

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, AUG 5, 2013
9:00 PM EDT
ATLANTA, GA

Directors Present in person: Cheri Bjerkan, George Jacobs, Ralph Katz, Sylvia Moss, Howard Weinstein

Directors Present on phone: Bob Katz, Jonathan Weinstein

Others Present in person: Jan Martel, Joe Stokes, Al Levy, Bonnie Bagley, Ken Monzingo, Bryan Delfs, Robert Hartman, Jade Barrett, Jade's assistant Tiger, Chris Compton.

Others Present on phone: Marty Harris, Barbara Nudelman

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by George Jacobs, president, at 9:00 pm EDT.

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 FROM MARCH 20

The Minutes from May 1, 2013 were unanimously approved as submitted.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Stan Subeck reported that balances are higher now than in the beginning of the year, because the income from USBCs & International Fund has come in but the USBC expenses haven't all been paid yet and the costs of sending teams to Bali hasn't been paid. Chris Compton raised somewhat over \$ 30,000 with requests that it be used for the Atlanta WYOBC. Some of that money has been distributed for players going to the WYOBC. Joe Stokes asked to get a report of the Junior Fund money, and Stan said he and Barbara would compile such a report and send it out. The Financial Report was unanimously accepted.

V. JUNIOR COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Atlanta WYOBC

George reported that we are taking a large group of the players in the World Youth Open Bridge Championships to the Braves game.

The WYOBC has players from 11 countries and they are having a wonderful time. It has been good experience for the US players.

Al Levy gave a report on the WYOBC, it's going very well. Because of some financial details, all of the ACBL players will have their entire entry fees paid.

USBF funding for WYOBC. USBF donated \$20,000 to WBF to assist with running the WYOBC. USBF Board also put in place a "matching grant" program where USBF would match any funds raised to support individual players by local Districts or Units. The Board placed a limit of \$5000 on that, as well as a limit of \$300 per player. So far about \$3900 has been distributed. In addition, Chris Compton raised money on behalf of Junior programs. USBF has matched a \$10,000 contribution made by District 9 toward the WYOBC. Half of that contribution is being used for District 9 Juniors and the other half is being used for wider purposes. The WBF has asked USBF for additional money for WYOBC. The Board unanimously voted to donate \$19,000 to WBF for the WYOBC.

B. Atlanta Youth NABC

The Youth NABC was very successful. It was the largest Youth NABC ever. It was a great event and also a good transition to the World event. USBF Juniors did extremely well.

C. Funding for 2014

ACBL has approved \$90,000 funding for USBF Juniors for 2014, limited to expenses of sending 5 teams to the World Junior Championships in Istanbul. Joe Stokes reported that the \$90,000 would about cover the costs of sending 5 teams to Istanbul. The Board discussed concerns about safety in Istanbul and will revisit that issue later.

D. Junior Training Program

The Junior Training Program has been going extremely well. Debbie & Michael Rosenberg and Barry Goren have done a wonderful job of organizing the training groups for online training and we have more and more young players asking to participate. We held an extremely successful "camp" at the Summerfest Regional in St. Charles, IL where players got live instruction from Debbie & Michael and also from local experts George Jacobs, Ralph Katz, Jack Oest, & Stan Subeck.

The Junior committee is currently working on organizing a live "Training and Trials Week" over New Years, where the players on the 4 Semifinal Patiño Teams (Under 26), the 4 Semifinal Damiani teams (Under 21) and the 2 Final Rona Cup teams (Women under 26) will first receive several days' training from experts and then participate in a Trials to select the 2 teams we will send to the Patiño Cup, the 2 teams we will send to the Damiani Cup and the 1 team we will send to the Rona Cup. The committee has been raising money so we will be able to pay the players' expenses as well as the costs of the week of training and trials and we are close to having enough money.

VI. SPORTACCORD REPORT

The announcement that USBF has been asked to send teams to the 2013 SportAccord event has been put on the website. An email was sent to all USBF members about it. The deadline for pairs to ask to be slated is August 16. The Board discussed that two years ago, when the SportAccord event first happened, the Board decided that no player should be chosen for the SportAccord for more than 2 years in a row. Cheri will tell the players who were on the last two SportAccord teams that they are not eligible this year.

VII. HUA YUAN REPORT

Three pairs were selected by the same process as for SportAccord and will be going in October.

VIII. ACBL REPORT

Robert Hartman reported that ACBL is setting up a policy for the protection of youth. That will be presented to the ACBL Board in Phoenix and if it is adopted, he will explain to the USBF Board what is required. Hartman also hinted that ACBL may be raising the fees they charge for Directors.

IX. BUFFETT CUP

The Buffett Cup will be in Monte Carlo Nov. 10-14, 2014. It is scheduled to be held in the US in 2016. USBF has been asked to take over running the event in the US, choosing teams for the event each time it is being held and supporting the players who play in it. George will appoint a committee to look into this and come back with a report about what would be involved.

X. TOURNAMENTS

A. USBCs

- a. Financial – don't have all of the final numbers yet, but the Open USBC lost about \$3000 and the Women's/Seniors was about break even.
- b. Hospitality – Lisa Berkowitz & Molly O'Neill did a great job with hospitality; we got many compliments from the players and should try to persuade them to consider doing it again. One of the things that was popular was having snacks and drinks available in the players' break room – we will try to continue to do that in the future.
- c. Future Locations – Phoenix in 2014 is set (there is only an Open USBC in 2014). 2015 Open and Senior USBCs will be in Chicago. 2015 Women's USBC will be at a Regional, probably Fort Lauderdale.
- d. Florida Regional manager objected that the Palm Beach Gardens Regional was harmed by the fact that the Open USBC conflicted with it. Going forward,

- we will be holding the Open Trials starting on Mother's Day weekend, when there aren't any major Regionals.
- e. Other Regionals have also complained about conflicts, although at least one complaint was based on the false understanding that we had held a USBC starting on Memorial weekend.
 - f. Vugraph: we were able to improve the quality of the Vugraph broadcasts by spending the money to bring experienced operators to the tournaments and providing them with rooms in addition to the small stipend we pay them for being operators (\$80 a day if they work for all 4 sets in a day).
 - g. Slow play issues – all agree it's a problem. To be discussed further at a future meeting.
 - h. Appeals - to be discussed later
 - i. Number of teams entered – should there be a minimum number of teams to hold a USBC? There was a brief discussion of this and at least for now we will not have a required minimum number of teams.

XI. CHRIS COMPTON FUND-RAISING REPORT

George thanked Chris Compton for all the fund-raising he did on behalf of the WYOBC.

Chris made a request that USBF match any contributions made by Unit 110 for some young players.

Chris pointed out that if USBF tries to fund-raise for the Buffett Cup between now and 2016, it will be more difficult to raise money for the World Series of Bridge in 2018, for which Chris has committed to try to raise \$200,000.

XII. JADE BARRETT FUND-RAISING REPORT

Jade suggested that we should send an email to every club that holds International Fund Games thanking them for helping to support our players in World Championships. The Board agreed to do that.

Jade also suggested that we should have a USBF newsletter that goes out to ACBL members, especially new ones, asking for their support. The Board will consider that at a later meeting.

XIII. BALI

A. Uniforms –

A motion was made and seconded to distribute \$1500 per team for uniforms and have the teams purchase their own uniforms in accordance with the USBF requirements: for play, each player will wear a white shirt with the USBF logo embroidered on it and if a player wears a sweater or sweatshirt or other cover-up during play, that shall be navy blue and have the logo attached to it. USBF

will provide magnetized logos to the teams for that purpose. For the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, each player will wear a white buttoned shirt with the logo embroidered on it and a navy blue blazer or sweater. For the ceremonies, all of the players on each team are to wear the same kind of top (blazer or sweater) and the same color pants or skirts, either navy or khaki. For play, players can wear whatever pants or skirts they want.

B. Stipend –

It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendation of the stipend committee that each player receive a per diem of \$393 for each day that the team plays in the event plus 2 days before the event to acclimate and 1 day after the event. The motion failed.

It was moved and seconded that each player receive a per diem of \$393 for each day that the team plays in the event plus 2 days before the event to acclimate and 1 day after the event and in addition that if a team is eliminated before the semi-finals, each team member who incurs a change fee to return home early shall receive the amount of the change fee up to a maximum of \$500. The motion passed 3 to 2.

C. Israeli Venice Cup team

D. Migry visa issue –

USBF is helping Migry get a visa to go to Bali and we hope that will be accomplished.

E. Sam Lev,

Sam has dual US and Israeli citizenship, and is concerned about security issues in Bali.

XIV. OTHER FOREIGN TOURNAMENTS

- a) Rosenblum will be in Sanya, China, Oct. 10-25, 2014
- b) Cavendish will be in Monaco, Nov. 4-8, 2014
- c) Buffett Cup in Monaco, Nov. 10-11, 2014

XV. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS ATTENDING MEETING

Bonnie introduced herself and explained that her District is holding the USBF Regional in 2013 and she is looking forward to a successful Regional.

XVI. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be set by email

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 pm EDT