

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

**February 12, 2002
8:00 A.M. CST - Via Conference Call**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Shawn Quinn, Dan Morse, Alan Popkin, Jay Baum,
Arnold Jones, Bruce Reeve, Bob Friend

Others Present: Rena Hetzer, Peter Rank, Nadine Wood, Bruce Kiedan

Call to Order and Quorum Established

Mike Becker called the meeting to order. A quorum was established

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the January 22, 2002 meeting and the January 29, 2002 meeting were approved.

Salt Lake City Review

Wood reported that Keiden had done a marvelous job of handling the press. Becker added that Keiden was the hero of our media effort.

Keiden reported that about 30 IOC and USOC representatives visited the tournament, plus the IOC sent their photographer. Keiden regrets the lack of advance work, lack of laptop for contacting media plus the lack of sufficient communications tools at the hotel. He was of the opinion that having such an event just prior to the Olympic Games should definitely be considered for future Olympics as bridge would surely enjoy the spotlight from the media at such a time and venue.

Linda Grannell was thanked for providing the excellent biographies for the players. Charity Sack was appreciated for her professionalism in constructing the media model for use by the players when meeting with the press. She made our success in SLC all the better.

Rank reported that the 1-hour media meeting was well received and served to pull our teams together. He also reported that Gary Johanson, USOC Legal Counsel, and two assistants were present on opening night and were impressed. The split up of the Junior team was regarded as a ridiculous way to run that event and detrimental to performance of the US players expecting to compete together as a team. Wood said that as an ACBL WBF representative she would lobby for no 8-person teams in the future. All agreed that the ladies team handled the 7-person team member arrangement with grace and success. It was felt that the Juniors were delightful and presented themselves well at all appearances.

Becker thanked all those who went to SLC and volunteered their time. Nickell through Quinn, thanked Nadine Wood for her fine hospitality as did the USBF Board.

Morse reported that the IOC, when discussing adding new sports to the Olympic schedule would look favorably at those sports which were no cost to the IOC, were a true sport, had a universal appeal, would add prestige to the games and could draw an audience. He also reported that the IOC will meet in November, 2002 to decide on bridge. They could decide to conduct an "Indoor Olympics" in an Olympic off year.

Rank reported that one member of the USOC Membership Committee and the Executive Committee, a bridge player, spent quite a while in discussion with Nickell and Morse.

Board Administrative Problems

Becker observed that the Board gets mired in minutia and cannot keep current with its tasks. Becker suggested that the Board form committees do its work and offered a structure whereby a Board member would chair a committee and report its recommendations back to the Board. Each chair of such committees would be free to seat whatever volunteers he considered able to contribute to that committee's mission, subject to Board approval. The Board asked Becker to come up with a plan of committee responsibilities. Some possible committees mentioned were Finance, Publicity/PR in addition to Appeals, Nominating and Tournament Committees which are already in the Bylaws.

Jack Zdancewicz will prepare a budget and income report with yearly comparisons for the next meeting.

A new treasurer election/appointment will be considered at the next meeting.

Election of USBF Officers for 2002

Not necessary until 2003.

Resolution on Removal of USBF Members & Refusal of Membership

The Board approved the above titled Resolution as presented. (*Exhibit 1*)

Active Member Dues in Conjunction with Large Donations

Tabled until Nickell present at Board meeting.

Report of ITT Credentials Committee

Becker summarized the procedures used by the ITT Credentials Committee and Executive Committee resulting in the Credentials Committee's ruling on the Placing Points (PPs) that the Welland team would earn for its Reisinger win.

The USBF Tournament Committee approved the report of the ITTC Credentials Committee. The Board accepted the report and authorized a letter informing the team of the decision and the Welland Team's right to appeal. (*Exhibit 2*)

The USBF bylaws provide for an Appeals Committee (aka the Grievance and Appeals Committee). Bruce Reeve was appointed chairman of this committee. Reeve will make suggestions as to who else should serve on this Appeals Committee.

Tournament Committee

A. Trials Conditions

Becker reviewed the differences between the conditions as previously approved and the revised conditions. These differences are due to necessary references to Active and USBF Resident members and complications therefrom, and revisions in Appendix P. The Conditions of Contest were not voted upon. (*Exhibit 3*)

B. Junior Team Trials Conditions

The Board resolved that henceforth if an all junior team gets to the semi-final of the Vanderbilt or Spingold they would automatically qualify as the USA I Junior team in the next World Junior Championship.

Discussion of the junior conditions centered around the length of the event. The Board thought that with a large field (yet to be defined), the event should last three days instead of two, and that the third day be on the Monday morning after the nationals. The Board decided to ask Charlotte Blaiss about playing a session on Monday morning and how it would impact on the Junior Camp bus trip later that day. (*Exhibit 4*)

C. Active Member Dues

Becker reported that a letter was sent asking potential Active Members to pay dues. (*Exhibit 5*)

Report on Income from \$1.95 Tag Line

Jack Zdancewicz reported that \$9,100 had been donated.

Web Site Update

Quinn reported that we need help. This will be discussed with Jay Baum at the next meeting. A web master is needed to administer and update the site. Quinn will provide a paragraph on what we need for Becker's next USBF Update.

USBF Booth at Houston NABC

Tabled.

Other Business

Rena Hetzer was appointed the Assistant Secretary of the USBF Board.
Reeve will provide a draft letter of thanks to those who have made charitable donations.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Board will meet Wednesday February 20 at 8:00 am CST. As to the meeting in Houston, the Marriott was preferred over the Westin for the first USBF Board Meeting there.

A list of tabled matters and matters to attend to in the future is appended to these minutes.
(Exhibit 6)

There being not further business, the meeting adjourned.

Exhibit 1

REMOVAL OF USBF MEMBERS; **REFUSAL OF USBF MEMBERSHIP**

- I. U.S. Citizens on the membership rolls of the ACBL and the ABA shall be USBF members.
- II. The USBF shall request and receive the names of persons who have been suspended or expelled from the ACBL and ABA due to disciplinary causes.
- III. The USBF shall maintain a roll of persons who are under expulsion or suspension from the ACBL and ABA. Such persons shall be removed from USBF membership and shall be refused admission for membership in the USBF during such expulsion or suspension.

Exhibit 2

To: Howard Weinstein, Bjorn Fallenius, Fred Gitelman
CC: USBF Board

The Credentials Committee looked into the number of PPs that your team should earn for its Reisinger performance, and determined that your team should be awarded 40.5 PPs. At Howard's request, the Executive Committee of the ITTC conducted a review of its assignment of this matter to the Credentials Committee. The Executive Committee of the ITTC reaffirmed that the Credentials Committee was the proper committee to have heard this matter. Had the Executive Committee heard this matter the determination of your team's PPs would have been the same.

If you feel you would like to pursue this matter further you may appeal this decision to the USBF Board's Appeals Committee.

Mike Becker, as ITTC Executive Committee Chair

Exhibit 3

1. Many references to Active Members have been added, and a notice inserted on the first page requiring Active membership before the key Houston event.
2. Junior members (for the purposes of collecting dues) have been defined as those born after 1976. OK
3. The notice provision allows for payment of several years dues at once of \$50 per year, with the proviso that if dues are increased, advance payers would not have to pay more.
4. For positioning points purposes, when are Active Member dues due for players who do not play in the Vanderbilt (for the Open USBC) or the Women's Swiss (for the Women's USBC)? I believe this was not addressed by the Board. I put in the conditions that those who did not play in Houston had to pay before the end of the tournament.
5. A provision was added for teams that have some players who have paid their dues and others who have not: The TEAM gets PPs if their are four members who have paid their active member dues prior to the key event in Houston (for bye purposes).
6. Eligibility Issues are to be referred to the Credentials Committee rather than the Board. In the case of Gitelman and Fallenius, the Board made the decision directly. These conditions propose otherwise. What do you think?
7. The PPs matter is resolved by requiring members to have become USBF Residents (eligible) before the event they won them in.
8. Issues Related to Eligibility.
Matters of eligibility of individual players and teams which are not expressly covered by these conditions are the province of the Credentials Committee.
This includes matters relating to the timely payment of Active Member dues.

Still to be discussed are the IOC Grand Prix events (that are covered in section 8.9 (e) of the WBF Bylaws. Is it our intention to always ask the WBF for a waiver here? The WBF has indicated that it would make a determination on a player who plays in a Grand Prix Event on a case by case basis.

**2002 JUNIOR TEAM TRIALS
SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

The Conditions of Contest for the Spingold Knockout Teams and the General Conditions for knockout team events will apply to this event subject to the following special conditions of contest.

These Conditions of Contest may not be changed at any level of play during the course of this event.

Lack of knowledge does not constitute cause for exemption.

General Regulations

1. Whenever the WBF allocates three junior teams to Zone 2, two teams will go to the United States and the third team will go to one of Bermuda, Canada, or Mexico.
2. The US trials will qualify two US teams. The other NCBOs will then qualify their own team which may result in a playoff among Bermuda/Canada/Mexico for the third Zone II representative.
3. Entry fees for the World Junior Championship will be paid by the respective NCBOs.

2002 World Junior Championship Qualification Regulations

4. A US Junior Team Trials shall be held in the year 2002 at the Washington DC NABC. It will be a two-day event beginning on the last Saturday of the 2002 Summer NABC.
2. Each qualifying team may select its captain from an approved list which will be presented to the two qualifying teams after the final match. The winner of the Junior Team Trials will get first choice.
3. Team members are expected to be dedicated to a training process; failure to participate in training may result in a player being removed from a team.
4. Every member of any US junior team complying with requirements will be afforded the opportunity and be expected to play the number of boards required for medal eligibility.

ENTRY

1. The event is open to teams of four, five, or six persons, with augmentation to six, if necessary, determined by the captain and the team, with USBF approval. The event is open to players born in 1977 or thereafter.
2. Teams must pre-register with the ACBL Director of Youth Programs. Teams may request to enter the event up to one hour before game time. Permission for late entries to enter will be up to the discretion of the director-in-charge and must not interfere with the integrity of the event.

CONVENTIONS

1. The ACBL Super Chart is in effect for Knockout matches. The ACBL Mid-Chart is in effect for Round-Robin matches.
2. Any pair wishing to play methods authorized only by either the Mid-Chart or SuperChart must submit a complete explanation of the method and a defense, if required by the Mid-Chart, for approval. A defense contained in the ACBL database pamphlet is acceptable; however, explanations and all other defenses must be approved at least one day prior to the start of the event.

SCORING AND PLAY

1.
 - A. The first two sessions will be a round-robin with no more than 20 and no fewer than 10 boards scheduled to be played in each match. Four teams qualify to the KO stage.
 - B. If entry is fewer than 8 teams, a USBF representative in consultation with the DIC may alter the round-robin and/or the knockout portions of the event.
2.
 - A. If two teams are tied for the 4th qualifying position, the tie will be broken by continuing 4-board playoffs until the tie is resolved.
 - B. If more than two teams are tied for the 4th position, any such tie will be resolved by in order until resolved or reduced to two teams in which case (2A) applies:
 - (1) Matches won in the round robin considering only matches between the tied teams
 - (2) IMP quotient considering only matches between the tied teams
 - (3) IMP quotient considering all round-robin matches
3. Bidding boxes and screens will be used throughout the event.

4. Time permitted for round-robin matches will be 8 minutes per board + 5 minutes. For knockout segments of 16 boards, time permitted is 2 hours and 15 minutes.
5. Round-robin matches will be scored by using the appropriate ACBL 20 point scale.
6. Knockout matches will be 30 boards in length.

KNOCK OUT SCHEDULE

1. Semi-final – 10:00 AM Sunday
 2. Final and Semi-final Play-off – 2:30 PM Sunday
- Play-off for second qualifier: 8:00 PM Sunday

KNOCK OUT SEMI-FINAL

The team finishing first in the Round-robin will select its semi-final opponent.

SEMI-FINAL PLAYOFF

The losing semi-finalists will play a match concurrent with the finals. The winner of this match will meet the losing finalist for the right to be the second US representative.

SEEDING

1. There will be no seeding in the round-robin. Should a question arise, each team captain will submit a geographic line up for the team.
2. In knockout matches, the team finishing higher in the round-robin will be the seeded team.
3. Seeding choices will be per the Vanderbilt/Spingold (V/S) conditions.

CARRYOVER

In the knockout matches, the team winning the round-robin match will carryover $\frac{1}{2}$ of the IMP difference from the round-robin match if they finished the round-robin ranked ahead of or tied with their opponent and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the IMP difference from the round-robin match if they finished the round-robin ranked behind their opponent. The carryover is in effect for both the semifinal and final only.

SLOW PLAY

The tournament director in consultation with a representative of the USBF may penalize an offender as appropriate.

Any issue unresolved by these conditions will be resolved by the V/S conditions. Any issue still unresolved will be decided by the DIC in consultation with a representative of the USBF.

Exhibit 5

Dear 2001 Trialists:

The Houston NABC is approaching. If you are playing in the 2002 Open US Bridge Championships or the 2003 US Women's Bridge Championships (a.k.a. the US Team Trials), you must become a USBF Active Member BEFORE playing in the major team event (Vandy or Women's Swiss) in Houston if any PPs won there or previously in the cycle are to be credited to you. To become an Active Member you must pay dues.

Active Member Dues are \$50 per calendar year (Junior dues for those born after 1976 is 1/2). You may pay online at: usbf.org or mail a check to USBF c/o Rena Hetzer at the ACBL or pay at a booth near the entry desk of the Vanderbilt or Women's Swiss that you are playing in. Players who are not playing in Houston who have earned PPs earlier in the cycle must pay their dues before the end of the Houston National. USBF Residents who are eligible for trials play must pay a \$50 Resident Fee in lieu of paying Active Member dues. DON'T FORGET!

Miscellaneous Information:

Someone who becomes an Active Member by paying dues in, say, June could earn PPs for the summer and fall tournaments, but will not be credited with any PPs won in the Houston tournament or prior to the Houston Tournament. From here on, active member dues covers the calendar year. Those wishing to pay dues for two or more years are welcome to do so.

The rights and privileges of Active Members is explained in the USBF Bylaws below: The USBF Bylaws provide the following:

Article II. B. Active Membership. An Active Member of the USBF shall: receive all publications and notices of the organization, be on the organization's membership rolls, pay dues* as established from time to time by the Board of Directors, be entitled to be a member of the Board of Directors, vote for members of the Board, hold office in the USBF, compete in USBF trials to qualify to represent the United States in international competition and be eligible for subsidy when training for or participating in international competition. An Active Member shall qualify by being a Regular Member as set forth in Article II.A. and paying Active Member dues as set by the Board of Directors.

*Active Member Dues is \$50 per year, but 1/2 for those under 26 years old.

As you have read above, this organization is structured to give the Active Members the right to vote and hold office. The USBF will be holding elections later this year, for terms which begin in 2003. We need good candidates. Candidates are nominated by the Nominating Committees of the USBF, or by petition. Obviously, there is no need to run by petition if the USBF Nominating Committee nominates you. Give some thought as to whether you would like to serve on the USBF Board. Detailed election procedures are for another Email. This is just a heads up.

Mike Becker

Note of Tabled Matters

Rank Items:

1. The Bylaws or Board should resolve that:
A democratic method shall be used to select teams for Olympic or other international play, except that for the IOC Grand Prix, US teams may be selected in any way the USBF Board sees fit.
2. USBF Drug Policy Draft. Drug testing during or after trials?
3. Review election procedures, are dual members allowed to vote twice? Keeping track of which members are from ACBL and which are from ABA
4. Discussion of Probation, Suspension from USBF – adoption of a disciplinary code.

Other tabled matters:

1. Discussion of procedures for selection of captains of international teams
2. Selection procedures for US teams playing in IOC Grand Prix in future
3. Ryder cup idea resurrected / re-suggested

Matters that need our attention in the future:

Web Site is number one project. Front page link on ACBL Web site.

Appointment of Nominating Committee for ballot election

Charity event planning

Modified Conditions of Contest for Trials based on new residency criteria and WBF Bylaws modifications