

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009
9PM EDT
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Bill Pollack, Steve Beatty, Joan Gerard, George Jacobs,
Sylvia Moss, Bob Hamman

Others Present: Jan Martel, Barbara Nudelman, Marty Harris

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Bill Pollack at 9:05pm EDT

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 – MEETING OF JULY 25, 2009

The minutes were accepted and approved as submitted.

IV. CONGRATULATIONS TO US MEDAL WINNERS IN BRAZIL AND TURKEY

On behalf of the USBF, Bill congratulated our junior teams for winning the Bronze Medals in both the KO and the BAM teams at the Youth Championship in Turkey, the Nick Nickell team (Donna Compton, non-playing captain) for the Gold Medal in the Bermuda Bowl and the Sam Dinkin team for capturing the Silver Medal in the Venice Cup in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Bill also reported that Curtis Cheek who became seriously ill while in Brazil is doing much better and will be back in the US very soon. The USBF wishes him a speedy and full recovery.

V. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS IN BRAZIL

a. Bill reported that Gianariggo Roma from Italy was elected President of the World Bridge Federation. He will take office on January 1, 2011

b. There will be 5 zonal rings instead of the 8 zones that the WBF now has. The ACBL (North America) will be in the same ring as South and Central America. This will not change the number of teams that we or anyone else gets.

c. Jose Damiani expressed the need for more women on the Executive Council and the Executive Council voted that any zone that has more than one representative must select at least one woman for a representative to the Council.

d. The Executive Council voted to have a Player Representative on the Executive Council. This person will be elected by the top players and the election will take place in Philadelphia at the World Bridge Series Championship.

VI. PHILADELPHIA PLANNING UPDATE

a. Sponsorship money - Bob Hamman reported that we have \$105,000 in the bank, \$105,000 pledged and \$100,000 from the ACBL.

b. Junior players may play free in the Rosenblum/McConnell teams if they are a complete team of Juniors and a 50% discount for Juniors playing in the Mixed Pairs. If a Junior playing in the Rosenblum/McConnell is on a team of 4 entered in the Junior event, he/she may continue on in the Rosenblum/McConnell till they are eliminated and then join their Junior Team. A whole team of juniors entered in the Rosenblum/McConnell must drop out at the end of the RR in order to fulfill their commitment to play in the Junior Team Championship.

c. There will be a Youth Individual Event.

d. Housing at the Hampton Inn where breakfast is included is being held for the Juniors. Room rate is \$99 a night

e. Mixed Teams have been moved to the last weekend.

f. The WBF requested that Philadelphia host a Girls Under 26 Team Event. Joan agreed at the Council meeting to ask the USBF. Europe, Asia and Australia have many Girls Competitions and wanted to start a World Competition in Philadelphia. This Event will be an Exhibition Match and hopefully we would be able to put together one Girl's team. Joan asked for a vote of approval from the USBF Board that the Board would support one Girl's team in this competition. The Board agreed to support a team.

g. Bill brought up the idea of having a reception for our Sponsors as a thank you. No decision was made. Most felt this was not necessary.

h. Joan and Bill will ask Jay Baum if the USBF can ask Units and Districts to run Fund raising Games for the USBF earmarked for The World Bridge Series.

i. Entry fees for the World Bridge Series Championship are \$30 a player a session; The rate will be approximately 20% less a player a session if the player is staying at a Host Hotel. The Regional entry fee has been set by District 4 and approved by Jose Damiani and it will be \$12 a player a session.

VII. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Barbara reported that \$150 contribution was made in memory of Dick Freeman. A thank you note was received from the Charity and from Louise Freeman, International Fund the USBF spent \$178,000 to send our teams to Brazil. There is \$15,000 left. To date, we have received \$28,000 from the International Fund this year. For 2010 this will not be a problem but it might become a problem in 2011.

Barbara feels that paying 4% to the ACBL for services is too high. Joan will put a motion on the Agenda or perhaps just talk with the treasurer and CEO

Barbara reported that the USBF has about \$300,000. (\$250,000 now that we have given \$50,000 to the WBF) Our financial picture looks good

Sending the Juniors to Turkey was very expensive, \$30,000 to send 2 teams plus a captain and a coach.

\$5000 was contributed by District 3; \$2,500 from the Educational Foundation; the rest was used from what we have in our Junior Fund. Currently, there is close to \$75,000 in the Junior Fund.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. The Trials – Barbara, Jan and Joan discussed the meal situation at the Trials. Barbara reported to the Board that the current session fee is not sufficient to continue to serve breakfast and lunch. One solution is to raise the entry fee from \$120 per team per session to \$150. Then at the beginning the teams would be on their own for lunch and we could negotiate a rate for the Hotel to provide lunch in the Suite for the last days of the Trials. – after the Round Robin. We could probably continue to serve breakfast. No decision was reached.

B. Nominating Committee – The committee Chairman is Jan Martel. Members: Peter Boyd, Steve Beatty, Michael Becker, Howie Weinstein. Committee will nominate by October 15th

C. Election Procedures – The Election will be held the first Thursday in November.

D. Amending the By-Laws to cover the situation with Bill Pollack. His term on the USBF Board expires on December 31, 2009 but he still has one year of his presidency remaining. Bill expressed the desire to remain president in 2010 without any voting power. Bill then left the conference call. The Board voted that a member can serve an additional year if elected. Marty will send the correct wording to Joan.

Correct wording sent by Marty Harris to Joan on October 11, 2009

iV, Officers

A.....Offices Election, and Length of Terms. The officers of the USBF shall consist of a President and a Vice President along with a Treasurer and a

Secretary. Every two years, the officers shall be elected by the Board for two (2) year terms, which shall commence on January 1 of an even-numbered year. All officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Board, subject to the rights, if any, of any officer under a contract of employment. Each officer shall hold office until his/her successor's term begins, unless he/she dies, resigns, becomes disqualified or is removed by the Board.

E. Under 21 Youth Teams. The Board discussed whether to select the 2 teams by having a competition on the Internet for the 1st stage and then perhaps the final stages in June of 2010 in Chicago at the Open Team Trials. No decision was made.

IX. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 9pm EST via conference call.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20PM EDT.