

Minutes of WITT Committee Meeting in Memphis

March 23, 2012

Attending: Beth Palmer, Cheri Bjerkan, Gail Greenberg, Jan Martel, Rozanne Pollack, David Sokolow, and Peggy Sutherlin

Minutes: The Seattle minutes were unanimously approved.

Membership: Martha Katz has resigned from the committee, and JoAnn Sprung has been dropped for non-attendance. Beth will ask Janet Robertson if she would like to join.

2012 Trials: They will be held June 1-5, 2012, in Schaumburg, Ill., in conjunction with the Senior Trials. The schedule (assuming fewer than 10 teams enter) is: June 1-2, RR; June 3-4, SF (96 boards); June 4-5, Finals (96 boards). Jan suggested a 10 a.m. start (like the seniors) with 3 matches before the dinner break and one after, but got little support. David moved to start at 11 a.m. (10:30 a.m. if the seniors agree) with two matches, then a two-hour break, then two matches. Rozanne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2013 Trials: They are currently scheduled to be held July 11-17, 2013, at the Buena Vista Hotel in Orlando in conjunction with the Senior Trials. We decided in Seattle that they will consist of a two-day RR; a one-day SF (64 boards); a two-day final and repechage (128 boards each); and a two-day playoff for USA2 (128 boards). A highly-regarded Dutch woman director is in the process of moving to South Dakota. Everyone agreed she does a great job. Jan agreed to ask the ACBL if the Dutch woman can direct the trials in 2013 and beyond.

World Championships 2012: They will be held in Lille, France August 9-23, 2012. Cheri asked if the USBF would reserve rooms in advance for our team since the trials are so late. Jan said she would look into it, but made no promises. She noted that there were problems in Estoril the last time the USBF tried to reserve rooms for the players (*e.g.*, people who were not happy with the hotel, and wanted to switch).

Future Trials (2015 and beyond): Before Jan arrived, we discussed the ideal timing/location of the trials. The consensus: hold future trials *before* the senior trials (so those who don't make the women's team can play the seniors) in conjunction with a regional or the open trials. People expressed a willingness to come to Memphis [even if there is no regional?]. Jan later reported that the USBF is thinking about starting future open trials the Friday before Mother's Day, and holding future women's trials in conjunction with the senior trials in early June; however, Jan was open to the idea of having the WITT before the senior trials after 2013.

Format: The committee acceded to Jan's request to eliminate "RR I" and "RR II" and have the following format: Preliminary Phase, Round Robin, Semifinal and Final. Most of the time, the trials would start with the Round Robin, but if we get 10 or more teams, the Preliminary Phase would start two days earlier.

Next Meeting: Sunday, July 15, 2012, at [most likely] 9:00 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel in Philadelphia.

Please note: Start times in Philly are 10 and 3 or 4, so there's no need to meet at 11:30, as we usually do.