

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012**  
**9:00 PM EST**  
**BY CONFERENCE CALL**

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Joan Gerard, George Jacobs, Ralph Katz,  
Sylvia Moss, Howard Weinstein, Jonathan Weinstein

Others Present: Jan Martel, Barbara Nudelman, Joe Stokes (part of meeting),  
Marty Harris

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Joan Gerard, president, at 9:00 pm EST.

**II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM**

The president 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 2/27/2012**

Minutes were approved as distributed.

**IV. CHICAGO TRIALS**

Barbara reported that the hotel had a problem with reservations but has now fixed it.

Jonathan and Jan reported that with the current entry for the USBC, there would be a preliminary Round Robin with 6 teams. If no more teams enter before April 9, Jan will ask Chris Patrias whether he wants to skip the first day of the event, since one director would be adequate for 6 teams.

**V. JUNIOR TEAMS**

Joe reported that all of the Junior Teams are working with coaches and travel plans are in place for all of them.

**VI. ACBL JUNIOR MOTIONS**

Joan reported:

The Junior coupon motion was revised to allow more benefits for Juniors. Thanks are due to Jonathan Steinberg for getting the information about the motion out to

Bridge Winners readers and to the many Juniors who responded on Bridge Winners and also sent emails to their Directors.

ACBL is giving USBF the \$50,000 that had been allocated for 2012.

For the future, the Canadian and US Junior funds will be combined and Management will decide how much to distribute to USBF and CBF. We will provide the ACBL Board and ACBL management with a budget for 2013 before Philadelphia.

## **VII. WOMEN'S & SENIORS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

Jan reported that the Women's and Seniors Conditions of Contest have been drafted and sent to the Conditions of Contest committees. After those committees have had an opportunity to review the Conditions of Contest, Jan will send them to the Board for approval and then post on the USBF website.

## **VIII. BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

The Board agreed that USBF should be entitled to select teams for events other than World Championships in ways other than by Trials Competition. The Board discussed whether part of the provisions about support and selection of teams was drafted to comply with Olympic requirements. Marty will draft a Bylaws amendment to implement this decision.

Regarding the Resident Member sections of the Bylaws, which is the main re-write Marty is working on, there were some provisions people wanted to continue to review and discuss. The Board discussed how people could demonstrate that they had a residence in a specific place. After discussion, Marty agreed to draft something to implement the Board's policies so that the Board could review specific language at its next meeting.

## **IX. TEAM UNIFORMS**

The uniform committee (Joan, Barbara, Jan & Donna Compton) discussed having t-shirts for the Juniors and having logos for other organizations on them, as well as the USBF logo and a US flag. BBO and Bridge Winners have agreed to have their logos on the Junior shirts. The Board voted to have the logos on the Junior shirts.

## **IX. 2013 TRIALS**

Joan reported that contracts have been signed with the Buena Vista Hotel in Orlando for the 2013 Trials. The Open Trials will be May 31 to about June 10, depending on the format. The Women's & Seniors will be July 11-18. George raised the question of whether the Women's & Seniors dates are too late for making travel plans for Bali. Jan & Joan explained that the dates had been discussed at the SITTC meeting in Memphis and because of constraints about

the timing (need some time after the Open, don't want to conflict with the Las Vegas Regional or July 4 Regionals) these were the earliest feasible dates.

## **X. FUTURE TRIALS DATES**

We'd like to have regular dates for the Trials in the future. Joan will appoint a scheduling committee to work on the dates for future tournaments.

## **XI. INTERNATIONAL EVENT SELECTION**

Cheri reported that the committee (Cheri, Howard, George & Beth) decided:

1. If the USBF is asked to send a team to an event, the winner of the most recent Trials (in the appropriate category) would be asked if they want to go; if the entire team wants to go, they would be designated. If the entire team doesn't want to go, the second place team would be asked. If the entire second place team wants to go, they would be designated. If not, a selection committee would choose a team, which might include players from the first and second place teams.
2. For events that include team, pair and individual events, the process used last year for the SportAccord teams would be used.

Cheri will prepare a document with the Procedure for Selecting International Teams other than WBF World Championship teams; after Board review, it will be posted on the website so that everyone can see how teams are selected. Jan reported that USBF will probably be asked to select the Buffett Cup team starting in 2013, and this procedure would apply to that as well as the SportAccord and similar events.

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. An offer was made to Barbara to contribute \$5000 per year to support the USSBC, in exchange for having the USSBC named after a specific person. The Board discussed whether to accept this and agreed to form a committee to consider this question as well as similar "advertising" issues.
2. The WBF Credentials Committee has informed us that a person who has played in the CNTC is not eligible to compete for the United States for 2 years without a waiver of that provision. Therefore in order to allow David Grainger to play in the USBC we would have to seek a waiver of the 3 year requirement from the WBF. Joan will draft a letter to David Grainger explaining the rules to him and saying that absent a waiver, he would not be eligible to compete in the 2013 USBC because he played in the CNTC in 2011.
3. Stipend for 2012 Teams. The Stipend committee (Barbara, George & Jan) recommended that USBF give each player the State Department per diem amount of \$262 per day for 10 days for the round robin and an additional amount of \$262 per day for as many days as the team remains in the event. The Board unanimously approved the proposal.

4. Committees – Joan named a committee on committees to define what the committees do and to make a recommendation about who to appoint to the committees. The committee on committees is Joan, Cheri, George and Jan.
5. CPA – Sylvia proposed that the Board hire a CPA firm to do financial reports for the Board on a quarterly basis so that the Board will have full information on which to make decisions. After discussion, the Board decided to ask Stan Subeck whether he would do the job for a year and then review whether to employ a CPA for the future.
6. Separating Women’s & Senior Trials. Sylvia proposed that we not schedule the Seniors and Women’s Trials at the same time, because there are some Women who would want to play in the Senior Trials if they could do so. The Board discussed whether to have 3 separate Trials or to have the Women’s at the same time as the Open. This matter was deferred.
7. USBF Regionals – this year’s USBF Regional is in Minnesota. For 2013, New Mexico (District 17) has asked to host the Regional. For 2014, Chicago (District 13) has expressed interest. Joan has told the people who have asked to hold the Regional that we will need to get \$3 a table. Joan suggested that we make a banner to send to these Regionals and the Board agreed.

### **XIII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be scheduled by email.

### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 pm EST