

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

**JUNE 28, 2004
8 PM CDT
VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

Directors Present: Chris Compton, Marvin Comer, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer
Arnold Jones, Dan Morse, Sharon Osberg and Bill Pollack

Others Present: Peter Rank, Gary Blaiss, Rena Hetzer

Other Guests: Caryln Steiner, Jill Levin, Jill Meyers, Roy Welland, Al Levy,
Joan Gerard, Shawn Quinn

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Chris Compton

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The President noted that at least a majority of the directors were present at the meeting, thus establishing a quorum for the purpose of transacting business by the Board.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 24, 2004 Special Meeting were approved as revised by Martel and presented at the meeting.

The minutes of the May 3, 2004 Regular Meeting were approved as revised by Martel and presented at the meeting.

IV. ISTANBUL ON-SITE APPROVAL OF US TRANSNATIONAL MIXED TEAM ENTRIES

The ACBL US WBF representatives (Joan Gerard, Al Levy, Jim Kirkham and Dan Morse) are each authorized to approve US players for participation in the Transnational Mixed Team Event held in conjunction with the 2004 World Team Olympiad events

V. USBF DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

Galen Hardy, ACBL Director of Elections, was designated as USBF Director of Elections.

VI. ENTRY FEES TO 2004 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The USBF Board authorized ACBL to remit to WBF \$9,000 from the 2004 International Fund in payment of the US teams' entry fee for the Open and Women's Team Olympiad and the Senior International Cup

VII. 2004 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dan Morse was appointed to the Nominating Committee and will act as interim Chairman. With the assistance of Blaiss, he will suggest possible candidates to fill the other vacancy of the two expired terms of Gary Blaiss and Howard Weinstein. Shawn Quinn, Marvin Comer and Bart Bramley have one year remaining in their terms.

Nominating Committee regulations require:

One (1) Athlete Member

One (1) ABA Member

Three (3) ACBL members who may or may not be Athlete Members.

VIII. 2004 ELECTION COMMITTEE

Bill Pollack, Jan Martel and Rose Meltzer were appointed as the 2004 Election Committee with Pollack to serve as its Chairman.

IX. MULTIPLE TRIALS PARTICIPATION

The decision of the USBF Executive Committee was confirmed and approved by the USBF Board. That decision is as follows:

“A player may enter the 2004 USSBC, win and elect to play in the 2005 Senior Bowl and not the 2004 Senior International Cup. That player may then enter the 2005 Open Trials, win and elect to play in the 2005 Bermuda Bowl thereby relinquishing their spot in the 2005 Senior Bowl.”

XI. ISTANBUL HOTEL DEPOSITS

A motion was moved seconded and approved as follows:

Each member (including the NPC) of the United States Open and Women's Olympiad team and the United States Senior Cup team will receive a \$1,500 advance on their total subsidy.

In the event that the Istanbul Championships are canceled or the USBF decides, due to unforeseen events, not to nominate any representatives to the Istanbul Championships, the players will not be held responsible for the return of this advance expected to be used as an advance deposit on

hotel accommodations. However, it is expected that all team members will cooperate in any attempts to recover any such deposits.

XII. SUBSIDIES TO 2004 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

President Compton briefly discussed several models of subsidy based on 70, 75 or 80% of projected hotel, travel and per diem costs, pointing out that the amount available in the 2004 International Fund is approximately \$70,000.

Compton also pointed out that ACBL regulations required that IF monies (collected and maintained by the ACBL) be spent only to subsidize players (including payment of entry fees) and that IF monies must be divided equally among the Open, Women's and Senior teams competing in International Competition.

Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer & Sharon Osberg will serve as the Subsidy Committee. They will propose a plan for subsidy and present for the Board's approval at its next meeting, Monday July 26, 2004.

XIII. HOTEL DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Compton reported that while the published cancellation policy for the 2004 Championships in Istanbul is harsh there is some indication from WBF President Damiani that he may be able to negotiate a more lenient approach should cancellation become an issue for US teams. Additionally, Compton reported that such policies for future world championships will be more favorable to the needs and wishes of US teams. Mainly, the United States teams and the USBF do not wish to be in a position of paying for hotel nights not used.

XIV. APPROVAL OF AUGMENTEES AND NPC

Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin were approved as augmentees to the Welland team of Roy Welland, Bjorn Fallenius, Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood.

Jill Levin was approved as NPC of the Steiner team of Carlyn Steiner, Marinesa Letizia, Jill Meyers, Randi Montin, Tobi Sokolow and Janice Molson.

XV. POSSIBLE CHANGE OF VENUE FROM ISTANBUL

The Board approved a deadline of Sept 1, 2004 beyond which any team finishing first in any of the three trials not opting to go to Istanbul will no longer have an option to go to the 2004 Olympiad should the venue change.

XVI. REINSTATEMENT OF STATE DEPARTMENT WARNING

The Board assured Welland that prior to any decision not to send teams to the Istanbul World Championships, all team captains would be consulted.

XVII. INTERNET BROADCASTING

President Compton presented a report regarding a communication from Fred of Finesse West Tours indicating his opinion that the Istanbul matter should have been openly discussed during the BBO presentation of the USBC. Compton questioned who might be responsible for the content of internet broadcasts – BBO or USBF. No conclusions were reached at this meeting.

XVIII. 2005 HOUSTON REGIONAL AND USBC

Shawn Quinn reported the following:

1. Gallery Furniture, sponsor of the 2005 USBC, is expected to remit payment of the total amount 10% now, 30% in January, 30% in March and the remaining 30% in May. Quinn reported some difficulty dealing with the Ad Agency for Gallery Furniture as they are used to different methods of receiving payment for their work.
2. Negotiations are going well with the hotel with a certain number of staff rooms at a \$55 rate, a certain number rooms at no charge (assuming block is met) for use as playing space beginning with the round of 8, and a general room rate presently of \$99 but which may be boosted to \$103 to lower the surcharge cost for the meeting room.
3. Quinn asked for a designated contact with the authority to approve certain expenditures necessary in advance of the event. Compton was approved to act in this capacity on behalf of the USBF Board.
4. Quinn suggested that the USBF needed an "Identity" recognizable to the general bridge playing population in order to solicit members to support the organization. To that end she suggested a USBF booth at each ACBL NABC, indicating that Barbara Nudelman had agreed to man such a booth. Quinn estimates that the production cost of a booth would be approximately \$300-500. Renting space for the booth could cost as much as \$800 but it is hoped that the ACBL may provide space at no charge or at a reduced rate. The concept in general was approved by the Board.

XIX. 2004 DALLAS/USBF REGIONAL

Gerri Owen, Tournament Chairman for Dallas Unit 176 and member of the District 16 Board, joined the meeting. Gerri discussed expectations of revenue and expenses assuring the USBF Board of Unit 176's willingness to participate and support the concept of the shared regional.

The Board authorized Compton to sign the hotel contract on behalf of the USBF. A net profit of \$21,050 is projected for the USBF with a flat amount of \$4,000 going to the Dallas Unit.

XX. OLD BUSINESS

Peter Rank will compose the waiver letter which must be signed by all players nominated by the USBF for participation in the Istanbul World Championships.

XXI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed

XXII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 26 8:00 CDT via conference call.

XXIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.