

Columbia Bridge Club  
Board Meeting held at Capital Senior Center  
October 6, 2008

Attending:

Mike Bitonti, Chris Webb, Bob Webb, Karen Coulter, Jim Chianelli, Tom Gabriel, Carol Clemenz, Sam Robison, Bernetha Henry, Joel Levy, Ellen Parr Oliver, and Leck Mason

Also in attendance: Dick Coulter, Dode DeFiori, Frances Lawton, Iona Hunter, and Mary Townhill

C. Webb called meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**Secretary:** Minutes of September meeting were approved as posted. Chianelli moved to accept with second by Coulter. Carried.

**Treasurer:** The profit for September is \$918; for the year so far is \$9436. B. Webb intends to open a money market account in which to put the club's revenues. Gabriel moved to accept the report, Chianelli seconded. Carried.

**Education Report:** Townhill reported that the Thursday evening courses have 33 members in 2 classes. She said that Sheryl Rhoden has volunteered to be the partnership chair for the "under" group and that these members very much want to stay in the Under 100 group. They have reported to Townhill that they have been subjected to some intimidation (by the Under 1000 group). C. Webb stated that he is working on Zero Tolerance and hopes that any intimidation or unacceptable behavior will discontinue. Suggestions were made that these beginners be educated as to the different tournament games (Gabriel), perhaps at the Wednesday class, and that the convention card be explained a few minutes before the beginning of the Friday game.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Open House:** D. Coulter reported that he has the layouts for the initial letters, follow-up flyers, brochures, free plays, etc., ready. He suggested that we need a coordinator or a committee to head up the Open House (to be held on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.). Board members must attend. There will be supervised play, starting at ~6:30, very casual. C. Webb volunteered to be at the "welcome" table to welcome and take names, etc. DeFiori and Lawton reported that the food will be ~\$500. K. Coulter volunteered to take care of the tablecloths and flowers. D. Coulter explained the free plays: one free play awarded for bringing one or more guests, further, one is awarded to the sponsor for each person that signs up to be a member. After brief discussion, the board approved all the arrangements.

**Bridgemate:** C. Webb announced that the trial period was almost over. Bitonti has so far spent ~\$1200 for computer software, etc., but has not submitted a bill. He volunteered to submit the bill but to donate the money back toward the purchase of the Bridgemates, which cost \$150 each; for a total bill of \$2800. There is no annual fee. Individual members have pledged to purchase more than half of the boxes, reducing the cost to the club to only several hundred dollars. Motion to keep the Bridgemates made by Gabriel and seconded by Chianelli; carried. C. Webb recommended that B. Webb pay with one check and CBC will be repaid by donations. Clemenz moved this recommendation be accepted; Henry seconded. Motion carried. C. Webb informed us that the test website will be free for 3 to 6 months, after which time it will cost the same as we now pay.

**Tuesday Game:** Bitonti gave the attendance report for the new-limit game. For July, August, and September 2007 the average was 7.7 tables; for the same months in 2008 the average was 10 tables. The average January – June was 8.7 tables. The motion to make the new limit permanent was made by K. Coulter and seconded by Levy. Carried. K. Coulter suggested that this information be put in "Tricks & Treats" – everyone agreed.

**Stand-By Committee:** Hunter made the Stand-By committee report as follows: 1) The "Stand-By" is to accommodate visitors. CBC members are limited to 3 requests for partners during a calendar year. 2) Members indicate when they will serve on the monthly "Stand-By Calendar." If it becomes necessary to cancel, the chairperson of this committee should be contacted in order to provide an "On-Call" partner. 3) When the "Stand-By" serves, the person plays free of cost and is also awarded a "Free Play" pass. 4) The director

contacts the “Stand-By.” Hunter stated that the Stand-By Calendar will be updated monthly. For last-minute fill-ins, to give the volunteer time to get to the center, the director can fill in until s/he gets there. If the director has enough advance notice, s/he will try to match up players according to rank; last minute needs will be who can get here. Henry moved to accept the report as given, Robison seconded; carried.

**Zero Tolerance:** This issue will be addressed in earnest at the November board meeting. .

**Christmas Party:** Gabriel brought up the question of costs for the Christmas Party. After some discussion, it was decided everyone (members and guests) should pay \$7.50 (prepaid – check makes reservations). We always operate at a deficit, but that is the club’s gift to members. Levy moved to accept this amount, Chianelli seconded; carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Vote Results:** The results of the vote as to whether to stay at the CSC were as follows: 88 in favor of staying at CSC, 10 against staying at CSC, with a few abstentions and a few illegal ballots (under the by-laws, voters have to have played at least 10 times in the year) that had to be discarded.

**Cypress Street Building:** C. Webb brought up the selling of the building. If we sell it, we will save insurance and utility bills and generate revenue towards the purchase/lease of a new permanent facility. The motion to sell was made by B. Webb and seconded by K. Coulter. Motion carried unanimously. A committee was appointed to oversee the sale: Levy, Chianelli, Clemenz, and Robison, with C. Webb as non-voting chair. Once all the details are worked out, the committee will report back to the board.

**GNT:** DeFiori gave the report as follows: Three dates of the GNT have been decided upon. Jan. 31 and Feb. 14 are open games. There was discussion concerning the Feb. 13 game (on Friday, for those who may not be able to come on Saturday). It was decided that that game would be, in reality, 2 games (like our Friday games): one game for C’s (0-500 - no life masters), with A’s and B’s in a concurrent game. Of course, C’s may play up if they wish. A minimum of 3 tables is needed for the C group to operate.

**Proposed By-Law Amendment:** C. Webb made the strong suggestion to amend the by-law requiring that a member must have played at least 10 games in the prior 12 months in order to vote to extend this privilege to associate members in good standing as well (dues paid, not under suspension or on probation, etc.). This proposed amendment will be published as it appears in the minutes in the “Tricks and Treats” to provide the required 30 day written publicized notice. There will a special meeting of the bridge club to take a voice vote on the proposed change just prior to the start of the Winter Party. Mike Bitonti suggested that we ask Lewis Cromer to draft the actual language of the proposed amendment. Levy seconded. Carried.

**“Tricks & Treats” Change:** C. Webb announced that the format of the “Tricks & Treats” will change to contain more newsworthy items instead of such things as bridge lessons and editorial comments. The minutes of the board meetings will be included in the mailed circular to accommodate those members without a computer or access to the internet website.

**Columbia Senior Center:** K. Coulter passed out forms for joining the CSC, asking that board members join (at \$20/year) to show support for the CSC, as they have been extremely cooperative with us.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 6:40 p.m.

Submitted October 7, 2008

Leck Mason, substitute for J. Ripley

To be posted at the club.