

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

**Wednesday, August 29, 2001
Via Phone @ 8:30am - 11:30am CDT
continued 4:00pm CDT**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Arnold Jones, Dan Morse, Nick Nickell, Shawn Quinn, Bruce Reeve, Wayne Hascall, Bob Friend and Alan Popkin

Others Present: Gary Blaiss, 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

Approval of the minutes of the Toronto NABC meetings was deferred to a later meeting.

2002 USBC Site Selection

ACBL Management was authorized to act on behalf of the USBF in negotiations with the East Memphis Hilton, traditional site of the USBC. It was agreed that Blaiss would request that the hotel hold open the 06/09/02 through 06/18/02 dates until October 1. At that time, ACBL Management, acting on behalf of the USBF, will sign a contract with the East Memphis Hilton for those dates mentioned above unless the USBF has selected an alternate site or intends to select an alternate site.

Proposed USBF Fund-Raising Auction

Wayne Hascall presented a proposal to raise funds for the USBF. The suggested format is as follows:

1. Top level experts to be auctioned off as partners for the traditional NABC opening night Charity Pairs 1-session event.
2. The proceeds of the auction to be distributed in such a way as to create a money prize pool for the experts auctioned, to pay the added expenses such as a "class act" cocktail party running concurrent with the auction, and to provide funds going to the tax-exempt USBF which would help support the expert bridge athletes competing in international competition.
3. "Bidders" in the auction would have the option of pre-buying a specific expert for a minimum of \$1000 thereby allow profession players and their clients to participate without any disadvantage to client. The incentive to the professional might be the possibility of winning a share of the pool money plus the knowledge that their participation would contribute to the USBF, an organization formed for the benefit of the expert bridge athletes.

Web Site Update

The web site update was deferred to a later meeting.

Selection of Salt Lake City USA Teams

Arnold Jones reported on the resumes and “tag lines” of those players suggested for consideration of he and Bob Friend. Next, the various ACBL players suggested were discussed starting with those most frequently suggested. After due deliberation the following players were unanimously agreed upon to receive an invitation to be a member of the Salt Lake City USA open team:

Bob Hamman, Nick Nickell, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Ron Smith and Larry Cohen

Later, after adjourning at 11:30am CDT and reconvening at 4:00 pm CDT, the same procedure was followed in selecting the women to receive an invitation to be a member the Salt Lake City USA women’s team. The following players were unanimously selected:

Shawn Quinn, Mildred Breed, Sharon Osberg, Kerri Shuman, Jill Meyers and Clarice Reid

It was further unanimously agreed that should any of the six players listed above decline to play that Amalya Kearsse would be the first alternate choice for an invitation.

It was suggested that the draft invitation letter submitted and the previous meeting be used as a model for making the invitation but that all invitations would be delivered either in person or via telephone. Nick Nickell agreed to invite the open players and Dan Morse will invite the women players.

Closing Remarks

No specific date was selected for the next meeting. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.