

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

**Friday, July 20, 2001
Royal York Hotel - Toronto, Ontario**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Arnold Jones, Dan Morse, Nick Nickell, Alan Popkin, Shawn Quinn, David Silber, Bruce Reeve and Bob Friend (via telephone)

Others Present: Jose Damiani, President World Bridge Federation, Peter Rank, Esq., Jack Zdancewicz, Julie Greenberg, Charlotte Blaiss, Rena Hetzer

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Michael Becker, USBF President. 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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Tuesday, May 22, 2001 telephone conference meeting were approved.

Jose Damiani, WBF President

Damiani congratulated the USBF for its efforts to join the USOC suggesting that the CBF's recent success in joining the COC might serve as a model for the USBF efforts.

Regarding the format of the matches to be held in SLC immediately prior to the opening of the Olympic games, Damiani reported that there would be 6 open teams with one USA team, 4 women's teams with one USA team and two junior teams with country representation not yet decided. The method will be board-a-match which will be easily understood by any non-bridge playing audience as well as to provide excitement as the standing of the matches will be instantly known to the viewing public. Systems and conventions will be restricted to simple methods for the same reason. He also stressed the importance of the getting a large viewing audience from amongst the local Salt Lake City bridge-playing population. Although the matches will not be associated with the Olympics, it is expected that some Olympic officials may view the tournament.

When asked what type of players he would like the U.S. to field, Damiani suggested that while we should certainly select experts, important characteristics to consider are charisma, appearance, quick play and the ability to speak well. Damiani added that we should send our number one man and woman player. Rena Hetzer mentioned that players should have a good tag line. Becker added that players must have excellent conduct, deportment and ethics. Damiani was thanked for his appearance and left the meeting.

Financial Issues

1. **ABA Dues to WBF**

The question arose as to dues to WBF from the ABA. The WBF currently collects \$0.50 a year per member from the ACBL. As a USBF member, the ABA would also have to contribute its share as well, beginning in 2002. Friend thought this would be acceptable to the ABA Board. The USBF would collect dues from the ABA and ACBL and forward the money to the WBF.

2. **USA Junior Bridge**

Charlotte Blaiss, the ACBL Director of junior bridge activities reported on the financial matters connected to junior team selection and training. Previously, the ACBL junior fund financed these activities. It is expected that these funds will still be collected by the ACBL, but will be dispersed under the direction of the USBF.

3. **USBF Membership Dues**

A motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to create a dues paying class of USBF membership entitling such members to vote in USBF Board elections, play in team trials and be eligible for subsidy when participating in international competition. Junior members would be subject to a reduced dues, but would be entitled to the same privileges. Also discussed but deferred was a patron member non-voting class of membership as well. Specifics will not be set until the USOC approves the basic structure.

4. **USBF Bank Account**

A motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously designating Jack Zdancewicz as USBF CFO and authorizing him to open a USBF bank account with himself, the USBF President and the CEO as designated signators with two signatures required.

THIS WILL NOT WORK UNTIL WE HAVE A NEW CEO!

5. **Donation from ACBL Charity Foundation**

It was reported that the Foundation was willing to donate \$5,000 seed money to the USBF but was reluctant to do so until tax exempt status had been obtained by the USBF even though the act of filing for such allows such donations. Rank reported that the 501c3 form had just been filed or was just being filed.

6. **Promissory Note**

A motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that David Silber, USBF CEO is authorized to executive a \$50,000 promissory note in favor of the ACBL due and payable without interest in ?? months from the date of execution.

7. **USBF Budget**

The budget was reviewed. Rank reported that about \$25,000 in legal fees had been expended thus far. The Board noted it would run out of the \$50,000 originally loaned by the ACBL very soon. Silber reported that the ACBL Board approved adding a \$1.95 voluntary tag line to the ACBL membership dues, which might provide about \$20,000 a year to the USBF in the future.

Other budget items were reviewed and modified, including revising the team subsidy expense to \$50,000 and revising sponsorship estimates from private funds or corporations to \$50,000.

8. **Sponsorship**

Nickell and Quinn will continue to pursue corporate sponsorship as well as private

donations.

Fund raising events where participants would be IMPed with star pairs were discussed. Whether to hold such games at the nationals or at the clubs ... I don't remember the rest – ask Quinn or Silber.

Selection of USA SLC Teams

A motion was moved, seconded and passed by a vote of 8-1 (Quinn, No) that “subjective” methods be used to select the teams for SLC. Also, it was unanimously agreed that::

1. The selection criteria discussed earlier in the meeting will be used as a basis for choosing the team's representatives.
2. Individual lists of no more than 25 names will be collected from each USBF board member plus similar lists from the ABA, ITTC and WITTC with all lists being recorded and compared for mutual agreements. It was noted that the WITTC list was important because the Board had less knowledge of the qualifications of women's team members.
3. Final selection will be made by the 9 members of the USBF board only.

To aid in the listing making, each individual and each collective body will receive a copy of WBF rankings for open and women, ACBL masterpoint rankings for all and seeding point lists for 2001 ITT and WITT participants.

Miscellaneous Business

1. It was agreed that a mission statement for the USBF be developed. Suggestions will be put forth at the next meeting.
2. It was agreed that the USBF is committed to holding open trials without minimum bridge credentials required for entry.
3. Nickell and Rank were authorized to attend a USOC meeting in New York in September.
4. A discussion of the current bylaws was deferred until more was known about what nomination and election procedures would be acceptable to the USOC.
5. The USBC and WUSBC Conditions of Contest for 2002 were approved, subject to minor changes not affecting byes or positioning points.
6. The Board resolved to not subsidize juniors who were either not high school graduates or not attending high school.
7. Was there a Web site update?

Date of Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the USBF board will via phone the week of August 20th with an exact date to be arranged and agreed upon via email by Hetzer. SLC team selection lists will be forwarded to Hetzer by August 10th.

Adjournment

The meeting was temporarily adjourned at 11:30 p.m. and reconvened at 10:00 a.m., July

21, 2001. (is there a special word for this type of adjournment?) Later, with no further business to discuss, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m.

