

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**

**February 27, 2002
8:00 A.M. CST - Via Conference Call**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Shawn Quinn, Dan Morse, Alan Popkin, Arnold Jones,
Bruce Reeve, Bob Friend, Nick Nickell
Others Present: Rena Hetzer, Peter Rank, Jack Zdancewicz

Call to Order and Quorum Established

Mike Becker called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the February 20, 2002 meeting were approved.

Discussion of Subcommittees

Becker suggested that the Tournament Committee, while having approval power concerning the Conditions of Contest composed and submitted by the ITTC and WITTC Conditions of Contest Committees, should rarely amend the product produced by these thoughtful, thorough hard-working committees.

Becker asked that the Legal and Bylaws Committee meet quickly to conduct a review of Election Procedures, Grievance and Appeals Procedures and the Bylaws. Rank suggested that each subcommittee needed a description of duties and procedures that would also be in line with the bylaws, but this was deferred to the Bylaws committee also.

Rank envisioned that subcommittee reports would be submitted to the USBF President and placed on the board meeting agenda. Rank suggested that Subcommittee Reports be a standing item on all agendas even if no report was to be presented. He further suggested that when reports are submitted, they become Exhibits to the meeting minutes and therefore a part of the official minutes of the meetings.

Becker expressed a view that committee chairs act as conduits. The chairs organize the meetings, the agendas, make sure that projects are attended to in timely fashion, and prepare committee reports. The chairs report to the Board on the results of the committee's deliberations. Committees are advisory - the Board has the final word.

Website Update

Quinn reported that a proposal has been received from Anna Gudge to serve as the USBF webmaster. (*Exhibit 1*) Gudge, because of her position with the WBF, has access to

information the USBF site would want to link to. However, it was agreed that other talented people could be approached to build site links and/or serve as “webmaster” that might charge less or even donate their time. Quinn will try to find others to help out on the Web site matter.

Chairmen and Members of Committees

Bearing in mind those who had responded to Becker’s solicitation for volunteer committee members, the Board discussed each committee, its chairman and membership in turn. The World Relations Committee will have a USOC Subcommittee consisting of Rank and Nickell. The result is attached hereto. (***Exhibit 2***) Becker will send notification to all concerned (except for Publicity/PR), and request they provide contact information to Rena (phone, fax, address, email).

All committees and chairmen were officially approved by the USBF as shown in the exhibit mentioned above.

USBF Desk in at Houston NABC

Becker reported the procedures and forms in development. The forms to be used at the Houston NABC are as follows:

1. Active Member Application (***Exhibit 3***)
2. USBF Resident Application (***Exhibit 4***)
This form will have a reference to Appendix P of the trials conditions of contest which describe the criteria for determining resident eligibility for non-citizens to compete in trials.
3. Receipt and Basic USBF information for New Members (***Exhibit 5***)

Becker related that a table with signage would be located in the foyer at the Vanderbilt and Women’s Swiss Team sites to facilitate the payment of dues – especially for those who must do so to receive credit for any trials Positioning Points they might win, and that several announcements will be made.

A blurb will be placed in the Houston Daily Bulletin announcing this procedure.

Salt Lake City Expenses

Not discussed at this meeting, but known, is that Nickell and Becker reviewed the SLC expenses submitted to date and agreed that they should be reimbursed as submitted. Hetzer was instructed to proceed with check requests for such.

Financial Report

Nickell and Zdancewicz presented the 2002 Operating Budget. The Board tinkered with a few of the numbers. Owing to the infancy of the organization, many of the budgeted numbers are guesses. Nickell reported donations of \$160,000 have been received and another \$8,000 is

reliably pledged. He still has a few dozen possible donors to contact. Thanks to donations, the outlook for the next few years is rosier than several months ago. There will be a 2001 audited USBF financial statement. *(Exhibit 6)*

Salt Lake City Media Events

Not discussed at this meeting, but known, is that Jean Patterson, ACBL Media Manager, is putting together a media book and composite video of media events from SLC and will provide a copy to the USBF.

\$25 Trials Entry Surcharge for International Fund

Not discussed at this meeting.

Names and Addresses of IOC Members

Rank and Nickell will endeavor to maintain and enhance the contacts made from their meeting with the USOC Membership Committee in New York as well as the contacts made in Salt Lake City. Rank reported that he, Nickell, Kearse and Kranyak had received an invitation to meet with a top USOC official at some future date.

Junior FISU Championships - Belgium August 4-13, 2002

While no decision was reached, it was agreed that the USBF would investigate the feasibility of sending a college team to this event. Charlotte Blaiss, ACBL Junior Program Manager will be consulted.

Other Matters

Becker reported that he had asked the Welland team if it intended to appeal the decision of the ITT Credentials Committee concerning the 2001 Reisinger Placing Points earned. It was agreed that if such an appeal were made, it would have to be heard in Houston, well before the conclusion of the Vanderbilt.

It was suggested that USBF Emails be directed to Rena thru the USBF email address rather than her ACBL email address. Conditions of contest and other documents would have to be amended to reflect this change.

Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting will be in Houston, TX at the Marriott Hotel, Neuces Room @ 6:30 p.m. Thursday March 7. A light meal will be provided.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.