

04.1 NABC – Reno, NV
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
Sunday, March 21, 2004, 10:30 A.M.

Michael Becker, ITTC Chairman, conducted the Committee of the Whole meeting.

A record number attended: Dave Berkowitz, Gary Blaiss, Peter Boyd, Ira Chorush, Larry Cohen, Chris Compton, Dick Freeman, Joan Gerard, Bob Hamman, Judy Kay, Jan Martel, Zia Mahmood, Chip Martel, Dan Morse, Jeff Polisner, Shawn Quinn, Mike Rosenberg, Larry Simon, John Solodar, John Sutherlin, Adam Wildavsky, Howard Weinstein, Sol Weinstein, Bobby Wolff

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 26, 2003, New Orleans, LA Fall 2003 NABC meeting were approved.

2004 Conditions of Contest

Becker led a discussion of the redlined and shaded areas of the 031004 draft conditions.

1. The following sections were tabled and will be resolved by email:
On page 3 the question of whether teams with only three eligible players (and one or more other USBF members) could earn byes in the next cycle was tabled.
Discussion of Appendix E (new bye thresholds that include the USBC) was deferred pending the outcome of whether there is a USBF regional that is also in the cycle.
Discussion of Appendix F (PPs awarded for repechage performance) was tabled. Becker asked for comment on the scales drawn up.
Notes in Appendix H describing seeding in the repechage were tabled for email discussion.
2. The following was also noted:
On page 1, it was agreed that wording "...unless it is held in Istanbul..." was intended to mean that "unless it is held in an unsafe venue..."
On page 7, the three day aspect of the RR Points chart was deleted as the longest RR is only 2.5 days.
On page 9, Wildavsky and Bethe were asked to review the formula used in the large entry.
3. All other redlined or highlighted areas were approved.

USBC General Conditions of Contest

Jan Martel led a discussion of the first USBF General Conditions of Contest.

1. Alternative I of the substitutes section was approved, but it was agreed that if a team

withdrew from the RR after substitutes had played some boards that the teams who did not play the withdrawn team would get the reciprocal of the average score of the withdrawn team's VPs.

2. The time section of the 2003 conditions were approved instead of either alternative presented in the GCoC. It was agreed that the 2005 conditions would revisit this issue.

Sponsorship and Relocation of 2005 USBC

Shawn Quinn reported that she reached an agreement in principle with Gallery Furniture to sponsor the 2005 USBC and contribute \$75,000 to the USBF. Quinn noted that Marcia Bernstein was instrumental in gaining the agreement with Gallery Furniture. Quinn was applauded for gaining sponsorship of a USBC for the first time ever.

Gallery Furniture is expected to formally agree to the arrangement shortly, after which the USBC would move to Houston and take place in early June, 2005. Quinn reported up to \$25,000 of this money was earmarked for promotion and the remaining \$50,000 would go toward fully funding the Open, Women's and Senior teams in international play abroad. Experts on hand would be expected to play in a one session "USBF Charity Gala" the night before the start of the RR phase of the event. The USBC may run along side a Regional. Viewgraph may be available. Quinn thought USBC card fees would not increase. The Committee approved Quinn's proposal.

USBF Regional

Chris Compton led a discussion of his proposed 6.5 day USBF Regional to take place in Chicago in February, 2005. Compton reported that the event would have a "Bridge Academy" with different top experts lecturing daily. Compton budgeted that the event would raise at least \$20,000 for the USBF and asked the committee to take a leap of faith that this would become a great tournament.

The major point of contention was whether to award PPs for the K/O event. The Committee was divided on the value of putting another cycle event on the tournament calendar. Becker proposed a formula be developed which prorates the V/S Points of the top 16 teams in the regional to the top 16 teams in another Cycle event and the length/size of entry of the regional event to the length/size of entry of the Cycle event. PPs awarded for the regional event would not exceed the proration above. The Committee eventually approved awarding some PPs for the event along the above lines. The awarding of PPs would begin in the 2004-2005 Cycle and is authorized for one year only. The structure of the event and the formula would be in place before the cycle started.

Istanbul, Turkey Olympiad

Compton led a discussion of the matter. After giving a history of developments and the Board's decision, more than 15 people offered passionate, differing opinions on what should be done now. Although the Committee was divided on exactly what should be done, it voted to ask the USBF Board to reconsider its position and to send an open team to the Olympiad.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

