

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012
10:00 PM EST
BY CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Joan Gerard, George Jacobs, Sylvia Moss,
Howard Weinstein, Ralph Katz

Others Present: Jan Martel, Barbara Nudelman, Joe Stokes (part of meeting),
Jonathan Weinstein

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Joan Gerard, president, at 10:00 pm

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 – MEETING OF 12/30/2011

Minutes were approved as distributed.

IV. CFO REPORT

Barbara reported that the cost of entries, stipends & uniform reimbursement for players at the WC was approximately \$255,000. We still have about \$225,000 in International Fund and will receive some additional funds from the final 2011 distribution (has been about \$100,000). We will have to fund 3 teams this year and 6 teams in 2013.

Juniors – it cost about \$42,000 to send two teams to Croatia. We now have about \$89,000 in the Junior Fund and will hopefully receive another \$50,000 from ACBL this year. That will be a little more than we'll need for China, which will likely cost about \$110,000.

We have about \$350,000 in operating funds.

Our income from the \$1.95 checkoff has been decreasing some. But our expenses are very low during the year – we spend maybe \$15,000 a year, so our operating funds have remained fairly constant.

Joan reported that there will be a motion before the ACBL Board to cut our Junior Fund distributions to \$50,000 every other year. The ACBL Junior Committee also asked League Counsel whether they could tell us to send fewer teams to World

Junior Championships, and were told they couldn't. The ACBL Junior Committee also expressed the opinion that we shouldn't be sending our Junior teams 2 days in advance or having them stay at the tournament site.

The Board reiterated its position that Juniors should "give back" to bridge. That might help with public relations.

V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

George reported that the Nominating Committee had received expressions of interest from five very qualified candidates, in addition to Sylvia Moss, who told the committee she wanted to continue as a Board member. The committee met and discussed the candidates and had final telephone conference calls with two of the candidates. The committee unanimously agreed to nominate Jonathan Weinstein for the Board. The committee explained to the other candidates that there were a surprisingly large number of qualified candidates and we hoped that they would continue their interest in the USBF, and would want to serve on USBF committees. One of the candidates, Bob Katz, has agreed to Chair the USBF's Senior International Team Trials Committee.

The Nominating Committee was George Jacobs & Cheri Bjerkan from the Board and Jan Martel, Steve Robinson & Joe Stokes. The Board thanked the Nominating Committee for its hard and efficient work.

VI. JUNIOR REPORT

The two Patiño Cup teams and the two Damiani Cup teams have now been selected. The teams that won the Trials and the players they have asked to be added to their teams (marked with asterisks) as well as NPCs proposed for the teams are:

Damiani Cup (Under 21)

USA1

Zach Brescoll (KY)

Adam Grossack (Boston)

Zach Grossack (Boston)

*Andrew Jeng (Atlanta)

*Richard Jeng (Atlanta)

Adam Kaplan (FL)

NPC: Tom Carmichael (Atlanta)

USA2

Hakan Berk (DC/MD)

*Arjun Dhir (Atlanta)

*Murphy Green (Atlanta)

Ben Kristensen (Minneapolis)

David Soukup (DC/MD)

Burke Snowden (Denver)

NPC: Curt Kristensen (Minneapolis)

Patiño Cup (Under 26)

USA1

*Marius Agica (NYC)
Kevin Dwyer (FL)
Roger Lee (LosA)
Owen Lien (NC)
*Raghavendra Rajkumar (NY)
Mitch Towner (TX)

NPC: Joel Wooldridge(NYC)

USA2

Jimmy Wang (Phil)
Zizhuo Wang (CA)
Erli Zhou (LA)
Lei Jin (LA)
Stephen Drodge (DC)
*Rob Brady (DC) (tentative – may not be available because of school conflict)

NPC: Will Ehlers

The Board unanimously approved the above teams and NPCs and discussed the importance of having an adult be on the same flight as the players, especially the younger players.

The Board discussed that the Rona Cup team (young women under 26) has not yet been chosen, but we have had applications from surprisingly many young women and we will be trying to form partnerships for them and have them play some practice sessions online so that we can determine which of them should be on the team. They will continue to practice after the team has been appointed. Karen McCallum has volunteered to coach the Rona Cup team and work with the young women on their partnerships. She prefers not to go to China and the Board is happy to have her help and unanimously agreed to appoint Jenni Carmichael as the NPC for the Rona Cup team.

The Board discussed coaching for the Junior teams. The Board discussed who might be available to help with coaching the Juniors and everyone will send Joe recommendations of people who would be good and Joe will work on finding coaches for each of the teams. Most of the coaching will probably be online, but the Board discussed the possibility of having some face to face coaching, perhaps at Regionals or after the Memphis NABC.

VII. ATTEMPT TO GET RECOGNIZED BY US OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Howie reported that it may be premature to try to get the US Olympic Committee to recognize bridge as a sport. Joan appointed George to work on this and the Board discussed contacting Nick Nickell and Peter Rank who led the previous attempt to convince the US Olympic Committee to recognize bridge as a sport.

VIII. 2012 TRIALS

The Board discussed the fact that it is unfortunate that we are conflicting with the Lake Geneva Regional. We will tell people as they enter the Trials that the Lake Geneva Regional is taking place before and during the Trials and people who are going to

IX. RESIDENT MEMBERS

The Board discussed the category of Resident Members and what is required of people after they have been approved in the past. The Board instructed Jan to draft an email to all of the current Resident Members of the USBF and ask them to confirm that they are in compliance with the requirements for Resident Members. The Board deferred to a future meeting whether to reformulate the Resident Member rules.

X. SPORTACCORD TEAMS FOR 2012

Cheri reported that she has started to gather information about how the procedure worked this year and what they considered important for the future. The committee has begun to review this information and will meet soon to make recommendations for this year.

XI. FUTURE TRIALS DATES

Particularly because of the problem that we can not conflict with GNT Championship Flight finals.

XII. MIKE BECKER

Mike Becker has resigned as Chair of the ITTC. The Board unanimously expressed its appreciation for all of the hard work that Mike has done for so many years. The Board unanimously agreed to give Mike a complimentary lifetime membership in the USBF in appreciation of all of his work for the ITTC.

The Board agreed to appoint a Search Committee to try to find a new ITTC Chair. The Search Committee will send an email to all of the members of the ITTC Google Group asking if they are interested in replacing Mike. The Board discussed potential members of the Search Committee. Joan will appoint a search committee.

XIII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 28th, at 9:00 pm EST by conference call.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10am EST