

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

**February 20, 2003 – 10:00 A.M. CST
By Telephone Conference**

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

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Nick Nickell, President.

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

III. MINUTES OF 01/09/03 MEETING APPROVED

IV. Jade Barrett: Presentation of Request to send Jr. Team to Netherlands in July.

Jade explained that the Juniors received an invitation from the organizers of the 'Carousel' to be held in Holland. This takes place before the World Jr. Pairs, which will be held in Hungary. Jade would like approval of Board to select team and he will also be available to captain the team. Jade explained that because of Budget, ACBL is committed to spend \$5,000 and his foundation will provide the rest.

Jade explained that this is the North American Jr. Foundation and that they have raised about \$25,000 per year the last couple of years.

It was decided that a Selection Committee consisting of Jade, Anne Hoffman, Charlotte Blaiss, and Marvin Comer decide on the criteria to be eligible to go to the Netherlands.

Jade pointed out that what he wanted was approval by the USBF; not sponsorship.

Gary explained that all that is requested of the USBF is to authorize the Junior Program to select a team and send it to the Netherlands.

Chris made the motion that the Selection Committee recommends a team and put in front of USBF Board at the next meeting.

Nick suggested that the list could be submitted without a Board meeting if necessary.

Motion Passed.

Gary made the motion that the USBF approve in principle a team to go to the Carousel Cup in the Netherlands. Final approval will be given by unanimous consent next meeting or by written consent.

Motion passed.

V. **Continue Committee Appointments deferred in January meeting**

1. Item 4): brought up first. Are WITT, JITT, ITT, SITT Committees of the USBF or subcommittees of the USBF.

Chris made the motion that those Committees listed in Item 4 are Subcommittees of the Tournament Committee.

Motion passed.

Chris said we would appoint subcommittee chairs and let them make a list next time we have a meeting.

Motion was made to approve chairs of subcommittees: Mike, Dan, Jade, Beth, and ask each of these people to submit a list of members at the next opportunity.

Motion passed.

2. Item 1) Publicity Committee: Rose thought it a good idea not to have.

Chris moved that the Publicity Committee be disbanded.

Motion passed.

3. Items 2): Election Committee; and 3): Nominations Committee

Peter said the By-law Committee was going to look at rules. We don't need until next election. Should defer until after by-law process in completed.

4. Grievance and Appeals: It was explained that By-laws say they should be Board Members. Nick said when the matter was discussed at the last meeting we said it wasn't necessary to have Board Members. When By-laws are finalized, need to change that Grievance Committee does not have to be Board Members.

Chris pointed out that Page 10, Section D provided USBF members constitute a majority. Nick explained we don't want a majority; let Grievance be exempt.

Peter explained By-laws say Athlete Members should be 20%.

Nick said USOC requires 20%.

Chris suggested By-law members take base shot at staffing committees to be 20%.

Also 20% of the Board needs to be athlete.

VI. **Committee Reports:**

Fundraising Committee: Chris gave a report of the 5 Items discussed in the Fundraising Committee Telephone Conference of February 13.

1) Bill insert: Proposition will be made in Philadelphia that ACBL will take 1% or 2% when fees are collected. Also, Board will have to be aware of what is going on regarding a bill insert. Quinn to work with Baum on draft letter.

2) Barbara Nudelman's idea of Corporate Vs Congress: It was suggested that Corporate people might not find USBF appropriate. Barbara will work further on this project.

3) Steiner very much in favor of auction, discussed possibility to solicit pros for one day; he volunteered his time.

It was decided to see how Bridge at Schools do with Online Auction. Steiner said we don't want to compete with them.

- 4) Concept of auctioning bridge memorabilia online or through silent auction was discussed.
- 5) Rose and Cliff are willing to send appropriate leads with technology contacts suitable for solicitation.

Chris made the motion that Board accepts report.

Motion passed.

6. ITT Tournament Committee: VP Scale: Each of the "ITT's" has Credentials Committee. We should have one large Credentials Committee. Various problems of having five different Credentials Committees were discussed. (Positioning Points, possibility of player becoming ill during trials, team member not playing enough boards, etc.)

Chris made the motion that Jan move towards forming one Credentials Committee and report back to the Board.

Motion passed.

VII. Discussion of USBF Dues Collection

It was decided that dues collected would count for the year in which they are collected, regardless of how late in the year it is. Dues are due January 1. Rose said an e-mail should be sent to all members. Nick said publicity should be put in the Daily Bulletin that players can pay in Philly before the Vanderbilt

VIII. Team Trials Revenue and Expenses

Chris asked why this was on the Agenda. Gary explained that Ken asked for Budget, will come up with working budget for ITT and WITT. Chris said to ask Finance Committee.

IX. Old Business

Item 1): Peter: We do have Disciplinary Code. Have 7 pages that Peter amended. Defer to By-laws Committee.

Item 2): Allocation of Money: It was pointed out that the ITT has taken the position to split equally; the WITT wants greater percentage to go to first team.

Item 3): Reapplication to USOC for admission as an Associate Member: Dan feels we should continue to pursue the USOC. Nick feels it is a waste.

We will have update from Gary at the next meeting.

Item 4): Performance-enhancing drugs: Peter and Nick talked with Jeff for an hour and twenty minutes regarding this issue.

X. New Business:

1): Discussion of By-laws changes: By-laws Committee will meet in Philadelphia on Friday, March 7, at 10 a.m.

2): Chris made a motion that the Board expresses sympathy for wife of Ed West, and for Dan Morse.

Motion passed.

3): Chris made a motion to express thanks to the foundation of Anne Hoffman for supporting Junior Bridge, possibly create an Award as a Public Relations move.

Motion passed.

4): Jim Mahaffey's donation of \$50,000 for Juniors. Discussion of how this will be set up, how scholarships will be awarded. It was suggested that Jim, Nick and Jay have a telephone conference regarding this.

XI. Schedule of Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 10-a.m. Central time.

XII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:45 p.m.