Meeting was called to order at 9:25pm and presided over by club manager Peter Matthews.

The secretary apologized to the members for not printing out the minutes for everyone to read. Motion was approved to rely on the internet. If there are no comments by February 2nd the minutes are accepted.

Treasurer’s Report (Brian Duran):  
The club was even on the income and expenses for the games. The positive result was due solely and completely to membership dues.

Revenue was down both from the Monday and the Tuesday games. Part of this is due to the decision in 2008 to charge a flat fee for all games regardless of the sanction fee from the ACBL/Unit.

The treasurer brought the binder of the back statements should anyone in the membership wish to view them.

Membership VP’s Report (Gloria Tsoi):  
The club had 83 regular members, 5 free members from the IAP class, 14 MIT student members, 2 High school members (Cambridge Rindge and Latin), and 14 lifetime members this year.

The ACBL has a program for novices and club recruitment. If a club recruits 10 members it receives an upgraded (in masterpoints) club championship. We received two of these games last year. One has been played; the other is scheduled for 1st quarter of 2009.

Publicity Report: (Vincent Koon-Kam-King)  
The publicity this year focused on the IAP class, and on welcoming new members to the club. They are looking for ideas from the membership.

Club Manager’s Report (Peter Matthews):  
The club averaged 7.5 tables per game 7.8 students per game (not all from MIT)

Player of the Year: Nathan Glasser  
Club Champion: Pam Miller and Jim Rasmussen

The club broke even in 2008. The officers have seen the entire spreadsheet. The manager’s statement was also reviewed twice this year by the Treasurer.
There was discussion regarding the lower average of tables, down from 8 tables last year. It is possible that the novice game (held on Tuesdays in 2008) was competition. Possibly the bad economy will improve turnout as bridge is a cheap form of entertainment.

There was discussion regarding the Duplimate. It will take 5-6 years for the club to pay off the machine. The Club Manager indicated this is acceptable to him.

Slate of Officers proposed and accepted unanimously via a voice vote:

President: Jack Chu*
Treasurer: Brian Duran*
VP Membership: Steve McDevitt
VP Publicity: Elizabeth Gompels
Secretary: Pamela Miller*
Club Manager: Peter Matthews*

*incumbent

OLD BUSINESS

IAP Class: There are consistently six tables in the class. The largest turnout was nine tables. There are two lessons to go, after which there will be lectures and supervised play on Monday nights through May.

Volunteers are needed to help run the novice game from Feb through May and to lecture on various topics.

There was discussion around “special games”. They cost more but give out more masterpoints. A straw poll indicated that the membership did not want more special games. The club runs various types of special games:

2 Charity games
2 Special Tournament at Clubs
2 Junior Fund
1 Unit-Wide game
1 International Fund
4 Club Championships
6 North American Open Pairs

In 2007 there was ¾ table more for the special games. In 2008 there did not appear to be any effect.

Proposal: Same number of special games as last year.

PASSED

Start times: There was discussion regarding moving the start time from 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Both sides of the issue were aired.
There were two statements on parking. First that it is easier to park on the street at 6:00pm than at 6:45pm. Second, that the MIT community, for $44 per year (plus $50 deposit) can obtain an after-hours parking pass. The pass runs from September to September. The definition of “community” is not clear but appears to include alumni and Athletic Club members.

Note from secretary: The MIT Facilities web site says: “Employees or others who do not have an MIT parking permit can park in any non-gated lot on campus after 5:00 PM on weekdays, and all day on weekends and MIT holidays.” The closest of those lots is the N10 lot across the railroad tracks on Albany Street and the 139 Mass Ave lot.

The group of members present prefer to start the game at 6:30pm.

NEW BUSINESS

A question was asked about what happened to the statistical categories, normally on the website, for 2009? Various arcane scripts, written several webmasters ago, create those pages. Jack Chu is working on a link for 2009.

Paul Wendt has volunteered to go through the paper archives looking for interesting material for the web site. The Secretary will make the archives available to him.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22pm.