

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
9/21/2005
8 PM CST
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Jan Martel called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM CST

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

Board Members Present: Steve Beatty, Bob Hamman (by proxy), Jan Martel, Bill Pollack, Shawn Quinn

Others Present: Gary Blaiss, Peter Rank, Michael Becker, Joan Gerard, Rena Hetzer

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MEETING OF 8/9/05

The Minutes of 8/9/05 were approved with a minor amendment

IV. ESTORIL

- A. Jan noted that the entry fee has not been resolved. She hopes for a successful resolution.
- B. Moved by Quinn and seconded by Hamman to confirm the Executive Committee's approval of Rozanne Pollack as NPC of Venice Cup 1. Carries 3-1 with one abstention (Pollack)
- C. After much discussion, the Board decided to provide a stipend to the teams going to Estoril equal to \$175 per day that the team competed, plus 3 days. For any team making the semi-finals, the stipend will be extended to include the remainder of the tournament so long as the player attends the Victory Banquet. The Board was disappointed that this stipend has to be less than the State Department per diem for Estoril, but did not want to overspend the amount in the International Fund by more than the approximately \$25,000 which would result from distributing \$175 per day. The Board agreed to send an advance equal to the minimum amount each player would receive (ten days' stipend reduced for those players for whom USBF had made reservations by the deposit paid by USBF) to each player now.

V. ELECTION AND BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Discussion of the proposal, which was distributed to all Board Members on September 9, 2005. Everyone was in agreement. A special meeting to vote on this proposal was scheduled for October 12, 2005, 8 PM Central Time. The meeting will be cancelled if unanimous consent by mail or fax is used to approve the proposal.

VI JUNIORS

A. The report from the Junior Committee was delivered by Joan Gerard.

B. Moved by Pollack, 2nd by Hamman that:

In the Junior Category only, a team winning a Gold Medal at a WBF Junior Championship will be deemed to have qualified to be USA 1 in the next WBF Junior World Championship provided that there are four or more eligible players who wish to play together and subject to approval by the USBF Board of Directors. Carries 4-1

C. Moved by Pollack, 2nd by Beatty that:

The four eligible players from the 2005 Junior Gold Medal team are approved as USA 1 for the 2006 WBF Junior Championship. Carries 4-1

D. Moved by Pollack, 2nd by Beatty that:

USA 1 must select an NPC. The approved NPC and the team must submit to the USBF Board for approval an additional pair to augment the team to six members. The deadline for submission is November 1, 2005.

Note: since our meeting, the team selected Bob Rosen as NPC and Bob has agreed to serve. The players and Bob have requested that we approve Jason Feldman and Josh Donn as their third pair.

E. It was agreed that the Board would respond to the sponsor of the World University Games that at this time we are still seeking funding. Mr. Damiani is to be copied.

It was agreed that we could not afford to send a team to the World University Games without sponsorship.

F. It was agreed that Jan would discuss supervision of on-line training of junior pairs with Charlotte.

VI. 2006 USBC

There being no sponsorship from any other location Gary was asked to investigate availability in Memphis for the 2006 USBC with the understanding that ACBL would offer the same incentives as were proffered in 2004. The dates (beginning of play) to investigate were: September 8 and 14, October 6, 13 and 20. Since our meeting, we have found that the Bridge Ryder Cup is scheduled for Sept. 18-22, which would conflict with Sept. 8 or 14. Further, we have found that we would incur substantial additional costs (\$2000-4000) for board duplication if we held the USBC after Oct. 1. We are pursuing dates in August and October.

VII. USBF RECORDER

Deferred at Rose Meltzer's request.

VIII. SCHEDULE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2005 at 8 PM Central Time.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

By popular request the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.