

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016
10:00 AM EDT
WASHINGTON, DC

Directors Present: Marty Fleisher, Greg Humphreys, Bob Katz, Sue Picus

Others Present: Jan Martel, McKenzie Myers, Joe Stokes, Stan Subeck, Howard Weinstein, Marcin Waslowicz, Eric Laurant

ACBL Representatives: Bob Heller, Al Levy, Merlin Vilhauer

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Howard Weinstein at 10:15 am EDT.

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

At 10:32, the president 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. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Howard reported that Sue Picus has replaced Bob Katz and Robb Gordon has agreed to chair the committee

IV. WROCLAW HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Jan reported that we have reserved 18 "superior" rooms at 675 Polish zlotys (currently about \$175) per night and 5 Junior suites at 909 zlotys (\$236) per night, all at the Sofitel. We have paid a 1 night deposit, but can cancel 5 days in advance and receive a refund.

V. TECHNOLOGY FOR USBCS

Tablets for bidding – Jan would like to consider using tablets for bidding (not play). We would have 4 tablets per table, one for each player. The tablets would be programmed so each player in turn entered his or her bid, including an alert if required. Then the N or S player would click on "send" to transmit the bids to the tablets on the other side of the screen, where those players would also enter their bids. Players would alert their own bids, and the alert would be visible only to the opponents. This methodology would eliminate bidding boxes and the tray, which we have seen can be used to deliberately communicate information, and also often result in accidental communication of information (the sound of the bidding card being removed from the bid box shows who bid when, for instance).

Having the alerts shown on the tablets (by having the bid turn bright red or something of the sort) would eliminate the issues we now have where people don't always see alerts. We could probably have explanations of alerts entered into the tablets also, which would remove debates about what exactly was said. Tablets are relatively inexpensive, and will be easier to transport than bid boxes and trays. Programming and testing time should allow us to use this approach in 2017. Greg will look into this.

Greg reported that he is pursuing use of cameras for recording bidding and play, and thinks it could work, but that is in the future.

We will have video cameras at all 3 USBCs in 2016. We will video all Vugraph tables and may video some additional tables.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 3/14/16

The Minutes of 3/14/16 were unanimously approved.

VII. FUTURE USBCS

Jan reported that the 2017 USBC, Senior USBC & Women's USBC will all be at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg, IL. We will have individual playing rooms for all stages of all events; 4 playing rooms each day are comped, we will pay \$75 per day for the rest; total cost will depend on the number of teams entered. Room rate is \$129 and includes internet.

The 2018 USBC (we do not have Women's or Seniors in 2018) will be at the Marriott in Houston. Paul Cuneo, the Houston Unit's hotel negotiator did an amazing job with the hotel contract. We will have individual playing rooms throughout and are paying a flat fee of \$1000 for up to 20 bedrooms with beds removed. Room rate is \$129 including internet. We have no commitment to purchase food or beverages from the hotel.

We do not have a site for 2019. We are trying to negotiate with the Hyatt Regency in Jersey City. Marty Fleisher reported that he had visited the hotel and the area should be very good for us. There are lots of restaurants as well as a CVS within walking distance, it is close to NewarkC, \$

VIII. JUNIORS

USBC Entry Fee waiver for USBCs

After discussion of what was done this year, the Board decided that if there is a team of Juniors who are approved by the Junior committee, USBF will waive half of the event fee and all of the session fees for the USBC.

NPCs

The Board discussed the issues of finding NPCs for Junior teams. Joe reported that it isn't always easy to find NPCs for Junior teams. We retain the rule that Junior team NPCs have to be at least 35 years old, unless we waive that.

IX. NPC DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the NPCs for “adult” teams. There was general agreement that the teams could select their NPCs, so long as the team understands what needs to be done.

X. STIPEND DISCUSSION

The Stipend committee recommends that each player and NPC. Unanimously approved

XI. D&O INSURANCE

Stan reported that he has worked with xxx, a national insurance broker, and will receive a report on the current costs for D&O insurance. Our current coverage has a \$1,000,000 limit, but we want a higher limit. Stan also reported that there’s a law called the Volunteer Protective Act that provides protection to volunteers for their actions, so long as not grossly negligent. Will ask Marty Harris to look into whether this Act applies to us and what coverage it provides.

XII. WBF ISSUES

Discussion of possible changes to ACBL connection with WBF.

XIII. BYLAWS

Marty & Howard reported that Josh and Jack Oest are working on the Bylaws and will have a report soon.

XIV. USBF REPRESENTATIVE TO WBF CONGRESS

The Board unanimously approved Howard as the USBF representative to the WBF Congress in Wroclaw.

XV. DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

Howard reported that for many years ACBL has had a policy that it could accept a finding of guilt from another organization and impose its own discipline. ACBL has implemented new policies that will allow ACBL Board A&C committee to decide that a person who has been charged by another entity is not allowed to play in ACBL events.

Howard raised the question of what USBF should do in the case where there is a charge against a US player. If a charge has been made that could result in discipline that would bar the player from competing in World Championship events, and the hearing won’t be until after the USBC, what should we do. The Board discussed whether to say that a person who is so charged is not allowed to enter a USBF event and has to petition the USBF Board for a waiver, or whether a person so charged is allowed to play but the USBF Board has to

review whether not to allow them. The Board agreed to defer this matter to its next meeting.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

Al Levy suggested that there should be some discussions about 2018 World Championship during the Orlando NABC.

Waiver form for entries in USBCs. Jan & Greg will look into finding a company to deal with getting them.

XVII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be by conference call at a time to be scheduled online.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Howard thanked the ACBL Board members who attended for their interest and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm EDT.