

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION

3/26/07
8 PM CDT
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Steve Beatty, Joan Gerard, Bob Hamman, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Lou Ann O'Rourke and Bill Pollack

Others Present: Peter Rank, Gary Blaiss, Barbara Nudelman

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Jan Martel at 8:00pm CDT.

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 JANUARY 24

The minutes were accepted and approved as submitted.

IV. 2007 TRIALS REPORT – JOAN, BARBARA, JAN

People are entering continually. Entries close on 4/17. Jan thinks there will be between 20 and 23 teams. Gary and Jan will look into pricing and get a Security Wand. This will be used starting in the semi-finals and there will be spot checks in the round of 8. Rose said that she thought Clifford might know where the best place to purchase a Wand might be and she would talk with him. Gary said that before we started using this Wand we needed to develop a plan. Joan made a motion seconded by Jan to proceed with the purchase of a Wand.

Bill reported that the Hyatt has wireless internet access. They have a T1 line for web conferencing, which would be best for our use with BridgeBase. At this time Bill has negotiated the price of this down to \$375 a day for use in all the rooms that we require. We need 6 rooms till the semi's; 4 during the semi's and 2 for the finals. Bill was asked to try and get this price down to \$1000 for all our usage.

It was suggested and agreed that we would try to have an Open Trials in Phoenix and in California. Lou Ann and Rose will check into this.

Joan will send in sanctions for Trials that are not yet sanctioned.

V. 2008 & 2009 SITES REPORT – JOAN

PGA Resort in Palm Beach Garden, Florida - contract will be signed in the next few days for May, 2008 for the Open Trials.

Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge, Ma. – contract will soon be signed for the Senior Trials in June, 2008.

The USWBC will be held in Raleigh at their Regional in 2008.

White Plains, NY is being held for the 2009 Open Trials and we are waiting to see how things work in Chicago to see if we want to combine the Women and the Open again and also to see if we might want to go back to Chicago or perhaps elsewhere.

VI. SPONSORSHIP DISCUSSION – BOB

There has been no progress with Mercedes. Bob has put a general package together which he will send to members of the USBF Board.

VII. LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Joan moved to create a Long Range Planning Committee and the members will be appointed by Jan. This was seconded and passed. The Board made several suggestions for Jan to consider: Clifford Meltzer, Warren Spector, Bob Hamman, Steve Beatty, Sylvia Moss.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Jan drafted and sent a letter on behalf of Gavin Wolpert to help him secure a Green Card. Hopefully, he will be able to play for the US Junior Team in Beijing in 2008.

Eligibility of Richard Katz to play in the 2007 Open Team Trials. The USBF Board met in St. Louis and listened to Mr. Katz state his desire to play in the Team Trials. The Board felt that Mr. Katz's status fell within our regulation and then determined that because of the length of time that has elapsed since he resigned and was readmitted to the ACBL Mr. Katz was informed that he would be eligible to play in our 2007 Team Trials.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion as to whether it is a good idea to make players pay to be members of the USBF before they play in the Vanderbilt or Spingold in order to receive Positioning Points. If they don't pay before they play, they have a short time period following the Event when they can pay \$150 and get their Positioning Points. The general feeling was that this method should continue. Jan will send letters to all those that this applies to that played in the Vanderbilt and Women's Swiss.

The Junior Committee of the USBF met following the Pizza and Soda Reception hosted by Rose in her suite on the first Saturday of the Spring NABC. Mike

Cappelletti, Jr. chairman, called the meeting to order. Attending: Jason Feldman, Meredith Beck, Donna Compton, Jan Martel, Gary Blaiss, Joan Gerard,

Guests: Panos Gerontopoulos, Chairman, WBF Youth Committee; Don Mamula; Jonathan Steinberg; members of the ACBL Junior Committee.

The main purpose of the meeting was to determine the Youth Team Trials for 2008. It was decided that the Trials would be run in Las Vegas in the summer of 2008 prior to the start of the NABC. They will be run opposite the GNT's. If there is a team with four (4) medalists, they will get a bye to the semi-finals.

Elections: The following officers and committee chairman were elected:

Jason Feldman, Chairman

Kevin Bathurst – Conditions of Contest

Meredith Beck – Secretary

Donna Compton – Publicity and Public Relations

X. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the USBF will be by conference call on June 14th.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm CDT.