

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**SUNDAY, DEC. 1, 2013**  
**10:30 AM EDT**  
**AT PHOENIX NABC**

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan (by phone), George Jacobs, Bob Katz, Sylvia Moss, Howard Weinstein, Jonathan Weinstein (by phone)

Others Present: Marty Fleisher, Jan Martel, Sue Picus, Joe Stokes

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by George Jacobs, president, at 10:30 am local time.

**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**

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes from its August 5, 2013 and August 15, 2013 meetings.

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Cheri was on the way home from Phoenix, so George presented the financial information. The report was unanimously accepted.

**V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Sylvia reported that the Nominating Committee had nominated Marty Fleisher & Sue Picus to fill the Board seats being vacated by George Jacobs & Ralph Katz. There being no petition candidates, they will be elected to three year terms commencing Jan. 1, 2014 with no need for an election. The Board welcomed them to the Board and this meeting.

**VI. SPONSORSHIP**

Jade reported that he is in discussion with Genworth Financial about sponsoring bridge events. They are an organization that sells long term care contracts; our demographics are good for them. They have been sponsoring bridge games and activities already. Jade needs to know what we are looking for in terms of dollars and specific purpose. One thing Jade has discussed with them is to sponsor the

Buffett Cup if we take it over. There could be some issues about having them be a sole sponsor. The Board discussed the need for money and things on which we'd like to spend additional money.

Jade presented the idea of having a booth at NABCs where we would provide information about USBF and perhaps have members there to talk to people. The hope is to raise awareness of USBF among ACBL members other than the elite members. Jade also wants to put together filmed interviews with players and run them at the booth at NABC's and major Regionals.

The Marketing Committee will work with Jade on sponsorship sources and on marketing in general. Perhaps will consult with ACBL's new marketing people.

## **VII. BUFFETT CUP**

Warren Spector & Jill Levin are looking into what would be involved with taking over the Buffett Cup. Next year it will be in Europe, in 2016 it is scheduled to be in the US. For the European event in 2014, the European organizers will provide hotel and food for the players, so if we are going to sponsor it, we would have to select the team and provide travel expenses and uniforms for the players. When the event is in the US, we would have to manage the event and pay the costs of it. The Board tabled whether to take over the Buffett Cup.

## **VIII. SPORTACCORD**

We had to make a last minute change to the SportAccord team this year. Migry zur Campanile is unable to go for health reasons. Migry's partner, Christal Henner graciously withdrew because she thought it would be in the best interest of the team if we found a pair who have played together. Disa Eythorsdottir and Lynn Deas are willing to go (Disa was originally on the team and had to withdraw because Mildred Breed wasn't able to fly to Beijing for health reasons. The Board approved Disa & Lynn and authorized Jan to work on getting Lynn a visa (Disa has one). USBF will pay the costs of an expedited visa for Lynn.

## **IX. JUNIORS**

Joe reported on the Junior Training and Trials week we are holding December 28<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will pay for the event, including paying expenses for the players, with the remainder of the ACBL contribution toward training for Juniors and additional funds raised by Michael Rosenberg from generous USBF members and supporters. Ten teams will participate in the event. USBF members Marty Fleisher, Barry Goren, Karen McCallum, Jan & Chip Martel, Debbie and Michael Rosenberg, Joe Stokes, Howard Weinstein and Migry zur Campanile will participate as mentors. The event will start with 2 and a half days of training, and continue with 3 days of competition and further training. Five teams will qualify to attend the 2014 World Championships in Istanbul.

## **X. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

The 2014 USBC will be held in Phoenix, starting on May 9th. There are no Senior or Women's USBCs in 2014. The 2015 Open & Senior USBCs will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg, IL, with the open starting the Friday before Mother's Day, Seniors starting June 5<sup>th</sup>. The 2015 Women's will be in Fort Lauderdale immediately following the Regional in March.

## **XI. PLAYING STATUS**

Zia – WBF has approved Zia playing for the US. The Board approved Zia as a Resident Member and declared that he was eligible to compete in USBCs.

Huub Bertens – Huub now lives in Oregon, has a green card, hasn't played for the Netherlands for more than 3 years. The Board approved his application as a Resident Member and eligibility to compete in the USBC.

Pepsi – Pepsi told Jan that he meets all of the USBF's Resident Member requirements. He is already a Resident Member and the Board approved his continuing Resident Membership and eligibility for the USBC

Adam Wildavsky – Adam moved to Switzerland and played for Switzerland in 2012. When he moved, he was told he would have to wait ten years to play for another country. The rules subsequently changed and he will now be eligible to play for the US in 2015, 3 years after he played for Switzerland. Adam asked the USBF to ask WBF to waive the 3 year rule to the extent it prevents him from playing in the 2014 USBC, because that event selects a team for the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, for which he is eligible. The Board determined not to ask WBF to waive the 3 year rule for Adam in 2014.

## **XII. REGIONAL**

Taos ran the USBF Regional in 2013 and had a successful tournament. They have asked to have it again in 2015. The sense of the Board was to agree.

## **XIII. CBF REQUEST**

The ACBL, which is our WBF Zonal Representative, appoints the 5 Zone 2 representatives to the WBF Executive Committee. Nader Hanna, on behalf of the CBF asked that the CBF appoint one representative and USBF appoint one representative. ACBL wants to continue to appoint the 5 representatives.

The Board discussed asking ACBL to have a policy that one of the 5 representatives should be a USBF Board member. The Board also discussed having someone from the Board apply to be appointed next year. The USBF wants input into who is appointed by ACBL to sit on the WBF Executive Committee, but did not resolve exactly how to proceed.

#### **XIV. JOAN GERARD NAMING**

The Board discussed that we want to honor Joan in some way and tabled how to do so.

#### **XV. ROZANNE POLLACK EARLY RETURN FROM BALI**

The Board approved paying Rozanne Pollack \$500 to partially reimburse her for the airline miles she used to get an earlier trip home from Bali when her team did not qualify for the SemiFinals. This is slightly different from the change fee the Board previously approved, but sufficiently similar that the Board thought it appropriate.

#### **XVI. ACBL REPORT**

Robert Hartman reported that ACBL has adopted a policy for dealing with minors and he asked that USBF review it and sign on to it. He will send the policy to George to distribute to the Board and the Board will discuss at its next meeting.

#### **XVII. APPEALS & SLOW PLAY AT USBCS**

George suggested not having appeals committees, but adopting some sort of procedure similar to the one being used by WBF now. The Board decided to continue appeals committees.

The Board discussed slow play and will try to put more teeth into the rules.

#### **XVIII. WBF**

The Board discussed whether to send an under 15 team to the 2014 World Junior Championship if we can find a team and it doesn't cost USBF any money. Joe Stokes was asked to look into exactly what the event is and also whether we have any Juniors who might be eligible and would want to go if they had to pay their own way.

#### **XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board met in executive session and voted to renew the USBF's contract with its attorney Martin Harris for the 2014 calendar year.

#### **XX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm