

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**

**Tuesday, August 21, 2001
Via Phone @ 2:00 CDT**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Arnold Jones, Dan Morse, Nick Nickell, Shawn Quinn,
Bruce Reeve, Wayne Hascall and Bob Friend
Directors Absent: Alan Popkin
Others Present: Peter Rank, Esq., Rena Hetzer and Galen Hardy

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Michael Becker, USBF President. The President noted that at least a majority of the directors were present at the meeting, thus establishing a quorum for the purpose of transacting business by the Board.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Toronto NABC meetings were approved after the inclusion of the 60 months term for the outstanding promissory note in favor of the ACBL.

Update on USOC Matters

1. Rank updated the Board on the status of the USBF application for membership to the USOC. He reported that all 21 issues which the USOC had indicated needed to be addressed before our application would be considered complete had been answered and returned to the USOC along with a cover letter stating our request that the Membership Committee consider the USBF Application at its meeting set for September 7 and 8, 2001 in New York. Rank further reported that he and Nickell would appear personally at this meeting to respond to questions the Committee members may have.

If our application is approved, the USBF would then become an associate member of the USOC. Full membership would follow once bridge granted a spot in the Winter Olympics as an official event.

The USOC committee might approve us conditionally or reserve approval subject to a review of our application or might possibly reject our application due to our as yet unapproved tax-exempt status though Rank believes this last possibility to be unlikely.

2. Nick Nickell reported that he had not yet made contact with the bowling member of the USOC Board but had determined when he would be in his office and possibly available. Nickell indicated that a daily effort would be made to reach him via telephone.

3. The Athlete Training Program, Budget, Grievance and Appeals Rules, and Nominating Committee Procedures – all issues that needed to be addressed per the USOC’s initial response to our application -- were approved by the Board unanimously.
4. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that the Bylaws as restated and revised to replace the word *player* or *participant* with the word *athlete* wherever deemed appropriate by Rank are approved.
5. Rank stated that all Board members must sign and return the Waiver of Notice to Amend Bylaws and Unanimous Consent to Restate and amend Bylaws. These signed notices will be accumulated by Rena Hetzer and returned to the offices of Peter Rank for their proper disposition.

USBF Active Member Dues

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that the following apply as to USBF active membership:

1. Active members entitled to participate in trials and vote in USBF elections will pay annual dues of \$50. Annual dues paid in 2001 or 2002 shall be considered payment for the year 2002.
2. In order for 2002/2003 trials participants to receive credit for 2002/2003 trials positioning points available by placing high in the overalls of qualifying NABC+ events, such participants must pay their annual dues prior to the start of such qualifying event at the 2002 Houston Spring NABC or, if not entering such qualifying event, must pay the annual dues prior to May 1, 2002.

Salt Lake City Event

No new information was reported on the format and structure of events.

The importance of enticing bridge-playing celebrities to attend the bridge attraction was discussed. It was suggested that Michael Calhoun, ACBL Chief Marketing Officer might be able to make contact with such celebrities and invite them to Salt Lake City. It was also suggested that Larry King, sports event promoter, may be able to help. A list of known bridge-playing celebrities may be available from Jean Patterson, ACBL Public Relations Administrator.

The importance of a large turnout of kibitzers/viewgraph watchers was also discussed. Hascall was asked to contact the SLC district director and develop a plan to get the local players to attend.

Financial Issues

Nickell reported and that he and Quinn had collaborated on constructing a letter with the intention of soliciting corporate sponsorship from Microsoft as part of their advertising budget. The pitch to Microsoft would be for an annual 5-year commitment to sponsor USA teams going

to international championships. The legality (as to USOC regulations) of allowing such sponsored international teams to carry the name of Microsoft will be investigated.

Nickell also reported that should we fail at obtaining corporate sponsorship a plan to solicit charitable contributions in the \$5,000-20,000 range would be pursued.

Quinn stated that Russ Ekeblad was aware of a consultant who advises non-profit organizations. Rank suggested caution in signing on with any such consultant.

Due to the absence of Jack Zdancewicz, USBF Chief Financial Officer, an update on USBF expenses was postponed.

Website Update

Quinn reported that she expected a USBF web site to be up and running by January 1. While not elaborate, the site will state the purpose of the USBF, describe the SLC event, describe the dues structure, have a calendar of events and provide the ability to pay dues or make a donation online.

To aid Quinn in soliciting help in the drafting of the web page information, Rena Hetzer will provide Quinn with all known email addresses of the ITTC and WITTC.

Choosing and Inviting the SLC Team Member

A draft letter (suggested by Reeve and composed by Becker) inviting athletes to join the SLC team was presented. Although the letter covered all the necessary points, it was agreed that once the USBF Board had made its selection of team members (creating a list by order of preference) that those selected should be invited to be a member of the team via telephone or in person by a member of the USBF board to insure that any concerns would be addressed immediately.

A discussion of the lists of suggested team members brought to light the disadvantage to the ABA members due to being relatively unknown to the ACBL USBF board members. It was agreed that ABA would send via email to Rena Hetzer biographies of those players suggested on the ABA list. Hetzer will then distribute the bios via email to all USBF board members for their consideration prior to selection of the SLC teams by the USBF board. It was also agreed that a meeting would be scheduled soon with the main purpose of the meeting the selection of the SLC teams.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The USBF board will meet via conference call on August 29, 2001 at 8:30 CDST. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.