

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

**January 9, 2003 – 11:00 A.M. CST  
By Telephone Conference**

Directors Present: Jay Baum  
Nick Nickell  
Ken Titow  
Dan Morse  
Chris Compton  
Arnold Jones  
Marvin Comer  
Jan Martel  
Rose Meltzer

Others Present: Peter Rank, Esq.  
Mike Becker  
Gary Blaiss  
Mary Oshlag

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Jay Baum, acting as temporary chair. A packet of information was previously disseminated to the Board members for their review and consideration and each Board member present acknowledged his or her receipt of the Board packet.

The acting President indicated that Mary Oshlag would act as recording secretary for this Board meeting.

**II. ATTENDANCE; ESTABLISH QUORUM**

The acting Chairman 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.

**III. BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN; RESOLUTIONS**

***CERTIFICATION OF DIRECTORS: Jay Baum read the Certification of Directors***

WHEREAS, the following persons were elected to be directors: Marvin Comer, Christopher Compton, Arnold Jones, Frank T. (Nick) Nickell, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Dan Morse and Kenneth Titow. In addition, Jay Baum, as the ACBL CEO, is an appointed member of the Board.

RESOLVED, that the directors of the USBF, Jay Baum, Marvin Comer, Christopher Compton, Arnold Jones, Frank T. (Nick) Nickell, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Dan Morse and Kenneth Titow accept their appointment and are certified as directors.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the directors of the USBF shall continue to serve the USBF until the time their successors may have been duly elected and qualified.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the newly elected directors are conferred with such power and authority and subject to such limitations as now or herewith prescribed for directors by the bylaws and the Non-Profit Corporation Act.

*All above resolutions moved, seconded and passed unanimously.*

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the USBF to elect officers of the USBF;

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Article IV of the Bylaws, the directors of the USBF elect Nick Nickell to serve as President, Chris Compton to serve as Vice President, Arnold Jones to serve as Secretary and Ken Titow to serve as Treasurer of the USBF at the pleasure of the directors until a successor is duly elected and qualified or such officer, dies, or resigns from his office.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the newly elected President Nick Nickell, shall preside at meetings of the Board, commencing forthwith.

*All above resolutions moved, seconded and passed unanimously.*

## **APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL**

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the USBF to appoint a legal counsel to provide legal advice to and handle legal matters on behalf of the USBF;

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby appoints Peter Rank, Partner of the Los Angeles, California-based law firm of K&R Law Group LLP as the USBF's Legal Counsel.

*All above resolutions moved, seconded and passed unanimously.*

## **IV. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

RESOLVED, that Jackson Howell & Associates is appointed as the USBF independent auditors. The Board noted they serve this same function for the ACBL.

*All above resolutions moved, seconded and passed unanimously.*

## V.

1. Appointment of Mary Oshlag as Assistant Secretary – motion passed

2. Discussion of Appointment of Committee Chairman:

**Executive Committee: (Nick Nickell, President; Chris Compton, Vice President; Jay Baum, CEO)** Formulate plans and solve problems. Nick Nickell Chairman, explained that it was created to handle situations when the Board cannot meet and something needs to be done on short notice. Nick said it should be used quite sparingly and only in emergency situations.

**Grievance and Appeals: (Rose Meltzer)** Jan pointed out that Bylaws say Appeals Committee must be Board Members. Nick said we need to go strictly by the Bylaws so that actions can't be questioned. Grievance is required by USOC. Appeals by USBF.

Bylaws of Grievance and Appeals Committee should be changed to consist of up to 15 members.

A motion was made and passed for Rose Meltzer to be Chairman of the Grievance and Appeals Committee.

**Fund Raising: (Chris Compton)** It was explained that for two years an effort was made to seek Corporate sponsorship by organizations; also Charitable Contributions were sought. Efforts for Corporate sponsorship were unsuccessful. \$175,000 in charitable contributions from individuals was raised.

Jay stressed that we need guaranteed revenue stream for USBF. Contributions have been running \$4,500 per month, but this could easily drop.

A motion was made and passed for Chris Compton to be chairman of the Fund Raising Committee.

**Member Communications Committee: (Jan Martel)** Jan asked to be Chairman of this Committee. Jan asked that the **Membership Committee** be made part of the **Member Communications Committee**. The motion was made and passed.

**Publicity Committee:** Mike commented that this committee never had an official meeting. A motion was made and passed to defer to next meeting.

**Special Events Committee:** A motion was made and passed that the **Special Events Committee** be combined with the **Fund Raising Committee**.

**Tournament Committee: (Jan Martel)** Jan offered to serve as Chairman. Jan said the Chairmen of JITT, SITT, ITT and WITT should combine Conditions of Contest for events, then modify for each. Each trial has Round Robins, VP scale, Screen Procedures. It would be easier to deal with if we had the same for all Trials. This years trials are set; next year we should coordinate COC's for four events. Ken Titow was asked to serve on this Committee. Mike Becker was asked to serve and agreed to do so on the condition that he not participate in Drug Policy meetings of the Tournament Committee. Rose Meltzer was also added to the Committee.

**World Relations: (Dan Morse) Motion** was made and passed for Dan Morse to be Chairman of the World Relations Committee.

**By Laws: (Ken Titow) Motion** was made and passed for Ken Titow to be Chairman of the By Laws Committee. Jan Martel was added to the Committee. Peter Rank, Esq. – Staff.

**Elections Committee:**

**Nominations Committee:**

Motion was made and passed to defer the two above Committees as issues with respect to these Committees will not be raised until this fall.

3. Review of Current committee members: Chairmen and members added as above.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Discussion of Probation, Suspension from USBF - adoption of a disciplinary code

Gary said we are sending monthly disciplinary list to ABA & USBF.

It was suggested that in order to avoid a previous problem, the procedure for disciplinary action should state (instead of ACBL or ABA) the person needs to be a member in good standing of either.

It was decided that the problem we had and how to change bylaws is deferred to the next meeting.

2. Development of policy on allocation of money to various teams

Deferred.

3. Register USBF Logo?

A motion was moved and passed that we take no action on the logo.

4. Reexamine definition of an athlete in our Bylaws

No discussion was held on this subject.

5. Reapplication to USOC for admission as an Associate Member - April?

Deferred to next meeting.

6. Report on JITTC proposal – Jade’s Report and Charlotte’s comments (**Exhibit 1**)

Chris asked how Juniors would be selected from the approved 24 players. Gary explained that in the past when we got special offers Charlotte has called to see who can go, not necessarily selected. If we have pool we would have a list of names that already are approved and are interested in International play. It was brought up that if the first six can, maybe next down line would want to. Gary explained that the pool would not govern Jr. World Championship – which is through competition.

**EXHIBIT I: Send** to Tournament Committee (Jade’s report and Charlotte’s comments); examine request and tell us implications at next meeting.

## 7. Becker's Memo to Board (**Exhibit 2**)

**EXHIBIT 2: Are WITT, JITT, ITT, SITT... committees of the USBF or subcommittees of the USBF?**

These are Official Subcommittees of USBF Board, but act as if total Board. But they do not have power to make actual decisions.

Situation on Seniors: Presently an event ACBL should be running but has asked USBF to do so because so good at it. USBF Board did approve Conditions of Contest.

If these Committees are subcommittees of the USBF, we need to take responsibility. Defer action to next meeting.

## 8. Development of USBF Drug policy, if there should be one (**Exhibit 3**)

Preliminarily decided: Simply pattern after the ACBL letter that goes to Winning trialists. Peter to draw up a drug letter similar to standard ACBL letter.

Chris said we are caught in wanting to become an Olympic Sport – as long as we are trying to do this, we need to follow guidelines.

Chris made a motion to defer the drug policy to the Tournament Committee. Mike Becker stated that he would not participate in Drug Policy meetings of the Tournament Committee.

Gary commented that the US Chess Federation policy was sent to everyone. Someone should consult with Chess Federation Board.

Nick asked if the Board is comfortable with taking the position of the Chess Federation. There was a motion to agree with Nick's explanation of the Board's position. Several Board Members agreed to this and none dissented; therefore the motion was passed.

Nick explained that in his opinion, and likely to be consensus of Board, to take the position that there are no Performance Enhancing Drugs for this activity "Bridge"; therefore not applicable.

Jay asked Peter to draft the above-stated opinion. Peter said he would, but stated that it should also be in the minutes. Peter said he would set up a call with Jeff for next week. Nick offered to participate in the call.

\*Canadian Eligibility: Bruce Ferguson and Neil Chambers haven't played in US Trials for several years. Bruce withdrew, as he was concerned he might not be able to play in US Trials. Need to endorse that Neil Chambers can play in Canadian Trials, but should be aware he can't play for another country. WBF rule.

Appendix P: If a player plays for Canada, he can't play for U.S.

George Retek said he needed permission.

Hugh Ross has withdrawn his request. Canada turned him down.

Mail Appendix P to Neil Chambers and refer to WBF rules about specific rules.

## 9. Discussion of distribution of prize money won by (junior) teams selected and/or sponsored by the USBF subsidized by USBF, ACBL "Funds" or private donations (**Exhibit 4**)

It was questioned what we should do with the small amount of prize money won by Jrs. Keep? Give back? Split?  
Teams technically under USBF?  
Charlotte thinks money should go back to Jr. Fund and money would be used again.  
Jan suggested Jr's be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses if they provide a receipt to appropriate agency.

Chris made the motion that prize money be returned to the USBF Jr. Fund, and be used to reimburse the Jrs for out-of pocket uncovered expenses, like hotel and travel and whatever the present policy is on meals, if they can provide receipt to appropriate agency. Jan seconded and a vote was taken. The motion was passed.

Left Over Projects

10. Special Events Meeting and whether to hold special events, and how
11. Fund Raising planning

These were discussed as reported above in Article V, New Business, Section 2. "Special Events Committee: A motion was made and passed that the Special Events Committee be combined with the Fund Raising Committee."

#### **VII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD**

The President stated that the next regular meeting of the Board would be via conference call on Thursday, February 20 at 10 a.m. Central Time.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1 p.m.

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Mary Oshlag, Acting Secretary

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#### **(Exhibit 1) Report on JITTC Proposal**

##### **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

#### **Charlotte's comments on Jade's report:**

##### **The USA JUNIOR POOL**

**It is a good idea to have a pre-approved pool of Juniors to play in invitational junior events. Many times, we have received invitations to an international Junior team event with short notice. If the Juniors were pre-approved, then we would be able to get airline tickets quicker and cheaper.**

##### **USA JUNIOR STAFF**

**NPC's are volunteers. They now act as captain and coaches for the teams. The NPC's only get their expenses to attend the events.**

**I think that it would be great to have coaches for the teams, but we simply do not have money to pay additional expenses. If and when additional funding becomes available, we may want to consider coaches for the teams, but for the immediate future, coaches must be volunteers.**

#### **USA JUNIOR FUNDRAISERS**



**Sponsorship and fund raising is the ultimate goal of Jade's proposal. Perhaps ACBL's Media Relations Director, Bruce Keiden, or Marketing Director, Linda Granell, can review this proposal and give opinions on how or if this can be implemented.**

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**(Exhibit 2)**

**A. At the Board meeting it was mentioned that the WITTC and similar committees have to have their members approved by the Board.**

**The xITTC's are actually subcommittees of the Tournament Committee. Therefore, their members do NOT have to be approved by the Board. Also, these committees meet in an informal fashion where whoever shows up is "on" the committee. (In reality, only those who actually care show up, and this structure works well.)**

**For example, there are about 25 people who have attended ITTC meetings more than 5 times in the past 5 years. But only about 10 show up at any given meeting. On the other hand, I think the Board should approve of new chairs for these four subcommittees. Every few years they should be reconfirmed. Chairs serve at the pleasure of the Board.**

**B. The USBF previously agreed to run the Senior Trials on behalf of the ACBL even though it might be a Zonal rather than a national trials. As this event has now been determined to be zonal, some thought should be given to changing the name of the event to the ACBLSBC or the SBC. Little consideration should be given to subsidizing the Seniors internationally because it is a Zonal event. (Zonal=US, Canadians, Mexicans may play and win)**

**C. Change the name of the AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WORLD YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS to the USBF CODE....etc**

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**(Exhibit 3) Discussion of WBF Drug Policy**

From the ITTC Minutes:

Dan Morse reported that WADA, the IOC's drug testing organization, wants to randomly test top members of organizations recognized by the IOC as a sport (like the WBF), offsite (not at a world event). The committee thought that if drug testing is to be performed, it should be done at an NABC/Trials site, that it might perhaps be voluntary rather than forced, and that tests be conducted for a narrow list of drugs that might be performance enhancing. Some thought that no drugs have been proven to be performance enhancing, and that the list should be blank.

Morse reported that the 2003 Bermuda Bowl will probably be held in Monte Carlo from November 1-15, 2003.

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**(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

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