

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
April 10, 2003 - 10:00 A.M. CST**

Directors Present: Jay Baum
Nick Nickell
Ken Titow
Dan Morse
Chris Compton
Marvin Comer
Arnold Jones
Jan Martel
Rose Meltzer

Others Present: Peter Rank, Esq.
Gary Blaiss
Beth Palmer

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Nick Nickell.

II ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The acting Chairman 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 OF 2/20/03

Minutes were unanimously approved.

IV NEW BUSINESS

1.USBF: Daily Bulletin at USBC

A recommendation was made that Rich Colker come to the USBC. Rose mentioned that Rich Colker and Barry Rigal both need funding...\$1,000, air fare, lodging and per diem.

A motion was made that Rich Colker come on the same terms as last year, and do the Bulletin.

Motion Passed

2. USBC Tournament Appeals Committee

Gary stated that Rich Colker basically handles appeals. If there are enough people to have six on site or available by phone, there would be a pool for the Committee.

3. Grievances Committee

Jan stated the same Committee seems to be assigned both Grievances and Tournament Appeals.

Chris made a motion that Rich Colker be in charge of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

Motion Passed

The question was brought up as to who hears grievances by people who believe they are being treated badly.

It was discussed that the Grievance committee deals with complaints from people who believe they have been treated badly by the USBF and also may hear appeals from tournament decisions.

Gary stated that regarding bridge appeals, players always have right under laws of bridge to appeal something regarding law.

USBF should defer to ACBL Laws Commission on a point of law.

A discussion followed concerning the Appeals Committee. Nick asked if we should have procedures in place to prevent Committee being biased.

*It was stated that an e-mail copy of the Appeals Handbook be sent. Gary stated the Laws say, "After the preceding remedies, appeals, have been exhausted, appeal can be taken to National Authority" which is ACBL Laws Commission. That is not to say that the National Authority or the ACBL has to do anything, but the Laws do note the next place that a player can go when they feel they have some further position, but, like I have said We have never made a change just because of a difference in opinion in the judgment area; in other words, if the Committee were to use bad or even egregious judgment.

It was asked if twelve was enough for the Grievance and Appeals Committee. Chris thought only five would be needed eventually, could live with three.

It is thought that the five/three was for each committee to handle an issue, not for the entire pool of the GAC.

It was asked if the Tournament (Delete "and") Appeals Committee should be off site or on site; a suggestion was made to leave this up to Rich Colker.

Gary said one year ITT gave Rich a list of people to call; another year it was left up to him to try to find people.

Nick said we should have a list in advance; Chris and Rose are to make list.

Beth Palmer asked if they should be getting Rich for WITT and where does the money come from? It was stated that Women's COCs say WITT Committee should appoint.

- 4.. Two ITT Tournament Committee Issues - USBC and USWBC
 - 1) Approval of COCs

A motion was made to approve the COC's for Open Trials and Women's Trials.

Motion Passed

2) USBF Credentials Committee

It was stated that Marty Fleisher and Mike Kamil would serve if Board wants to appoint them. We want a fairly large Committee so we can get three or five without conflict of interest.

A discussion followed. Nick stated that the Committee members might not have the background, such as dialogue with the WBF, Olympic rules. A lot of Board members are not up to speed and definitely Committee members would not have basis of what rules should apply.

Arnold brought up the problem of running into subjectivity.

Nick stated we have adopted a complicated set of rules that may not deal with particular situations.

Jan stated that the Committee makes recommendation to the Board to consider - Committee's jurisdiction should essentially be the same.

Dan stated that if the Board is going to make these decisions they should go straight to the Board.

A motion was made to adopt the Conditions changing the USBC credentials Committee to the USBF Board of Directors.

Motion Passed

3. E-mail.

There was a discussion involving the change of e-mail by ACBL and what the USBF should do. See **Exhibit I**.

A motion was made that Jan discuss this with Sharon and report on decision.

Motion Passed

4. Requirement of USBF dues to get Positioning Points is waived for this year, one time only.

It was suggested that the due date be before players submit their entries for the Trials.

Nick said to have Committee make recommendation to handle the dues structure. Chris said he would be glad to work with Ken Titow on this issue. Nick asked for any Board members who have recommendations on this to e-mail Chris or Ken.

V JOSE' LETTER TO NICK

Players were asked to stay at the two particular hotels. Rose asked about the teams staying for the Transnational. Nick said he would respond that we would do so, and try to get rooms committed that all four teams can stay there.

VI SHOULD BOARD APPROVE THE FEES FOR THE WITT.

A discussion followed in which it was brought up that \$5,000 was given to Open.

Jay responded that this was \$5,000 in kind, service if Open held in Memphis. More discussion followed as to the differences in Open and WITT. A motion was made that we adopt the Budget projected by Gary.

Motion Passed

VII COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. By-Laws Committee

Two items to be sent out and looked over for vote of Board next meeting

- 1) Amendments to Grievance Procedures
- 2) Amendments to By-Laws.

Peter: Change of By-Laws - Request of Jay that his position of USBF CEO be abolished. Peter will send out the revisions.

Other Committee Chairs:

2. Finance:

Ken reported that we have received statements, auditors are happy. Ken will send a copy to Peter.

3. Fund Raising Committee

Chris - Jay will tell us his progress on separate bill insert, separate line on statement. Jay said ACBL is redesigning all forms (Renewal and New). Jay will have proposed forms e-mailed for Board to look at.

At this point Jay stated it is not his wish to be on the USBF Board; from his standpoint there will be, from time to time, a conflict as CEO of ACBL.

4. SITT

Dan reported that WADA as Rep to IOC is leaning on WBF to approve more drug testing.

VIII NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2:30 CENTRAL TIME.

IX MEETING ADJOURNED

EXHIBIT I:

The USBF will have to make some decision regarding their e-mail accounts. ACBL will be changing systems. Here is a description of the cost and options. Because of the

time frame, USBF needs to make a decision at this meeting or shortly thereafter.

Please let us know what you would like to have us do. We are looking to migrate to Lotus Notes mail in the next 4-6 weeks."

At 03:12 PM 4/9/03 -0500, James Lowes wrote:

Gary,

As you know, the ACBL will soon be migrating to Lotus Notes for email and calendaring. This change affects our current mail hosting arrangement with the USBF.

With our previous mail solution, hosting email for the USBF cost the ACBL nothing. The new mail solution is a more comprehensive application that includes email, calendaring and collaboration. As you would guess, the cost of hosting mail for the USBF with this application would not be free. I would estimate that it would cost \$640 for setup and licensing fees, in addition to a monthly \$10 server administration fee.

As an alternative, we have identified a hosted email provider that would charge \$5 per mail account per month, unlimited free aliases, and \$5 to host the domain per month. With the current configuration (3 accounts and 2 aliases) the USBF's cost would be \$20 per month. We feel that this alternative would be an excellent solution.

Please let us know what you would like to have us do. We are looking to migrate to Lotus Notes mail in the next 4-6 weeks.

Thanks,

James

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From Richard Oshlag, Monday, April 14:

I sent this to Gary:

This may become a moot point.

We're thinking of keeping our PC mail server up and running (it costs us nothing to do that other than the cost of operating a PC).

Doing that will give us some flexibility without requiring expensive Lotus Notes licenses.

What brought this to mind is that several of our Units have UECs using Hotmail which has a limitation on storage. This month many of their reports were rejected

by Hotmail because the account was over quota. We thought we might try setting up those Units with accounts on our existing server and let them log into our server to get their reports. This may require a little reprogramming if we have to let them know there's a report ready for them to download.

Still muddling it over.