any of the above options with periodic sectionals that invite our neighboring units.

The board selected option 4 as the preferred path going forward.

#### **g. Election of Officers**

- i. We welcome Kris Smith and Lester Loops as new board members.
- ii. The board elected Carol Avenmarg as President, Ken Llacera as Vice President, David Harken as Treasurer and Robert Johnson as Secretary.

#### **h. 2022 Goals**

New goals were discussed for 2022. These include:

- i. Decrease the teaching hours goal to 2500 hours
- ii. Add a new director.
- iii. Add one new F2F game on the weekend.
- iv. Add one new F2F game on a week night.

#### **i. Game Update**

- i. The F2F game on Wednesday will be moved to 12:00pm starting in January.
- ii. The "Pro-Am" game will be held on second and fourth Thursdays.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, January 11, 2021, at 1:40 pm (SCBC)**

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm

Respectfully submitted, **Robert Johnson, Secretary**

# Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

**November 9, 2021 (at SCBC)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 1:50 PM.

**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Robert Johnson, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Ken Gamble, Steve Smith

**Absent:** David Harken, Tom Burke, Jonni Faircrest, Joanne Wicker (District 21 representative)

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The October minutes were approved.

### **3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken**

- Both October and YTD continue to show negative results. I expect our final year end results to be near a \$17,000 negative based on our base rent at 50%. If a new lease agreement is made prior to year end, our results may be greater than \$17,000. Our landlord has given us rent relief totaling \$33,780 from April 2020 through October 2021.
- The bridge center in the past 4 months continues to realize reduced BBO and F2F game revenue.
  - BBO Net (not including facility expenses e.g. rent, etc.) - \$12,864 = Income \$27,316 - Expense \$14,452
  - F2F Net (not including facility expenses e.g. rent, etc.) - (\$506) = Income \$3,139 – Expense \$ 3,645
- Our financial reports show operational results and do not reflect Vanguard withdrawals. I have withdrawn \$10,000 from Vanguard since early September in order to fund cash flow. Depending on the last 2 months I may have to withdraw additional funds.
  - The treasurer's report was accepted.

### **4. New (or Continuing) Business:**

#### **j. Play Nice Reporting:**

- ii. no reports of problems

#### **k. Covid-19 protocol proposal**

- ii. The board discussed and approved Ken Llacera's Covid-19 infection protocol and the appointment of Jacci Sterling as the center's health officer.

#### **l. Mentoring program – Sydney Reuben**

- ii. Sydney distributed a report on the 21 current mentor/mentee pairs.
- iii. Kris Smith will take over the mentoring program in January, 2022.
- iv. The Monday night BBO game is a mentor/mentee game.

#### **m. District 21 Newsletter (*Diamond in the Ruff*) Editor**

- i. Rick Zinman has volunteered to take on the editor role.

- n. **Dealing with Covid-19 – transition back to F2F bridge**
  - iii. October financials were sent to the landlord. We sent in the reduced rent for November.
- h. **Member Recruitment & Programs**
  - iii. **Social Bridge:** (Carol) Postponed until next year.
- o. **2021 Goals**
  - v. Unchanged. Teaching hours should increase with new classes starting.
- p. **Game Update**
  - iii. F2F games on Monday and Wednesday have moved to 10:00am to increase attendance.
  - iv. The Dolores Abrams and Holiday Party game will be combined on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 with the game beginning at 12:00. All attendees will be asked to bring an hors-d'oeuvre or main dish to share. The unit will provide dessert and liquid refreshment.
  - v. In October we had one "Pro-Am" game in which at least one player of the partnership must have fewer than 500 master points. There is one Pro-Am game scheduled for November 11.
- j. **Education Update**
  - i. Bette Harken taught 40 hours in October.
  - ii. Pam Benz taught 18 hours.
  - iii. Ken Llacera taught 12 hours.
- k. **Website Administration Backup**
  - i. The board expressed an interest in having a backup plan for website management since we rely so heavily on Ken's support. Robert is supposed to be the backup administrator but is not qualified to do this yet. Robert was assigned to investigate alternatives.
- l. **Unit Owner Representative**
  - i. Jonni Faircrest indicated to Robert that he feels he should step down as the unit owner representative to the board. The board agrees and also feels that the need for a unit owner representative may not exist anymore.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 2:00 pm (SCBC)**

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm

Respectfully submitted, **Robert Johnson, Secretary**

# Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

**October 12, 2021 (at SCBC)**

- 1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.  
**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Ken Gamble, Steve Smith, Tom Burke, Joanne Wicker (District 21 representative)  
**Absent:** Jonni Faircrest
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** The September minutes were approved.
- 3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken**
  - Both September and YTD showed negative results.
    - As reported earlier, August and September rent checks as well as the 2020 CAM check were cashed by the landlord. Presently there has been no response on our proposal from the Property Manager. Paid October rent at 1/2 base rent this week.
    - Income levels reflect BBO games, F2F games, and Mary's Club Owner games.
  - \$5,000 was transferred another from Vanguard to checking for expenses.
  - Union Bank (checking) has merged with US Bank. No changes yet that directly impact the Unit.
  - The treasurer's report was accepted.
- 4. New (or Continuing) Business:**
  - a. Play Nice Reporting:**
    - i. no reports of problems
  - b. Unit Board Election**
    - i. Tom Burke and Sydney Reuben are not seeking additional terms on the board. Kristin Smith and Lester Loops are joining the board.
  - c. District 21 Fall meeting – Joanne Wicker**
    - i. The Sacramento sectional requires vaccinations and masks
    - ii. The Palo Alto sectional had only 6 tables
    - iii. Club appreciation games continue (starting October 18)
    - iv. The Reno regional will be held March 2022
    - v. The Monterey regional will be held January 3-9, 2022. There will be no evening games.
    - vi. The NAP finals will be held online
  - d. Looking Forward – Sydney Reuben**
    - i. The unit has an ongoing problem with advancing students and players with few master points into the open games. Sydney sees a gap in instruction and support for those in transition to more competitive play.

- ii. When Nancy Wainer curtailed some classes, the pipeline that moved players from beginner to advanced broke down.
  - iii. Although we have excellent teachers, coordination of the teaching progression would help students to advance.
  - iv. Sydney suggested that Kris Smith could be helpful in bridging this teaching gap by coordinating the class level offerings and overseeing the mentorship program.
- e. District 21 Newsletter Editor**
- i. Karen Schamberg is stepping down as editor of Diamond in the Ruff. A new editor is being sought.
- f. Dealing with Covid-19 – transition back to F2F bridge**
- i. The management company has not responded to the letter we sent suggesting a one-year extension of the current lease.
- g. Member Recruitment & Programs**
- i. **Social Bridge:** (Carol) The first social bridge game will be held 10/30 (Saturday) at 10:00am. Snacks will be provided. Carol will contact Bette, Nancy, Kris and Angie to encourage class members to join. Pre-dealt hands from a previous game will be used.
  - ii. **Mentor program:** (Sydney) No new report.
- 8. 2021 Goals**
- i. 4000 student hours per year. Student hours were July: 98, August: 112, September: 161.
  - ii. 20 active mentor/mentee pairs
  - iii. Bring 20 players back into active play online
- g. Game Update**
- i. F2F games on Monday and Wednesday are not thriving. A move to a 10A start and a quicker game are seen as ways to grow the game. This has been suggested to Mary Pulliam previously. Carol will reach out again.
  - ii. Ken Llacera will resume his Wednesday review of the Tuesday night 299er game.
  - iii. A new F2F game will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month. This game will be a “Pro-Am” game in which at least one player of the partnership must have fewer than 500 master points. The first game will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.
- j. Education Update**
- i. Bette Harken’s beginner/intermediate class has 10-12 players.
  - ii. Sydney’s beginner class is proceeding with 6 members.
  - iii. Sydney is conducting a supervised play class for one table in her home. This group is getting ready to play in a 0-20 game.
  - iv. Nancy will teach a beginner class in 2022.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 2:00 pm (SCBC)**

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

**September 14, 2021 (at SCBC)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Ken Gamble

**Absent:** Steve Smith, Tom Burke, Jonni Faircrest, Joanne Wicker (District 21 representative)

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The August minutes were approved.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

- Both August and YTD showed negative results:
  - i. As reported earlier, we paid August rent at the reduced rate
  - ii. Our income reflects three BBO games (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday), two F2F games (Tuesday and Friday), and two Club Owner games (Monday and Wednesday). We have been unable to establish a consistent F2F game on Thursday.
- I made income and expense adjustments in our 2021 budget to better reflect where I anticipate where our year end may settle. If we can renegotiate a reduced base rent for another year, our year end results will be near a negative \$20,000. If not, our results will be a negative \$24,000+.
- I recently transferred \$5,000 from Vanguard to our checking account for cash flow. I anticipate more transfers to the checking account in the next 4 months.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

**4. New (or Continuing) Business:**

**a. Play Nice Reporting: None**

**b. Dealing with Covid-19 – transition back to F2F bridge**

- ii. The management company has not responded to requests for clarification regarding the rent reduction so we will continue to make payments at the 50% rate reduction.
- iii. The management company has suggested a one-year extension of the lease reduction. The consensus of the board was that this should be accepted, provided that our options on two more 5-year lease extensions would remain in place.
- iv. The property management company engaged an air conditioning company to evaluate the air circulation in the main room. We have not heard back on the results.
- v. As expected, the county now requires masks to be worn indoors regardless of vaccination status. We have instituted the requirement for our games, except during brief meal breaks. It was noted that Bette's students were observed not wearing masks. Apparently, this was after a

snack break. Bette will make a point of reminding the class to put their masks back on after a break.

**c. Member Recruitment**

- iii. **Social Bridge:** (Carol) The start of the social bridge program has been postponed due to the increased prevalence of the delta variant of Covid-19.
- iv. **Mentor program:** (Sydney) No new report.

**d. 2021 Goals**

- iv. 4000 student hours per year. The number of student hours per month is about 100-130. The current total for the year is about 1800.
- v. 20 active mentor/mentee pairs. This goal is currently met (see above).
- vi. Bring 20 players back into active play online. Minimal activity here.

**e. Game Update**

- i. Attendance at F2F games has decreased a bit to 4-6 tables.
- ii. Robin has indicated that she will not be resuming the Tuesday night game.
- iii. Mary is interested in selling her sanctions back to the unit. Negotiations are in progress. Mary would be interested in directing the Monday and Wednesday games for a fee. She would also be interested in resuming her restocking of supplies when she feels better.

**f. Center Maintenance**

- i. The air conditioner in the main room probably needs work.

**g. Education Update**

- v. Bette Harken is conducting her beginner class.
- vi. Sydney is conducting a beginner class for one table in her home.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 2:30 pm (SCBC)**

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**

**August 10, 2021 (at SCBC)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM.

**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Steve Smith, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Ken Gamble, Tom Burke

**Absent:** Jonni Faircrest, Joanne Wicker (District 21 representative)

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The July minutes were approved as modified by Ken L.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

- Both July and YTD reports shows continued negative results.
- July expenses include our initial installation of the Comcast internet and telephone, coffee machine repair, new sets of playing cards, janitorial and trash monthly services, annual property tax charge, various office supplies, and 1/2 of monthly base rent. We agreed to reduce director fees on 7/19 for F2F games until further notice.
- Income represents a mixture of online and F2F games (both free and \$5 per player table fees).
- Online table count was 57 from 13 games and F2F table count was 71.50 from 12 games. This volume represents about 5 tables per game from both game types.
- The 2020 CAM reconciliation has yet to be finalized. The Treasurer's Report reflects \$7805 transferred from Vanguard to our bank account.
- August rent is still in limbo until landlord reviews our July financials.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

### **4. New (or Continuing) Business:**

#### **a. Play Nice Reporting:**

- ii. no reports of problems
- iii. Slow play was noted as an issue that should be dealt with by directors and board members encouraging slow players to speed up.

#### **b. Dealing with Covid-19 – transition back to F2F bridge**

- vi. Carol sent our July financials to the landlord representative Sarah. Carol has not heard back yet about continuation of the reduced rent or the contested amount of the CAM billing. Tom suggested that our negotiating position should point out that our square footage is considerably less than what is mentioned in the lease agreement.
- vii. Five members of the board are up for replacement in December. Tom will not be continuing on the board. Nancy Wainer has expressed an interest in returning to the board.

- viii. The board discussed the possibility of the unit buying out the various club games. Robin Evenden wants to resume her Tuesday night game in the bridge center and, at some point, wants to sell her sanction for that game. The unit will wait and see what success Robin has before offering to buy back the sanction. Mark Hasey and Jan Winham have abandoned their games.
- ix. Masks at the table are currently optional but it is expected that the county may recommend masks indoors even for vaccinated individuals. If that occurs, the center will follow that advice and mandate mask use. It is understood that some players may object to the mask mandate.

**c. Member Recruitment**

- i. **Social Bridge:** (Carol) Carol and Kris Smith are planning a social bridge game, once a month on a Saturday, probably starting mid-September.
- ii. **Mentor program:** (Sydney) Sydney's solicitation of new mentor/mentee pairings raised our total to 20 active pairs.

**d. 2021 Goals**

- i. 4000 student hours per year. The number of student hours grew slowly as instructors took a break for summer.
- ii. 20 active mentor/mentee pairs. This goal is currently met (see above).
- iii. Bring 20 players back into active play online. Minimal activity here.

**e. Game Update**

- i. The return to F2F bridge has gone well. The initial games yielded 7 to 8 tables. Attendance has dropped off a bit since then.
- ii. Judy Osborn and Barb Tidwell staged a successful opening of the Thursday 499 game with 5 tables. The subsequent game netted only 2 ½ tables.
- iii. The Monday and Wednesday games run by Mary are subsidized by the unit to allow her to reduce her table fees. She is currently charging \$5, in line with the charge at unit games.
- iv. The STaC games during the week of August 16<sup>th</sup> will be subsidized by the unit so that the additional fees due to the Western Conference will be picked up by the unit for both unit and club games.
- v. To increase our table count, the board discussed adding a night game (in addition to Robin's game). This might be a mentor/mentee pot luck game.

**f. Center Maintenance**

- i. The coffee machine has been repaired and returned to service.

**g. Education Update**

- i. Bette Harken will be teaching a beginner class on Wednesdays at 10:00, starting in early September.
- ii. Sydney plans on starting a beginner class for one table in her home.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 2:30 pm (SCBC)**

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**

**July 13, 2021 (via Zoom)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order online at 2:35 PM.

**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Ken Gamble, Tom Burke, Joanne Wicker (District 21 representative), Jonni Faircrest, Judy Osborn (reporting on 499er game)

**Absent:** Steve Smith

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The June minutes were approved as modified by Ken L.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

- In order to make an accurate projection of our future expenses and expenses going forward, we need to estimate the number of games we will have going forward and the table counts we expect.
- 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**

- i. Carol has talked with the landlord representative Sarah. They want to know when the center will be ready to resume full operations.
- ii. The lease can be extended during the time period between 360 days before the current lease expires (August 31, 2022) and 180 days before the lease expires.
- iii. Five members of the board are up for replacement in December. We will start recruiting additional interested parties.
- iv. Ken discussed the resumption of unit sectionals. Our next opportunity is October 16-17. Joanne researched the ACBL guidance on sectionals during our meeting and reported back that masks will be required at sectionals. Based on that information and the consensus that a mask requirement would severely limit attendance at our sectional, the board decided to cancel the October sectional.
- v. Joanne reports that other regions of the country are beginning to have sectionals and regionals. Our next regional will be October 5-10 in Sparks Nevada.
- vi. Joanne reported on the last District 21 board meeting. A number of executive positions have recently changed. Sigrid Price will be the new president. The new board positions are reported in the most recent

“Diamonds in the Ruff” newsletter. Palo Alto wanted to hold a non-life master sectional. Instead, the ACBL will hold a non-life master regional in the near future.

- vii. The board discussed the possibility of the unit buying out the various club games. Robin Evenden is interested in selling her sanction. Jonni Faircrest is interested in selling his sanctions for the 2 F2F games. Carol will contact Mark Hasey to see what his plans are.
- viii. Center member Susan Mazzei expressed an interest in becoming the director for the Thursday morning F2F game. Carol will follow up with Susan to see if we can make that work. This would replace Susan’s online Thursday 499 game.
- ix. Judy Osborne reported on the July 29<sup>th</sup> 499er welcome back game. Ken Gamble will direct. Judy and Barb Tidwell are hosting this game. Food will be provided during the 10:00 to 10:30 socialization period. Judy requested guidance on the type of food. The consensus was that individual portions of any appropriate food is acceptable. The board will subsidize the food, glasses and drinks, not to exceed \$200.

**c. Member Recruitment**

- i. **Social Bridge:** (Carol) None for the next month.
- ii. **Mentor program:** (Sydney) 15 pairs are currently operating.

**d. 2021 Goals**

- i. 4000 student hours per year. John Wesolowski will track progress.
- ii. 20 active mentor/mentee pairs. Sydney will track.
- iii. Bring 20 players back into active play online.

**e. Game Update**

- i. The return to F2F bridge has gone well. Games have been well attended by about 7 to 8 tables.
- ii. The price per game will initially be set at \$5. We will call this an introductory price. The fee may increase in the future. David brought up the proposal to introduce electronic payment for games.
- iii. The coffee machine is broken. Tom Burke volunteered to take our current (broken) machine to a shop for repair. The bridge center has a simpler backup coffee machine.

**f. Education Update**

- i. Bette Harken will be starting a beginning class in September.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 2:30 pm (F2F)**

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm

Respectfully submitted, Robert Johnson, Secretary

# Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

## American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

**June 8, 2021 (via Zoom)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order online at 2:35 PM.

**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Ken Gamble, Steve Smith, Tom Burke, Joanne Wicker (District 21 representative)

**Absent:** Jonni Faircrest

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The May minutes were approved as modified by Ken L.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

- May and the YTD results continue to be negative as our table counts were down to 108. [April was 136.] Normal bridge center operations are about \$4500 per month in general expenses (regular base rent) excluding office supplies and repairs/maintenance expense. May's net revenue was \$1155.
- For the last 11 months, the Unit shows a net negative of \$3500. During that period we had an exceptional one-time \$5000 catch up for CAM. Note that this number includes the reduced lease payments.
- The Vanguard account was \$473,882 on April 30, 2020. The account stands at \$578,779 on May 31, 2021, representing an unrealized gain of about \$100,000.
- The cleaning service did a deep clean the center this past week.
- The Bridgemates were cleaned; some need new batteries, which David purchased after the initial installation.
- Internet and telephone service by Comcast has been installed thanks to Tom and Ken L.
- The board decided to activate weekly cleaning of the center as in the past.
- David suggests the Unit could extend the free games for as much as 3 months and that when the Unit goes back to charging for games, perhaps a reduced game fee. A reduced game fee for Unit-owned games would compete with Club Owner games. Although Club Owners set their table fee independently, any change by the Unit should include discussion with them.
- 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

- i. Carol met with the landlord to attempt to extend the reduced rent for another 3-month period as we build back our attendance. The landlord has not responded yet.
- ii. Santa Cruz County has entered the yellow tier. The center is now ready for games. A practice game on June 6 ran successfully, except for stratification and posting. June 16<sup>th</sup> will be our first F2F game. We will start with a limited F2F schedule and add games as attendance builds. Starting with Wednesday and Friday games, both at 10:30A, with a short break for lunch. For at least the four weeks (through July 14<sup>th</sup>) there will be no fee. Carol will check vaccination records at the door for June.
- iii. Steve will approach Howard to put an advertisement into KSQD. David, Ken G. and Tom will look into other methods of spreading the word.
- iv. The board discussed inviting neighboring Units to play in our free games. We will wait a few weeks to see what our turnout is with our own members before extending the invitation.
- v. Eating will be allowed at the table only during meal breaks. Players will be asked to clean tables and hands prior to resuming play.
- vi. Because the state will be in 'open' mode on June 15, masks will be optional. Table separation will be as before the pandemic. Ken L. will confirm that this presents no problem with the ACBL.
- vii. Tom will prepare a new sign with our Covid-19 policies and a sign at the door to indicate vaccinations are required.
- viii. ACBL new rules through the end of the year: the ACBL will allow combining open games with limited games with either game being online. The open game will be able to award more master points as a result.
- ix. ACBL: F2F games will have augmented master points in the last six months of the year. Online game master points will have a reduced multiplier.

##### c. Member Recruitment

- i. **Social Bridge:** (Carol) None for the next month.
- ii. **Mentor program:** (Sydney) Nothing new to report.

##### d. 2021 Goals

- i. 4000 student hours per year. John Wesolowski will track progress.
- ii. 20 active mentor/mentee pairs. Sydney will track.
- iii. Bring 20 players back into active play online.

##### e. Game Update

- i. Virtual games or "club" games attendance continues to drop. 108 tables in the unit games.

##### f. Education Update

- i. (John Wesolowski) In April we had 188 student hours and 1405 hours for the year.
- ii. A private company (Club King) is starting a beginner class. Tom will investigate.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 2:30 pm (Zoom)**

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, *Robert Johnson, Secretary*

# **Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

## **American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550**

**May 11, 2021 (via Zoom)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order online at 2:35 PM.

**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Ken Gamble, Steve Smith, Tom Burke, Jonni Faircrest

**Absent:** Joanne Wicker (District 21 representative)

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

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

- Both April and YTD show similar negative results. As we stated last month our table counts continue to decrease. April's count was 136.5, half of what we experienced 6 months ago. Most of our operating expenses were suspended in the past year, but as we return to F2F bridge we will need those services. In addition, we do not know if our reduced rent will continue after June. Lower future table counts on virtual and F2F games, will put pressure on our net results more than in the past year.
- David purchased several COVID prevention items including a thermometer, a sanitizer station with sanitizer dispenser, Purell sanitizer refills, masks, and sanitizer wipes.
- David contacted our previous cleaning crew and am waiting for when they can deep clean the bridge center.
- David also contacted Cruzio to see what is needed to begin internet and telephone service.
- The board discussed and approved the purchase of an internet router, broadband and telephone service. Ken L. and Tom will pursue this.
- Our trash services were suspended last year and we should resume when we expect to return.
- There are mechanical equipment pieces or appliances that need to be cleaned or operated to see if they work, or need replacement.
- Monthly income has declined to about \$1600/Mo. Our rent (at the 50% reduced rate) is \$2200/Mo. Other expenses are minimal at this time but will increase to previous levels when we return to F2F bridge.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

### **4. New (or Continuing) Business:**

#### **a. Play Nice Reporting:**

- i. Ken L. had one substitute player that was rude to his partner. That substitute has been placed on the ignore list.

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

- i. Carol will meet with the landlord to attempt to extend the reduced rent for another 3 month period as we build back our attendance.
- ii. Santa Cruz County has not yet entered the yellow tier (as of 5/11/2021) but the advancement to yellow tier is expected next week. Work will begin immediately to set up the infrastructure (computer and internet). We will set June 9<sup>th</sup> as our target for our first F2F game. We will start with a limited F2F schedule and build up as attendance builds. We will start with Wednesdays and Fridays, both at 10:00. For at least the first month there will be no fee. Steve will approach Howard to put an advertisement into KSQD. David, Ken G. and Tom will look into other methods of spreading the word.
- iii. David, Carol and Robert met at the center and determined that we can handle 10 tables at a safe table separation. Seven tables in the front room and 3 tables in the back room.
- iv. Virtual games will not conflict with F2F games (i.e. conflicting virtual games will be canceled).
- v. Sectional games will be discussed at a later meeting.

## **c. Member Recruitment**

- i. **Social Bridge:** (Carol) Kris and Carol are making plans for social bridge.
- ii. **Mentor program:** (Sydney) No new report.
- iii. **Member Outreach:** (Steve) No new outreach activity.

## **d. 2021 Goals**

- i. 4000 student hours per year. John Wesolowski will track progress.
- ii. 20 active mentor/mentee pairs. Sydney will track.
- iii. Bring 20 players back into active play online.

## **e. Game Update**

- i. Virtual games or “club” games attendance has dropped dramatically in the past several months. This gives us less revenue to make the rent payment and other expenses each month and will have to use the investment account to make up the difference.
- ii. Jonni runs the mentor/mentee game on Monday night, an open game on Tuesday day, a 499-er game at 6:15 on Thursday night and an open game at 6:45 also on Thursday night.
- iii. The inter-district 99-er game is thriving. The unit received more than \$600, which triggered the requirement for a W-9 form later.
- iv. The Swiss Teams game is now a mid-flight only (1500 max MPs).

## **f. Education Update**

- i. (John Wesolowski) In April we had 201 student hours and 1217 hours for the year. This makes us a little below our goal of 333 hours per month.
- ii. Ken’s class on slam bidding completed 6 weeks very successfully. After a break Ken promised to hold some practice sessions.
- iii. Tom investigated a private company offering a beginner’s class. Nancy Wainer did not attend but reviewed some of their material and found it lacking.

- iv. A private company (Club King) is starting a beginner class. Tom will investigate.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 2:30 pm (Zoom or maybe at the Santa Cruz Bridge Center!)**

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm

Respectfully submitted, Robert Johnson, Secretary

# **Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

## **American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550**

**April 13, 2021 (via Zoom)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order online at 2:35 PM.

**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Ken Gamble, Steve Smith, Tom Burke, Jonni Faircrest

**Absent:**

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

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

- Last month we had a small loss but for the year we show a small profit.
- Our table count continues to go down (down 50% from October 2020) so that's a concern going forward. The board discussed ideas to increase participation. Changing times may permit more players to participate. As an experiment, the Sunday game will be changed from 11:45 to 9:45. Ken Gamble will write up a promotion for the new time and emphasize the fact that our virtual club games have the potential to award more master points.
- Nextdoor announcements did not create more players.
- David will begin to track the impact of the unit subsidizing silver games.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

### **4. New (or Continuing) Business:**

#### **a. Play Nice Reporting:**

- i. We had one instance of a non-responsive player. Ken G. excluded two substitutes this month. In BBO terms, this is done by putting the player on the ignore list. Jonni dealt with one player that was making negative comments about her partner but this did not result in an exclusion. On another instance Jonni dealt with an abusive substitute player by excluding them.

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

- i. The rent is reduced by half through June, 2021. In June the rent situation will be revisited. At the next negotiation Carol will try to arrange for another 3 months of reduced rent. Tom Burke suggests a different negotiating approach to achieve a significant reduced rate for a new lease term. Tom will talk to the first-floor tenant again to see what their situation is and their level of interest in occupying our space on a sub-lease.
- ii. Reopening date & plans: The ACBL has provided a roadmap for returning to face-to-face bridge.

- iii. Robert presented the proposal that the sub-committee prepared for re-opening. There were no suggestions for change. Robert will send this proposal out to the full committee. The plan going forward is to try one game a week when Santa Cruz County enters the "Covid-19 Yellow Tier." The yellow tier allows 75% indoor occupancy. The Friday game is suggested as an opportunity.
- iv. David, Carol and Robert will meet at the center to set up the tables to see what table count we can accommodate while maintaining 75% occupancy.

**c. Member Recruitment**

- i. **Social Bridge:** (Carol) No current plans for social bridge.
- ii. **Mentor program:** (Sydney) We are now up to 20 active mentor pairs.
- iii. **Member Outreach:** (Steve) No new outreach activity.

**d. 2021 Goals**

- i. (John Wesolowski) In March we had 246 student hours and 1016 hours for the year. This keeps us on-track for our goal of 333 hours per month.
- ii. 20 active mentor/mentee pairs.
- iii. Bring 20 players back into active play online.

**e. Game Update**

- i. As our table count and BBO revenue continues to decline, the Dolores Abrams bequest is used to meet the financial obligations of the center, such as the rent payment.
- ii. Jonni runs the mentor/mentee game on Monday night, an open game on Tuesday day, a 499-er game at 6:15 on Thursday night and an open game at 6:45 also on Thursday night.
- iii. The inter-district 99-er game is thriving.
- iv. The Swiss Teams game is now a mid-flight only (1500 max MPs).

**f. Education Update**

- i. Ken's class on slam bidding is proceeding on the Shark online play system. The consensus is that this platform is a very effective teaching / learning tool.
- ii. The ACBL is holding a beginner's class. Tom will attend a session to see what tools are being used.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 2:30 pm (Zoom)**

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, **Robert Johnson, Secretary**

# **Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

## **American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550**

**March 9, 2021 (via Zoom)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order online at 2:35 PM.

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

**Absent:** Tom Burke

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The February 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. BBO income is reduced slightly from past months.
- David adjusted the budget for the continuation of reduction in rent.
- David will begin to track the impact of the unit subsidizing silver games.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

**4. New (or Continuing) Business:**

#### **a. Play Nice Reporting:**

- i. We had a sub that was rude to his partner. This person has been removed from our list.
- ii. An incident occurred where a player requested an explanation to a bid. The response was to see the convention card. This is not proper etiquette. Just answer the question. This incident was handled at the table.

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

- iv. The rent is reduced by half through June 2021. In June, the rent situation will be revisited.
- v. Reopening date & plans: The ACBL has provided a roadmap for returning to face-to-face bridge. We may try out face-to-face bridge to see if we can sustain the bridge center lease. This would cause the lease rate to revert to the full rate with no by the landlord, unless an accommodation was worked out in advance.
- vi. If we have a significant population of players that are fully vaccinated and the county is in a tier that allows 50% occupancy, we might be able to have face-to-face (F2F) games starting in June. We might start with just one game a week.

- vii. Jonni wants to be on record that the center should not require an experimental medical treatment to allow face-to-face bridge. He claims it's a violation of the Nuremberg Code that requires informed consent.
- viii. Rules about table hygiene would have to be established by the board. A subcommittee of Carol, John and Robert will develop recommendations.

**c. Member Recruitment**

- iv. **Social Bridge:** (Carol) No current plans for social bridge.
- v. **Mentor program:** (Sydney) We are now up to 19 active mentor pairs. Some new pairings have been set up because of the phone calls that Steve made. Note: players that have moved out of the area are designated 'associates.' They receive email, etc. They can also be listed as mentors or mentees.
- vi. **Member Outreach:** (Steve) Steve will contact some of those players who have not yet joined us online to see if they would like to be mentored. This might encourage more participation.

**d. 2021 Goals**

- i. (John Wesolowski) In January we had 517 student hours and in February we had 273 hours. Our goal is 4000 student hours (333 hours per month).
- ii. 20 active mentor/mentee pairs.
- iii. Bring 20 players back into active play online.

**e. Game Update**

- i. Ken L. is starting a Swiss Teams game for Wednesday nights at 6:00. The clock is set at 6 minutes per board. So far, the participation has been very promising: two nights of 16 tables, one night of 12 tables.
- ii. Jonni started a 499er game on Tuesday but it didn't gain traction. Jonni might try to revive this on Thursday night as a 299er game.
- iii. Joanne reported that the new president has been installed at the district level. The secretary position is now available. Minutes of the district board meeting will be made available.
- iv. More pairs from our unit are playing in the inter-district 99er game. The unit have received a share of the proceeds. Ken L. will send a reminder to our membership that might be interested in a 0-20 game.
- v. Friday's night game will be cancelled.
- vi. Saturday's 199er game will be cancelled.

**f. Education Update**

- i. Ken's class on slam bidding will use Shark online play system.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 2:30 pm (Zoom)**

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, **Robert Johnson, Secretary**

# Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

## American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

**February 9, 2021 (via Zoom)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order online at 2:45 PM.

**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Ken Gamble, Jonni Faircrest

**Absent:** Steve Smith, Joanne Wicker (D21 representative)

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The January 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.
- Ken introduced a proposal that silver week games be subsidized by the unit so that the game fee per player will be the same as a regular game. This was approved.
- The 2021 budget was approved. The budget was adjusted for the extension of the rent reduction.
- 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**

- i. Carol met with the landlord to discuss extending the lease reduction beyond February. The ownership agreed to extend the rent reduction for three more months, covering March through June, 2021. In June the rent situation will be revisited.
- ii. Reopening date & plans: The board discussed future plans as the potential for face-to-face bridge is on the horizon. The ACBL is discussing this issue. We may try out face-to-face bridge to see if we can sustain the bridge center lease when it reverts to no more reduction in rates by the landlord.
- iii. BBO & zoom – Ken L.'s *Play and Defend* class has finished up with all attendees very happy with the result.
- iv. Voice Chat on BBO: Our directors have enabled this feature rarely.

**c. Member Recruitment**

- i. **Social Bridge:** Carol is planning on setting up a once-a-month game for a single table. This request was made by her mentees.
- ii. **Mentor program:** Sydney Reuben. Sydney listed several new mentor/mentee partnerships. We are now up to 13 active mentor pairs.

- iii. **Member Outreach:** Carol reported for Steve Smith. Steve contacted 4 people who have no interest in online bridge. 11 people were already signed up on BBO. These people are not playing in our club games. 14 people were not connected on BBO. 10 cannot play due to physical limitations that may be temporary. 5 people did not answer. Steve left messages with 13 other players. He will contact these again.

**d. 2021 Goals**

- i. 4000 student hours. It was noted that Ken L.'s class generated at least 660 hours over 10 weeks. This category will include formal instruction and supervised play but not mentoring. John Wesolowski will collect these hours and report to the board monthly.
- ii. 20 active mentor/mentee pairs.
- iii. Bring 20 players back into active play online.

**e. Game Update**

- i. Ken L. is starting a Swiss Teams game for Wednesday nights at 6:00. The game will not be stratified. The directorship rotates between 3 units.
- ii. Jonni started a 499 game on Tuesday daytime but it didn't gain traction.
- iii. Revenue is matching expectations, so table count seems to be holding steady.
- iv. Three pairs from our unit are playing in the inter-district 99er game.

**f. Education Update**

- i. Ken L completed his Play and defend class.
- ii. Ken's future class on slam bidding will use Shark online play system.
- iii. District 7 started a beginning bridge class on BBO three times a week and the class is free. They had 180 participants in the first class. Tom Burke will see how we can get this information out to our members.

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 2:30 pm (Zoom)**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, **Robert Johnson, Secretary**

# Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

## American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

**January 12, 2021 (via Zoom)**

**1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order online at 2:40 PM.

**Present:** Carol Avenmarg, Ken Llacera, Tom Burke, Robert Johnson, David Harken, Sydney Reuben, John Wesolowski, Jonni Faircrest

**Absent:** Steve Smith, Ken Gamble, Joanne Wicker (D21 representative)

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The December 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.
- The landlord has installed solar panels on the building. This should reduce our electric bills. But the billing has not occurred since March so the budget for 2021 uses an estimate for electric costs.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.
- The 2021 budget was approved. The budget will be revisited if and when face-to-face bridge will resume.

### **4. New (or Continuing) Business:**

#### **a. Play Nice Reporting:**

- i. One substitute player was rude and has been removed from our list.

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

- i. Carol will meet with the landlord in January to discuss extending the lease reduction beyond February. Ken will provide contact info to Carol.
- ii. Reopening date & plans: we should require proof of vaccination (both doses, if required) before we allow players to return to the center. Tom notes that the CDC has just changed their recommendation to authorize vaccines for all persons over 65.
- iii. BBO & zoom – Ken L.'s *Play and Defend* class has completed 6 lessons. All pairs but one stayed in the course.
- iv. 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. Partners cannot communicate during the play of the hand.
- v. BBO is now charging tax on BBO \$\$.

### **c. Member Recruitment**

- i. Margaret Suddards is running a social bridge event on BBO and Zoom on Mondays. Carol suggests that we make this opportunity known to our less confident players.
- ii. **Member Outreach:** Steve Smith contacted folks from Ken's list of lapsed players. We will get his report next month. Ken L provided 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 contacted Nicci and Dick Winner and Ann Sydes to see if they were interested in joining our club games. Carol has reached out to a lapsed player and will play with that person this week.
- iii. Tom Burke will resume the email surveys early next year.
- iv. **Mentor program:** Sydney Reuben. Sydney drafted guidelines for what mentors and mentees should be doing in this program. 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. Ken L. increased the maximum point range for the 199er games to 299er for the Tuesday evening game. The Monday night mentor/mentee game is still running but attendance is barely sufficient.

### **d. Game Update**

- i. Jonni will continue to consider adjusting his games and limits to see if he can increase the participation.
- ii. The Tuesday night Fast Pairs game is suspended indefinitely.
- iii. Three pairs from our unit are playing in the inter-district 99er game. There is talk of increasing the limit to 199er.

### **e. Education Update**

- iv. Ken L completed week 6 of his *Play & Defend* class. 42 people are continuing in the 10-week class.

## **5. Member Programs:**

- a. No updates

## **6. Next board meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 2:30 pm (Zoom)**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Robert Johnson, Secretary