

*Draft*  
**DBAA Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date/Time:** April 29 – 3:30-5:30 pm

**Location:** Bridge Club of Atlanta

**Present:** Marty Nathan, Judy Fendrick, George Powell, Jack Feagin, Becky Butler, Roz Howell, Vicki Bell, Bob Jones and Dick Myers

**Absent:** Larry Rich, Josie Mitchell and Mary Ann Oakley

**Invited Guests:** Tom Eidson and Betty Myers

Two topics were on the agenda for this meeting:

- DBAA Database
- New Atlanta Unit

**DBAA Database – Tom Eidson**

The purpose of this discussion was for the board to decide which fields will be included in the DBAA database.

On April 10, a document from Tom Eidson entitled *DBAA Database and On-Line Directory* was distributed to the board for consideration of decisions for the DBAA database.

Tom gave an overview of the proposed components of the database. The data source will be a file with membership data from ACBL. Our initial procedures will include instructions to members that they can correct their contact information on the ACBL website, if they choose.

Tom is making the design clean and simple with large buttons. He sent Larry an e-mail to find out how the database and website are configured. He will need an account to use for testing. We should be in Beta testing within a month.

Bob Jones is working on a test plan. Marty indicated the test plan does not need to go to the board for approval. Board members will conduct Beta testing.

Tom provided a demo of the browser screen.

The board decided that the following items will be included in the DBAA database:

ACBL Number  
First Name  
Last Name  
Title  
Status  
Greater Atlanta  
Phone 1  
Phone 2  
E-mail 1  
E-mail 2  
Address 1  
Address 2  
City  
State  
Zip

Members will be required to create a password.

An authentication process will be required in order for someone to be added to the DBAA database. Another member can authenticate the person with their ACBL number and name.

A phone number or e-mail will be a required input.

An address cannot be input unless a phone or e-mail is input. Zip code entry is highly recommended.

Marty asked if we could identify individuals in the database as to whether they play in the Wednesday night game. For now, the club information will be on hold until other decisions are made.

We will be able to send e-mails from the database.

#### Opt-In Features:

Users will be able to opt out of any of the following listings:

- Database
- On-Line Directory
- Print Directory

The default setting will be that the user is opted in. The user will be able to check a box (or boxes) to opt out of any of the above listings. For example, users can have their phone and e-mail data in the database but opt out of the On-Line Directory.

## **New Atlanta Unit – Marty Nathan**

Judy re-read the motion made at the April 19 meeting. Marty asked for questions.

**Bob:** How should we address any bad blood within the Unit? Could people outside of Atlanta decide to hold Sectional tournaments any time they choose? What about financial considerations? How much does the Unit get in membership fees?

We must gather as much information as possible. Bob proposed to prepare a report that compiles the opinions and comments he has received. He can have it ready by May 17.

**George:** There needs to be time for people to digest the idea. We have been under-represented. Are we getting the recognition, respect and money we should have in Atlanta? What percentage of members is active? Statistics on Units in other large cities should be addressed.

**Jack:** People in the state have been supportive of Atlanta. People in Athens and Macon feel they are part of Atlanta tournaments. People outside of Atlanta are contacting him with concerns. They do not want to be separated, but will still come to our tournaments. Dividing the money will not go smoothly. Trophies will still belong to Unit 114.

**Dick:** Can we ask people outside of the DBAA what they think? Dick now believes a study committee is a good idea. He does not believe the DBAA should be the entity to initiate the petition. Dick proposed that DBAA develop the information on forming a new unit, but not publicize the DBAA's vote on whether or not it is in favor.

**Vicki:** Would having a new Atlanta Unit make a difference for NLM players with respect to Min-McKenney or GNT qualifying?

**Marty:** As he has told Ken, we are not proposing a new unit because of what the Unit has done wrong. It is because we believe it is right for the membership in the long run.

The District reviews the tournament schedule. Schedule conflicts have been resolved in the past. Units are allowed to have Sectional tournaments. In Atlanta, we have always taken the position that we need to balance the number of sectionals we hold with the for-profit clubs. Bob Heller at the District level ensures that we do not have overlapping Sectionals and tournaments.

The Unit gets approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year in membership fees. A new Atlanta Unit would get 65% of that amount, leaving 35% for the remainder of Unit 114. If the two units cannot agree on how to split funds, ACBL would then provide a mediation process.

While no study has been done, Marty mentioned several large cities that operate as a unit, in particular Pittsburgh and Charlotte that operate as both a unit and a city association similar to the DBAA.

Marty agrees that the DBAA should not be the entity to initiate the petition. We need to decide if DBAA should be neutral.

Having a separate Atlanta Unit would give players outside of Atlanta a better chance of winning a Mini-McKenney or Ace of Clubs award.

Ken Parker was not at the meeting, but Marty addressed some his previously-stated concerns:

Ken's concerns:

- The Unit will be left with 1,150 members who are widely dispersed geographically.
- An additional geographic split of the remaining Unit may be needed.
- Unit 114 has a 40-year history of traditions and a split will destroy the pride the Unit 114 non-Atlanta members have.

Marty's comments:

- The remaining unit will be one of the largest units in District 7 with vibrant bridge communities and excellent leadership throughout.
- An additional geographic split of the remaining unit is an issue for those communities and not for us to determine.
- Unit 114 has a history of traditions, and the perceptions of non-Atlanta members will be adversely affected if all they hear are the negative comments from the opposition.

Marty proposed that we entertain a motion to table the discussion. *Motion approved.*

**Action Item:** Bob will send his report to the board at least two weeks prior to the next meeting.

Roz suggested that she, Judy and Marty prepare a summary of next steps.

**Next DBAA Meeting:** June 14, 2014 – 9:30-11:30 – Bridge Club of Atlanta

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Judy Fendrick, Secretary*

NOTE: Due to the amount of time needed to discuss this topic and in particular to go over Bob Jones' document, a request for an additional meeting was sent to the board on April 30 with a proposal for a June 3 meeting. The majority of the board responded they could attend, **so there will be an additional meeting on June 3 at 3:30 at Bridge Club of Atlanta.** There will not be a vote at the June 3 meeting.