

**New Hampshire Bridge Association  
June Meeting Minutes  
June 26, 2020**

The 2020 additional spring meeting of the New Hampshire Bridge Association Board of Directors was held via Zoom due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. It was called to order, by president, David Lawrence at 9:00 AM. Those in attendance included: Lucia Carlisle, Jane Verdrager, Ross Huntington, David Lawrence, Kathy Benjamin, Ron Ouellet, Alice Eberhardt, John Pieper, and Sarah Widhu.

**Secretary's Report – Ross Huntington**

- Ross Huntington had distributed the May meeting minutes to everyone via email prior to the meeting.
- David Lawrence noted the minutes should say spring meeting and not winter. Lucia Carlisle moved that the minutes of the spring meeting be accepted as edited. Alice Eberhardt seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report – Lucia Carlisle**

- Lucia Carlisle had distributed a statement of income, expenses and cash balance to everyone prior to the meeting via email.
- David Lawrence noted that under general expenses the word Pianola should be removed from web site expenses as that money was paid to the new web site. Jane Verdrager moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as edited. Ron Ouellet seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

**Web Site Update**

David Lawrence advised the board that the new website was up and running. Board members that had seen the new web site thought it looked good and praised Bob Berton's work setting it up. David Lawrence then noted that a new person, to replace the retiring Barry Rogoff, would be needed to administrate the web site. Ross Huntington, who had previously done this on the old Pianola website, volunteered to be the administrator. David Lawrence will set him up with the administrator's password required to make edits to the site.

## **State Championship**

The board unanimously agreed that there will be no on-site tournaments this year so the reservations for Eastman will be cancelled. There was a long discussion on holding an on-line state tournament. David Lawrence said he has already had discussions with Larr Cheatham about investigating how an on-line tournament could be set up. It was tentatively agreed that an on-line tournament would keep the dates as scheduled of October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> but this will be revisited at another extra board meeting via Zoom when more is known about the feasibility of the on-line tournament. Kathy Benjamin recommended sending out an e-mail to all NHBA members informing them of the present status of the state tournament. Kathy volunteered to contact the ACBL on how to contact NHBA members that do not have email addresses in their database. Ron Ouellet volunteered to label all envelopes if printed letters had to be sent to those members. There was also discussion on who would be allowed to play in an on-line tournament and if the tournament could be given a unit game status. These issues will be resolved at the next board meeting.

## **Leroy Lake Award**

Sarah Widhu noted that the NHBA members that had worked so hard to set up the unit 150's on-line games, made necessary for any bridge club play in the state due to the Covid-19 pandemic, should be recognized. The board was in complete agreement. The board called these members the virtual club team and asked Sarah if she would write up a nomination for this team and submit it to the Leroy Lake committee.

## **Reopening of Bridge Clubs**

Several members of the board noted Jim Felch, who runs the Bow Bridge Club, had mentioned possibly opening in September. The board agreed this probably was not advisable due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic but that this would be Jim Felch's decision. Lucia Carlisle volunteered to inform Jim Phelps of the board's feelings on the matter.

## **By-Law Change Proposal**

Kathy Benjamin's proposed change to the present by-laws that would give the board the flexibility to hold state championship in the manner as they saw fit had been emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Lucia Carlisle moved that the proposed change be accepted as submitted. Alice Eberhardt seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

## **Bridge-Base-On-Line Club Play Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic**

David Lawrence gave a rundown of the present clubs running on-line games, the day and times for the games, and approximate number of bridge players at each game. There was a discussion on holding an on-line game at night. The need for a director for the game was discussed as there are limited certified

directors in the state. John Pieper agreed to direct the game starting on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The board also agreed that NHBA on-line club games should all have "New Hampshire" somewhere in the name of the game. David Lawrence said he would try to get Larr Cheetham to make this change with BBO.

### **Scheduled Meetings**

The next NHBA board agreed to hold another special meeting after the virtual team had explored further the best manner of holding a New Hampshire on-line state tournament. A date was not set but the next meeting would again be held via Zoom.

Jane Verdrager made a motion to adjourn the June meeting of the NHBA. John Pieper seconded this motion and it was approved unanimously at 10:29am.

## **New Hampshire Bridge Board of Directors**

### **Special Meeting July 18,2020**

Meeting held via Zoom to discuss State Championship format.

Called to order at 9:30 AM. Those in attendance were, Dave Lawrence, Lucia Carlisle, Jane Verdrager, Kathy Benjamin, Alice Eberhart, John Pieper, Sarah Widhu, Bill Kennedy, and Ron Ouellet.

Secretary's report was distributed via email prior to the meeting. Motion to accept (Lucia Carlisle). Seconded (Alice Eberhart). Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report was distributed via email prior to the meeting. Motion to accept (Bill Kennedy). Seconded (John Pieper). Passed unanimously.

Lucia Carlisle brought up online directors' fees. The discussion was to create a minimum which was set at \$75 and reset the cap to \$100. These changes were to go into effect as of July 1 ,2020. (no vote was noted).

John Pieper wanted to update the email addresses for Keene. Also discussed were Issues of setting a minimum number of tables for an online game. It was decided to allow the directors to use their own discretion (no vote was noted).

Prior to the meeting, Dave Lawrence distributed via email a suggested format for the state championship. A spirited discussion followed with the consensus agreeing on a Saturday 2 session event each scored separately, with an A, B and C stratification winner determined by combining both results. The top 14 teams

from Saturday will advance to the State Championship on Sunday for a 1 session event. It was agreed that Lucia Carlisle would summarize our hopes for this event for submission to the BOD and ultimately Larr. The question we have for Larr, "is the event doable in our proposed format?" Motion by Bill Kennedy Seconded by (Alice Eberhart). Passed Unanimously.

Dave Lawrence asked for each member to try to submit "worthy" names for replacements to our BOD expiring terms. Currently listed to end their term next year are Kathy Benjamin, Ross Huntington, and Dave Lawrence.

Dave Lawrence mentioned that a new Silver Lining event was scheduled for 13 games starting July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn at 10:42 by Bill Kennedy. Seconded by (Jane?). Passed unanimously (and enthusiastically!).

Submitted by Ron Ouellet standing in for Ross Huntington 7/22/20

## New Hampshire Bridge Board of Directors

### Special Meeting Concerning Holding The State Championship On BBO

September 13, 2020

Called to order by President David Lawrence at 9:30 AM. Those in attendance were: Dave Lawrence, Lucia Carlisle, Jane Verdrager, Ross Huntington, Sharon Kace, Alice Eberhardt, John Pieper, Sarah Widhu, Bill Kennedy, and Ron Ouellet.

A motion was made by Lucia Carlisle to accept the meeting minutes from the last NHBA meeting. It was seconded by John Pieper and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report was distributed via email prior to the meeting by Lucia Carlisle. There was some discussion of the amount of money in the treasury and how it might best be used. Lucia reported there were no real expenses since the boards last meeting and that the NHBA had income coming in from various BBO games.

The meeting then turned to discussion of how the NHBA State Championship will be held this year.

Lucia Carlisle began the discussion by informing the directors that David Metcalf is available and has volunteered to be the director for the BBO State Tournament if it is held on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Lucia proposed the state tournament be held with a two-session qualifying session on Saturday with the top 14 teams moving on to a one session final on Sunday. Lucia proposed the two sessions on Saturday be 18 hand events on BBO at 10:00am and 2:00pm. The final to be an 18-hand event to be held at 10:00am Sunday. After discussion by the board the time for the Sunday final was moved to 1:00pm.

There was a discussion on the director's compensation to run the tournament. It was agreed that David Metcalf would be paid \$200 per session.

The board discussed the entry fee for the event. Sharon Kace made a motion that it be \$10 per person per session. Jane Verdrager seconded this motion and it was approved unanimously.

A discussion followed on who would be allowed to enter the State Tournament. The board agreed it would be limited to only unit #150 members and former long-time members approved by the board. Board members would assist David Metcalf on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, on the acceptance of entries.

The board then discussed the stratification for the state championship. It was determined there would be three strata with each stratum having an award for first and second after the Saturday qualifying round. John Pieper noted that with the event being held on BBO the board would probably have no say in the stratification. (This was later confirmed by David Metcalf in talking with Lucia Carlisle) BBO will stratify the event by placing the top 1/3 of teams in strat "A", the second third in strat "B", and the bottom 1/3 of teams in strat "C". The teams are stratified by average masterpoint holding of the pair.

The board then discussed the awards for the state tournament. It was decided that the State Champions would receive trophies and the strat "B" and strat "C"

winners would receive engraved pens or trophies. Sharon Kace and Ron Ouellet volunteered to look into prices for these awards and get back to the board.

The board then discussed the NHBA annual meeting and State Championship Award ceremony. It was determined they would be held via zoom on Sunday after the Finals. The board has yet to decide on a time and if there will be separate zoom meetings for the annual unit #150 meeting and for the state championship awards.

The board then moved on to discussion of other business:

Alice Eberhardt has taken over for Kathy Benjamin as the Membership director. She asked for the emails for all club directors. There followed a discussion on how to determine if a unit #150 member has passed and how to inform the membership. Ross Huntington noted there is a "In Memoriam" section on the NHBA web site. He puts obituaries on the site for all unit #150 members, and others that play bridge at NH clubs, when notified by club directors of a death.

John Pieper discussed ideas on increasing bridge participation among newcomers to bridge. He mentioned that participation in BBO games for 99ers was low. The board agreed to lower the cost for 199er and 99er games to the BBO minimum of \$3. Any director costs not covered by the lower fee would be paid by the NHBA.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Kennedy at 11:20. Seconded by Alice Eberhardt and passed unanimously.