

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
12/19/2006
8 PM CST
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Steve Beatty, Bob Hamman, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Bill Pollack.

Others Present: Gary Blaiss, Joan Gerard, Barbara Nudelman, Peter Rank.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Jan Martel at 8:00 CST

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 – MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2006

The minutes were accepted and approved as submitted.

IV. ELECTION REPORT

The Board welcomed incoming Board member (as of 1/1/07) Joan Gerard and continuing Board members Bob Hamman and Bill Pollack. The Board expressed its appreciation to Arnold Jones for his service on the Board during his two terms.

V. WEBSITE AND DUES REPORT

Martel reported that members are now able to pay dues online, as well as correcting their contact information and providing an email address and phone number that can be seen by other members. About 20 people have paid dues for 2007 (or 2007-2009) using the online Paypal method. Early in 2007, Martel will send an email to members who have not paid 2007 dues, reminding them that dues are now owing and that if they want their Positioning Points for the Vanderbilt and Women's Swiss to count, they must pay dues before the events start (or within 2 weeks after at a higher rate). Martel will encourage everyone to pay dues online, although there will be some people from whom we will have to collect at the Spring NABC as usual.

Online entry forms for the USBC, USWBC and USSBC will be available by the beginning of the year. Online Systems Forms should be available by March.

VI. 2007 TRIALS REPORT

A. USBC & USWBC

Martel & Nudelman met with contacts at the Hyatt and Schaumburg and the playing space should be well-suited to both the USBC and USWBC. Players have started to make reservations.

B. USSBC

The USSBC will be held in Bethesda, MD, with the Mid Atlantic July 4 Regional. Although we have not yet seen a budget, the SITTC is confident that the event will be break even at an entry fee of \$120 per team per session

C. Entry Fees

Pollack reported on the discussions by the ITTC and WITTC in Hawaii and further work done by an ITTC subcommittee on entry fees. The subcommittee concluded that an initial entry fee of \$360 per team plus a per session entry fee of \$120 per team (a session is half a day) would approximately cover expenses. The subcommittee has presented that proposal to the ITTC Committee of the Whole and Martel will ask that it be presented to the WITTC. The Board approved in principal that entry fee structure. Martel will post the entry fee information on the website as soon as the ITTC and WITTC have approved it, and require that the \$360 initial fee be paid in order for a team to enter.

D. Sponsorship

Hamman reported on the discussions he and Chris Compton have had with Chicago Mercedes Benz. The Board is hopeful that an agreement will be reached with them.

VII. SITES FOR 2008 AND 2009

For 2008, the three events will be separate, because we need to make site commitments before we find out how it works to have the USBC and USWBC together. The USWBC will almost certainly be in Raleigh, in conjunction with their Regional in May. For the USBC, both Philadelphia and Baltimore have expressed interest. Gerard and Martel are working with the people in those areas and hope that one of them will work out.

For 2009, we have an offer from the Crowne Plaza in White Plains, but if 2008 is on the East Coast, we would prefer not to be on the East Coast in 2009, so Gerard will keep the dates, but not commit to anything. Meanwhile, we will try to find a West Coast location for 2009, or possibly return to the Chicago area if that works well for 2007.

VIII. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE PROCEDURES PRIOR TO AN EVENT

A. Determinations of Whether a Team Retains its Bye after Adding a Player or Players

The Board agreed with the Credentials Committee that when the Committee has to determine whether a team may retain its bye because an added player is not less expert than the rest of the team, so long as 8 or more of the Credentials Committee members vote and all but one person agree that the team should or should not retain its bye, that will be the result. If fewer than 8 members vote, the vote must be unanimous. Otherwise, a subcommittee shall be formed to review the question further. The Committee shall develop procedures for the subcommittee.

B. Determining Whether a Player may Enter a USxBC

The Board discussed the question of whether there are any situations in which a player should not be allowed to enter a USBF tournament and the related question of whether the Board would ever disqualify a player on a team that had won the right to represent the United States in a World Championship. The Board concluded that unless something arises at or after a USxBC, the Board will normally nominate the winning team (or the winner of a playoff to be the second team in a year in which the USxBC is selecting two teams) to represent the United States. For that reason, the Board is of the opinion that there are some situations in which a player who is currently in good standing with the ACBL and/or ABA would not be allowed to enter the USxBC. Hamman will develop objective criteria for determining that a player is not eligible to compete. Martel will revise the Conditions of Contest for the USBC to reflect the fact that the Board will only reject a player because of actions that arose at or after the USxBC or information received after the USxBC. Martel will also ask the drafters of the USWBC and USSBC Conditions of Contest to revise the language in those documents to reflect this policy change.

IX. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for January 24, 2007 at 8 pm CST via conference call.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 CST.