

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Date August 4, 2004

## Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta

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President Jack Feagin called the meeting to order. Present: Board Members: Jack Feagin, Gaby Fadel, Kevin Collins, Beatrice Kemp, Sue Wolfe, Josie Mitchell, and Carolyn Eckert. Invited guests: Bill Marks, Larry Rich and Dick Myers, Bob and Barbara Heller

1. Minutes: of the July 7, 2004 DBAA Board meeting were approved.

2. Financial: No Financials submitted.

### Proposals and Address from Bill Marks:

The meeting tonight focused on the presentation of three proposals introduced by Mr. Bill Marks to the Board on suggested changes to the DBAA. As all interpretation of discussion is subjective, these minutes will, therefore, reflect **as clearly as possible**, the discussion, the essence of each commentator, and the outcome and/or results of the final decisions reached by the members of the board.

Bill Marks thanked the board for providing him time to present and asked that members in attendance 1) to wait before commenting until he has completed his presentation and 2) try to pretend that they were a club manager. Commenting on what he sees as the unfairness of the DBAA and the oversights not being realized, the combined clubs (Alpha, Roswell, Marietta & Cumming) have a greater membership and table count than do the Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Center (ADBC).; most people in the greater Atlanta area equate the DBAA with the ADBC as one and the same; functions sponsored by the DBAA such as the Change of Rank Party, Casino Night are always done at the ADBC; the map on the DBAA web page overlooked some area clubs; and DBAA is unaware of what is happening at suburban clubs such as growth, lessons and membership.

Proposals submitted by Bill Marks:

1. Rotate Meeting of DBAA board on a quarterly basis in clubs other than the ADBC and rotate other special games such as the Change of Rank Party.
2. Cease the Unit Game as it is currently known, then other clubs could feel more comfortable in having a Wednesday night game. ACBL says DBAA has the right to hold the game versus the moral right.
3. DBAA should cease operation if there is no agreement of the two above issues.

Jack Fagin: Bill's history of the unit game is not correct. The Unit Game as a 'term' has existed for 60 years; his mother played in it and he started playing it 30 years ago. The game is very special and our bridge history and heritage is reflected in this game. However, we can change the name since the concept of a Unit game has changed. The DBAA will try to remove DBAA from any advertising.

Bill Marks: when can clubs bid on hosting "Unit Games"?

Larry Rich: should DBAA or local clubs run "Unit Games"?

Jack: DBAA runs a non-profit game and the organization is managed by elected officials from the greater Atlanta area. DBAA represents the members first and then the clubs. All

funds raised are used to promote bridge. However, Unit Championships are special games open to all clubs

Bill Marks: why was Casino Night held at the ADBC?

Jack: Casino Night was held as a fundraiser for the 2005 Summer Nationals and it was thought it would be most successful and Dan donated his club.

Bill: DBAA always goes to Dan Plato (ADBC) to do things, why not other clubs? Jack: The DBAA has sent out many proposals seeking involvement from other clubs.

Jack commented that in correspondence to him from Bill, which 'we haven't done enough for local clubs'. However, there has been little or no input or concrete proposals from clubs for changes. However, there are many programs that the DBAA has launched to promote bridge in general and offering grants etc to all clubs.

Comments on Proposals:

Jack: Rotation of DBAA meetings can be difficult as most of the board members would have a greater distance to travel and the Atlanta/Rowell/Alpharetta traffic at after work hours is horrible. However, DBAA would be willing to send some officials to go to games at the local clubs and meet with members to receive and give comments and discuss ways to increase bridge if the club extended an invitation. The "Town Hall" concept would be a place to receive and give input from all club members.

Larry: Each local club should have representative(s) from their area attend the DBAA to receive and give information and to volunteer efforts.

Bill: Can Roswell and/or Alpharetta cease from membership in the DBAA or set up a Northern type DBAA? Its is possible but there are many reasons why that would not be a good thing to do.

Jack: please explain how a DBAA meeting in Alpharetta or Roswell will help your club? A General Membership meeting should be held annually where information can be exchanged. All members in the greater Atlanta area should feel free to come to meetings.

Dick Myers: he has played in all the area club games but it is difficult to get to Alpharetta.

Barbara Heller: DBAA runs special games; Unit 114 is well represented by these special games.

Jack: DBAA does many great things for the bridge community to include such things as:

1. "Brain Storming Session" at the Atlanta Regional on Wed, Sept 1 between sessions
2. Funding of the Social Bridge Proposal from Patty Tucker and Samuel Marks
3. Grants to all area clubs that DBAA will underwrite approved proposals for supplies for games
4. Underwrites "Free Play Coupons" to give to new players who complete a certified training course in bridge
5. At least four other efforts this year to promote the growth of bridge.

**Proposal # 1: Motion was made by Carolyn Eckert, seconded and approved that at the request of the local club, DBAA will design a DBAA Day and send officials to the local club for exchange of information and input.**

Proposal # 2: Larry Rich: there is a conflict of interest when DBAA promotes its Wednesday night game at the expense of other clubs who do not have a Wednesday night game.

**Motion was made, seconded and approved that DBAA will cease to call the DBAA Wednesday night game a "UNIT Game" and all DBAA correspondence and communication will cease reference to it as a "UNIT Game".**

Proposal # 3: Failed for lack of a motion

Atlanta Sectionals: Comments from Bob Heller: The Hilton Atlanta Northeast will be the host hotel for the Sectionals in 2004 and some in 2005. Since there were no plans for a Spring Sectional in March 2005 at the Hilton, Roswell Senior Citizen Center is available for a March 4-5-6, 3 day tournament as a site. The facility wants to have Bill involved in the tournament as he is an active employee of the facility and manages the bridge games at the facility. This proposed plan is still in the discussion stages with the facility directors.

Meeting adjourned 7:30PM. ***Next meeting: Wednesday, September 8, 2004 @ 6:00pm***

Respectfully submitted,

**Carolyn Eckert**

Carolyn Eckert, Secretary

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