

*Approved*  
**Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta**  
**Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** February 16, 2013 – 9:30 – 11:30 am

**Location:** Bridge Club of Atlanta

**Present:**

Marty Nathan, Mary Ann Oakley, George Powell, Judy Fendrick, Betty Myers, Dick Myers, Patty Tucker, Allison Milhem, Jack Feagin, Roz Howell, Joan Sheldon and Eva Ratonyi

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

Roz Howell previously distributed the meeting minutes from the January 3 DBAA meeting and the January 6 annual DBAA meeting. Judy moved that both sets of minutes be approved. *Motion approved.*

**Treasurer's Report – George Powell**

George Powell is now using Quicken 2013 and is working with Marty to reconcile the differences from the Quicken 2005 version he was previously using. George presented the DBAA 2012 Profit and Loss Report, reflecting a small loss for the year, due in part to the tournament reserve that was established a few years ago to cover future tournament losses, if any. One-half of tournament profits are set aside in the reserve fund. The Wednesday night DBAA game realized a small profit of \$12 for the year.

If anyone has any questions regarding the financial reports, please contact George.

**President's Message – Marty Nathan**

Marty provided a brief history of the DBAA and why it was formed. Prior to the creation of the DBAA, the Unit 114 ran tournaments in Atlanta. The DBAA was created to ensure that revenue earned from Atlanta tournaments was put back into the Atlanta area. Over the years, the DBAA has built up a substantial reserve due to successful tournaments and a well-attended Wednesday night game. In recent years, however, attendance has dropped off at the DBAA Wednesday night game, which is true for most night games. Many have expressed the view that the DBAA exists primarily to support the local clubs and that our resources should be so dedicated. Others (including Marty) believe that our funds should be spent primarily to grow duplicate bridge and for the benefit of our members rather than directly for the benefit of clubs.

Clubs are primarily interested in making a profit; whereas, the DBAA is a not-for-profit organization. Past DBAA president Bob Heller tried to work with clubs to find out their needs, but some of the clubs were not engaged.

In recent years, changes in the DBAA board members resulted in changes in how the DBAA was run. In prior years, we held monthly meetings, but in the last four years we held fewer meetings and worked on projects through committees. Marty believes that both approaches have merit, and that committees will work if there is continuous follow-up.

Marty requested that we send out information ahead of time when it needs to be discussed at a meeting.

Marty has three primary goals as DBAA president:

1. Grow duplicate bridge in the DBAA area
2. Generate regular DBAA newsletters
3. Better branding of DBAA

As an example: The Sectional tournaments in Atlanta are run by the DBAA (even though the Unit is the official sponsor), but members do not know this.

In addition, a secondary goal is to improve election procedures. A lot of people expressed distaste in e-mails that were sent out in the most recent election.

Our meetings will follow Robert's Rules of Order, but somewhat loosely.

## **Committee Reports**

### **NLM Tournaments at Clubs – Judy Fendrick**

Judy covered the proposed Policies and Procedures. The question was asked as to why we have NLM tournaments at clubs, given the number of tournaments held otherwise in Atlanta and surrounding areas. Essentially, we have tournaments at clubs because some club managers have asked to hold them and some players do not feel comfortable going to a tournament, but they will go to a club tournament.

Jack stated we need to take corrective steps for future tournaments. Sam has expressed that he will likely not hold another tournament at his club.

Patty asked whether there is a Unit 114 policy for tournaments that lose money. Dick replied that we do not have to approve a tournament request. Judy will cover the DBAA Policies and Procedures for NLM Tournaments at Clubs with Priscilla, who is currently the only club owner who has an interest in holding a NLM tournament. She has held NLM tournaments at Ruff N Sluff for several years.

Dick moved to approve the proposed Policies and Procedures for NLM Tournaments. *Motion approved.*

### **Tournaments – Dick Myers**

Dick provided a tournament update. The January Sectional did well considering there were 180 fewer tables compared to the 2011 Fall Sectional. The net loss for the tournament was \$1,000. The Charleston Regional ended the same day our Sectional started this year

For the November 13 Sectional in Roswell, Patty requested that there be an AJB Pairs event, and also requested a sanction for School Bridge Championship.

Dick covered upcoming tournament schedules, including Macon Regional which starts February 18. Macon is also tentatively scheduled to hold a Regional in 2015.

For 2014, Dick wants to have a Spring tournament ending on March 2 in Roswell. The Summer tournament is usually during July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday; however, this is a problem in getting the Norcross Hilton, so we need either a different date or different location. The Fall tournament may be in Roswell, if available, and this needs to be discussed.

Dick asked for the board preferences for the July 4<sup>th</sup> tournament. We would like to get the Hilton Norcross for another date. Ravinia is preferred if we can get it.

The question of whether we should have three sectional tournaments was raised, but no one objected to the idea of three.

Joan volunteered to help with finding locations.

### **Atlanta Junior Bridge (AJB) – Patty Tucker**

Patty Tucker, AJB President, presented the plans for 2013, which include forming a connection with the Afterschool Alliance, Business Engineering Science and Technology (BEST) schools and the Afterschool and Youth Organization.

Atlanta will be featured prominently in a bridge documentary that is scheduled to be released in late summer or early fall, 2013.

In 2012, 31 camps and classes were held. Roz Howell requested a report from Patty as to the number of unique students who were served by AJB in 2012.

Patty requested funding of \$4,500 from DBAA to help cover AJB expenses in 2013 for 42 classes (10 winter, 12 summer camps and 20 fall classes). The board tables this request until the next meeting with the understanding that this would not adversely affect AJB operations.

Patty announced her plans to resign as President of AJB, effective in early 2014. She offered a suggestion for DBAA to take over AJB as a project until such time as a new board is in place. AJB is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with three board members. Patty will send the DBAA the information on what each individual in AJB does and the ongoing project details.

The American Bridge Teacher's Association (ABTA) will host its annual convention in Atlanta from July 30 to August 2. Patty indicated they are very interested in how "Learn Bridge in a Day" works. Patty will have space to demo on Tuesday night. Some District Directors may view the program. Advertising is needed. Patty also wants to do the "Learn Bridge in a Day" demonstration at the ABTA conference in April.

The fundraiser held in August for AJB raised about \$1,500. More marketing is needed. The event was held at the Historical Academy of Medicine during a weekday to hold down cost.

Patty also wants to target the parents in the 20-30 age group who have children home for summer. She is promoting through Georgia Tech and talking to people at the Shakespeare Club. She has about 10-15 names to send e-mail for promotion.

Patty is also talking to ACBL to try and get funding for marketing. The Afterschool Alliance is interested in putting bridge into schools. The ACBL is now paying teachers; however, the AJB teachers were not getting paid timely.

### **NABC Update – Jack Feagin**

If anyone is interested in working on a committee, they can join the planning committee and also check with Dan Osburn or Nancy Motes. The planning committee is trying to get a project going to have a slideshow presentation at the tournament. This will require a formal picture taking process; volunteers for this are needed. A lot of volunteer workers will be needed to make the tournament a success. The committee has worked through most of the planning issues with ACBL. There will be no free plays for volunteers. Free parking for volunteers is to be determined.

### **DBAA Directory – Eva Ratonyi**

Marty introduced Eva as the DBAA Directory chairperson, who recently took over for Nancy Motes. Eva stated that the data-gathering process for the directory is the challenge. Joan Sheldon has identified a lot of discrepancies in the directory and provided this information to Eva. Nancy had previously requested that clubs announce to players to send updates to Eva. Eva suggested that we have postings at clubs that members can update.

Eva requested that the board send her suggestions on how the directory can best be updated.

### **Friendship Games Report – Roz Howell**

Roz reported that clubs are running successful games, and some have turned in their reports for reimbursement.

### **Change of Rank Parties – Judy Fendrick**

Judy sent each club manager the listing of players who changed rank in 2012 for posting at clubs. Club managers need to schedule their dates for their parties soon. The parties will be held during the month of March.

### **Election Committee – Joan Sheldon**

Marty introduced Joan as the recommended chairperson for the Election Committee. Allison moved to approve Joan as the committee chair, as well as Tom LaForge and Ina Parry as committee members. *Motion approved.*

Joan provided an update on the problems with the prior election, and asked that the board send her suggestions on how future campaigns and elections should be run. The committee is seeking guidelines for candidates and club owners to incorporate into an updated Policies and Procedures document.

### **DBAA Website – Betty Myers**

Marty proposed to have Betty as the chair of this committee, and Allison Milhem as a committee member. Judy moved to approve Betty as the committee chair and Allison as a committee member. *Motion approved.*

Betty indicated that Larry Rich maintains the DBAA website, and the board/committee is responsible for the content. Marty asked that we all provide feedback on the website to Betty and Allison.

### **DBAA Newsletter Proposal – Marty Nathan**

Marty believes it is essential to get messages out to the members and is looking for someone who can do a newsletter. Mary Ann Oakley volunteered to be the newsletter editor. Marty does not think security will be an issue.

Patty suggested Constant Contact, which costs \$129 per year. This allows you to send out newsletters with graphics, pictures, etc. using a newsletter format template. Patty has used this software for over two years.

Marty moved to have a budget of \$250 per year to use Constant Contact. *Motion approved.*

Marty moved to have Mary Ann Oakley as the newsletter editor. *Motion approved.*

### **Other Issues – Marty Nathan**

**Financial Review** - Marty asked if anyone thinks there is an issue of independence for Judy Fendrick to do the annual DBAA financial review (along with Bob Holman) since she is now a board member. In the past, she did the review while she was a Unit Rep. The board does not see this as a problem, but Marty will ask for volunteers to do the financial review.

**Change of Rank Chair** – Marty asked if the board thinks we need a separate Change of Rank chair, or can this responsibility be assigned to the Secretary as was done in previous years. Roz believes we need a separate chair in order to include more members in governance. This year Judy did the preparation of the listing and notifications to each club, along with ensuring postings to the DBAA website.

**Policies and Procedures** – The update of P&P has normally been assigned to the Vice President.

**Next Meeting:** Marty will pick a date in April, and we will have a meeting at the May tournament.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Judy Fendrick, Secretary*