

2005.2 NABC – Atlanta, GA
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
Hiatt Regency Hotel, Hanover Room, Sunday, July 24, 2005, 6:55 P.M.

Michael Becker, ITTC Chairman, conducted the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Present: David Berkowitz, Gary Blaiss, Peter Boyd, Ira Chorush, Chris Compton, Mark Feldman, Joan Gerard, Jan Martel, Chip Martel, Dan Morse, Barbara Nudelman, Chris Patrias, Bill Pollack, Richard Schwartz, Barnet Shenkin, Larry Simon, Danny Sprung, John Sutherland, Adam Wildavsky, Howard Weinstein, Kit Woolsey

Becker noted the meeting was well attended. Woolsey said good attendance may be related to not scheduling morning meetings. It was agreed to continue to schedule the meetings after the session when the 10am-3pm schedule was in effect. Sandwiches were provided by the USBF and fully consumed by Committee members. Unwelcome music was provided outside the room.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 13, 2005, Pittsburgh meeting were approved.

2005 USBC Epilogue

Jan Martel and Becker went over incomplete financial reports from the 2005 USBC in Houston. In the charity event, 28 experts participated and about \$9,800 was donated (which amounts to about \$350 per expert who participated). Gallery Furniture donated \$30,000. However, the regional lost money due to poor attendance and the USBC lost about \$5,500. The bottom line is that the USBF took home a disappointing \$20,000, far less than the \$50,000-\$75,000 originally projected.

Becker reported that only 28 players responded to the USBC Exit Poll, so the results should not be considered reliable. The poll and results were included in the Agenda Package.

Slow play was discussed briefly, but it was agreed the issue would best be handled thru emails. CoC Committee members were urged to respond to ad-hoc chair Compton's survey on slow play. Compton was reaffirmed as ad-hoc chair when no one else stepped forward.

Feldman expressed concern over security and there was an extended discussion. There was fear of text messaging to cell phones in bathrooms or other electronic methods of communication. The Committee agreed to investigate if Internet broadcasts could be delayed. The present security rules were reaffirmed, and players will be reminded of them by posting the rules in the playing area and emailing them to participants. Players are not permitted to have cell phones or pagers in the playing area and may not leave a room unescorted. Players will be urged not to leave their table during a round robin match.

2006 USBC

Jan Martel thinks the 2006 USBC can be held with the scheduled Santa Clara regional (August 29 thru September 4, 2006). The USBC would begin about Friday, August 25, and end Saturday, September 2. There was some concern about ending the USBC later, as it conflicts more with the Labor Day weekend. The hotel is 45 minutes from the San Francisco airport and there are ample restaurants nearby. The Committee authorized the ITTC Executive Committee

to decide the location and dates of the 2006 USBC, with Santa Clara, CA, (or any place with sponsorship) as the first choice, and Memphis as the default location if sponsorship could not be found. Becker promised to keep the Committee informed. Martel mentioned that Chicago was interested in hosting a USBF regional in 2007, with the USBC attached. The hotel would be near the airport, but restaurants and groceries are not within walking distance. Also, Manhattan was possibility in 2007.

Becker reported that since a charity event was unwanted, the format of the 2006 USBC would likely resemble the 2004 USBC. So far, CoCC discussions have made few changes to the conditions.

USBF Update

Jan Martel and Compton offered a financial overview of the USBF: initially funded with \$175,000 in donations, the treasury now stands at \$136,000 and is likely to drift lower. Money generated from the USBF's, ACBL \$1.95 tag line is drifting lower, due in part to a different presentation on the ACBL dues bills. Jan wants to increase the tag line from \$1.95 to \$5.00 and each \$5.00 donation would generate one ticket in a (monthly) raffle to play with an expert on Bridgebase for one hour. The Committee thought this to be a great idea.

The possibility of combining the USBC's into a "World Series" of bridge, perhaps in 2008, was discussed. The Committee thought that would be a difficult to combine the four trials, but noted Jan's comment that combining only the Women's and Open trials would save about \$5,000 in screen shipping and setup costs. No motions were made.

The new USBF Augmentation rules were discussed. Wildavsky, who suggested changes in the Augmentation rules at the last ITTC meeting, reviewed the new rules with Jan Martel and found them to be in order.

2009 USBC Format

A pairs trials was discussed as an alternative to a repechage in choosing USA 2 for the 2009 Bermuda Bowl. Wildavsky suggested attaching a repechage pairs trials to the 2009 team trials. Chip Martel suggested such a repechage be used as a qualifying event to a lengthy pairs trials event played at another time. There was also the idea of holding a pairs trials as a completely separate event, but some worried that top pairs might divide and play with others. The Committee took a straw poll and voted 8-5 in favor of a pairs trials. Another straw poll was 8-4 in favor of at least the initial stage of the pairs trials to be held as a repechage event at the team trials. The Committee recognized there are a few years to decide this matter.

New Business

At the request of the ACBL's C&C Committee, the ACBL added 0.5 seeding points to the R32 of the K/Os and awarded 0.5 seeding points to all Reisinger finalists who place below 10th. The ITTC uses whatever ACBL provides it, and therefore all changes will be used in calculations a player's IPPs. The ITTC approved awarding PPs to all Reisinger finalists as well, awarding 8 PPs for 11th, 7 PPs for 12th, etc., down to however many teams make the finals.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.