

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
JUNE 27, 2007
8:00 PM CDT
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Steve Beatty, Joan Gerard, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Lou Ann O'Rourke .

Others Present: Peter Rank, Gary Blaiss, Barbara Nudelman

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Jan Martel at 8:00pm CST

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The chairman noted that a quorum was not reached at the start of the meeting. Later on, although not noted there was a quorum

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MEETING OF MARCH 26,2007

The minutes were accepted and approved as submitted.

IV. NOMINATION OF TEAMS FOR 2007 BERMUDA BOWL/ VENICE CUP

Joan Gerard moved and Rose Meltzer seconded that the USA1 and USA2 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Teams be officially nominated and approved

USA I Bermuda Bowl – George Jacobs, Ralph Katz, Steve Garner, Howard Weinstein, Michael Rosenberg, Zia Mahmood. NPC: Jan Martel; Coach: Chip Martel

USA 2 Bermuda Bowl- Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway. NPC: Sidney Lazard; Coach: Eric Kokish

USA I Venice Cup- Hansa Narasimhan, Irina Levitina, Jill Levin, Jill Meyers, Debbie Rosenberg, JoAnna Stansby. NPC: Gail Greenberg

USA II Venice Cup – Shawn Quinn, Sue Picus, Disa Eythorsdottir, Rozanne Pollack, Cheri Bjerkan, Kerri Sanborn.

Note: The Credentials Committee unanimously approved the addition of Cheri Bjerkan and Kerri Sanborn to the Quinn team. The Credentials Committee has not approved the captains of any of the teams.

It was also noted that the USBF Board will need to approve the Senior Bowl teams after the completion of the Trials on July 8th

V. STIPEND FOR SHANGHAI

Jan reported that the sub-committee of Jan, Joan, Barbara and Steve discussed what stipend to give to the teams for Shanghai. Based on ACBL's report of monies in the International Fund and expectations for the next two years, we would not have enough money in the Fund to distribute the full State Department per diem to all the teams over the next 3 years unless the teams did poorly in the competition. Rose made a motion that the Board accept the committee recommendation to give \$300 per player and captain per team. This would approximately spend the full amount in the International Fund for this year.

The motion carried with none opposed and Jan abstained.

A motion to defer a discussion on distributing less to the 2nd place teams in the future was made and carried.

VI. 2007 USBC & USWBC REPORT – JAN, JOAN, BARBARA

Preliminary financial report will be mailed on June 23rd. Summary of "exit poll" will be e-mailed to the Board as soon as Jan can get it done. Results are posted on the web site. Joan thanked Barbara, Rena Hetzer and Tom Sucher, tournament chairman for all their hard work.

VII. 2007 USSBC REPORT

Jan reported that there are now 9 teams. One team dropped out. Entries are on the web site. According to the Conditions of Contest, it was affirmed that the team that dropped out would not get their entry fee returned to them. Jan reported that she was looking into the possibilities of vugraph and was hopeful that something could be arranged that would be within our price range. The Board voted unanimously that Jan could spend up to \$2000 for vugraph coverage over and above the budget.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2008 Site Reports

We have a firm contract with the PGA Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, Fl. For the USBC. dates are Wednesday, May 28th – Friday, June 6th

We have a commitment from the Raleigh Regional for the USWBC. Dates are May 20-26 (assuming more than 10 teams enter)

A decision will be made about Sturbridge, Ma. In June for the Senior Trials after Joan makes a site inspection later this month and reports to our Board and the Senior Trials Committee

B. 2009 & 2010 Site Possibilities

The Board authorized Joan to continue and finalize negotiations with the Crowne Plaza in White Plains, NY for 2009.

Rose and LouAnn are continuing to look for a location on the west coast for 2010. Jeff Johnston has suggested that Phoenix might be a good possibility. Other possibilities should include Las Vegas, Denver, Seattle and Reno although it was mentioned that Reno might be difficult to fly into. Barbara suggested that Rose and LouAnn speak with Jeff Johnston and perhaps piggy-back with an NABC contract.

2011 – Schaumburg was mentioned as a possibility for 2011

A discussion followed as to whether or not we should have a four year cycle. Jan will poll the ITT committee and this will be an Agenda item at our next meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Procedure when we are asked to support a Green Card Application

We need to have a procedure so that we don't deal with each case individually.

This discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

B. Motions before the ACBL Board for Nashville

Jan had e-mailed the USBF Board several motions that will be voted on by the ACBL Board in Nashville and asked whether our Board wanted to make any official comments to the ACBL Board. Our Board had nothing special they wanted to say and just noted that Jan will be attending several of the committee meetings and the Board meetings to express the feelings of the USBF

C. Long Range Planning Committee

Jan reported to the Board that she has appointed the following people to this committee: Steve Beatty, Chairman, Joan Gerard, Bob Hamman, Clifford Meltzer, Sylvia Moss, Roy Welland, Jan Martel – ex-officio. This committee will be meeting in Nashville and will report back to our Board.

D. Junior Team for S. American Junior Championship

Jan reported that the USBF was asked very late if we would be willing to send a team to the S. American Junior Championships because there were only 5 S. American teams. All expenses except airfare were paid by the S. American organizers. The dates conflicted with the USBC, which reduced the number of juniors that might be available to go. We put together a team of 5 juniors, 4 US and one Canadian and agreed to pay the airfare for the 4 US juniors. The Canadian player was willing to go whether or not the USBF contributed to the airfare. The team was: Jason Feldman, captain (fluent in Spanish – he was a playing captain), Erin Anderson, John Barth, Mike Develin and Ari Greenberg. The USBF had \$5800 left from what was raised to send the juniors to Thailand and Slovakia. The airfares for the four US players was \$2800. The Board voted to give another \$100 to Jason because he had to change his airline ticket and

voted unanimously not to give Erin Anderson her airfare of \$520. This team won the Round Robin and the Event. Their report is under Juniors on the website.

E. 2008 Junior Championship Age Limit Raised

Jan reported that she received a letter from Jose Damiani that the age limit for 2008 in Beijing has been raised to 28. Jan noted that all the players on our 2006 Gold Medal team are now eligible for 2008. There will be only one team per country. This leaves us with the issue of whether the defenders are entitled to go in which case there would be no team selected by a Trials, or whether we want to come up with something else. Jan noted that there is also a FISU event in 2008 and the USBF could select one or two teams for that with a Trials and then nominate the defenders from 2006 for Beijing. The Junior Committee will meet to discuss this issue in Nashville. Rose made a suggestion that we automatically qualify the 6 Gold Medalists who are eligible and then have a Trials for 2 teams to represent the US in the FISU event. Many of the USBF Board will be at the Junior Meeting in Nashville and will report back to this Board at our next meeting.

X. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 7, 2007 at 8:00PM CDT via conference call.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM CDT.