

2009.2 NABC – Washington, D.C.
ITT COMMITTEE – MINUTES OF MEETING
Marriott Wardman Park
July 27, 2009 - 10:30 a.m.

Michael Becker, ITTC Chairman, conducted the International Team Trials Committee Meeting.

17 others were present: David Berkowitz, Peter Boyd, Ira Chorush, Russ Ekeblad, Joan Gerard, Robb Gordon, George Jacobs, Steve Landen, Jan Martel, Dan Morse, Sylvia Moss, Barbara Nudelman, Bill Pollack, Shawn Quinn, Howard Weinstein, Roy Welland, Adam Wildavsky

Becker called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

Juniors Need Practice

Shawn Quinn noted that the USA junior teams need practice against experts, and asked that Committee members play a few hours of bridge against them. A signup sheet was passed around and yielded several volunteers.

USBF Fund Raising for 2010 WBF Championships

Chris Compton, who was appointed by the USBF Board to help raise funds for the 2010 WBF Championships, reported that, of the \$300,000 pledged by the USBF to the WBF, \$213,000 had been raised. Separate from the USBF's pledge, the ACBL has contributed \$100,000. Becker urged ITTC members to contribute something. Gerard noted that the USBF had guaranteed 2,700 room nights each day, (the rate is \$140/night for the main hotel, and less for other hotels), and added that the USBF is liable for up to \$100,000 if the room guarantee fell short. There will also be a regional tournament run by the local district at the same time.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Sunday, March 15, 2009 Houston meeting were approved.

2009 USBC

The White Plains, 2009 USBC was discussed. The Committee congratulated the winners. Wildavsky thought the playing conditions were good and that the hotel was great. Becker reported that although there were no replays in the USA2 bracket, they were actually possible, and better written conditions would have avoided all replays. He urged those capable of proof-reading complex conditions to be more diligent in the future. No time problems were reported, even though the allowed minutes per board were lowered from 9.0 to about 8.6. Jacobs began a discussion revisiting the issue of deep byes and byes to teams with foreign players. He agreed to lead an Internet discussion on the matter, rather than begin a discussion afresh at this meeting.

2010 CoCs

With only one copy of the CoCs available, Becker read and reviewed the redlined changes in the draft 2010CoC071209.doc. It was unanimously agreed to amend the playing requirements in a morphed round robin per the statement in Exhibit 2, #2A. After acknowledging that Appendix E was a work-in-progress, the redlined changes in the CoCs were approved. Gerard suggested that the USBC's Directors, Sol Weinstein and Chris Patrias, be consulted more on CoC wording. Jacobs reminded the ITTC that it is merely an advisory Committee and that the USBF Board must approve committee recommendations.

Online Preliminary?

Jan Martel proposed playing the Preliminary Stage, if needed, on-line rather than on-site. She described that the event would be held well in advance of the main event, that each participant would have a monitor, and that the juniors had held a USBF online event without incident. Some thought this a worthy experiment that would not affect the outcome of the event, and save costs for both the USBF and participants. Woolsey expressed strong concerns about security, while others mentioned their unfamiliarity with playing bridge online might cause inadvertent mechanical errors. A straw vote showed that the committee was evenly divided, and the matter was tabled. Jan will lead an Internet discussion on the topic.

2011 USBC

Gerard and Jan Martel reported an offer to hold the USBC at a LAX hotel. Becker asked that the committee discuss a suggestion by Compton to hold the USBC earlier so the Women's and Senior USBCs could be spaced out better. Jan said there was not enough time between Gatlinburg, in late April, and the Cavendish, over Mother's Day in May. It was suggested that the USBC could be held shortly after the Cavendish, in Las Vegas. This would save on screen shipping costs, director's travel costs, and some player's travel costs. The event would probably have to begin on the Tuesday following the Cavendish, and teams with byes would begin play, say, 2.5, 4.0 or 6.0 days later (for R16, R8 and R4 byes). While the current venue for the Cavendish, the Green Valley Ranch, does not support holding the USBC, another hotel, the Red Rocks Casino & Resort (or other Las Vegas hotels), may have the facilities needed. With the Committee's support, Gerard was asked to make inquiries.

General Conditions of Contest

Jan Martel presented minor changes to the General Conditions of Contest, which were approved.

Internet Discussions

Becker was applauded for his ITTC chairmanship over the past 14 years. He asked again that others contribute more to ease his work burden. Wildavsky and Jan Martel will create a Google online discussion group that would/could replace email discussions as the

primary method of vetting ITTC and Technical Committee issues. Moss urged (and the Committee agreed) that the WITTC and SITTC be included in ITTC Internet discussions that concern their USBCs as well.

Augmentation of Former Teammates

See Exhibit 1 in the Agenda (or GCoC's) for current rules. With 35 minutes left in the meeting, Jan Martel led a discussion on augmentation of teammates who did not play in the final or prior to the final. The results of three email questions were submitted to the committee. What followed was a comprehensive but disjointed discussion that was unable to reach any conclusions. The discussion will continue via a Google discussion set up by Jan Martel and Adam Wildavsky.

Adjournment and Notice of Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 2, in San Diego, CA, at a time and place to be announced.