

011 NABC - Kansas City, MO
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
Sunday March 18, 2001

Michael Becker, ITTC Chairman conducted the Committee of the Whole meeting. Also present were: Chip Martel, Billy Pollack, John Sutherlin, Alan Sontag, Adam Wildavsky, Chris Compton, Billy Eisenberg, Ira Chorush, Howard Weinstein, Richard Colker, Larry Simon, Shawn Quinn, John Solodar, Bobby Wolff, Bruce Reeve, Dan Morse, Bob Hamman, Joan Gerard, Barbara Nudelman, Peter Rank, Gary Blaiss and Rena Hetzer.

Approval of Minutes from 003 NABC, Birmingham, AL

The minutes from the Fall NABC meeting were approved as presented. It was noted by Shawn Quinn that the WITTC wished to have their entire committee discuss and select their representative to act as liaison with the ACBL Board along with David Berkowitz.

ITTC Chairman and Committee Appointments

Michael Becker, having been appointed as ITTC Chairman by the ACBL President for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2001, was confirmed as such by the Committee of the Whole. Becker announced that this would be his last term as Chairman.

Becker announced that the Executive Committee appointed Chris Compton Chairman of the Conditions of Contest Committee and noted the addition to that committee of Alan Sontag, Ira Chorush and Adam Wildavsky.

United States Bridge Federation Progress Report

Peter Rank, League Counsel reported that the USBF had been incorporated and the initial Board of Directors had been appointed by ACBL President Jim Kirkham following the USOC rule that 20% of the USBF board must be athletes expert enough to compete in the trials. The appointed member of this initial board are Shawn Quinn, Michael Becker, Nick Nickell, Bruce Reeve, Dan Morse, Alan Popkin, David Silber and two members not yet appointed by the American Bridge Association. The appointees represent two members of the ACBL BOD, two athletes, two members of the ACBL at large, two members of the ABA and the ACBL CEO.

While the founding board of directors may be appointed, USBF members must "directly" elect the subsequent directors. It will be up to this founding board to determine the method for election of future board members.

The motion as passed by the ACBL Board and the Bylaws that motion approved are attached as Exhibit 1.

It was noted that the USBF must be responsible for selection and approving teams (or pairs) to represent the United States in international competition taking place in 2002 and beyond. While

it is not yet clear what the relationship will be between the USBF and ITTC, it was suggested that perhaps the ITTC could act as a subcommittee of the USBF as concerns the conduct of team trials. A motion by Shawn Quinn was put forth and passed that the ITTC suggest to the USBF that they be such a subcommittee. Since the 2002 cycle begins with the 2001 Spingold, and key conditions must be in place before the cycle begins, the ITTC will continue to prepare the conditions for the 2002 Trials and present them to the USBF for approval.

Sponsorship of ITTC Events

Michael Calhoun, ACBL Chief Marketing Officer advised the committee on ways sponsorship might be obtained. He stressed the importance of publicity to “advertise” the importance and prestige of the ITT. He suggested a training session be scheduled in Toronto or at the Trials in Memphis whereby certain descriptions of this prestige and importance could be agreed upon by the expert community and used whenever interviews occurred. It was brought up that there needed to be greater cooperation from the expert community in making themselves available for interviews at times suitable for the press.

Shawn Quinn mentioned that there are different types of sponsors – those companies with a business motivation and those wishing to be “corporate citizens. Michael Calhoun expanded this to include possible long-term sponsors who would build “an identification” with the ITT.

It was also suggested that it would be better if the ITTC and WITTC were combined when seeking sponsorship and given a more catchy name. It was noted that in effect, the USBF would accomplish this by merging of the two committees.

It was noted that should the USBF gain the IRS C-3 rating it will seek that sponsors then could make tax deductible “sponsorship” donations.

Shawn Quinn stated that she would seek sponsorship monies for the 2001 trials but that she would be reluctant to accept anything less than \$50,000 which would be split equally between the ITTC and the WITTC. Proceeds would be used to subsidize the U.S. teams in the world championship or to subsidize the trials.

2001 Conditions of Contest

Becker said that there are several small issues to be addressed before the 2001 Conditions of Contest are finished, and it was agreed that the Conditions of Contest Committee finish up these small matters, rather than taking them up at this meeting.

2002 Conditions of Contest

Chris Compton noted that it was important to have at least a draft of the 2002 conditions prior to the 2001 Spingold, which begins the new cycle for earning placing points. His committee will try to have a draft of the conditions of contest ready for presentation at the ITTC’s next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.