



B's Needs Committee Meeting
Friday, 6/20/2014
Nashua, NH

The B's Needs Committee met on Friday, 6/20/14, in Nashua. In attendance were: Mark Aquino, Sandy DeMartino, Bob Eachus, Ausra Geaski, Tom Greehan, Ginny Iannini, Helen Pawlowski, Jan Rosow, Joyce Stiefel, Mike Wavada, and Sarah Widhu.

Ausra Geaski, Chairperson for the Committee, welcomed Jan Rosow, a new member from the CBA unit, to the meeting. Six of the eight D25 Units were represented and the group looks forward to having all units participate to bring a perspective from across the entire district.

The group reviewed the list of Recommendations for Key Action Items for B's Needs to assess the success of the suggestions that were implemented and to solicit feedback for any further improvements. Most of the recommendations have been implemented and through the ongoing support of many volunteers the momentum has continued throughout the 2014 regionals. Comments from players have been positive.

Key action items discussed include the following:

- 1) **Hospitality Table:** Players continue to be greeted by volunteers manning a Hospitality Table. Following the successful start in Cromwell chaired by Sandy DeMartino this has continued at our other 2014 regionals.
 - Ginny Iannini, assumed responsibility at the Seniors regional.
 - Sarah Widhu worked with Wayne Burt, chairperson in Nashua. ***Special thanks to Susan Burt, who is not a bridge player, but provided tremendous support in Nashua and countless hours helping at the Hospitality Table.***
 - Lois DeBlois will work with Joe Brouillard, chairperson for Warwick, at the Fiesta regional at the end of August.
- 2) **Photographs of Event Winners:** Mike Wavada has continued to chair this effort and is working hard to get pictures of the winners as long as players are willing to have their pictures taken.
 - The postings on the D25 website have been well-received.
 - Mike will continue this at future regionals but could use some assistance from the B's Needs members to take photographs. Please contact him if you can help at Mike@Wavada.org.
- 3) **Leader Board:** Helen Pawlowski has continued to post a Leader Board with positive feedback from the players.
 - If anyone has word processing skills and would be willing to help out with putting out the daily updates it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Helen at tournmgr@nebridge.org.
- 4) **Suggestion Box:** Helen Pawlowski places a suggestion box near the Hospitality and Pairing tables for players to give their comments and any recommendations for the D25 tournaments.
 - We need to remind players who express a concern or have a suggestion to write down their comments and place in the box.
- 5) **Expert Panel/Guest Speaker:** Joyce Stiefel and Mark Aquino have spear-headed this effort which was initiated at the Seniors Regional and continued in Sturbridge and Nashua. ***Our thanks to the Professionals who have been very willing and generous in giving their time to share their bridge expertise.***
 - The panel discussions and lectures have been well attended.
 - Suggestions for further improvements include:
 - à Set up a consistent time for the panel and lectures at all regionals
 - à Use the same room for the panel/lecture where I/N games are played
 - à Use a microphone for the speakers since not all players could hear the discussions

- 6) **Event Schedule:** Additional events during the regionals.
-No further event changes were recommended for 2014.
-Pro-Am game was recommended for 2015 and will be discussed further in Warwick.

Mike Wavada discussed the district database he has set up which includes all D25 members from the ACBL roster. The database provides information about attendance back to 2012. This information will be very helpful in directing marketing to target audiences, such as, I/N players. One outstanding issue is email addresses which are not available for some players. Mike has done, and continues to do, an excellent job in creating and maintaining the database, as well as, using the data to reach out to players about the regionals.

Other items discussed included:

- 1) Add to the D25 website definitions for the types of events held at the D25 regionals, e.g. SWISS, CKO, KO
- 2) Publicize D25 events at the club level, e.g. new 0-4000 KO, upcoming EGG regional in Sturbridge focusing on 0-2500 players
- 3) Ensure directors announce the daily snacks and/or post an easel near the playing site listing the snack(s) for the day, what time they will be available and where
- 4) Let players know that they can play in one session of the 2-session pair game if they are looking for a one-session event to play in during the day

The B's Needs Committee will have their next meeting at the Warwick regional. Thanks to everyone for their ongoing commitment and support. Additional members to the group and volunteers are very much welcome and appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Ausra

Ausra Geaski
B's Needs Tournament Chairperson