Raleigh Bridge Club Board of Directors Minutes

May 20, 2026 5:30 pm
Attendees: Glen Anderson, Niki Antonelli, Eileen Bok, John Cobb, Ken Howard, Susan Overcash, Bill Rysanek, Lance Shull, and Collins Williams

Absent: Luisi Martin-Price and Russ Weimer

Meeting summary

This meeting focused on various operational matters for the RBC (Raleigh Bridge Club), with discussions covering multiple topics including bidding boxes, bridge scoring systems, scheduling conflicts, and director coverage needs. Collins reported ordering 18 new sets of bidding boxes (24 total including 6 already purchased) to replace existing ones, with plans to transition to the new boxes once they arrive. The group decided to defer switching from declare-focused to north-south focused BridgeMate scoring until new directors are properly trained, and Collins will investigate potential new ACBL software that might make this transition easier. For July 2nd when the Royal venue is unavailable due to a conflict, Lance volunteered to organize a self-contained RBC Club knockout tournament using BBO's team game functionality rather than running a regular sanctioned game. The board discussed a request from a nonprofit to borrow 20 card tables for a mahjong event, with Glen volunteering to handle the logistics. A significant concern was raised about director coverage, as Barbara is reducing her role and Janet will be unavailable starting October, leaving insufficient director resources for the club's needs. The group also discussed the upcoming sectional tournament logistics, including venue details and equipment needs, and addressed the need to plan for presidential succession as John's term ends in the coming months.

Next steps

Collins

- Receive the new bidding boxes, label them, and assess storage logistics for both new and old boxes.
- Communicate with the board about the director shortage and next steps.
- Investigate options for a new dealing machine, including researching the PlayBridge Dealer 4.
- Look into implementing a volunteer system for escorting members to their cars in the parking lot.
- Include information about the sectional in the weekly club email.

John

- Ask Deanna for a corrected flyer for the sectional with the new venue address.
- Take a video of the current dealing machine process for comparison.

Lance

- Organize and coordinate a potential RBC Club knockout event for July 2nd, including communication to the club.
- Send links to YouTube videos demonstrating the PlayBridge Dealer 4 machine to Collins and John.

Collaboration

- Collins & Glen: Work offline to coordinate the logistics for lending 20 card tables to a nonprofit for a mahjong event on July 11th.
- Susan to establish a committee for the 90th Anniversary of RBC in 2028

Summary

Bidding Box Replacement Discussion

The meeting focused on discussing the replacement of bidding boxes at the club. Collins confirmed he had ordered 18 sets of four new bidding boxes (24 total) after receiving positive feedback, with delivery expected within a week. The group discussed storage plans, with Collins initially proposing to keep one tub of old boxes while replacing the other, but after discussion about space optimization, they agreed to assess if existing spare boxes could serve as backup before completely eliminating the old tubs.

Bridgemate Scoring System Implementation

The group discussed implementing a new bridgemate scoring system (changing declarer focused to north-south focused) but decided to defer the change until new directors are properly trained. Collins suggested waiting until a trained roster of directors is in place before making the switch, while Glen mentioned potential new ACBL software that might make the process easier.

RBC Club Tournament Proposal - July 2nd

The Royal isn’t available on July 2nd. There was discussion on whether to hold an online game or other options. Lance proposed organizing a self-governed RBC knockout tournament using BBO's team games functionality, which would not require a director and could potentially continue with subsequent rounds scheduled between participants. Collins expressed concern about low attendance due to the July 4th holiday weekend, but agreed to the proposal if Lance would coordinate it. The group decided to proceed with Lance organizing the event.

Tables for MahJong

There has been a request from a nonprofit to borrow 20 card tables for a mahjong event on July 11th, with Glen volunteering to transport the tables and Collins offering to coordinate the details offline. The discussion included questions about the venue for the mahjong event and logistics for returning the tables before the upcoming sectional tournament.

Board Duplication and Director Shortage

John reported on the current state of board duplication, explaining that Barbara has been handling this task at no cost using the RBC dealing machine, producing large quantities of boards weekly. He noted that while he is learning the process with Barbara's help, the current system may not be practical long-term and discussed potential improvements. Niki agreed to get boards from Barbara if Barbara isn't playing. Regarding directors, John highlighted a critical shortage due to Barbara potentially reducing her role and Janet becoming unavailable in October, leaving only Russ and Alex as available directors. He identified several potential new directors and emphasized that anyone willing to serve as backup director needs to pass the director test and complete RBC-specific training.

Director Coverage

Collins expressed concern about finding directors to cover upcoming gaps, particularly in July and August.

Sectional Event Planning Discussion and Website

The team discussed the upcoming sectional event, with Collins reporting no updates yet on space layout or equipment details. Bill requested to be included in future conversations about tables and equipment, as he needs to plan storage access, etc. The group identified the need for better marketing of the event and Collins agreeing to include flyer information in weekly emails. Glen raised a concern about the flyer containing an incorrect address, which John agreed to address with Deanna.

Niki provided an update that Glen confirmed they have not paid for website hosting or domain costs but has not been able to make contact with the domain owner.

RBC Presidency Transition Planning

The board discussed the upcoming RBC presidency transition, with John agreeing to continue as president until October when Glen will take over the role.

2026 Club Goals and Concerns

Lance presented survey results from 65 club members (about half the membership) regarding 2026 goals and initiatives, finding generally positive feedback about growing the club and continuing classes. The main concerns raised were about start times being too early (before 7 PM), safety perceptions in the parking lot, particularly for women, and the elevator not inspiring confidence. Collins agreed to explore implementing a volunteer buddy system for parking lot safety, while the group discussed potential solutions to encourage new members, including wine and cheese nights and having veteran members help guide newcomers. The conversation ended with a discussion about potentially purchasing a new dealing machine, with Lance suggesting the industry standard PlayBridge Dealer 4 at $6,200, though John noted the current process requires significant manual intervention and suggested creating a video demonstration to better understand the existing workflow. Susan brought up the 90th anniversary of the RBC in 2028 and will establish a committee to begin planning.