

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

**January 22, 2002
8:00 A.M. CST - Via Conference Call**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Shawn Quinn, Dan Morse, Alan Popkin, Nick Nickell, Jay Baum, Arnold Jones, Bruce Reeve, Bob Friend

Others Present: Rena Hetzer, Peter Rank, Charity Sacks, Nadine Wood

Call to Order and Quorum Established

Mike Becker called the meeting to order. A quorum was established

Remarks Regarding Eligibility and Trials Placing Points

An objection was raised to granting eligibility based on application for a green card as opposed to obtaining a green card.

Becker reported that the ITTC Credentials Committee has met and will meet again to finalize their ruling regarding the awarding of Placing Points to a team with players deemed not eligible at the time of the event where Placing Points were earned.

Minutes Approval

Minutes from the three previous meetings (January 8, 11 and 15) are approved as presented.

SLC - Media Update

Becker reported that Mike Mosher of the Today Show would be in SLC doing "live" taped interviews for airing at some later date. In addition to Americans, the media is interested in interviewing an Indonesian player as Indonesia will not be represented in the SLC Olympic Games.

Sack reported that Linda Granell had done quite a bit of work on bios for the players with an emphasis on the good tag lines. It was agreed that rather than telling the press who they should select to interview, several bios should be offered from them to make a choice. The Board gave Becker names to propose if the Today Show wanted any recommendations.

The Today Show will interview Warren Buffett at his office. Charity will send Buffett the final version of the Q & A's. Baum will provide a contact address/email to send Buffett the Q & A's.

Peter Rank, Bruce Keidan and Charity Sack will be the USBF's on-site media contacts.

Keidan is the WBF media relations contact in SLC, and would be asked to contribute to the 4:30 meeting on Saturday intended to be a final briefing for the players on how to answer questions.

Sack emphasized and the Board agreed that we should not yield on the position that bridge is a sport. If asked whether it is a mind sport, we should answer that all sports are mind sports.

Wood said that Becker needs to sign letter composed by Sack to be included in press kit. Wood also asked for USBF logo stickers for the kits.

Wood reported that Damiani had contacted Bernhardt, a SLC volunteer, and requested Bernhardt provide the name of local labs that could provide drug testing.

Jay Baum mentioned that the TV show "First Monday" based on the US Supreme Court had a line of dialog which included the star-judge saying "I am a life master bridge player." An effort should be made to contact the Executive Producer of the show (or the Assistant) and campaign for further "bridge bytes."

The Board suggested to Baum that the USBF have a dedicated phone number at the ACBL, and it was time for the USBF to have its own bank account.

USOC Application Update

Rank reported that there would be a USOC Membership Meeting in March. We should be prepared to submit a report on our progress including running a trials for the first time. Rank also stated that the USOC Counsel he spoke with had indicated there was an interest among some USOC members in viewing the SLC bridge event.

Morse reported that Damiani has applied for bridge becoming a medal sport and the matter will be discussed at an IOC meeting following SLC.

Web Site Update

Quinn suggested that the USBF needed a dedicated phone line to be answered USBF. Baum will investigate the cost and feasibility of ACBL staff answering such a phone.

It was pointed out the History of Bridge on the web site referred to bridge as a mind sport and perhaps that should be removed.

Miscellaneous

Quinn reported that \$150,000 had been raised from various donations. It was agreed that the USBF now needed its own checking account.

Becker reported that he was expecting confirmation from Damiani that SLC play would not affect a player's eligibility to represent one country or another similar to transnational events.

The USBF will review the Conditions of Contest for the Junior Trials. Time is of the essence as Charlotte Blaiss is anxious to mail information to potential trials participants. It will be done after SLC.

Reeve suggested that the USBF Board members receive a monthly update of the membership rolls. Reeve will compose a letter to those who have joined and will join in the future. Also, receipt-letters should be sent acknowledging a donation in accordance with the donation laws.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Board will meet Tuesday, January 29 at 8:00 am CST. There being no further business the meeting adjourned.