

00.2 NABC - Anaheim, CA
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
Sunday August 13, 2000

Michael Becker conducted the Committee of the Whole (the "Committee") meeting. Also present were: Chris Compton, David Berkowitz, John Sutherlin, Chris Patrias, Larry Simon, Chip Martel, Peter Boyd, Howard Weinstein, Richard Colker, Gary Blaiss, Paul Soloway, David Smith, Bobby Wolff, Bob Hamman, Joan Gerard, Barbara Nudelman and Rena Hetzer.

Approval of Minutes from 001 NABC, Cincinnati, OH

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

WBF Dues Increase

Becker recited the sequence of events concerning the ITTC's attempts to publish their support of the WBF and their efforts in all areas of international bridge and in particular their recent efforts to gain entry to the Olympics. Gary Blaiss reported that the ACBL Board of Directors, while not approving the compromise WBF proposal presented to the ACBL Board, did approve payment of a dues increase essentially netting the WBF the same amount of revenue as their compromise proposal would have.

Open vs Mildly Restricted Entry Trials

In view of the motion passed by the ACBL Board of Directors mandating that International Team Trials have an open format, the Committee discussed how to revise the ITT Conditions of Contest to comply with the new regulation.

Mike Becker asked the Committee to indicate to the Conditions of Contest Committee which direction they should pursue of the two described below.

- A. Every team, regardless of the number of V/S seeding points or Positioning Points (PPs), with no bye must enter the event at the 1st Round Robin.
- B. The 1st Round Robin be a "pre-qualifying" for teams which do not meet certain thresholds in V/S seeding points or PPs.

The Committee approved option B. above. The Conditions of Contest Committee was authorized to draw up and submit conditions for approval by the ACBL Board at its fall meeting.

Chris Compton asked that the Committee consider having KO matches starting with the initial phase of the event and continuing throughout. While the Committee rejected considering such for the 2001 trials they did agree to consider this format for 2002 if Chris would prepare a report for some future meeting of the ITTC. Chris agreed to do so.

2001 Conditions of Contest – Summary of Changes

Chip Martel reviewed the summary included in the agenda packet outlining the changes in the PPs and Bye structure. If the repechage begins amongst the quarterfinal losers, three-way matches cannot be avoided. A three-way match must be played amongst the semi-final losers and the remaining quarter-final loser, and will also be played if there are only three quarter-final losers. If the repechage begins amongst semi-final losers, there would be no need for three way matches. The Conditions of Contest Committee was authorized to choose the repechage starting point it preferred and previous votes indicated it would start the repechage with the quarterfinal.

“Swinging” teams in final RR Sessions

A discussion concluded that it was not practical to make rules to prohibit, monitor or assess “swinging” by teams far behind in the final stages of a round robin, but a knockout format would eliminate swinging. The weaknesses of the RR format were compared to the randomness of KO match-ups. Bob Hamman urged using a KO. The Conditions of Contest Committee was authorized to reexamine the two formats, perhaps combining both into the 2001 Conditions.

East Memphis Hilton as host of 2001 & 2002 Trials

Gary Blaiss reported that the ACBL Board had approved Memphis as the site of the next two trials. The Committee is pleased with the site.

ITT Sponsorship

Blaiss cited the publicity and sponsorship advantages that might be gained when the site of the trials is known far in advance and the relationships with the local business community that might be developed. The ACBL Marketing Director will look into local sponsorship.

Chris Compton offered to pursue sponsorship from individuals and corporations, which he may be able to approach through his business contacts. Becker suggested that should Compton be successful in obtaining such sponsorship he should be compensated in a way consistent with industry practices. Gary Blaiss advised that any such arrangement should be handled through the ACBL Marketing Director and the Committee agreed.

Again, Gary Blaiss suggested creating a scale of sponsor categories, dependent on the level of contribution, similar to other civic and non-profit organizations.

Review of “special consideration” to Juniors

The Committee discussed and agreed that the policy of special consideration to junior teams should be continued and especially for the specific junior team which reached the quarterfinal of the 2000 ITT. However, as the Trials now open, special consideration may not be warranted.

Awarding Placing Points and/or V/S Seeding Points for future Trials

The Committee discussed the concept of awarding a team in some fashion for performance in previous trials. There was also discussion to reduce the master point cap included in V/S points from 10,000 to 5,000 for the purpose of seeding the Trials. These topics were referred to the Conditions of Contest Committee.

Miscellaneous

Gary Blaiss advised the Committee that the Board formed the United States Bridge Federation. The new federation will oversee U.S. participation in international events. Becker asked for a volunteer who would be interested in serving on the federation's committee.

Richard Colker, Trials Appeals Administrator, reported on management of appeals for the 2000 Trials. Colker stated that the use of the Internet and chat rooms to hold committees was a dismal failure due to a lack of computer expertise by committee members and the unavailability of committee members when they were needed. Colker was asked to develop a plan to handle appeals and report back to the Committee.

Rena Hetzer, Barbara Nudelman and Joan Gerard were praised and applauded for their superb hospitality and efforts to make the Trials a pleasurable experience.