

AGENDA
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
12/09/04
8:00 PM CST
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Chris Compton.

II Attendance: Establish a Quorum

All board members were present except Sharon Osberg and Bill Pollack. Also present were Staff Gary Blaiss, Rena Hetzer, and General Counsel Peter Rank. Board members elect Bob Hamman, Steve Beatty and Shawn Quinn were invited guests. Mike Becker attended as a past President.

III Approval of Minutes - Meeting of 9/27/04

The minutes of the board meeting of 9/27/04 were approved.

IV Farewell to Outgoing Board Members Compton and Morse and Osberg.

Compton thanked Dan Morse and Sharon Osberg for their service on the USBF board.

V Welcome to Incoming Board Members Beatty and Hamman and Quinn.

Compton welcomed new board members Steve Beatty and Bob Hamman and returning charter board member Shawn Quinn.

VI Dallas USBF Regional Tournament Recap

Compton reviewed the financial report of the November Dallas USBF Regional noting that the bottom line Net Profit to USBF of \$5,641.32 may increase or decrease depending on final accounting figures.

Brachman Cup

Compton briefly described the 18" solid sterling silver trophy and indicated his desire to have the trophy **designated** as the USBC trophy and a replica fund established to finance replicas to members of the winning team. It was thought that somewhere near \$100,000 dollars would be required for the fund to provide replicas on an ongoing basis. Mike Passell is discussing the possibility of the trophy being dedicated to the USBC with Malcolm Brachman. The trophy was donated in memory of Minda Brachman.

Internet Broadcast

Compton indicated that 700 or so viewers watched the broadcast. Additionally, the ACBL board action (792-83), indicating that each participant in an ACBL sanctioned event agrees, by virtue of buying an entry, to be filmed and photographed, at the discretion of the sponsoring organization was discussed. It was agreed that similar wording should be included in USBF Conditions of Contest. Additionally, it was suggested that publicizing the requirement that participants appear on Vu-graph in the NABC Spring Daily Bulletin might be a good idea. Consideration for medical exception to appearing on vu-graph was discussed. No action taken.

Louis Childs Freed Barometer

Compton reported funds were left over from the anonymous donation to this event which awarded Waterford crystal vases to the winners of Flight A, B and C. It was suggested that perhaps similar trophies for the Women's and/or Senior Trials might be funded from this reserve.

Marketing Inventory

Compton reported that the USBF now has an inventory of leftover, bags, pens, bookmarks, and other miscellaneous registration gifts that could be allocated to future trials.

Recognition of Contributions to the USBF Dallas Regional

Compton noted the contributions of local tournament chairman Gerrie Owen, Bob Hamman and SCA Promotions. Donna Compton and Rebecca Rogers were also recognized for their contributions to the operation of the tournament and production of the Daily Bulletin (which can be seen at the USBF website).

VII Houston 2005 Open Trials Update - Quinn to Discuss Marketing Materials

Shawn Quinn reported some difficulty in obtaining a commitment at this early date from the various bridge stars to participate in the Buy an All-Star Partner event. The board authorized Quinn to list the 2004 trials participants as *possible* participants in the marketing materials, subject to actual later availability. Hetzer will give Quinn this list.

The board authorized Quinn to negotiate with Jeff Johnston, ACBL NABC Manager, for his services at the Houston 2005 trials. Blaiss will verify Jeff's availability with Nancy Foy and Jay Baum.

VIII 2005 Conditions of Contest

USWBC

The 2005 Conditions of Contest were approved. Additionally the board authorized deficient budgeting in the amount of \$4,000 for the 2005 USWBC. Compton expressed the hope that future budgeting for the USWBC could be done on a breakeven basis.

USBC

The 2005 Conditions of Contest were approved. Mike Becker noted that minor changes, as permitted by the Conditions, may occur once final entry size is known.

USSBC

Morse stated that 2005 Conditions of Contest for the Seniors would be available soon.

Committee to Propose Procedures for Augmentation and Guidelines for the Credentials Committee

Mike Becker, Rose Meltzer, Chris Compton (Chair), Roy Welland and Gary Blaiss will serve on this committee as appointed by Chris Compton and Jan Martel.

IX Istanbul Olympiad Update

Compton briefly reviewed the performance of US teams and asked Dan Morse to report on actions taken by WBF regarding room deposits and demands for payment in full up front. Morse reported that WBF was discussing some break point (perhaps through the Round Robin phase) through which payment in advance would be required. Martel noted that room rates in Estoril will be significantly higher than in Istanbul.

X Dress Code

Morse reported that WBF has agreed that tuxedos would no longer be expected at the victory banquet. However, the USBF board agreed that proper dress is important and should be expected of the US teams. Meltzer and Quinn will work on a dress code policy and present to the board at a future meeting.

XI USBF Position on World Championship Sites on US State Department Warning List

Deferred to January Board meeting.

Regarding Zone Two's number of Bermuda Bowl allocated teams, it was reported that while the USA should have no problem meeting the membership requirement (140,000) to retain two teams, it is expected that Canada will have difficulty meeting the 17,000 membership number.

XII Legal Update

Rank presented a recap of legal expenses for 2005 totaling \$30,500 to date. Rank noted that approximately \$22,000 of this total involved the Istanbul issues with the "nuts and bolts" business of the USBF totaling approximately \$9,000. While the board might hope that issues similar to the Istanbul matters do not occur in 2005 it would not be prudent to budget legal expenses at \$9,000 only.

Due to Rank's retirement from the K&R Law Group, the board approved an amendment to the current agreement striking references to K&R Law Group and replacing with Peter Rank, Esq.

XIII Junior Team Captain and Third Pair for USA II - Sydney 2005 World Junior Team Championships

Steve Robinson was approved as NPC.

Jon and Mike Rice were approved as the third pair for USA II.

XIV Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the USBF Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2005 at 8:00 PM CST.

XV Brian Glubok matter (Executive Session)

XVI Gene Freed matter (Executive Session).

XVII Old Business

XVIII New Business

XIX Adjournment

XX Holiday Greetings to All