

Raleigh Bridge Club Board of Directors Minutes - February 4, 2026 5:30 pm

Attendees: Niki Antonelli, Eileen Bok, John Cobb, Ken Howard, Luisi Martin-Price, Susan Overcash, Bill Rysanek, Lance Shull

Absent: Glen Anderson

Quick recap

The board meeting focused on three main topics: the Durham sectional tournament, RBC President and environmental initiatives. John proposed serving as interim president through the Durham sectional, which the board approved. The board discussed recycling efforts and agreed to respond to a concerned member, with Susan taking the lead on this communication. They reviewed several initiatives including obtaining a microphone, hiring a caddy for Swiss nights, and creating RBC swag. The board also considered updating bidding boxes and card holders, with Niki suggesting a complete replacement of old equipment with new, improved versions. The conversation ended with a discussion about using Slack for ongoing communications, with John encouraging all board members to join the private group.

Next steps

- John: Send summary note to Deanna (Durham) confirming agreement in principle on co-chairing, 50-50 profit/loss split, and outlining solid, risky, and open items; copy the board.
- Deanna (Durham): Provide name of hospitality point person to coordinate with Susan.
- Bill: Serve as point person for table delivery, setup, and return for Durham sectional; coordinate with John, Barbara, and Alex as needed for keys and logistics.
- John: Include in proposal to Deanna that partnership support is uncertain due to possible unavailability of Vladimir; identify backup if needed.
- Susan: Respond directly to person who emailed environmental concerns explaining club's current practices and decisions.
- Eileen: Ensure minutes reflect environmental practices discussion for club awareness.
- Collins: Continue efforts to hire/coordinate a caddy (e.g., Elizabeth Morrill) for Swiss team nights and identify a backup caddy if possible.
- Lance: Locate the sandwich board and confirm its storage location; coordinate with Barbara/Collins if needed.
- John/Lance/interested board member: Add "Guaranteed Partner" and "Membership/Attendance Reporting" to the initiatives list for further discussion and potential assignment.
- Russ, Collins, Tatyana (and possibly Barbara): Collaborate to produce a reliable membership/attendance report for board use, leveraging ACBL score and Google Sheets data as needed.
- Lance: Talk to Helen about designing an RBC logo for potential swag.
- Collins: Provide update and proposal on acquiring new bidding boxes and card inserts, including assessment of supply chain/backorder issues and storage requirements.

- John: Schedule next board meeting (expected toward end of February) and ensure Collins and other key staff are invited.
- All board members: Review and consider volunteering to lead/own specific 2026 initiatives before the next meeting.
- All board members: Contact John or Niki if experiencing issues accessing or posting in Slack to ensure full participation.

Summary

Durham Tournament Leadership Planning

The group discussed the Durham tournament chairmanship and co-chairing arrangements. John reported that Deanna offered to chair the tournament alone or with a co-chair, but no volunteers emerged. Niki expressed willingness to help but noted potential conflict with Minneapolis National attendance in late March. The group agreed to allow Durham to set their own entry fee, with John acknowledging RBC's outlier status at \$12, and agreed to a 50-50 profit/loss sharing arrangement.

Co-hosted Event Logistics Planning

Susan will coordinate with their hospitality contact, while Bill volunteered to manage tables and transportation. Vladimir offered to assist with partnerships, though there's uncertainty about his availability due to potential travel to Minneapolis. The group noted that board members who are available during the event weekend are expected to help with volunteer tasks, and they plan to publicize volunteer needs for the Guaranteed Partner program. John will send a summary of the discussion to Deanna, copying the board, to formalize the agreement and outline remaining open items.

Club's Environmental Practices Discussion

The board discussed environmental concerns raised by a club member about recycling practices. Susan explained the club's current efforts to be environmentally friendly, including using biodegradable cups and plates, but noted practical limitations such as storage issues and the time it would take at the end of the already late night. The holiday party used plastic plates but they were provided by the caterer. Using fabric vs plastic tablecloths is time consuming. Hospitality already gets out very late after the game and would not want to add additional time sorting and cleaning recyclable items. The group agreed to address the member's concerns by including it in the meeting minutes and Susan offering to personally reach out to the member to clarify the club's efforts.

Interim President Selection and Transition

The board discussed the need to fill the vacant president position. John proposed serving as interim president until mid-July, when the cosponsored sectional is complete, during which time he will help

drive open issues and transition responsibilities. The board voted unanimously in favor of John's plan. The conversation ended with a reminder that anyone interested in the presidency should contact John directly.

Club Manager's Board Participation

The board discussed the roles and participation of club manager (Collins Williams) and treasurer (Russ Weimer) in board meetings. It was agreed that Collins and Russ will be invited to all future board meetings and will be able to participate in any discussions and activities that do not explicitly require board membership.

Guaranteed Partners and Membership Reports

The board discussed two main initiatives: establishing guaranteed partners for games and improving membership reporting. John agreed to add guaranteed partners to the initiative list, noting it would require a sponsor and consistent volunteers. Lance mentioned Thayer's willingness to volunteer as a partner for a month, and Susan suggested forming a committee of designated partners. The board also discussed the need for accurate membership reports, with John explaining that previous attempts to generate reports had raised concerns about data validity. They agreed that a combination of ACBL score data and Google Sheets information, possibly involving Russ, Tatyana, and Collins, could be used to create reliable reports.

Club Initiatives and Project Priorities

The board discussed several initiatives and assigned priorities to various projects. A microphone and speaker was purchased and will need to be stored. They agreed to pursue hiring a caddy for Swiss nights, with Collins following up on this high-priority item. The board also discussed creating a sandwich board for the club, which was given a priority of 1. They considered developing RBC swag, with a lower priority of 2-3. The board agreed to explore options for replacing bidding boxes and card inserts, with a medium difficulty rating and priority of 1. Niki suggested a wholesale replacement of old equipment with new, updated items. The meeting went over time, so remaining topics were moved to Slack for further discussion. John mentioned he would schedule another meeting in late February to continue these conversations.