

MINUTES

Calgary Duplicate Bridge Association ACBL Unit 390 - Board Meeting October 29th, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 3:10pm by Cynthia Clark present: 09

Present: Ed Lamb, Judy Gartaganis, Roger Bolton, John Sharpe, Brad Bowyer, Delores Hedley, Cynthia Clark, Paulette McWilliam. Lois Matton arrived later.

- 1) **Call to order and approval of the agenda** – proposed by Cynthia and seconded by Paulette. All approved.
- 2) **Approval of the Minutes from Sept 11th, 2024** – approved after two changes from Judy- proposed by Ed and seconded by Brad. All approved

3) **President -Cynthia Clark**

(Cynthia's written report follows -highlighted comments from discussions in meeting)

Beginning with the monthly **President's Meeting** held on October 9, 2024, the major topic was tournament attendance. The following is a summary:

Both Lois Matton, Tournament Director Unit 390, and I attended the October 9 ACBL President's Meeting.

Tournament attendance has become an issue across all districts with both the Sectionals and Regionals. Reasons for the decline could not be specifically identified but there was discussion regarding incentives and improvements to increase attendance. Some suggestions were:

Good Venue – This would involve having a pleasant environment, adequate eateries nearby, sufficient free parking and reasonable room rates. I think the Doubletree has been working well. I know several people have visited many facilities and nothing better has come up. I do not believe this is an issue for Calgary.

Discussion regarding the Venue as per comments in the Presidents' report

Costs – Venue costs and director and staff costs need to be kept at a minimum to avoid raising card fees. Since these are relatively fixed costs, an increase in card fees may be necessary if attendance cannot be increased.

Game schedules – Games times preferred by players may need to be adjusted. Out-of-towners may like the night off and locals want to get home for the evening. Regionals could be reduced to 6 days but should include Sat. and Sun. to accommodate players who still work full time.

Events – Have more single session events for those who want to play only one session per day and reduction of the Soloway events, which require attendance at 4 sessions. The recommended days for Soloway events to start are Tuesday and Friday.

Master Points – Questions regarding the number of masterpoints awarded and further limitation in flight ranges were mentioned. The issue of handicapping extreme variations in master points between teams playing in the same field was mentioned with no specific recommendation.

Pro Teams – Pro Teams generate business with the hotel and game participation. Incentives to generate pro team involvement at more events was noted.

Discussion regarding past and future events with Pros in Canadian tournaments

Incentives – Free gifts, something as simple as pencils; free food and free play. Discount (\$5) incentive for pre-registration at some Sectionals are all possibilities to make the tournament a special event.

From the discussions at this meeting some best practices may be developed. However, there were no definitive measures that would ensure improvement in tournament attendance and this subject will be discussed further at a later date.

The Unit 390 Board and in particular, Delores Hedley and Judith Gartaganis, have been involved in keeping and increasing ACBL membership as well as maintaining and improving game and tournament attendance. After the President's Meeting, Judith Gartaganis submitted multiple ideas to improve the overall activity and involvement of players at the tournaments to increase interest and attendance. We will keep you posted as these ideas develop. Delores provided a report comparing the player profiles for May and September Sectionals. Based on her results, the best source of increased participation could come from the 299ers. The board will review ideas to target this group for upcoming tournaments. Many

thanks to both Judy and Delores for their dedication and extensive reporting on retention and recruitment of players.

The **Fall Sectional** held on Sept. 20-22, 2024 reported 198 tables. This was similar to the Sept 2023 event with 200 tables.

Dan Dover has been elected as the District 18 Representative for Alberta. Dan has hit the ground running. We have already had discussions on tournament participation as well as working together on all aspects of the game for ACBL members. We look forward to assisting each other whenever possible. Dan is also running a Thursday Evening Game for 0-500 masterpoint players. Congratulations Dan on all your new endeavors.

The **Erin Berry Rookie Master Game** was a huge success with 20 tables. Brian Johns extended his appreciation for the assistance of the Unit as well as thanking the Masters and Rookies that participated. Brian ran a fun game with lots of treats and goodies that were gobbled up. He did a great job keeping things moving and organized. Excellent job Brian Johns.

The Erin Berry is the fall Rookie Master Game. The event is named in memory of Erin Berry, a gifted student and bridge player who was tragically killed in a car accident on January 20, 1998, three days before her 17th birthday. Players across the Canada play the same deals, and printed hand analyses, prepared by top Canadian players, are provided. The pair with the best percentage score in Canada is declared National Winners and receives a trophy. The pairs with the top percentage score in each Zone receive a plaque. All club winners receive certificates. This encouragement for new players will help keep our bridge community thriving.

The **CCBL** held its AGM on October 26. The meeting provided lots of information regarding the operation and plans for the Bridge Centre. Significant to the Unit, was the acknowledgement of the \$5000 contribution made by the unit in June, 2024. The CCBL expressed their sincere appreciation. They also acknowledged the joint effort to promote bridge in the Calgary community specifically through the **Bid and Play Program** run by Delores Hedley and her volunteer crew.

Without this group, I do not think we would see the success we are experiencing in new player attendance. Special thanks to Delores and her volunteers.

The **299er Fall Tournament** was a great success with 20 tables in the morning and 14 tables in the afternoon. Roger Bolton was the tournament Chair and did a great job with the assistance of Delores Hedley and Liz Sprague and Lois Matton as directors. Thank you Lois, Delores and Liz for all your help!

4) Past President - John Sharpe

- a) Nothing to report

5) Treasurer - Ed Lamb

- a) Ed sent out treasurer's report before the meeting - no issues
- b) Discussion of delivery costs for the trailer and ensuring we don't lose money in the future
- c) Calgary Regional paid Unit 390 for the tables used during the Regional
- d) Discussion of a central contact for the delivery of tables when needed by units outside Unit 390
- e) Judy moved accepting the treasurer's report and Brad seconded. All approved.

6) Tournament Chair - Lois Matton

- a) Lois thanked Judy for her help with the new sectional flyer
- b) Michael will be our director in charge for January 2025 Sectional
- c) President's award for 299ers. Discussion on how we can make it more fun and exciting to win this award. Having their picture taken and a letter from the president congratulating them was the proposed solution
- d) Prizes for winners was discussed and we will use the pens until they are gone
- e) Discussion regarding tournament directors and promoting more of them locally
- f) Lois proposed someone running a 299er game as the Bid 'n Play program has dropped to once a week. Will discuss again in the spring

7) Future Masters – Roger Bolton

- a) The recent 299er tournament was a resounding success and Roger commented about all the help that made it happen
- b) Discussion regarding the draft budget as submitted by Roger. Still some expenses to come in

- c) Feedback was that everyone had fun, and there was some comfort in coming to the Bridge Centre
- d) What date in the spring would be best for the next 299er game. Roger did some research and discussion about best time. Looks like May 2025 might be the best timeline
- e) Discussion of having a contingency plan if the next 299er tournament is very successful, will they fit, and maybe pre-registration would be needed
- f) Discussion about how we should decide what directors to use
- g) Discussion about how ACBL Live didn't promote the results of the 299er sectional like other sectional results are posted. Should not be any difference in how results are posted – Cynthia will follow up with ACBL about the process for posting to ACBL Live for 299er tournaments

8) Special Events – Brad Bowyer

- a) Rookie master for 2025 – date confirmed for February 22nd at the Bridge Centre
- b) Discussion about how the teams should be formatted– decision was to leave the format as is

9) Secretary – Paulette McWilliam

- a) No new business

10) Membership – Judy Gartaganis

- a) No new members for September
- b) Discussion of 5/5/5 changes. Ed received cheque for 3rd quarter. We received nothing for our contact activity, earned 2.5% for retention, then our base – with no details of how the \$1,387.00 was calculated
- c) Slight change in program to reduce some of the performance levels so lower achievement will still earn some money

11) Public Relations – Delores Hedley

- a) Awesome success for Bid 'n Play since September
- b) It's very rewarding to see how everyone is participating, learning and having fun

12) Old Business

- a) Pickleball discussion update from Judy. Not viable for Calgary at this time

13) New Business

- a) Discussion regarding adding and removing members phone numbers. Due to ACBL privacy policy – emails on website are not permitted
- b) Current member phone books were published as of 2023 and there are lots of those
- c) Tournament attendance discussion – should there be prizes, anything about the schedule, stratifications, IMP games?
- d) Idea of having a host/hostess at the sectional for 299ers to know there is someone friendly, to show them the ropes and how to navigate the weekend.
- e) Discussion of how to fit another 299er day game into the week’s schedule of play
- f) Discussion of using the Square app for payment at Unit events. Lois will follow up

Motions passed by email since our last meeting

2024	Sept 13 (via email)	John Sharpe proposed and Delores Hedley seconded that 15 of the unit’s table be sold to bridge community who wants to buy. All were in favour
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NEXT MEETING -

Wednesday – February 12th, 2025

3:00 pm

Bridge Centre

Cynthia moved meeting be adjourned – seconded by John