

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

**Tuesday, September 16, 2003
2:30 p.m. Central**

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

Others Present: Gary Blaiss, Michael Becker, Peter Rank, Mary Oshlag

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Nick Nickell

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The 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 7/30 AND 8/20

The minutes of both meetings were approved with one minor change in the wording of budget expenses of Monte Carlo (Minutes of 7/30). The wording was changed to "targeted to be approximately \$130,000."

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. The updated by-laws were approved with the following changes:

1. Grievance and Appeals Committee will hear Conduct and Ethics matters.
2. Definition of 'Athlete' was clarified. In addition to the original definition, two changes were adopted: 1) Finished top ten in a WBF Championship; 2) Finished top 3 in a Transnational Championship. It was requested that staff determine who will fit these requirements and get these changes posted on the Web site.
3. Jay Baum's request to be taken out of office of CEO was approved.

A motion was proposed, seconded and passed approving the updated By-Laws.

B. Trials Budgets for SITT, WITT and Open were sent to the Board via e-mail by Gary. Nick suggested:

"Let this stay with the Tournament Committee. We should look at the last years' budget and start with the assumption that it will be the same for the following year."

- C. Mike Becker brought up the issue of allowing players to pay USBF dues after the fact.

Jan made a motion that we revise the PP eligibility requirement to say that any person who has either paid dues before the event or paid dues plus 50% surcharge within two week after the Trials would be eligible for PP's.

There was no second to this motion; therefore, it was tabled.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. A discussion was held regarding who will be responsible for adding Transnational Open Teams on site in Monte Carlo.

A motion was proposed, seconded and passed approving Joan Gerard as the on site person to rule on Transnational Open Teams entries subject to her agreement.

A motion was proposed, seconded and passed approving Gary Blaiss to act on USBF behalf to approve Transnational Open Team entries prior to the Transnational Championship.

- B. Augmentation: Senior Team Issues

A motion was proposed, seconded and passed approving augmentation of Garey Hayden and Grant Baze for the Kasle Senior Bowl Team.

- C. It was decided that a Regional would attract more players and more sponsorship than Mary's idea of an Amateur Open Championship. Chris stated that should we be granted a Regional, Texas would cooperate. Dan said Regionals always make money. It was decided to go for the same request as the CBF (go for IF Fund). Las Vegas 6-Day Sectional (turned into Regional) was also suggested as a possibility, and Atlanta was mentioned. It was pointed out that the Regional cannot be in conflict with other bridge events held in the District.

A motion was proposed, seconded and passed to ask the ACBL BOD to approve in principle a USBF Regional in 2005 subject to presenting a specific date, time and place that has been approved. This motion includes 2005 and subsequent years.

- D. Nomination Committee Membership:

A motion was proposed, seconded and passed approving the Nomination Committee as follows: Gary Blaiss, Chairman, Marvin Comer (cannot attend on Wednesdays), Howard Weinstein, Bart Bramley, and Shawn Quinn.

E. Election Committee: Four members should be ACBL Board and one should be ABA. Mike stated we want people who are not running for office or on the Nominating Committee.

A motion was proposed, seconded and passed approving the Election Committee as follows: Nick Nickell, Chris Compton, Rose Meltzer, Jan Martel and Arnold Jones.

VI. Next Meeting to be held Tuesday, December 9, 2:30 p.m. Central.

VIII. USBF Board went into Executive Session regarding Baker hearing, after which the meeting was adjourned.