**OEDL Board Meeting**

Avenuers N.Y.B.

Tuesday 1/7/25 @ 7 PM

**1. Meeting opening & roll call**

Mike A.| Treasurer Bill M.| President Paul K.| Casey H.| DartConnect Admin Paul L.| League Director Pickles | Secretary Chris R.| Jim M.

The board welcomed Mitch Saadi and Justin Ward from the Upper Darby Darts League to attend the meeting and observe proceedings.

**Excused absences:** Alan Cahill (bionic leg), Chairman Greg Stoffa (ill)

**2. Prior month’s minutes**

The prior meeting’s minutes were approved 8-0.

**3. Officers’ and Committee reports**

**President + Scheduling/Seeding**

President Kuhn kicked off the meeting by discussing the plans for spring seeding, which will be determined mostly using DartConnect stats. He previewed that Secretary Richman had developed a rudimentary formula to rank players and teams. Kuhn said that for the most part the fall seeding played out well with good balance between teams aside from a few exceptions. As a board we were pretty pleased with how incorporating some DartConnect stats made the divisions easier to seed but noted that players missing matches cannot be accounted for.

Casey Hare brought forth an issue from her captain Bonnie about players shooting just enough to qualify for the playoffs, in some cases throwing one game a night, and then tipping the competitive balance by dominating in the postseason. Bonnie proposed a rule where the amount of games a shooter can throw in the playoffs would correspond to the amount of games a player played during the season. After briefly discussing the issue, the board elected to table it for a future conversation, noting that it would need to pass through the Rules and Regs committee to be implemented regardless.

Another issue that rose up was regarding forfeits. In the December board of directors meeting, we discussed forfeits by the D11 Ten Stone and Cherry Street teams that occurred during Thanksgiving week. In normal cases, teams forfeiting during the final two weeks face a stiff penalty, but Pickles elected to issue a warning since the teams are both new, they may have been unaware of the policy, and Thanksgiving week can be a difficult time due to people traveling for the holiday. Brian Padgett, captain of the Division 11 Taproom on 19th team, complained that the forfeit netted his team only 7 points when he felt his team would have collected more points if they’d played.

Jeff Baxter walked us through how the Board landed at the current rule that when a team forfeits, they suffer a 7-0 defeat. Previously there was a formula that involved calculating average weekly wins for how many points a team would be awarded when their opponent forfeited, but said that it led to teams attempting to game the system by making choices on whether to accept forfeits based on how much it would benefit them, and was dropped. We agreed to remind teams at the general membership meeting of the current rules and how they can throw a game with as few as 4 shooters and have it still count, and agreed to add it to a list of potential adjustments in the future.

We reviewed changes to rosters and teams, including the second Cherry Street withdrawing from the league because matches were concluding too late in the evening. Pickles explained that he put together a Cav’s Headhouse team together to be captained by Chris Vincent that included shooters new to the league, and that Jeff Belonger is returning to captain a new Plough team. Additionally, the O’Neals team with the Curry brothers turned their roster over and moved back to Druid’s Keep.

Finally, in regard to scheduling, Pickles stated his opinion that the spring season was starting a week too early and did not give him and others planning the league enough time to be totally prepared, with the holidays and the Philly Open occurring so quickly on top of one another. He said he and Paul K. had to work extra hard to get teams signed up and that many were not ready with the early deadline. Most of the board members in attendance agreed.

**Chairman + Hall of Fame**

Greg Stoffa absent.

**Treasurer + Budget Committee**

Treasurer BillMo shared that we finally received the invoice for the balance of apparel purchases for winners of the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 seasons. BillMo praised Jim Coughlin’s work and accounting on the apparel, calling him a “coupon clipper” who did well to negotiate deals for the league. He concluded that revenue that will be coming in from the spring season plus having the apparel accounts closed gives the league a good leg to stand on for forming and operating a budget committee.

We reviewed lingering payments, including a $5 for player cost for Cav’s Headhouse since their team features many new shooters. We noted that three venues required credits or refunds, and three venues (Taproom, Druid’s Keep, and Plough and the Stars) needed to pay venue fees for the spring season.

**DartConnect Administrator**

DC Admin Paul L. talked about what new features we could add through DartConnect, including a segments feature. Using the segments feature would allow captains to group different formats in DartConnect, and gray players out after they’ve played a format to avoid accidentally playing the same player twice in the same game. The downside is captains would need to input the games in order themselves, which we concluded may be trickier for inexperienced teams. We ultimately decided to test the format in Division 1 where the captains have the most experience.

Paul went on to share that the Quaker City league wants to join forces to try and get better pricing on setting up a league using DartConnect. Doing so would reduce prices for team leagues—president Kuhn questioned why we’d want to help another league get a cheaper price and implored the secretary to put that in the minutes. After discussing more, we marked that exploring it could be a summer project, and that we should also consider the Upper Darby league if we’re going to consider it.

**League Director + Events**

League Director Pickles kicked things off with the topic of All-Star shoots. In the fall, there was a question about how certain venues came to host multiple all-star shoots, and Pickles said teams have an option when registering for a new season to put in a bid to host an all-star shoot and that most leave it blank. He said some venues, including O’Neals and both Cavanaughs, are in a better position because teams are in direct communication with the venue owners, but how that’s not the case with every team.

BillMo shared an old family adage about how everyone should have a chance at the buffet before anyone else went for seconds as a keen metaphor for how two venues (O’Neals and Cav’s Headhouse) each hosted two all-star shoots in the fall. He also shared another tale from his youth about how his father would take cold beers out of the fridge and warm them slightly on his radiator in the winter—despite an advanced degree in communications, the recording secretary failed to see how this applies to darts.

Pickles shared his opinion on how bigger venues with multiple teams should be considered to host more than one All-Star shoot, and how they need to be run by someone with experience and that there need to be at least three dart boards to keep things running smoothly. He also said that location factors in so that shooters don’t boycott an all-star throw because it’s too far to travel.

Moving onto forfeits and infractions, Paul K. pledged to beat the drum about infractions at the forthcoming general membership meeting, stressing how players shouldn’t be disappearing for smoke breaks, that they have three minutes before games to get things figured out, and that we can use DartConnect to track how long matches are taking. For teams complaining about matches going late, we agreed to remind captains that they can start matches early if they want to and the other captain agrees.

**Vice-president + Rules and Reg**

Vice president Cahill was not able to attend because he did not want to test out his new prosthetic leg in icy conditions. BillMo said he would scrape stats and standings from the Your League Stats page.

**Secretary + Social Media**

Secretary Richman had nothing to report on social media. He said he’d hold his work on creating a formula to rank players for later in the meeting.

**Equipment**

We reviewed which new venues would get dart boards for the spring season, and Paul K. made a point to say he would shout out shooter Jason Lapier for supplying the league with decommissioned iPads at the upcoming membership meeting, adding a humble brag about buying an iPad for his girlfriend and therefore understanding the cost.

**Awards Director + Website Committee**

With the previous awards apparel officially closed out, Casey is now primed to begin sourcing vendors for fall 24/spring 25 in earnest. She sent a collection of the current awards and broke down what is currently awarded. President Kuhn volunteered that we should keep things as is, and we agreed to table a decision for now.

**4. Old Business**

**Fischer Cup Shirt Order:** At a previous meeting, we discussed allowing shooters across the OEDL to order the Phillies-inspired Fischer Cup jerseys that the team used during the tournament. Secretary Richman had previously set up an online form to express interest in purchasing them and only two people expressed an interest. Paul shared that shooters from the Northeast “threw a temper tantrum” at the idea that we’d sell Fischer Cup jerseys. President Kuhn suggested we revisit the jerseys in the spring as baseball is kicking up again, and Director Pickles said in the future, we could consider developing a general OEDL jersey that anyone can purchase that would then become the official Fischer Cup jersey for the tournament.

**Matches Finishing too Late:** We again spoke about the Cherry Street II team withdrawing over the length of matches. We briefly discussed whether we could institute a “sudden death” provision for certain low level divisions, wherein if teams are struggling to hit a final out, both captains can agree to remove busting to award the first team to hit the double with multiple darts the leg win. There was some pushback to this idea and we agreed to table it for future discussion.

**5. New Business**

Secretary Richman gave a brief presentation on a new ranking formula he developed using DartConnect stats. He devised a formula to rank players individually using a collection of stats, plugged the formula into Excel, and was able to create a ranking of all 513 fall shooters. He then applied these individual rankings to create team rankings he then weighted to include playoff performance and strength of schedule, and sent out his ranking of each team (factoring in player drops and adds) for the board to review. He acknowledged his formula was not quite perfect because he didn’t have time to factor in everything he would have liked, but that he felt it was a good starting point for further tweaking.

**6. Business Not on the Agenda**

The board discussed the upcoming packet pickup a week from the meeting, and divvied up responsibilities: Paul L will explain DartConnect and has already created folders to give out. After the meeting, players will collect folders on the first floor of Avenuers from Casey and Jim Miller, and a handful of teams will also collect boards for the spring.

**7. Next meeting location and date**

The board decided to hold the next meeting at Ten Stone on February 3rd. Secretary Richman said he’d confirm the details with the staff.

**8. Adjourn**

The board agreed voted 8-0 to adjourn at 8:19 PM and move onto the seeding process for the spring Tuesday and Thursday night seasons.