

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

**Tuesday, May 22, 2001  
By Telephone Conference**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Robert Friend, Arnold Jones, Dan Morse, Nick Nickell, Alan Popkin, Shawn Quinn, David Silber

Others Present: Peter Rank, Esq.  
Jack Zdancewicz  
Galen Hardy  
Gary Blaiss  
Rena Hetzer

Directors Absent: Bruce Reeve

**Call to Order**

On May 22, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. CST, the second regular meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the United States Bridge Federation (the "Corporation"), was called to order by Michael Becker, USBF President. A packet of information was previously disseminated to the Board members for their review and consideration and each Board member present acknowledged his or her receipt of the Board packet. The Chairman noted that least a majority of the directors were present at the meeting, thus establishing a quorum for the purpose of transacting business by the Board.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Thursday, April 26 2001 telephone conference meeting were approved as amended to reflect the following:

1. Reimbursement to USBF Board for one night's lodging would be provided when requested.
2. The creation of a USBF web site was discussed. David Silber said that the ACBL did not have the manpower to create such a site.

***Moved, seconded and passed unanimously.***

**Application for Membership in the United States Olympic Committee**

David Silber reported that the application had been submitted to the USOC and due to its size and bulk had not been distributed to the Board.. Peter Rank stated that even though the director election procedures had not yet been clearly outlined he felt the chances were good that the application would meet the USOC requirements. However, he did say that the election procedures would need to be decided as soon as possible if the application

was returned for more specific details on our election methods.

Rank also mentioned difficulty in speaking directly with USOC General Counsel concerning our application and noted that there seemed to be a general unawareness in the USOC offices of the Salt Lake City bridge event or the recognition of the World Bridge Federation as a sports federation.

Becker asked when we might expect a decision from the USOC. Rank reported that first our application would go to the USOC Bylaws Committee and then to their full Board. Having met in May, it will be July before the Bylaws Committee meets again.

*[NOTE: since the meeting, we have been advised by the USOC that our application has been received and that the next Board meeting at which membership applications can be approved will be in October.]*

It was suggested that perhaps we should learn how other countries succeeded in gaining acceptance by their national Olympic organizations.

### **Financial Issues**

Silber pointed out that the budget numbers (Exhibit A) were very preliminary and tentative as many issues are still unresolved.

Other budget expense items discussed were:

1. Rank reported that annual USOC dues were \$100 and the budget will be revised to reflect this now known expense.
2. Quinn requested that revenue and projected expenses of upcoming trials be reflected in the budget.
3. Quinn also requested that the budget reflect a number for the Salt Lake City demonstration that included subsidy for the players.

Revenue items discussed were:

1. Silber stated the importance of visibility for the proposed checkoff box on the ACBL membership renewal form. Further, he stated that while he expected the ACBL Board to look favorably on the concept of adding such a solicitation to the renewal form, there may be some conflict as to location and some questions raised as to conflict with other ACBL interests such as the Charity and Educational Foundations.

Additionally, It was asked if the ABA could also revise their forms to include a solicitation for voluntary donations to the USBF. Friend and Jones agreed to investigate such a possibility.

2. Silber stated that until such time as the USBF can operate independently of ACBL's financial support it is expected that ACBL revenue and labor sources

presently dedicated to trials, player subsidy and other matters related to US international competition would continue and be available to the USBF.

3. The matter of other USBF start up cost and ongoing administrative expenses was discussed. In particular it was pointed out that if and when the USBF was in a financial position to do so, the ACBL might expect reimbursement for hard dollar expenses incurred on behalf of the USBF. Rank, Zdancewicz and Silber agreed any monies the ACBL might expect to be repaid should be characterized on the ACBL books as a loan receivable and on the USBF books as a loan payable.

Quinn stated that any monies raised by the USBF should go to the players. It was generally agreed that money solicited from individual sponsors should be earmarked for players subsidies, but that other monies could be used to reduce trials or administrative expenses.

Morse pointed out that ACBL management was under mandate from the ACBL Board to operate on a break even budget.

*It was moved seconded and passed unanimously* that the Board would be comfortable if the ACBL indicated that a certain amount no greater than \$50,000 would be reflected as a 5-year interest-free loan with the entire amount due as a balloon payment 5 years after the formation of USBF..

### **Salt Lake City Demonstration Event**

Dan Morse reported as follows the latest information concerning the Salt Lake City event to come out of recent meetings of the WBF Executive Committee.

1. The format of the event is still undecided
2. A Ryder Cup (pair event) format is possible.
3. There is no site yet.
4. There is no approval yet from SLC committee.
5. WBF may hold the event even if without SLC approval.
- 6, WBF is considering another demonstration in Lausanne for November 2001.

A long discussion ensued as to SLC team selection. Quinn argued strongly in favor of the highest medal winners from the Bali 2001 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup be the designated teams and if there were no medal winners then selection would be made by the USBF Board or their designees from amongst the top-seeded players.

Popkin argued strongly in favor of a selection method based on the philosophy presented to the USBF board in an email sent by Russ Ekeblad . (Exhibit B). This method would not designate the winner of any particular competition as the SLC team but rather would select players who might best “sell” the IOC, the USOC and the media on the idea that bridge is a sport worthy of Olympic event status. Dan Morse was asked to inquire as to how other countries are selecting their teams and the WBF attitude on team selection.

A straw poll of the USBF board did not indicate a consensus one way or other on this issue.

It was decided that a decision should be postponed until more was known about the format of the SLC event.

Consequently, a motion which was moved by Quinn and seconded by Nickell to designate the Bali medal winners as the SLC team *was tabled* until the USBF Toronto meeting when it is hoped more information will be available.

In the spirit of keeping all interested parties informed, the following resolution was *moved, seconded and passed unanimously*.

Results of the 2001 USBC and USWBC will not be the basis of USA team selection for the Salt Lake City Olympic demonstration match. It is hoped that enough information regarding the format of the SLC event will be known by the time the meetings in Toronto are held to enable the USBF Board to make a decision on selection methods.

### **Conduct and Financing of 2002 Trials**

After some discussion it was agreed that any 2002 trials would be financed as trials have been in the past – namely entry fees and ACBL budgeted dollars.

As to the conduct of any 2002 trials it was *moved, seconded and passed unanimously*:

The USBF Board appoints the existing International Team Trials Committee and the Women's International Team Trials Committee (ITTC and WITTC) as subcommittees of the USBF Tournament Committee charged with the writing of Conditions of Contest for their respective events (USBC and USWBC) as well as the responsibility for the conduct of these events. Conditions of Contest and organizational plans are all subject to the final approval of the USBF Board.

Silber noted that he would indicate to the ACBL Board that these committees (ITTC and WITTC) should be dissolved as committees of the ACBL Board.

More information is needed concerning USBF administration of future possible Senior trials. Additionally, it is hoped that Charlotte Blaiss, ACBL Director of Junior Programs, can attend the USBF meeting in Toronto to further inform the USBF as to the financing and conduct of Junior Trials.

### **Nominating and Election Procedures**

Rank and Popkin will review the proposed nominating and election procedures and offer an opinion as to their acceptability by the USOC.

### Date for Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the USBF Board will be Thursday, July 19 and Friday, July 20 (if needed) in Toronto. The Board meeting will begin on Thursday 8:00 p.m. All Board members who are available in unofficial committee-level discussion to facilitate the Board meeting will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday.

### Other Business

1. It was *moved, seconded and passed unanimously* that Quinn is authorized by the Board to proceed with organizing the development of materials and a site map for a USBF web site with input from other Board members and interested parties as to content. Once done, the information could then be sent to the ACBL to determine the resources needed to get the site up and running.
2. It was suggested that a request be made to the ACBL BULLETIN to publish an article introducing the USBF to the ACBL membership.
3. Silber will suggest that Zdancewicz initiate a USBF bank account as a depository for contributions or sponsorship monies.
4. Silber will email to all USBF Board members his file presently being used as USBF letterhead. It was suggested that eventually we will want to develop a logo.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. CST.

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**AGENDA**  
**MEETING OF**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**Tuesday, May 22, 2001**

1. Call to Order - President Michael Becker
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Quorum Established
4. Application for Membership in the United States Olympic Committee
5. Financial Issues
  - a. Budget of expenses (running trials, web site?, travel to USOC meetings, etc.)
  - b. Methods of raising cash:
    - i. line on ACBL and ABA annual dues
    - ii. membership fees
    - iii. trials card fees
    - iv. sponsorship of trials
    - v. ACBL International Fund Games
    - vi. USOC
6. Salt Lake City Demonstration
  - a. Progress report on format and structure of events

- b. Choosing selection method of teams
  - c. Site and dates of event
7. Conduct and Financing of 2002 Trials
  - a. Review of budget of previous trials
  - b. Setting of entry and/or card fees, discussion of locations
  - c. Appointment of Tournament Committee and subcommittees (ITT and ITTC)
  - d. Discussion of who is to run junior and senior trials, and when (reference – ACBL March Board resolution, below)
  - e. Timetable for Tournament Committee to submit conditions for approval
8. Nominating and Election procedures
  - a. Discussion of procedures
  - b. Preparation of amendments to bylaws
  - c. Setting election dates
9. Establish Date for Next Board Meeting
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

ACBL Board resolution:

- A. The proposed bylaws & articles of the US Bridge Federation are adopted. (*Exhibit 6*)
- B. The ACBL Board of Directors requests the USBF Board of Directors to assume responsibility for selecting and approving teams (or pairs) to represent the United States in international competition taking place in 2002 and beyond. This includes conducting trials for such selection when appropriate.
- C. The ACBL Board of Directors requests the USBF Board of Directors to advise the ACBL Board by no later than Wednesday, June 27, 2001 what level of financial support, if any (and for what purposes) it requests from ACBL for 2002.
- D. The ACBL Board of Directors requests the USBF Board of Directors to advise the ACBL Board by no later than October 1, 2001 regarding its thinking about the type and level of financial support, if any, it expects to request from ACBL beyond 2002.

Carried. Abstain: 1, 2