

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

**Tuesday, December 9, 2003  
2:30 p.m. Central**

Directors Present: Nick Nickell, Chris Compton, Ken Titow, Jan Martel, Marvin Comer, Rose Meltzer and Dan Morse

Others Present: Gary Blaiss, Michael Becker, Peter Rank, Rena Hetzer, Charlotte Blaiss

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Nick Nickell

**II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM**

The 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 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 9/16/2003**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**IV DISCIPLINE**

Rose Meltzer was appointed as Chair of a sub-committee to formulate a plan to improve the control of conduct matters for USBF trials. Nickell, Blaiss and Martel volunteered to serve on the committee.

**V USBF/ACBL ANNUAL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT**

Chris Compton was appointed as Chair of a sub-committee to plan and organize the 1st annual USBF/ACBL Regional tournament with a target date of 2005.

(Note: Subsequent to this meeting the following committee was formed and will meet via conference call Tuesday, December 16 @ 8:00 pm CST. Chris Compton, Gary Blaiss, Becky Rogers, Jan Martel and Joan Gerard)

**VI MONTE CARLO REIMBURSEMENT UPDATE**

With almost all participants due the maximum reimbursement of \$5300 (minus the \$1500 advance for a net of \$3800) Titow has given approval to go ahead with these reimbursements. Exceptions to this are:

Wolff - \$3200

Wei-Sender - Still pending

Ralph Cohen Shared reimbursement with ACBL due to Ralph's service on the Laws Commission

Dan Morse Shared reimbursement with ACBL due to Dan's service as a WBF representative.

Stasha Cohen            No submission of bills as yet  
Sydney Lazard           No submission of bills as yet  
Kent Massie             No submission of bills as yet

All have previously been reminded by Hetzer to submit hotel and airfare receipts. Hetzer is to suggest a December 15 deadline for those not accounted for.

## **VII    JITTC REPORT OF 033 NEW ORLEANS MEETING**

Charlotte Blaiss presented the suggestions of the JITTC for the following two items:  
Selection method for junior teams to participate in the 2005 World Youth Team Championship  
Selection of two USA youth teams to participate in the Challenge Team Match between Zone 2 and Zone 1 taking place during the 2004 New York Summer NABC

### **JITTC Meeting    New Orleans 2003 Fall NABC**

Eighteen people attended the Junior International Team Trial Meeting in New Orleans and have two proposals to present to you for approval.

#1 – Method of Selecting Teams to participate in the 2005 World Youth Team Championship.

It was the consensus of this committee that our role is to determine the method by which our best team is selected. The committee also believes that increased participation is vital to maintaining the quality of future teams. With these two criteria in mind, we agreed on the following process and submit it to the USBF for approval:

If 4, 5, or 6 players who have previously medaled in a World Youth Team Championship decide to play a unit, they will become USA 1. If fewer than 6 players join in this manner, they must in order:

1. Select a NPC
2. Augment to 6 from players who have participated in the Junior Team Trials or from juniors who are in the finals of the Spingold or Women's Teams.

USA 2 will be determined by a Swiss Pairs Event. The pairs coming in first and second become USA 2 (provided they are not one of the pairs selected to augment USA1). They then select an NPC and after consultation with their NPC, they augment another pair from any of those who participated in the Junior Team Trials.

Discussion and vote

Item # 2 –

There will be a Challenge Team Match between three teams from Zone 2 (2 USA teams and 1 Canadian team) and 3 teams from Zone 1 - Europe during the New York NABC. This event will be 3 sessions Tuesday and Wednesday. Participants must be born in 1983 or later.

The Junior Committee requests that their selection committee chose these teams using the following criteria:

1. Participated in a previous World Youth Championship

2. Participated in a previous International event
3. Placed in top 20 of a World Junior Pairs Championship
4. Placed in a NABC + event
5. Previous King/Queen of bridge
6. Red and blue ribbon qualifications
7. Recommendations

*A motion was proposed, seconded and passed accepting the suggestions as presented by the JITTC and detailed below. However, the USBF Board strongly recommends that for future trials the JITTC formulate a plan for a 3-day trials as opposed to the existing 2-day format.*

#### **VIII WITTC REPORT OF 033 NEW ORLEANS MEETING**

Jan Martel reported that a good deal of the WITTC meeting was spent discussing the conduct incident at the 2003 USWBC. The only suggestion to arise from these discussions was the possibility of keeping records of such incidents and the possibility of an official recorder on-site at the USWBC.

Additionally, the WITTC agrees the WBF should be notified of their desire not to travel to an unsafe venue for the 2004 Olympiad.

Martel mentioned that the COCs for the upcoming 2004 trials were needed soon.

#### **IX SITTC REPORT of 2003 NEW ORLEANS MEETING**

Items discussed were:

The Las Vegas Unit's desire that the Senior Trials not conflict with their District 17 GNT final. Initial scheduling of the trials did not do so. However, the GNT has now been moved to Friday/Saturday causing a conflict with the trials for one flight only. Perhaps the Trials will be moved to a Monday start date.

Discussion of the age eligibility issues and the suggestion that the Senior Trials should coincide with the WBF in this area.

#### **X ITTC REPORT of 2003 NEW ORLEANS MEETING**

Mike Becker, chairman of the ITTC, was not available at the time this item came up for discussion. However, Becker submitted Minutes from the New Orleans meeting as well as Minutes from the meeting of the COC sub-committee. Those documents are appended to these minutes as Exhibits A and B.

#### **XI \$1.95 CHECK-OFF UPDATE**

A report from ACBL comptroller Cherie Turman was included as backup for this meeting and is appended to these minutes as Exhibit C.

Ken Titow will review the report and give an update at the next scheduled meeting of the USBF board.

#### **XII ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR 2004 AND ACTUAL FOR 2003**

Information not available for this meeting.

### **XIII ISTANBUL 2004 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

Following a lengthy discussion and eventual agreement that US players would be extremely reluctant to travel to Turkey and perhaps would refuse to do so the following motion was proposed, seconded and pass unanimously by the Board:

*Concerning the 2004 World Championship Olympiad events, the USBF resolved that:*

- 1. Should the 2004 USBC and USWBC winning teams not attend the 2004 Olympiad due to its location in a place unsuitable for USA citizens to travel to then, those teams will automatically be one of the two teams to represent the USA in the 2005 Bermuda Bowl and 2005 Venice Cup.*
- 2. The USBF President will convey to the WBF that it is the sense of the USBF Board of Directors that the likelihood that any USA team will be sent to Turkey in 2004 is extremely small. In consideration of that eventuality Item 1 above was approved. The USBF Board encourages the WBF to consider alternative sites for the 2004 Championship now. Should the WBF desire, the USBF is willing to assist them in locating a site in the United States.*

### **XIV USE OF BROWN STICKER CONVENTIONS - VOTE OF ACBL WBF REPRESENTATIVES.**

It was agreed that the USBF Board of Directors should officially convey to the ACBL WBF representatives that their votes on issues coming before the WBF executive committee should always reflect the known desires of the players participating in the WBF World Championships. It is the sense of the USBF Board that such was not done with the recent vote on the use of Brown Sticker conventions.

The next meeting of the USBF Board was scheduled for Tuesday, January 13 8:00PM CST.