



**ACBL UNIT 255 NIAGARA AREA**  
**Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting**  
Held on Saturday, May 21, 2022, 4:30 pm  
at The Bridge Centre of Niagara

**Present:**

Approximately 36 members of Unit 255, including 5 Board Members & Chairs: Muriel Tremblay, Heather Beckman, Kathy Morrison, Claude Tremblay and Chandi Jayawardena  
Regrets: Wiebe Hoogland and Steve Williams

**Welcome from the President**

In calling the meeting to order, Muriel Tremblay welcomed everyone and expressed how pleased she was to see the strong attendance. She also talked about the challenges for the unit given this was our first face to face meeting as well as the fact that tournaments could not be held in the last 2 years due to Covid restrictions. But later she did confirm that despite these obstacles, the unit is in good shape financially. She also reminded everyone of the importance of having our own unit as well as the importance of members stepping up to volunteer and keep our Unit strong.

She reminded our members of the Unit 255 Mission:

- To provide our members with more opportunities to compete in locally run tournaments and Unit Club Championship competitions
- Communicate directly with our members to make them aware of events and achievements within our community
- Recognize the achievements of our members
- Get our members involved with our special projects.

Muriel thanked all members of Unit 255 Board and Chairs, and briefly outlined the key functions they were responsible for:

- **Claude Tremblay**, our Tournament Coordinator, has worked with each of the Tournament Chairs to establish consistency and balance in our financial statements and budgets, and to schedule all of our tournaments.
- **Kathy Morrison**, our Treasurer for our Unit. We maintained a solid financial position even though we have not been able to run any tournaments in the past two years.
- **Wiebe Hoogland**, our Vice President, District 2 Representative, ACBL electronic contact and Membership Chair
- **Steve Williams**, our Education and Intermediate/Novice (I/N) Coordinator.

- **Heather Beckman** our Communication Chair. Heather has made great strides in getting Unit 255 more visibility within District 2, the Owner of the Kibitzer
- We are currently missing our secretary, who was also our Webmaster, **Dena Jones**. She did an excellent job over the past two years and we thank her for her service. Fortunately, **Rod Sumner** stepped up to accept the responsibility of Web Master. We will be looking to replace Dena on our Board in the fall when we run our elections.

We also want to thank John Mackay, who continues to do our Year End Financial Statements and file our corporate tax return.

### **Award Winners**

Normally Awards for Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenny Masterpoint Races would be acknowledged and certificates handed to our members at our AGM, but this year since we did not hold an AGM in 2021 and with so few members attending, it was decided that we would post the winners on the website and at the Bridge Centre of Niagara. Winners of these races can pick up their certificates at the Bridge Centre of Niagara. Muriel explained the difference between the two "Races". The Ace Club Award is for those who won the most Masterpoints for their level in club games. The Mini-McKenny Award is for those who won the most Master Points both in tournaments and club games. It turns out that since there were no tournament to attend in 2021, the same people won both awards.

### **Review of Minutes from the AGM held on August 20 2020**

- a) Motion to approve – Moved by John Stevens and seconded by Verne Chant. Carried.
- b) Matters arising – None

### **Financial Reports 2020/2021**

Kathy Morrison presented the financials from 2020 and 2021 outlining some fixed expenses and the lack of revenue from tournaments due to Covid restrictions. Motaz Farag moved to accept the financial for 2020; seconded by David Turner; carried. David Turner moved to accept the 2021 financials; seconded by Jerry Smee; Carried.

### **Budget 2022**

Kathy presented the budget for 2022, outlining a decline in tournament revenue over previous years due to the decline in our members' participation at club games since they re-opened in 2022. There is also a new annual expense for storage rental for the tournament equipment and supplies that were previously stored at the Tremblay home. Kathy complemented Claude on negotiating an excellent rate for this temperature controlled unit.

Moved by Chris Loat; seconded by Motaz Farag to approve the budget. Carried

## **Update from Tournament Coordinator**

Claude Tremblay announced that we have scheduled three tournaments for 2022:

Spring Sectional, June 3-5, held in Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre for those with 0-750 points; chaired by Chandi Jayawardena. By keeping the masterpoint level at 750 we will be able to use local tournament directors instead of hiring ACBL Tournament directors. This keeps our cost significantly less.

Summer Sectional, August 19-21, held in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre for those with 0-499 points; chaired by Chandi Jayawardena.

Regional Tournament, November 8 -13 held at the Parkway in St Catharines is an Open Tournament; chaired by Kathy Morrison. We were given this time by District 2 because we were not able to run our regularly scheduled Regional Tournament in 2021 due to Covid.

Claude expressed concern about the decline in our membership - not just with our unit but everywhere. Unfortunately ACBL generates more income from online playing than face to face at clubs. But they are recognizing the long term problem with this and are addressing it by offering more opportunities to get extra masterpoints and now the opportunity for clubs to award gold points, which has never happened.

He talked about the need to attract new players and the importance of having a good education program and teachers to do that. Right now this is a problem for the unit.

## **Confirmation of Proceedings**

Motion by David Turner, seconded by Kathy Morrison

BE it resolved that all the by-laws, resolutions, contracts, acts, and proceedings of the Board of Directors of Unit 255 enacted, passed, made, done or taken since the last meeting of members be and same are hereby approved, ratified, and confirmed. Carried.

## **New Business**

New business focused on the importance of attracting new players to our clubs. As was mentioned, an education program is critical. Chandi Jayawardena volunteered to run his 7 week program for beginners again when folks return to in person to play.

Ellen Deane offered to explore the campaign to get new teachers, perhaps revive the mentoring program as well the opportunity to provide pro/am games to attract players who are rather new to the game.

David Turner suggested that we contact people who let their ACBL membership lapse. No one stepped forward to undertake to do this.

### **Adjournment**

Don Wicks moved to adjourn seconded by David Turner

Following the meeting was a delicious catered dinner enjoyed by all.