

## **Notes on the Discussions of the Unofficial Bridge / Executive Meeting of August 21, 2013**

Call to order by Commander Ralph Hagen at 1900.

### 2. Roll call, regrets

Regrets: Don Butt, Oliver Woolcock, Rufus Churcher, Christine Purfield, Bert Terhart

Absent: Walter Berry, Bill Kalbfleisch

Present: Ralph Hagen, Mike Hoeinghaus, Elaine Pearce, Bob Weenk, Steve Kitchen, Bob Derksen

The Secretary established that the criteria for a quorum had not been met and hence this was not an official Bridge / Executive meeting. The group, under Ralph Hagen's leadership decided that it was worthwhile to address the items on the agenda and proceeded to discuss them, being well aware that no major decisions could be taken and would have to be addressed at a subsequent meeting. By the end of the meeting there was a general consensus that there was a great deal of satisfaction with what had been accomplished.

### 3. Correspondence - secretary / webmaster: none

4. Adoption of agenda: It was agreed that we would discuss the items on the agenda.

5. Adoption of minutes of June 5, 2013: not done, as there was no quorum; the item will be addressed at the next Executive Bridge meeting.

### 6. Business arising from minutes of June 5, 2013

Advertising banners purchase: Bob Weenk reported that he bought one banner in June as a result of the decision made at the June 5 Bridge meeting.

Report on Squadron property storage arrangements: Bob Weenk reported that we have a free and relatively secure storage facility on the property of Don Powell on Church Street. Bob purchased a tent and Bob and Ralph built a storage facility to house not only L'il Gabe but also many of our Squadron's other physical possessions. Commander Ralph has sent a thank-you letter to Don and his wife and will forward a copy to the Squadron Secretary for publication with the meeting reports.

### 7. Reports

Commander:

Introduction of Steve Kitchen, new Executive member. Steve brings

a lot of experience as a boater to our organization and we're very fortunate to have him on board!

Report on Oceans Day, Concert on the Green, Salmon BBQ and Theatre Festival promotional activities. At the first three we featured only our banners and L'il Gabe. Ralph and Bob Weenk reported that our presence received a lot of attention and that therefore it fulfilled our goal of being seen in the community. At the fourth activity Ralph Hagen and Bob Derksen promoted our upcoming fall course schedule; the results were very positive.

CPS 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations: The western 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary travelling flag will likely reach Gabriola on or about September 28. However, it was pointed out that we should have some say in the matter since it is, after all, our local needs, that according to the District and National organizers should be taken into account. For example, we might put in for September 22, which would coincide with Fair Day (formerly Gabriola Day) at the Commons. The 28<sup>th</sup> would provide us with an opportunity to "show the flag" at the Village. Commander Ralph will weigh the options after following up with Cecil Ashley, VIND Public Relations Officer, Nanaimo Squadron Commander Alexa Stochmal and Mount Brenton Squadron, where the flag would be headed to next.

#### Squadron Training Officer:

The written report by STO Oliver Woolcock was presented by ATO Mike Hoeinghaus. In expanding on the report, Mike stated that the instructors for the Boating Basics course were in place. Mike raised the question of a registration window. It was pointed out that we could accept potential students quite close to the dates the courses are to commence since for Basics, the teaching materials being not very expensive, we can have sufficient quantities on hand to meet demand. As for Boating Essentials and other courses, Ralph pointed out that we could have the instructional materials from CPS National in about a week's time.

In discussing the upcoming course schedule, the group drifted into discussing the Squadron's promotional strategies. With Ralph and Bob Weenk being away in September for a period of time, Bob Derksen volunteered to look after the sandwich board on ferry hill. A banner on Taylor Bay Road advertising the Boating courses and pointing people to Google the web site was also discussed. Mike Hoeinghaus will contact the land's owner, Dr. Bob Rooks, to seek

permission to post such a banner on his fence. Bob Weenk will order another banner from Staples at Brookes Landing in Nanaimo. We will ask the next Bridge / Executive meeting to ratify the purchase. Mike Hoeinghaus and Bob Derksen will co-ordinate an appearance by L'il Gabe and our pamphlet table at the Village on the weekend of September 7. That still leaves the weekend of September 14 open and it might be important to find some people to fill that slot since it is the last weekend before the start of Basics.

Bob Derksen was asked to contact Communications Officer Don Butt regarding the placement of an advertisement in the *Gabriola Sounder* September 9 edition. In addition, Bob will approach Don about a press release for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary flag promotion.

Administrative/Supply Officer:  
no report

Secretary:  
See report. Bob Derksen's suggestion that the historian's records be offered to the Gabriola Museum after having been digitized met with general approval. Bob will contact the Museum staff.

Treasurer:  
see report

Membership Officer:  
See report. In addition we had quite a discussion about the variations in our membership numbers over the last few years and especially this year.

Ralph presented an interesting set of statistics concerning Boating graduates retention rates. Between 2004 and 2013, 243 students took one or more of the Squadron's courses. Of those, 196 are not Squadron members in 2013. Forty-seven out of our 91 members make up our Boating Course graduates.

The group thanked Elaine for her efforts, and recognized the difficulty of the task and noted that without her dedication our numbers would not be nearly as good as they are.

Public Relations Officer:  
Rufus reports no report. However, Elaine Pearce pointed out that at the VIND Rendezvous Gabriola Squadron received a cheque for \$132 from VIND for Rufus' advertising accomplishments for the District's

*Roster* publication. We all extended congratulations to Rufus for having the second-highest number of advertising sales in the District, quite an accomplishment, given our community's small size.

MAREP Officer:

Bill had no report. However, Ralph submitted a piece of writing clarifying how we can use NOTMAR. This will be appended to the reports and will be discussed again at the next Bridge meeting. In the meantime, if Bob Derksen meets with Bill Kalbfleisch, Bob offered to raise the matter with Bill on how to increase member awareness of NOTMAR's monthly reports with an eye to putting something on the Squadron web site.

Webmaster:

see report

Safety Officer:

no report

Communications/Privacy Officer:

Don Butt reports no report

Past Commander / Nominations Committee:

See report. In addition to the report being presented, it was suggested that the Committee seek input from the membership at large. Committee chair Bob Derksen promised to have a report ready promoting this initiative for the next Bridge meeting.

Mission Committee:

see report

Boat Launch Ramp Committee:

No report. However, Ralph welcomed new committee member Steve Kitchen who will join Walter Berry in exploring the possibilities.

8. Old business:

None

## 9. New Business

Dates for Fall Social, Christmas Party, Winter Social, AGM 2014:

We will target the fall social to be held on October 24 at the Silva Bay Restaurant's facilities. Elaine will check with Tanya Gambrill regarding the suitability of the date and Ralph will look into speaker and topic.

Bob Weenk will check with the Golf Club regarding dates for the Christmas party and report back. There was a consensus that based on the Mission Committee's report presented at the June 5, 2013 Bridge meeting, we should not be asking Village Foods for free food donations for the event. Instead, following the Committee's recommendations, we will target this great community partner to support us in our course programmes, specifically, our youth programme. The conversation then turned to what to ask our members to contribute aside from pot luck non-meat food items and the consensus was that \$15.00 per ticket was reasonable and acceptable.

The winter social's date and particulars will be discussed at a later date.

The AGM's suggested date of April 26 will be presented at the next Bridge meeting for verification.

The group suggested that Don Butt, through *Scuttlebutt*, solicit suggestions for our socials from the Squadron membership. Bob Derksen will pass on the message and post a survey on the web site as well.

Welcome Wagon:

Ralph will attend this meeting of newcomers to our enchanted isle on August 26, 2013.

Member's prices for our course offerings:

Bob Derksen suggested that one of the incentives that might retain membership would be to offer our courses to current Squadron members at reduced rates. This is not common practice throughout VIND. CPS National endorses the concept by making it an integral part of its online registration forms. Elaine suggested that the Membership secretary should be kept informed of all those claiming membership rates. The suggestions met with general interest and will be passed on to the Training Committee for further study and discussion.

10. Next Meeting:

It was decided at the June 5 Bridge / Executive meeting that Ralph would decide the date of the next meeting. Since this August 21 gathering was not an official meeting, the decision still stands and Ralph will in due course announce the date of the next meeting, likely late September or early October.

11. The meeting ended at 21:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Derksen, Secretary