

Mr. Betts:

Thank you for your comments concerning the site of the Roundup Sectional this past weekend.

However, when I read the first paragraph, I had trouble figuring out what you were talking about. Certainly not our Unit 430 Board!

There is no conflict or philosophical split between 'City' members and those from 'the valley'. Nobody comes to the Unit Board meetings ready for 'a conflict' with the other side, because there is no 'other side'. When I last counted, there were 10 current UB members from Vancouver or North Vancouver, one from Richmond and one from White Rock. They all work hard and do their jobs well, and help out other UB members when needed. As for age, I have no idea who is older or younger, other than myself, as I am definitely older. The period of service on the Unit Board amongst the current UB members runs from a few months to more than 15 years, with an average of 4 - 5 years.

So your stereotypes are not people that we are aware of on the current Unit Board, or on past Unit Boards that I have had the pleasure of working with. May have been that way twenty years ago, but not today. I also can't see any benefit of splitting Unit 430 into two small units to address a problem which does not exist. This can only lead to duplication of work, and given the shortage of willing Unit Board candidates, would be beyond foolish.

To understand why this past weekend and the site selection for it happened, a little background info might help. We normally select our tournament dates some two or three years into the future and they end up on a calendar maintained by the ACBL. This enables nearby Units, as well as District 19, to select their tournament dates and avoid conflicting nearby events. In some cases, where we regularly use the same weekend each year for a tournament, we manage to retain the right to that weekend unless we relinquish it.

Normally, once the tournament date is established, the playing site is selected closer to the tournament date, usually a year or so in advance. For the 2016 Roundup Sectional, the site selection was delayed somewhat and when the Sectional tournament 'team' was looking for a site, there was not much available on the relevant weekend from our regular sites, including the Engineers' Hall and the Queensborough Community Centre. The Sectional tournament team finally settled on Sunbury Hall.

I do not think that cost was a determining factor in this selection, at the time Sunbury Hall appeared to be the only option. We have never knowingly selected the 'cheapest option', and our regular use of Queensborough supports this statement, as Queensborough is not cheap.

The same may be said for our next tournament site, the Ukrainian Catholic Cultural Centre, which you mentioned in your message, which we inspected and signed a contract with earlier this year. Hopefully the bridge community will find it favourable when we play the Trophy Sectional there in January 2017.

As for increasing card fees, we would gladly do so if it was necessary for financial reasons. We seem to have retained the \$10 per session rate for some time, but this has not been because we do not want to go higher. It is just that we are making some profit on virtually all the Sectionals with the \$10 rate, so why should we increase the rate? We are not a profit making corporation, the Unit Board members don't get paid more (or at all) if an event is profitable, and while some UB members or former members (including the person you talked to) seem to think we don't want to raise fees at all, this is simply not the case. We use the profits from our various tournaments to upgrade our bridge supplies and to finance some of our other projects, including the four very successful Mentor-Mentee games we have each year (in which Mentors play for free), the twelve Monthly Unit Games, and the four Non-LM Sectionals planned for 2017. That said, we may well decide on a fee increase in the next year or two.

To be clear, the Unit does not 'cite fiscal concerns for seeking substandard accommodation'. The playing site at Sunbury Hall and its lighting deficiencies could have been better investigated by the Board, including me, in advance of the decision to use it; but cost had nothing to do with its

de ficiencies.

As the 2016-7 IMP League Manager, I can assure you that no one is being paid to run the IMP Leagues this year. Further, no one is being paid to edit and compile the Matchpointer. Yes, we have a Subsidy Policy, which is funded in part by the Unit's Share of 50-50 Draw proceeds, and a small donation based on the past year's Unit Board 'profit'. The existence of the Subsidy Policy, helps to avoid the Board having to make subjective decisions on requests for support from those individual Unit players going to represent District 19 (and Unit 430) in National ACBL finals (North American Pairs or Grand National Teams) or International representation for Canada.

Thank you once again for giving us a chance to respond to your message, and to correct many of the mistaken impressions it created.

Sincerely,

Peter Morse

President, ACBL Unit 430