

MINUTES
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
Wednesday, November 13, 2002
8:00 A.M. CDT – Conference Call

Directors Present: President Michael Becker, Jay Baum, Bob Friend, Arnold Jones, Dan Morse, Nick Nickell, Shawn Quinn, Bruce Reeve

Others Present: Charlotte Blaiss, Gary Blaiss, Rena Hetzer, Bruce Keidan, Mary Oshlag, Jean Patterson, Peter Rank

1. Call to Order - President Michael Becker
2. Quorum Established
3. Minutes of the 10/2/02 Meeting
4. Committee Reports

JITTC

The Board noted an ACBL resolution that could affect the date of the USJBC. **(Exhibit 1)**
The Board resolved that the Junior Trials continue to be held at the end of the summer NABC, but also hopes that a suitable date can be found to hold a World Junior Individual Championship, perhaps during the Junior Camp that follows the summer NABC.

A Junior Player Code of Conduct was tabled until the next meeting. **(Exhibit 2)**

The Board accepted the report of Jade Barrett, proposing a USA junior pool, staff, junior fundraising and qualifying points, and tabled the matter. Charlotte Blaiss was asked to comment on the proposal. (Barrett's report addended to the end of the minutes)

World Relations

Dan Morse presented reports from himself and WBF counsel re: the US player disqualified for refusing to take a drug test. **(Exhibit 3)**

Finance

Nickell will present a complete Finance Committee report at the next Board Meeting, including a proposed 2003 budget. He reported that the USBF had \$130,000 in net assets as of August, 2002. Becker reported that he signed an annual agreement to pay the ACBL \$10,000 of the \$50,000 debt before this year's end in return for \$5,000 in free services at the 2003 USBC, and he authorized payment of the \$10,000. Quinn asked for a budget of expenses for our

international teams. Blaiss reported that it costs about \$50,000 per team for the Open and Women's teams, plus another \$2,500 per team in entry fees.

Elections

Becker reported that the petition candidate period expired November 9th, that there were no petition candidates and the ballots would be mailed out November 16, and counted as of 5pm on December 16. Those elected will be informed on December 17 and asked to attend the Board meeting on December 18.

Arnold Jones said that there is a conflict of interest in that candidates who are the members of the Elections Committee are supervising election matters.

The full Elections Committee then convened. Those on the Elections Committee running for the Board abstained from voting on the Elections matters. The Elections Committee then certified the candidates, approved the Ballot Package, and declared that the four candidates running unopposed were elected, all by a 3-0 vote with abstentions from the two members running for the Board. The committee then reported such results to the Board.

A discussion of reducing the size of the Elections Committee from five to three members to avoid such conflicts of interest in the future was tabled, with the belief that with staggered terms, such conflicts will not occur in the future.

It was determined that the Elections Committee was empowered by the Bylaws to supervise the election and that it was unnecessary for the Board to review or approve of any Elections Committee activities.

The Board appointed Jean Patterson as the USBF Director of Elections.

USBF management will inform all candidates of their election or non-election, as soon as possible after the ballots are counted.

Amending Election Rules and Regulations (Exhibit 5)

Becker presented a list of suggested amendments to the Election Regulations or the Bylaws on matters dealing with the election. The Board discussed, amended and conditionally approved most of them. Rank will present a more organized version for approval at the next Board Meeting.

Fund Raising

Shawn Quinn reported on Fund Raising Committee meetings:

1. Bridge Memorabilia auctioned off on Ebay - Nell Cahn is looking into this and into getting donations.
2. Cookbook – Expert's favorite recipes? A favorite hand and a recipe? Shawn Quinn is researching feasibility.
3. Permanent Trophy, Sponsor - Rose Meltzer is looking into the possibilities

4. Experts donating on-line playing time on Bridge Base - Shawn Quinn is going to talk to Fred Gitelman about auctioning off expert's playing time on Bridge Base.

Appointments

Jade Barrett was appointed to the Fundraising Committee.
Sharon Fairchild was appointed an Active Member of the USBF so long as she is the webmaster.

Collection of 2003 Active Member Dues

The Board decided to repeat last year's membership dues collection procedures: Members would be informed that they must pay their dues prior to the start of the event that awards PPs: Vanderbilt (for USBC) or Women's Swiss (for USWBC). Dues will be collected at the NABC and can be mailed in with a form printed from the USBF website. In addition, current active members would be sent a reminder email, notices would be placed on the USBF ACBL and ABA websites and in the Philadelphia NABC Daily Bulletin.

USBF Mailing List

The Board resolved that it would be the USBF's policy to not share its email with others, even in matters related to bridge, nor would it mail letters itself on behalf of others.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting was scheduled for 8:00 A.M. CDT on December 18th by conference call.

Nick Nickell asked to be first on the Agenda with the Finance Committee Report.

The December 5th meeting in Phoenix was cancelled.

Newly elected Board members would be invited to the Board's last meeting on December 18th.

Rank was asked to present an agenda for the Organizational meeting in January.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

(Exhibit 1)

Moved that:

1. The ACBL Board of Directors approve a World Junior Individual Championship to be held every other year in North America at the site of the summer NABC.
2. This will be held on the final Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the NABC preceding the junior camp in North America.
3. This will be a World Bridge Federation Event. The ACBL will cover the costs and supply personnel, where necessary.

Effective date: Summer, 2004

Management comment:

Part A Management is in favor of holding a World Junior Individual Championship every other year in North America at the site of the Summer NABC.

Part B Management does not support holding the Junior Individual on the last weekend of the Summer NABC. After considerable experimentation, the last weekend has been selected as the time for the US Junior Team Trials. This has proven to be the best time for the ACBL Juniors who choose to participate in this event and Management feels that the interest of our young players takes precedence.

Part C Funds for this event would have to come from the general fund. There is insufficient extra money in the Junior Fund to fund the event.

(Exhibit 2) Junior Code of Conduct

The junior camp code of conduct – below, will be used as a basis for the code of conduct used by juniors in international competition. The new, to-be-written-version will be presented at our December USBF Board meeting after consideration by the JITTC

**AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR JUNIOR CAMP**

This Code of Conduct identifies the standard of behavior that is expected of all Junior Camp participants including volunteers and staff. Any participant or staff member is deemed to have accepted and agreed to abide by these standards. Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action by the ACBL or expulsion from the camp.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct prohibits the following behaviors:

1. Possessing, transmitting or concealing a dangerous weapon, firearm, knife, explosive device or dangerous instrument.
2. Using tobacco products in all buildings including sleeping rooms.
3. Drinking or distributing alcoholic beverages.
4. Possessing, using or supporting the use of illegal drugs
5. Using profane, insulting harassing or otherwise offensive language.
6. Gambling in any form.
7. Exhibiting insulting, humiliating, intimidating or offensive behavior.
8. Destruction of property.

I agree to abide by the ACBL Code of Conduct.

Signature of Participant

(Exhibit 3) Report on Drug Testing Done in Montreal and Disqualification of US Player

As Chairman of the Medical Commission I contacted Tony Fiorentino of the CCES (Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport). The CCES arranges drug testing for Olympic sports in Canada.

The WBF decided to test 4 ladies from the finals of the McConnell Teams and 4 open players from the semi finals of the Rosenblum Teams.

The CCES sent a Doping Control Officer (Joan Decarie) (DCO) to the playing site on Tuesday evening (August 27) about 6:30. A draw was held certified by the DCO and Chief Director Bill Schroeder as a

random draw. The chief director went to playing area to notify the players. Volunteer chaperone's were used to escort the players to the Doping control area.

All 8 players arrived at various times and six tests were performed, all being reported as negative. One player was paralyzed from the waist down and incontinent. This player was given a waiver by the DCO.

Only Disa Eythorsdottir refused to take the test. When asked why, she replied she inquired of Directors and officials early in the tournament what drugs would be tested for and had not gotten a satisfactory answer. She said she was taking a banned drug (Dexedrine) for weight loss and would fail the test and did not wish to take the test. The DCO informed her that failure to take the test would be considered as failure and that she could sign a form stating that she declined taking the test. Disa knowingly signed this document.

On Friday 3 days later I headed a review committee where Disa appeared with her lawyer. She said she had been stupid not to take test and offered to take the test now. The committee considered this but after some discussion the committee agreed that refusing to take the test Tuesday night constituted a failure, and taking the test 3 days later would not change the outcome of her decision.

Dan Morse 10/30/02

Dear Mike,

The facts, from the WBF perspective are quite clear and straightforward. The published Conditions of Contest for Montreal were available on the internet many months prior to the tournament and contained provisions for random drug testing in accordance with the IOC anti doping policy.

At the tournament, Disa was randomly selected to be tested and was given notice of when and where she was to appear for the test. She appeared, but refused to take the test. She was personally advised by the Doping Control Officer retained by the WBF and approved by the IOC that a refusal to give the requested urine sample for testing purposes was the same as failing the test. She still refused. She was also given written notice of this from the Doping Control Officer.

Disa was advised that her refusal would result in a hearing before a committee of the WBF Executive Council at which she appeared along with her chosen legal representative, Joey Silver. At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee imposed the following discipline:

- 1) She was stripped of her silver medal finish in the McConnell Woman's Team and not permitted to appear on the podium with her team at the closing ceremonies;
- 2) She was not awarded any WBF masterpoints for the McConnell;
- 3) The matter was referred to the USBF for whatever further action it desired to take as her NCBO.

I don't know what further information the WBF can provide. Please understand that the WBF is not requesting the USBF take any action, but the referral was made as a courtesy to the NCBO which nominated her to the tournament in case it wished to take additional action.

Jeffrey D. Polisner, General Council to the WBF 10/28/02

(Exhibit 4) Junior cash won in Netherlands goes to trip's expenses?

I believe that the event in the Netherlands gives prize money to the winning team. What would the USBF's policy be concerning the money? Should it go to the players or back to the what ever group funded the trip. In past events such as this, the ACBL used the money to help cover expenses for the trip.
– Charlotte

This Exhibit was on the agenda for discussion but tabled until the finance committee reported back.

(Exhibit 5) Election Rules and Regulations

Certain changes are proposed to the Nominating Procedures and Election Regs:

Item 1 Excerpt from the Nominating Procedures:

I. Composition

A. The Nominating Subcommittee shall be composed of the following persons to hold two (2) year terms:

1. Two (2) members of the Board, who are members of the ACBL when such member is not running for re-election.
 2. Two (2) members of the ACBL who are not Board members and who may or may not be Athlete Members.
 3. Two (2) Athlete Members **who are members of the ACBL. DELETE Bold**-Should not be here **add who are not members of the Board. Approved**
 4. One (1) member of the Board who is a member of the ABA, when such member is not running for re-election.
 5. Two (2) members of the ABA who are not members of the Board
- The above section should also specify staggered terms for Nom Com Members, and how the staggering begins. Rank will provide a plan to stagger terms.**

Item 2 The USBF's Nominating Subcommittee shall endeavor to select up to double the number of nominees as coming vacancies for each election year for the category represented and shall certify such nominees to the Elections Committee **at least sixty days prior to the election.**

Could be better worded. ...at least 31 days prior to the ballot mailing date.

The Board decided to leave the wording as currently written.

Item 3. The Nominating Procedures be amended so that all members of the Nominating Committee may vote for all candidates, providing that the ratio of Nominating Committee membership be made identical to the ratio of Board membership: 5 ACBL, 2 ABA, 2 Athlete.

The Board approved this item.

Item 4. In the Election Regs, specify who has right to protest: Candidates or members (voters).

The Board agreed that only candidates may file protests.

Item 5. Not addressed in Bylaws: petition candidates = 10 signatures from specific category or just any 10 Active Member signatures?

The Board agreed to Amend the Bylaws to specify that petitions must come from the category of the candidate.

Item 6. Discussion of Ballot Package and approve of ballot mailing date.

Discuss whether Elections Committee has authority over all aspects of election or it reports to the Board, which approves.

Bylaws excerpt:

...It (the Elections Committee) shall review and supervise nominating procedures, certify nomination from the subcommittees set forth in Article III, Section B.4 of these Bylaws, certify petition nominations (technically not done), and oversee the elections of Directors. The committee shall meet at least two (2) times per year...

The Board agreed that the Elections Committee shall oversee the election without Board approval.

Item 7 Discussion of when future elections should take place and whether to put into regulations.

The Board resolved that the election be concluded no later than December 16th of the calendar year.

Item 8 Should a candidate's hour be incorporated into the election procedures?

The Board decided not to include the requirement of a candidate's hour in its election regulations.

Item 9. Should items below be put into Elections Rules and Regs?

Item 9A Congrats letter to winners and consolation letter to losers

The Board agreed that all candidates will be advised of the election results as soon as possible after the ballots have been counted.

Item 10. According to the Bylaws, a person who is not an ACBL or ABA member, but who is a USBF member by virtue of having paid the \$50 Active Member Dues is entitled to vote. But for whom?

The Board resolved this ambiguity by proposing to amend the Bylaws to reflect that any person who is not a member of a recognized amateur organization may not vote.

Rank Items:

USBF Drug Policy. We agreed to simply pattern after the ACBL letter that goes to winning trialists.

Peter to draw up a drug letter similar to standard ACBL letter.

2. Lead a Board discussion of Probation, Suspension from USBF - adoption of a disciplinary code?

3. Cost of registering USBF logo

Jade Barrett's Report:

This is an outline for a program to develop, train and fund the USA Jr. Team.

Introduction:

Over the last twelve years the USA JR TEAM has gone from a perennial also-ran to a world championship. During this time there were many different international events that the USA participated in. Most of these events were funded at least in part by people and organizations outside of the ACBL. This international experience proved vital to the program as it prepared our juniors to face competition from many different countries that we would not have otherwise been able to expose them to. In addition, the ability to travel to different regionals and nationals, as well as training sessions not associated with a tournament, assisted in the additional growth of the individual player as well as the partnerships that these players have formed. Again, the funding for much of this training has come from independent sources. With a formalized program these two critical factors can be developed.

1) A consistent, ever present exposure of the USA JR TEAM to the league at large and to the media specifically that will potentially inspire corporate sponsorship.

2) A stronger and better trained team capable of regular success in the world championships.

The Components:

The USA JR POOL

The USA JR STAFF

The USA JR FUNDRAISERS

USA JR POOL

During the year, there are opportunities that arise for juniors in both the USA and in Europe that have been critical to the success of our current teams. Often we have struggled to get a team together in order to participate. The factors are varied: different collegian schedules, family commitments and cost are the three primary concerns, but there are additional considerations. To put the USA team together and then seek approval of the committee in time cannot always be done. The logistics of handling the

airline tickets and accommodations alone can take weeks in order to be cost-effective. Just getting commitments from six players and a NPC can take up to a week or even longer in some cases. We currently have several NPCs who are preapproved for international competition. Preapproval for junior players will greatly assist the organizer to create a team for these other international competitions.

USA JR POOL members will be 24 players who meet the following criteria:

- A) Under age 26.
- B) Actively participating in tournaments.
- C) If of high school age, in school or have graduated.
- D) Not currently on probation.
- E) Are among the leaders on the USA JR qualifying points list.

The USA JR points list will be based on a player's success in the USA junior trials, the Reisinger, Spingold, Vanderbilt, ITT, Rosenblum, Bermuda Bowl, World Open Pairs, World Junior Team Championships, Blue Ribbon and Three day LM pairs, total BRQs and MPs. (This list will be expanded or contracted as this points program is finalized).

As there are in development a few players who are under 18 who have not participated (primarily due to the fact is that they are new on the scene) in many tournaments it is recommended that we include youth members in addition to these 24. With their inclusion we will be able to prepare these players to successfully compete in international competitions as they grow older. This number should be flexible, but probably will never be greater than eight or ten.

USA JR STAFF

In addition to the current NPCs, coaches should be added to the junior staff. While we have been fortunate to receive free support from time to time, this has not always been the case. Some of the USA JR TEAMS have had free coaches while others have had coaches who were compensated in part or in full. The coaching of the team being critical to its long-term success, we should consider funding (if only as a gesture) coaches equally among the teams. These coaches need to be approved by the USBF and the JITTC as well. As additional funding becomes available, the USBF should consider retaining coaches for these juniors.

USA JR FUNDRAISERS

With the establishment of the USA JR POOL, there will need to be a marketing campaign to raise the awareness of the existence of the USA junior team. Since these players will be from all over North America, we will need to contact their local media with their information. This will prepare the groundwork that will be done by the fundraisers. With an aggressive approach to corporate America and the consistent faces of our USA juniors we are likely to acquire a sponsorship that will go some distance towards funding the program as a whole. Other organizations have a relationship with fundraising companies that only compensates in return for success. That is only one of the ways that this can be accomplished.

CONCLUSION

With the initiation of the USA JUNIOR POOL we will be able to:

Develop our younger players.
Provide consistent coaching and support for our teams.
Promote junior bridge nationwide.
Obtain funding from outside sources in addition to the ACBL support we
already receive.

On a personal note, I request that the USBF reconsider the role of the JITTC
and expand its responsibility to include the development of this program in
accordance with the wishes of the USBF.

Submitted 12 November 2002.

GS Jade Barrett
JITTC Chair