

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

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

8:00 a.m. CDT

Directors Present - President Michael Becker, Shawn Quinn, Dan Morse, Bob Friend, Nick Nickell, Arnold Jones, Jay Baum, Bruce Reeve, Alan Popkin, Peter Rank

Others Present: Mary Oshlag, Charlotte Blaiss

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. Central time by Michael Becker, USBF President, and the presence of a quorum noted.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of both the June 27 and August 6 meetings were approved.

Reminder of E-mail Vote

Board was reminded to send in an e-mail vote on Bylaws Amendments. The proposed revised bylaws were approved.

Report from Charlotte Blaiss

Charlotte Blaiss called in from the airport. She reported that the next Junior World Championship will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

It was suggested by Charlotte that there was improper conduct regarding the selection of the junior team captain. Undue pressure has been exerted; also, Charlotte explained that the juniors' decision should be final.

Charlotte strongly recommended Mike Cappelletti Jr.

Selection of Team Captains

The Board decided that the proper procedure for approving captains of any team is for the team to apply directly to the Board for approval. Captains will not be proposed to any "xITTC" committee first.

The selection of team captains was deferred to the next Board meeting. In this case, however, Mike Becker will ask the JITTC to provide input into the selection of captains if it so wishes. Mike Becker will also ask Mike Cappelletti, Jr. to provide a letter containing his qualifications.

Letters from Jade Barrett and Ann Hoffman mention that funding might be difficult with Mike Cappelletti as captain.

Mike Becker explained that the team recommends the Captain and the Board makes the decision. Nick Nickell made a motion, Jay seconded, and the motion was carried.

Jay suggested we make motion to decide now. Arnold Jones said we did not have enough information. A motion to defer till next meeting was made and carried.

Gary Blaiss pointed out that the Juniors chose someone by proper procedure and it would be setting a bad example by having them do the right thing, then change.

Mike Becker explained that he felt the Jr. team would not be offended because result will be the same.

Through an oversight, the captain's list proposed by the JITTC was not discussed or voted upon. The list submitted by the JITTC was:
Blair Seidler, Bob Rosen, Henry Bethe, Anne Hoffman, and Jade Barrett.

Drug Testing Prior to Jr. World Championships

Dan Morse suggested that the USBF conduct drug testing of players and captains before the junior teams leave for the World Championships.

Mike Becker suggested personal conversation one-on-one.

The matter never came to a vote.

Drug Testing Incident in Montreal

There was much discussion regarding the ramifications of the action taken by the WBF in the matter of refusal of a player who was asked to be tested. Dan Morse reported that the player was stripped of her medal.

It was decided that USBF has no authority to reverse the WBF's decision.

Upon receiving formal notification from the WBF (expected shortly) the Board can decide whether to take further action, such as referring the matter to the appropriate committee for investigation, but can't change WBF.

The Board may review the procedures used by the WBF. If referred to a committee, such a committee will investigate the matter and hold hearings. The Board will respond to the WBF in due course.

Montreal Tournament

Quinn and Becker reported that the Montreal tournament was poorly run.

The Conditions of Contest were not followed. The carryover rules in the Mixed Pairs were changed some time after the event started. A starting time was changed. Directors did not know the night before the Rosenblum began the number of boards to be played or percentage requirements of participants. The seeding of the Rosenblum was not publicized in advance of the qualifying rounds. The directors in charge seemed handcuffed by tournament officials.

WBF Events in 2003

A discussion of holding the 2003 BB and Venice Cup in USA took place. Morse reported that US sponsors would have to promise \$300,000 to underwrite a tournament in US. Bali has been turned down. Warsaw is a possibility. The President of EBL will be in Phoenix. Also Panos.

It was pointed out that Bobby Wolff had described Albuquerque - did not get \$300,000 from the city - ran at \$50,000 profit - split between WBF and ACBL.

Residency

Dan Morse reported that the WBF will not be changing its residency rules. Events in the Rosenblum year will be transnational in the future. Non-transnational events will require players to be citizens or residents of their countries, as defined by the NBO, subject to the approval of the WBF Credentials Committee. Should bridge become an Olympic sport, citizenship will be required.

World Relations Committee

Tobi Sokolow was appointed to the World Relations Committee.

Finance

Nickell will present a report at the next meeting.

Elections

Mike Becker reported the Nominating Committee is on schedule. The committee is compiling the lists of candidates, preparing a resume letter request of the candidates, and will be setting up dates for interviewing candidates.

There was a suggestion to keep the number nominated to a minimum, so worthy candidates who were uncomfortable running in a contested election would run for office. The Board agreed that the Nominating Committee was to act within the Bylaws in nominating candidates for the Board.

Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 2nd at 8 a.m. Central time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.