

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz, Unit 550

2023

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the entire set of minutes.***

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

December 12, 2023 (SCBC)

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

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, Ken Gamble, David Harken, Robert Johnson, Josh Karter, Ken Llacera, Lester Loops, Steve Smith, John Wesolowski

Absent: Ken Martin

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

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- November and YTD results continue as negative.
- Surfs Up expense has now been fully recorded and the results are a positive \$590.
- We received the 2022 audit from our CPA firm for review. Audit and filing costs continue to rise, currently at \$915.
- Dave asked Carol to hold a foundation (SCBEF) meeting to record our bank balance and instructions to help fund our Unit new player game expense.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. Board Officers: No change: President: Carol Avenmarg, Vice President: Ken Llacera, Treasurer: David Harken, Secretary: Robert Johnson, Membership: Josh Karter, Marketing: Leslie Davidson.

b. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting was held on December 2nd. The unit financial status was presented by Treasurer David Harken. The memorial list was read by President Carol Avenmarg. Secretary Robert Johnson led a discussion of the status of Covid-19 in the community and the advisability of rescinding the vaccination requirement to enter the bridge center. Many opinions were expressed with the consensus that the time for the vaccination requirement had passed.

The Dolores Abrams game was not held because of a power outage. The Dolores Abrams game will be held on January 20. **Ken Llacera** will send out an announcement.

c. Covid-19 Vaccination Requirement: The board voted unanimously to rescind the previous vaccination requirement. Various board members were assigned individuals to call to invite them back to the bridge center.

d. Play Nice Reporting: No new reports.

e. WhatsApp: More individuals are joining the WhatsApp partnership desk. **Robert** and **Ken** will work on the announcement in December.

- f. **Kvell:** Leslie Davidson and Kathy Stone recorded a wonderful kvell for our bridge center. It will be published in the middle of December. Ken will put a link to the kvell on the website.
- g. **Annual Meeting Caterer:** The board was remiss in not asking Heather if she wanted to cater the annual meeting brunch. Carol will offer an apology and let Heather know that the board authorized giving heather free play for the year 2024.
- h. **STaC Game:** Mary Pulliam directed one of the STaC games. Carol will purchase a \$50 gift card and present it to Mary.
- i. **Lapsed Players:** The ACBL sends out a list of lapsed players. Steve Smith will take this list and contact those members to encourage them to return.
- j. **Player Database:** It was noted that newly joined members are not showing up in the BridgeMates. Ken will investigate.
- k. **Game Updates:**
The 'newplicate' game is thriving. The next game is on January 3, 2024. There will be no game on 12/25/2023 or 1/1/2024. There will be a game on 1/2/2024.
- g. **Lease Negotiations:** When the lease comes up later in 2024, our goals should be: a 5-year lease with one 5-year option at \$3800 per month.
- h. **2023 Goals:**
 - 3000 student hours – John Wesolowski: Our over-achieving teachers accumulated 3565 student hours in the first 11 months of the year. Nancy's beginner class has 8 tables.
 - Mentor mentee pairs – Lester Loops: 25 active mentor/mentee pairs.
 - Returning members - Ken Gamble: No new report.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 2:10 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Santa Cruz Bridge Education Foundation

December 12, 2023 (SCBC)

1. Call to Order: President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 3:25 pm.

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, Ken Gamble, David Harken, Robert Johnson, Josh Karter, Ken Llacera, Lester Loops, Steve Smith, John Wesolowski

Absent: Ken Martin

2. Treasurer's Report: David Harken

- The SCBEF pays for the newcomer game. In 2023 this amounted to \$280. The current balance of the foundation is \$5792.09.
- Carol's director fees are paid by the SCBEF.
- The board recommended that the unit set out a donation jar for the SCBEF at the Dolores Abrams game in January.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

November 14, 2023 (SCBC)

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

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, Ken Gamble, Robert Johnson, Josh Karter, Ken Llacera, Lester Loops, Ken Martin, Steve Smith

Absent: David Harken, John Wesolowski

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

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- October and YTD results continue as negative but it appears our budgeted annual loss will be lower than projected
- Online table fee revenue continues to decline but F2F revenue is building slightly.
- Some of Surfs-Up expense will not be fully recognized until November as they were charged on our unit credit card.
- Lease negotiation will begin next year.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

- a. Board Members:** There were no new applicants to join the board. Existing members whose 2-year term is up are returning to the board. Therefore, there is no need for an election.
- b. Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting will be combined with the Dolores Abrams game on December 2, Saturday. Brunch will be served at 11:00; game at 12. Robert will send out an announcement with the menu. The announcement will also solicit feedback on the Covid vaccination requirement.
- c. Covid-19:** Two members contracted Covid after attending a Palo Alto sectional and one of these members attended games the following week. Other players at these games were informed via email of the exposure risk. No further spread of the disease was reported. Maintaining the vaccination requirement for the SCBC will be discussed at the annual meeting. It was noted that ACBL and D21 tournaments no longer require vaccination.
- d. Play Nice Reporting:** There was a complaint of too few boards being played at the Wednesday night game. The complainant will be contacted by Carol and the situation explained.
- e. Policy & Procedures:** Changes to the Policy and Procedure document were approved. Ken Llacera will post the new document on the website.
- f. WhatsApp:** Robert described the new WhatsApp group that is proposed as a "Partnership Desk" for members to find partners for upcoming games. The

- group is being tested on a small trial basis. The board approved sending an announcement to the full membership. **Robert** will do this in December.
- g. Kvell:** Ken Llacera announced a new segment of the “Sorry Partner” podcast that will allow clubs to promote their services to a wider audience. Josh explained that kvell translates to “bursting with pride.” The board agreed to submit ideas to **Leslie** to collect and formulate our kvell for publishing next year.
 - h. Bulletin Boards:** **Leslie** offered to refresh our bulletin boards in the center. The board approved the nominal cost to do this.
 - i. Game Updates:** No changes.
 - j. 2023 Goals:**
 - 3000 student hours – John Wesolowski: On track to meet our goal.
 - Mentor mentee pairs – Lester Loops: 25 active mentor/mentee pairs.
 - Returning members - Ken Gamble: No new report.
 - k. Holiday:** Holiday decorations will be put up November 25.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

October 10, 2023 (SCBC)

1. Call to Order: President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:20 pm.

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, David Harken, Ken Gamble, Robert Johnson, Ken Llacera, Steve Smith, John Wesolowski

Absent: Josh Karter, Lester Loops, Ken Martin

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

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- September and YTD results continue as negative.
- We have transferred \$30,150 through 10/5/23 from Vanguard to fund SCBC operations.
- Surf's Up tournament made about \$500. Waiting for the Mid-County Senior Center refund.
- The annual hospitality costs for the bridge center came to \$2300 which, although above budget, is in line with pre-Covid years.
- The director fees for the Wednesday newcomer games are paid by the Education Foundation.
- After investigating alternate insurance, no change was made.
- The annual audit by Summit Accounting will be completed in about 30 days.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

- a. Lani Ray:** Lani attended on behalf of Heather MacGregor and herself and discussed several issues:
- The center is losing players to the Mid-County Senior Center. About 8 players have moved from our center to MCSC. The 10:00 game start discourages some of these players.
 - Having playing directors penalizes other participants (with a sit-out) when there is a half table.
 - Directors playing with expert players creates an imbalance. Directors should be required to play with less experienced players.
 - Special treat games, like celebrating achievements or birthdays will make those games more fun.
 - Slow play is causing frustration.
 - Heather would like greater promotion of the Sunday brunch.

The board discussed these issues and had these comments and recommendations:

- Some of the MSCS players also play at SCBC. Even a half hour delay to the start of the game presents a traffic issue for players going home to the South. Conversely, an earlier start time presents a traffic issue for those driving North.
 - The by-laws explicitly allow for playing directors. Directors should not be prohibited from playing (and their partners sent home) if a half table develops. Directors like to play with better partners playing advanced conventions. Award stratification allows everybody to earn master points in their stratification.
 - The board will investigate having cake available on special days.
 - The board adopted a new strategy for slow play. (1) Directors will announce the time limit for a round at the beginning of play. (2) Directors will maintain a timer on their cell phone or other device to announce when no new boards may be started (end of the round minus 3 minutes). (3) Directors will announce the end of the round verbally and enforce the no-new-board rule. (4) Board members have already discussed slow play with certain players to encourage them to improve their speed of play.
 - The Sunday brunch will be prominently announced on the home page of the website with a link to the menu provided. The brunch will be promoted on the newsletter which is also on the website.
- b. Board Members:** The election will be announced soon.
- c. Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting will be combined with the Dolores Abrams game on December 2, Saturday, at 10:00. **Leslie** will ask Mark Riley if he would make paella for the meal.
- d. Covid-19:** No new report. Maintaining the vaccination requirement for the SCBC will be put up for a vote at the annual meeting.
- e. Play Nice Reporting:** No new reports.
- f. Policy & Procedures:** **Robert Johnson** will distribute the updated version to the board for discussion at the next board meeting.
- g. Surf's Up Sectional:** The sectional was a success with 19 tables Saturday morning and 11 tables on Sunday. Leslie has agreed to chair the Rising Stars sectional.
- h. Game Updates:** No changes.
- i. 2023 Goals:**
- 3000 student hours – John Wesolowski: On track to meet our goal.
 - Mentor mentee pairs – Lester Loops: 25 active mentor/mentee pairs.
 - Returning members - Ken Gamble: No new report.
- j. Newsletter:** Leslie Davidson is doing an exceptional job. An appropriate excerpt of the newsletter is submitted by Leslie for inclusion in the Diamond in the Ruff district 21 newsletter.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

September 12, 2023 (SCBC)

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

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Ken Gamble, Josh Karter, Robert Johnson, Ken Llacera, Steve Smith, John Wesolowski

Absent: Leslie Davidson, David Harken, Lester Loops, Ken Martin

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

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- August and YTD losses continue and are better than budget as table count increased.
- I prepaid the MCSC for the rent of their facility, and the tournament actuals and budget will be reflected in September
- I will post these prior to our meeting as I will be out of town.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

- a. **Board Members:** In preparation for the election of new board members we need to determine how many board members will be continuing and how many need to be replaced. Ken Llacera subsequently reported that 3 seats will be up for election: the seats held by David Harken, Robert Johnson and Lester Loops. All other board members will be continuing with their second year of membership on the board. Carol will talk to Shamim Formoso to see if she is interested in taking a seat on the board.
- b. **Play Nice Reporting:** A respected member of the center complained that games are habitually running too long. This member requested that players be admonished for slow play and that steps be taken to get players to adhere to the time constraints of the game. The board decided on these actions:
 - Directors will make an announcement at the beginning of each game. All players will be responsible for keeping the table on time.
 - Maintaining the round clock when there are delays, like director calls or lunch are difficult when we have a playing director. Steps like displaying the clock and turning on an audible alarm at 2 minutes left in the round will not be instituted unless slow play continues.
 - Ken Llacera and Josh Karter will be talking to individuals known to have trouble completing hands on time.

- c. **Membership Chair:** Josh Karter will be taking over the membership chair responsibilities from Ken Gamble. Josh will update the accolades board in the center from information online on our website. Carol has ordered the nameplates for new life masters.
- d. **Covid-19:** A member was coughing and declined to wear a mask. No resolution was discussed.
- e. **Surf's Up Sectional:** Farol is still doing a great job of preparing for the sectional. She has reminded the volunteers of their responsibilities for the tournament. The sectional timeline document has been updated with new items that must be attended to for each sectional.
- f. **Game Updates**
 - o **Sunday brunch:** The brunch on August 27th had an excellent turnout of eight and a half tables. Due to holiday conflict, the December game will be moved to December 17th. The November game will be held on Thanksgiving weekend on November 26th.
 - o **Social bridge:** The September 6th social game had 6 tables. Nancy sent out a thank you note to the attendees requesting feedback. A Mitchell movement was selected for ease of explanation. The field was quite slow – 10 boards in 2 hours but they will improve. The players learned to use the BridgeMates. The 'lead' field of the BridgeMates will be eliminated for this game in the future. The next "Newplicate" game will be October 4th.
- g. **2023 Goals:**
 - 3000 student hours – John Wesolowski: YTD: 2736 hours.
 - Mentor mentee pairs – Lester Loops: 25 active mentor/mentee pairs.
 - Returning members - Ken Gamble: No new report.
- h. **Diamond in the Ruff Newsletter:** Leslie Davidson is still doing a brilliant job.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

August 8, 2023 (SCBC)

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

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, Ken Gamble, David Harken, Josh Karter, Lester Loops, Ken Martin, Steve Smith

Absent: Robert Johnson, Ken Llacera, John Wesolowski

Guest: Nancy Wainer

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

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- July and YTD losses are better than budget, and our Annual Budget of \$44,000 loss might come in lower.
 - Increasing table counts that average \$4,000+ of income per month would help reduce Vanguard fund withdrawals. Current table fees come to \$3,000 per month, which is a decrease from previous.
 - 10 more pairs per week would achieve break even.
- The Vanguard balance is \$440,000. I will show you a report that our Vanguard Funds have been able to produce YTD returns that are higher than our cash withdrawals.
 - While there is no assurance that our returns will continue, it does speak to our ability to fund our current bridge operations
 - It may also give us a positive glimpse with our lease negotiations next year as commercial lease space struggles
- Ken L asked David to cover more of his expenses for web/internet services, which now cost \$115. Ken is now being reimbursed \$80. He would like to be paid \$100. The board approved \$115 per month.
- David has heard from the Unit's AED company that our AED possibly has defective pads. Awaiting new AED pads being replaced by the AED company. The new pads should arrive soon.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

- a. **Nancy Wainer:** Nancy brought a proposal by Heather MacGregor: will the unit undertake starting a 49er game? Nancy would direct every other with a mini lesson. It would be held monthly. Perhaps a day game on Wednesdays. Discussion led to making it a 12 board, sanctioned MP game. Sherry Gailbreath has volunteered to be director once a month for beginning introduction to a duplicate game. Heather will provide a lunch for purchase. After more discussion, it was agreed Nancy would poll the current group of beginner players as to what day of the week, either Monday with no lunch, or

Wednesday with catered lunch was most popular and could gain the most attendance. It would be the 1st Monday or Wednesday of the month.

- b. Play Nice Reporting:** No new reports.
- c. Covid-19:** No relaxing of the of Covid vaccine requirement at this time. In our club, more who want people to be vaccinated, than members who don't have the vaccine.
- d. Surf's Up Sectional:** Fall sectional going well. 200 pencils need sharpening, Carol and Leslie will help with sharpening. Betty and David can purchase the pre-ordered sandwiches from Nob Hill Foods. Farol's partner to pick up sandwiches.
- e. Game Updates**
 - **Sunday brunch:** The brunch on July 30th had an excellent turnout of 6 full tables.
 - **Social bridge:** Bette Harken hosted the social bridge game on August 14th with help from Bonnie, Nancy and Carol.
- f. 2023 Goals:**
 - 3000 student hours – John Wesolowski: On track.
Education: Nancy Wainer has finished the beginner classes this month.
 - Mentor mentee pairs – Lester Loops: 25 active mentor/mentee pairs.
 - Returning members - Ken Gamble: No new report.
- g. Diamond in the Ruff Newsletter:** Leslie Davidson is still doing a brilliant job.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary (with notes taken by Leslie Davidson)

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

July 11, 2023 (SCBC)

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

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, Ken Gamble, Robert Johnson, Josh Karter, Lester Loops, John Wesolowski

Absent: David Harken, Ken Llacera, Ken Martin, Steve Smith

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

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- May and YTD losses continue as expected.
- June and YTD losses continue as expected.
 - A little softening in F2F table fees
- Union Bank transition has gone well
- Still awaiting landlord's response to our question on fire alarm costs in 2022
- I will post these reports when I return on 7/17
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. **Play Nice Reporting:** No new reports.

b. **Covid-19:** District 21 has approved allowing units within the district to rescind their vaccination mandates. Our unit has decided to keep the vaccination requirement for the fall sectional. It was noted that the Palo Alto sectional did not require vaccinations.

c. **Surf's Up Sectional:** Farol Henderson is doing an exceptional job of keeping track of the preparations. The timeline is being updated with new items so that future sectionals will run smoothly. Ken Johnson from Morgan Hill will disseminate a pdf copy of our flyer to the Morgan Hill unit. Our unit will reciprocate and send email to our membership about the Morgan Hill sectional on September 16 & 17.

d. Game Updates

- **Sunday brunch:** The brunch on June 25th had an excellent turnout of 8 full tables. The new eMail system that Ken Llacera built into the unit website worked perfectly to announce the game. The July 30th game has been announced. Heather MacGregor has suggested that a second Sunday brunch each month would be well attended. Carol will ask the attendees of the next brunch if a second event would be attractive. The second brunch would have to have a different host. Josh suggested that the host duties could be rotated.
- **Social bridge:** Nancy Wainer hosted the social bridge game on July 3rd (the first Monday of the month). Bette Harken will host the social bridge game on August 7th. The supervisors of the social game,

Nancy Wainer, Kris Smith and Bette Harken, suggest that these players might be ready for an ACBL master point game by October.

- **Pro-Am:** The pro-am games on even Thursdays are still popular.

e. 2023 Goals:

- 3000 student hours – John Wesolowski: The total exceeds 2000 hours YTD.
- Mentor mentee pairs – Lester Loops: New mentor relationships are being formed. Carol suggests that more mentors are needed and can be recruited from the membership with more than 500 master points.
- Returning members - Ken Gamble: No new report.

f. Summer classes: Nancy has announced the summer teaching schedule:

Monday, July 17	10:00am – 12:00noon	“Improving Your Bridge Game”
Monday, July 24	12:30pm – 2:30pm	Continuing beginners
Monday, July 31	10:00am – 12:00noon	“Improving your Bridge Game”
Monday, August 7	12:30pm – 2:30pm	Continuing beginners
Monday, August 14	12:30pm – 2:30pm	Social Bridge game with lesson

g. Diamond in the Ruff Newsletter: Leslie Davidson is still doing a brilliant job.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

June 13, 2023 (SCBC)

1. **Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:20 pm.

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, Ken Gamble, Robert Johnson, Josh Karter, Ken Llacera, Lester Loops, Ken Martin, Steve Smith, John Wesolowski

Absent: David Harken

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

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- May and YTD losses continue as expected.
- Union Bank transition to US Bank started over Memorial Day.
- We will continue with our checks and deposit slips for the time being.
- Our Union Bank account numbers are mirrored to the new US Bank account numbers
- We have received new credit and debit cards and will adjust our automatic payments.
- 2022 audited financials will be available later as our area has a delay in reporting until fall.
- 2022 CAM and YTD PGE charges have been paid
- We have transferred \$22,476 from Vanguard to fund operations year to date.
- I have posted these reports on the bulletin board.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

- a. **Play Nice Reporting:** No new reports.
- b. **Covid-19:** District 21 will vote on potential changes to Covid policy in June.
- c. **Surf's Up Sectional:** Farol Henderson has accepted the role of chairperson with Robert Johnson and Lester Loops acting as co-chairs. Farol has started organizing the event very effectively. Jaci Sterling volunteered to check vaccination records at the door. Tom Burke prepared a sign-up poster and this has been posted on the bulletin board.
- d. **Game Updates**
 - **Sunday brunch:** On June 25th the brunch will start at 11:15 with the game beginning at 12:00pm. Heather has recommended that we find a host for an additional Sunday brunch game. Robert Johnson will be the contact with Heather so that communication is clear. Robert will keep the other board members informed.
 - **Social bridge:** There was a social game on June 6th. Nancy Wainer will host the next social bridge game on July 3rd (the first Monday of the month). Bette Harken will host the social bridge game in August. The dates of social bridge games should be forwarded to Ken Llacera for inclusion in the calendar.
 - **Pro-Am:** The pro-am games on even Thursdays are still popular.

e. 2023 Goals:

- 3000 student hours – John Wesolowski: Our teachers logged 223 student hours in May for a YTD total of 1989.
- Mentor mentee pairs – Lester Loops: No new report.
- Returning members - Ken Gamble: No new report.

f. Diamond in the Ruff Newsletter: Leslie Davidson is doing a brilliant job.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

May 9, 2023 (SCBC)

1. **Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:25 pm.

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, Josh Karter, David Harken, Robert Johnson, Ken Llacera, Lester Loops, John Wesolowski

Absent: Ken Martin, Ken Gamble, Steve Smith

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

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- April and YTD losses continue as projected.
- Rising Stars final numbers show a small loss including a \$277 charge from our prepaid tournament expense.
- Our email project expense of \$3200 has been paid in full to Ken Llacera
- Union Bank transition to US Bank will take place over the next couple of months. New debit and credit cards will be issued. I will keep you informed. Payees will be notified.
- 2022 audited financials should be available next month.
- Again, no word from landlord on CPI increase, 2022 CAM recon, or PGE charges.
- The facility lease will be up for renewal in August, 2024. Josh Karter volunteered to help with the negotiations.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

a. **Surf's Up sectional:** Although we have already booked the Mid-County Senior Center for the fall sectional on September 30 & October 1, other venues will be investigated to see if there are better or cheaper alternatives.

- **Carol** to ask Rachel about the Cabrillo Horticultural center.
- **Lester** to look into the Live Oak Grange
- **Leslie** to investigate the veterans center.

Other action items:

- **Carol** will ask **Ken Gamble** to see if Farol Henderson would like to help out with the fall sectional. Robert and Leslie volunteered to help.
- **Ken Llacera** will ask Tom Burke to make us a volunteer sign-up poster.
- **Robert** will post the sectional timeline to the board.

b. **Play Nice Reporting:** Comments were reported regarding slow movements.

c. **Covid-19:** District 21 will vote on potential changes to Covid policy in June.

d. Game Updates

- **Sunday brunch:** On May 28th the lunch will start at 12:15 with the game starting at 1:00pm. On June 25th the brunch will start at 11:15 with the game beginning at 12:00pm.

- **Social bridge:** There was a social game on May 8th with a good turnout. There are 32 to 36 potential players. Players were charged \$2 for the game and \$5 for the lunch. There will be a social bridge games on June 6th.
 - **Pro-Am:** The even Thursday pro-am games are growing in popularity. We typically see 6 tables.
- e. 2023 Goals:**
- 3000 student hours – John Wesolowski: Our teachers logged 340 student hours in April for a YTD total of 1736.
 - Mentor mentee pairs – Lester Loops: No new report.
 - Returning members - Ken Gamble: The ACBL sent a list of 46 players who recently joined our unit. Most were already known to us but there were 6 names that were not on our roster. **Carol** will contact 4 of those new names to encourage them to visit the center. **Ken Llacera** will contact Bette Harken and Nancy Wainer to contact students with 0 master points and encourage them to join an appropriate game.
- f. Newsletter:** Leslie Davidson published a great second newsletter. She also published and posted a newsletter for our own unit.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

April 11, 2023 (SCBC)

1. **Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:25 pm.

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Josh Karter, Ken Martin, Ken Gamble, David Harken, Robert Johnson, Ken Llacera, Lester Loops, Steve Smith, John Wesolowski

Absent: Leslie Davidson

2. **Approval of Minutes:** The March minutes were amended and approved.

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- March and YTD results continues with losses though F2F table fees continue to reduce losses
- Transfers from Vanguard are continually required to fund our operations on a monthly basis
- I have yet to receive our Risings Star tournament funds from ACBL. The deposit to the Mid-County Senior Center was refunded. I still expect a breakeven on this event and will show complete results in April.
- Still no word from landlord on of February CPI increase or 2022 CAM reconciliation
- I informed our janitor service about not replacing chairs after cleaning and spot cleaning rug on main aisle.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

- a. **Rising Stars comments:** Several participants at the Rising Stars sectional commented on how nice and friendly our unit is.
- b. **Play Nice Reporting:** Everybody is playing nice.
- c. **Covid-19:** Ken Llacera suggested, and the board approved, sending a poll to see how active players would respond to a removal of the Covid-19 vaccination requirement. The object is to increase the number of active players if this can be done safely.
- d. **SCBEF:** See separate minutes.
- e. **ACBL reprimand:** The ACBL notified the Unit that the number of club championship games allowed for the Santa Cruz Bridge Club, 137059, had been exceeded by 28 games. This bridge club is owned by the Unit. The ACBL required the Unit to either rescind all of the extra master points awarded at these championship games that were excess or pay an additional \$2800. Ken Llacera negotiated a compromise where the 28 games would be

reassigned to the Santa Cruz Duplicate Bridge Club (Ken's bridge club, 274662). Points already awarded would not be rescinded and the Unit would not have to pay any extra fees.

The Santa Cruz Bridge Club, 137059, does not have any Club Championship games remaining in 2023. Instead, the Unit will hold two Unit Games, which award more points than a Club Championship, twice a month. One of them will be the last Friday of the month; the second one will typically be scheduled for the Sunday game where Heather is making a brunch. These games are extra cost to the Unit but not to members.

f. Game Updates

- **Wednesday day:** The Wednesday day F2F game was cancelled for lack of sufficient tables.
- **Sunday:** The Sunday games have been cancelled except for the last Sunday of the month when a brunch will be served, prepared by Heather MacGregor. These hosted lunches have been a big hit.
- **Monday night:** A new night game will be started for 0-499 players on Monday nights at 6:00pm.

f. Surf's Up 2023: The new date of the fall sectional is September 30 to October 1. A new contract has been signed to rent the Mid-County Senior Center for the weekend with the end time adjusted to 6:00pm. An alternate location is the Aptos Grange on Mar Vista. Subsequently David learned that the Grange is not available on Sundays.

g. Website update:

- Ken Llacera continues work on the new eMail feature. Perfection is near.

h. 2023 Goals:

- 3000 student hours – **John Wesolowski:** Our teachers logged 133 student hours in March for a YTD total of 1150. This total does not include Bette's and Nancy's hours. Bette's class will be ending next week. Ken Gamble's 2/1 class will begin this week.
- Mentor mentee pairs – Lester Loops: Lani will be mentoring Linda Downing. Darby Kremers is looking for a mentor. Jim Miller has played once with Susan Slinger and may enter a mentor-mentee partnership. Charles Wilson may become a mentee.
- Returning members - Ken Gamble: no new report

i. Diamond in the Ruff Newsletter: Leslie Davidson published a great first newsletter.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

March 14, 2023 (SCBC)

1. **Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:25 pm.

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, Ken Gamble, David Harken, Robert Johnson, Ken Llacera, Lester Loops, Steve Smith, John Wesolowski

Absent: Josh Karter, Ken Martin

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

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- February results reflects our \$10 player table fees plus increased table counts at our Unit-owned games.
- The new income category "Social Game" will include \$2 player fee less the compensation paid to the supervisor.
- Expenses now include the director fees rates based on our \$10 per player table fee.
- Lunch Costs under Unit Owned Game Expense reflects \$8 lunch fee as an offset from food costs.
- No word from landlord on CPI adjustment to our rent as of 3/1/23 or 2022 CAM reconciliation.
- David will give a verbal report on recent Rising Stars tournament but right now looks close to a break-even.
- Our bank, Union Bank, was absorbed into US Bank.
- Our unit liability insurance carrier agency has sold out to a larger company. Additional premiums or fees are possible. David will research a new agency.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

- Rising Stars comments:** Several participants at the Rising Stars sectional commented on how nice and friendly our unit is.
- Play Nice Reporting:** No incidences reported.
- Covid-19:** COVID regulations remain the same until the ACBL changes their policy. The ACBL will vote on policy changes on May 25th.
- SCBEF**

The Santa Cruz Bridge Education Foundation (SCBEF) board has been 'folded' into the Unit 550 board of directors. The 501(c)3 tax designation should be preserved. The SCBEF board will meet on April 11th.
- Game Updates**
 - **ProAm games:** The parameters of the potential new pro-am game with higher maximum master points have not been finalized. Ken Llacera

reported that there are 56 members with greater than 1200 MPs and 26 members with > 1500 MPs that might serve as pros for members with fewer MPs than that. **Robert** will use the website tools to list members with > 1000 MPs as potential pros.

- **High scoring games:** The board approved a structure for awarding a free game to players that achieve a 70% or greater game. The requirements are: F2F, 5 tables or more, 18 boards or more. A free game token will be awarded for use at a subsequent unit game.
 - **0-499 game:** Carol will run the first 0-499er Monday night game on March 20th at 6 P.M. Table fees will be \$5.00.
 - **Sunday Lunch:** The Sunday game will offer a very nice lunch on the last Sunday of the month. The next lunch will be March 26th at 12:15.
 - **Wednesday day:** To make this game effective, it requires a minimum of 4 tables. A go/no-go decision will be made March 15th.
 - **Social bridge:** The first social bridge game will be on April 17th at 12:00pm. Lunch will be served. The goal is to host this gathering every other Monday.
- f. Rising Stars Sectional**
- We filled 11 ½ tables in the morning and 10 ½ tables in the afternoon on Saturday. We had 7 tables of Swiss Teams on Sunday.
- g. Surf's Up 2023:** There are date conflicts with the Mid-County Senior Center and other ACBL tournaments. **Ken Llacera** is working on finalizing a date.
- h. Website update:**
- Ken Llacera continues work on the new eMail feature and turning over updates to Robert Johnson for testing.
- i. 2023 Goals:** The board approved the following goals:
- 3000 student hours – **John Wesolowski**: Our teachers logged 470 student hours in February for a YTD total of 917.
 - Mentor mentee pairs – Lester Loops: no new report
 - Returning members - Ken Gamble: no new report
- j. Diamond in the Ruff Newsletter:** Leslie Davidson is the new editor of the Diamond in the Ruff newsletter and took notes for the next edition.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

February 14, 2023 (SCBC)

1. Call to Order: President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:20 pm.

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, Ken Gamble, Ken Llacera, Lester Loops, Ken Martin, Steve Smith

Absent: David Harken, Robert Johnson, Josh Karter, John Wesolowski

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

3. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- Monthly Budget (January 1, 2023 thru January 31, 2023): We had a monthly inflow of \$2,649 and an outflow of \$6,888 for a net difference of \$4,239.
- YTD Budget (January 1, 2023 thru January 31, 2023): We had a yearly inflow of \$2,649 and an outflow of \$6,888 for a net difference of \$4,239.
- January reflects the \$5 per player table fee. Both January and YTD reports are mirrors of each other.
 - We received the ACBL annual rebate of \$767 for 2022
 - Year to date transfers from Vanguard is \$6,500
 - Current lease increase scheduled for 3/1/23 (included in budget at 3%)
 - I am now a member of Mid County Senior Center to get reduced fees for tournaments, and have paid the rental deposit for Rising Stars.
 - Enclosed is an updated 2023 Budget for board approval with some adjustments from the original budget
 - Unit Owned Games table fees were increased slightly to show the \$10 per play table fee as of 2/1/23 and a regular Sunday game
 - I conservatively budgeted Tuesday and Friday games at 5 tables, and Sunday day and Wednesday evening games at 4 tables
 - The Wednesday morning game/lunch is still in trial for 6 weeks so it was not budgeted beyond this date.
 - Director Fees were adjusted to reflect \$70 per game for tables of 7 or less from February forward.
 - Board needs to determine aspects of Wednesday social game
 - Where the \$2 per player table fee should be reflected in financials

- Compensation paid to the director/organizer
 - The use of foundation funds. Current balance is \$6,495
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. New (or Continuing) Business:

- a. **Play Nice Reporting:** No incidences reported
- b. **Covid-19:** COVID regulations remain the same until the ACBL changes their policy.

- c. **Bringing in new players**

The first social game met Feb 1, and had five full tables. Thirteen of the players enjoyed the \$8 lunch prepared by Heather, prior to play. This game, run by Nancy Wainer, included a lesson, and social play. Table fees, of \$2, were collected per player. All of the attendees were former or current students of Nancy Wainer. Players' reviews via email were positive. The social games will continue the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month through April, then reassess. Bette, Kris, Carol and Nancy will supervise the social games. These may lead to playing duplicate games. The board will pay the supervisors a \$70 fee per game for devising lessons, making boards and directing. The board felt this was a fair compensation. A recommendation was made to pay the person(s) running the social game from the education fund's dedicated budget by Ken Gamble and Ken Llacera. The education funds would be distributed through a bridge center account. Any collected table fees would return to the educational budget fund.

- d. **Game Updates**

- **ProAm games:** Several members have requested that the board introduce a ProAm game where the "Ams" have between 0 and 1000 points. This would allow members with more than 500 MPs a chance to learn and play with the pros by adding additional games. The new games would occur on 1st, and 3rd Thursdays. (The current ProAm games are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.) Ken Llacera will contact pros regarding their availability for the new games to match the number of Ams who want to play.
- **0-499 game:** Suggestions by Carol Avenmarg and Ken Llacera to introduce lower ranking game for members with fewer than 0-499 MPs. Carol agrees to run a Monday night game, beginning March 20th at 6 P.M. Table fees will be \$5.00.
- **Free games for pairs making over 70%:** Members were questioning a previously established free game when achieving a score over 70%. After discussion, it was determined that starting March 1st, any game having 5 or more tables, if a pair earns 70% or greater, they will get their table fee back.
- **Extra Points Games:** The ACBL has questioned running games for extra points (Unit, Championship, Club games). We currently only run club games, SCBC club as opposed to the SCBC center. To allow the extra point games, we need to run them under a Sanction game. To

achieve this, we will move Thursday pro-am games under the sanction "Santa Cruz Duplicate Club Sanction," owned by Ken Llacera. Game set ups differ between unit run and sanction run. We will run one Sunday and one Friday game as unit games each month. The board approved unanimously.

- **BridgeMates Barometer:** Steve Smith asked if the BridgeMates could show barometer scoring (comparing up-to-the-minute scores). This has previously been investigated and was found to be difficult to keep members on task and caused play to slow down.
- **Team play:** Steve Smith asked if we had looked into team games, playing against other bridge clubs in inter-club matches. Ken Gamble recalled knock-out type games of 27 boards against one team at a time. Discussion to be continued at a later date.
- **Snacks:** Robert Johnson asked about different snack offerings during games. To be tabled for a later discussion.

e. Rising Stars Sectional

- **Ken Gamble** will assure bridge mates are acquired from Monterey Bridge Club.
- **Lester** will obtain the van to move tables/chairs and equipment; he will ask John, Robert and Jared to help.
- Get the Surf's up Banner as well as coffee makers from the storage closet.
- Ask **Jared** to hang the Surf's up banner.
- Reminder to obtain the pencils, bidding boxes to be packed and sent.
- **Ken Llacera** will send out an email blast reminding members to bring food.
- **David** and **Bette Harken** will manage sandwich order at check in.
- **Carol** will check those entering for proof of COVID vaccine.
- Pay ACBL dealing fees to allow members to view hand records with results simultaneously.
- **Ken Gamble** will make the boards and take them to the MCSC.
- BOD will reconvene Feb 28th to ascertain all is in place for the Rising Stars Tournament.

f. Website update:

- Ken Llacera turned over the Beta (initial test) of the email subsystem to **Robert Johnson** for testing. The sub system will add capabilities to the existing website to allow:
 - selected individuals (President and possibly others) to send emails to a filtered subset of the membership
 - the Secretary to post minutes on the website
 - the Treasurer to post financial reports on the website

g. 2023 Goals: The board approved the following goals:

- 3000 student hours – **John Wesolowski**: We can now add the numbers for the library bridge class that Carol runs on Mondays to these numbers.
- Lester will check Mentor mentee pair should be playing together at least twice a month. Our goal is 25 active Mentee/Mentor pairs.
- Ken Gamble will keep track of our returning membership numbers, maintaining our returning players goals, both with online or F2F play.

- h. Diamond in the Ruff Newsletter:** As the Board Member in charge of marketing, Leslie Davidson will assume the role as newsletter editor.
- i. Review and Revise the Education Foundation Page:**
 - Meeting for SCBEF is deferred until after Rising Stars tournament.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Davidson, Marketing and Robert Johnson, Secretary

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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

American Contract Bridge League of Santa Cruz Unit 550

January 10, 2023 (SCBC)

- 1. Call to Order:** President Carol Avenmarg called the meeting to order at 2:20 pm.

Present: Carol Avenmarg, Leslie Davidson, Ken Gamble, David Harken, Josh Karter, Ken Llacera, Lester Loops, Robert Johnson, Steve Smith, John Wesolowski

Absent: Ken Martin

Guests: Jim Slinger, Lani Ray, Kathy Stone

- 2. Approval of Minutes:** The December minutes were approved.

- 3. Jim Slinger:** Jim presented Heather MacGregor's offer to provide lunches for specific games to draw more players back to the face-to-face game. She offered:

- a. Lunch for a Wednesday session including an intermediate level lesson, a game with lunch available at \$8 per person extra and a commentary after the game. Initially the plan would be for 6 weeks. In discussion, it was suggested that a beginner game could start after lunch.
- b. A brunch game on one Sunday per month with a game following the brunch.

Heather requested that, if the board approves these offers, that the board make sincere efforts to encourage current and lapsed members to attend via emails and phone calls. The board approved both proposals with the Wednesday game to start on February 1 (subsequently changed to January 25) and the Sunday game to be held on January 22 as a trial effort, without the brunch.

4. Treasurer's Report – David Harken

- The 2022 YTD results of \$48,608 negative were near what we projected for the year.
- The 2023 proposed Budget is attached compared to 2022 Actuals with notes/assumptions:
 - There are 4 options of Unit Owned Income:
 - Table Fees continue at \$5 per player
 - Table Fees continue at \$5 per player for the first 6 months of 2023 and rise to \$8 on July 1, 2023
 - Table Fee per player increase to \$8 immediately (used in projection)
 - Table Fee per player increase to \$10 immediately
- The board voted to select the fourth option, increasing the table fee to \$10. David will amend the 2023 budget with the change to table fees to increase to \$10 starting on February 1.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

5. New (or Continuing) Business:

- a. **Play Nice Reporting:** No incidences reported
- b. **Covid-19:** The most recent covid-19 exposure was not contracted at the center and no subsequent infections were reported as a result of that exposure.
- c. **Investment Goals:** Robert introduced a motion that the board officially change the investment goal as stated in the Policies and Procedures section of the Bylaws be changed. The current goal states that the unit essentially break even every year and that if the unit loses money in a year, the budget for the following year would attempt to make up the loss from the previous year. The new goal would be to increase the table count while making a best effort at balancing the budget income and expenses. The board approved this motion. Robert will work with John Wesolowski and others on the board on the wording of the goal.
- d. **Rising Stars Sectional**
The board voted on approving moving forward with the Rising Stars sectional to be held on March 11th and 12th. Ken Gamble and Carol Avenmarg are co-chairpersons. Robert and Lester, who co-chaired the Surf's Up sectional will assist in getting Ken and Carol up to speed. The new upper limit for the sectional will be 750 Master Points. David will contact Mid-County Senior Center to reserve the date. Ken Gamble will contact Tom Burke to create a volunteer sign-up sheet. Ken Llacera will provide a draft flyer to be distributed district-wide. Robert will make copies at FedEx. Leslie Davidson will submit a notice about the sectional to Coastlines in the Sentinel. Leslie also volunteered to be the Marketing point person.
- e. **2023 Goals: The board approved the following goals:**
 - 2500 student hours – John Wesolowski January: 447 student hours
 - 25 active Mentor-Mentee pairs – Lester Loops to monitor monthly
 - Bring 20 new or lapsed players back into active play
- f. **Member Outreach**
 - The board agreed to split a phone list to contact lapsed members to encourage them to return to F2F play. Ken L. and Robert to develop the list.
 - Leslie will draft a script to be used in phone calls and a draft email to be sent to the membership.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 2:20 pm (SCBC)

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Johnson, Secretary

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