

**00.1 NABC - Cincinnati, OH**  
**ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Sunday, March 12, 2000**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel**

The meeting was conducted by Michael Becker. Also present were: Howard Weinstein, John Sutherlin, Peter Boyd, Chris Compton, Paul Soloway, David Berkowitz, Alan Sontag, Chip Martel, Dan Morse, Bobby Wolff, Sol Weinstein, Richard Colker, Barbara Nudelman, Larry Simon, Gary Blaiss and Rena Hetzer.

**Approval of Minutes from 99.3 NABC, Boston, MA**

The minutes from the Fall NABC meeting were approved as presented.

**993 Boston Minutes - Exhibits**

The exhibits appended to the Boston minutes were briefly reviewed including the letter from ACBL CEO David Silber concerning liability insurance and coverage for the ITT Committee. It was suggested that coverage was standard for all such committees and somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000.

**2000 Trials**

Becker pointed out that Chris Compton had volunteered his time and made cosmetic and useful changes to the 2000 Condition ITT Conditions of Contest including highlighting some areas that may need discussion by the Committee. In addition to thanking Chris for his efforts, Becker stated Chris's contribution was an illustration of why it was important to recruit new members with new ideas and fresh enthusiasm.

Junior team entry applications to the ITT were discussed at length. The question was raised as to how the Credentials Committee might "assign" VS seeding points to junior teams thereby assuring that team a spot in the trails and then deal with the possibility that this action may preclude an experienced team with less than 10 VS seeding points from gaining entry. The treatment of "mixed" team (some juniors, some not) applications was also discussed. It was agreed that the Credentials Committee will develop their own procedures giving maximum consideration to teams of all juniors with some consideration as well to teams with a majority of juniors.

**Non-Agenda Item**

Bobby Wolff was recognized and presented the matter of the new WBF dues structure passed by the WBF Executive Counsel and going before the WBF Congress in Maastricht for ratification. in Bermuda. That new method charges each member NCBO (National Contract Bridge Organization) \$1.00 per member effective with the 2002 WBF dues. (In the case of the ACBL, this represents an approximate increase in dues from \$16,000 to \$160,000 annually).

Mr. Wolff felt strongly that it was likely that the ACBL Board would not support such a dues increase and solicited the aid of the ITTC (as representatives of the ACBL expert community) to lobby their Board representatives to view support of the WBF as vital to the health and well-being of bridge for ACBL as well as the rest of the world. It was suggested by Mr. Wolff that the consequences of failure to accommodate the dues raise might result in ACBL's exclusion from world competition.

It was agreed that a letter would be written stating the position of the ITTC which supports the WBF and a request for publication be made to the editor of the NABC Daily Bulletin.

### **Trials Entry Fee and Surcharge for International Fund**

Gary Blaiss reported that Board action (passed at the Cincinnati meetings) mandated a \$25 per team per session surcharge to benefit the International Fund.

Due to the loss of the trial's previous benefactor a discussion ensued as to the need for a raise in entry fees to ensure continuation of services and amenities previously covered by the benefactor. It was decided to raise entry fees \$25 per team per day. Entry fees therefore will be \$225 per day per team including the \$50 per day surcharge to benefit the International Fund.

### **2001 Trials**

A discussion of a repechage vs winning semifinalist playing losing finalist as a method of selecting USA II came to no definite conclusion. The Conditions of Contest Committee will develop procedures for a repechage beginning with losing quarterfinalists as well as one beginning with losing semifinalists. The matter will be put on the Anaheim 002 agenda for further consideration as was a determination of location and date for the 2001 trials.

Michael Becker drew attention to the new Appendix 2, Disciplinary Sanctions which will be added as an appendix to the 2000 conditions.

### **Miscellaneous**

Chip Martel reported on the drug-testing procedures implemented at the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup Championships. Two members of each semifinalist teams were picked at random. Chip said that he personally had no information as to the results of those tests. He also stated that while the procedures had seemed a little foolish the need to comply with IOC regulations was understood.

### **2000 ITT Conditions of Contest**

It was agreed that in the event the winner of the trials later becomes ineligible to represent the USA then the second place team from the ITT will be declared the USA representative subject to ACBL Board approval.

Late withdrawals or no-shows by entire teams will be reviewed by the Credentials Committee. (Page 6, Paragraph 2 will be revised to indicate such).

Section VII, Boards, Part B1 is revised to read ".....If a member of the winning team has failed to play 50% of the boards in the RR or in any knockout match, that player will appear before an Executive/Credentials Committee."

Section VIII, TIME PROBLEMS, A, Slow Play, Paragraph two is revised to read "..... slowly, but should try to wait until the completion of the hand."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.