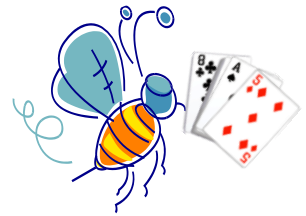




**B's Needs Committee Meeting Minutes  
Newton, MA  
Sunday, 1-10-16**



**Attendees:** Mark Aquino, Bob Bertoni, Maureen Bitler, Lois Deblois, Ausra Geaski, Sylvia Hardin (from ACBL), Chris Soares, Mike Wavada

**1) Status of new chair or co-chairs for B's Needs Committee:**

- Chris Soares from EMBA volunteered to be the new Chairperson for the B's Needs Committee

**2) Email blast about Cromwell Pro-Am:**

- Mike Wavada will be sending out an email about Cromwell to D25 players and include information about the Pro-Am game
- Mike will follow up with an email blast about the Pro-Am game to players in units that have a close proximity to the Cromwell location

**3) Update on decision of ACBL Board for new strats:**

- Mark Aquino announced that the ACBL Board of Delegates approved the 2-2-2 strats which provides players that have under 2500 MPs with more opportunities for events
- Bob Bertoni noted that the new D25 event schedules will reflect the strat changes
- ACBL will be publishing information about the new strats and Mark will share the information as available

**4) Write-up and distribution of email about new strats:**

- Mike will work with Bob to write up an email explaining the new strats approved by ACBL and their impact to D25 events
- Mike will distribute the email to D25 players when available

**5) Tracking of Gold Rush players moving up:**

- Bob noted that Mike has set up a database of D25 players that includes their MPs and last date played
- Mike indicated that he can sort and filter the data to identify players who are close to or have recently surpassed 750 MPs and no longer qualify for the Gold Rush events

**6) Congratulatory letter to Gold Rush players moving up:**

- Mike will draft a letter for approval by the committee that will be sent to D25 players when they reach 750 MPs to congratulate their achievement and make them aware of the events that are available to them beyond the Gold Rush games
- Since this will be the first time sending the letters there will be a 'catch up' effort to identify any players who recently reached the 750 MP milestone and send them a letter

**7) Follow-up for 'Greeter/Ask Me Person' at D25 regionals:**

- The committee agreed that it is helpful to have a greeter/ask me person especially at the start of a tournament which has been done at some tournaments but is the goal to include at all D25 regionals
- Bob noted that the Tournament Chairpersons are appointed by the D25 President and managed by the Tournament Manager and both will follow up with the Tournament Chairpersons on this
- Ausra noted that a 'D25 Regionals Guide for Tournament Chairs' was published last year which documents the responsibilities of the Tournament Chairpersons

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**8) Feasibility/plan for Guaranteed Partners at regionals:**

- While the group agreed it would be helpful to have Guaranteed Partners at the regionals they agreed that this is very difficult to administer since players at different MP levels would be needed and finding a player willing to come, and possible not play, is not appealing to potential volunteers
- Mark noted that he had spoken to Wayne Burt, Chairperson for Nashua, about ensuring that there would be a Guaranteed Partner for the 299 games
  - o If needed this person would be able to 'play up' with someone with more MPs
- This topic should be revisited to discuss any other options available

**9) Other – All**

- Mark suggested that at the start of each tournament (or any events in between) it would be a nice gesture to have someone other than the Director welcome players and at the end of the tournament thank players for coming, i.e. Tournament Chairperson, D25 President, D25 Officer
  - o Both Bob and Mark were planning to speak to the players at the start of the Sunday games today (1/10/16)
  - o Need to plan to do this for all tournaments
- Chris Soares asked if it were possible to conduct B's Needs business through emails to minimize the number of meetings at tournaments and increase participation
  - o Lois Deblois mentioned that having the face-to-face sessions promoted discussion and brainstorming which is a large part of the meetings
  - o Maureen Bitler noted that this was her first meeting in-person and even though she has read all of the emails distributed felt that the face-to-face was helpful