

DRAFT

**2009.3 NABC – San Diego, CA
ITT COMMITTEE – MINUTES OF MEETING
Manchester Grand Hiatt
Wednesday, December 2, - 10:30 a.m.**

Michael Becker, ITTC Chairman, conducted the International Team Trials Committee Meeting.

Nine others were present: David Berkowitz, Peter Boyd, Mark Feldman, Steve Landen, Jan Martel, Dan Morse, John Sutherlin, Howard Weinstein, Adam Wildavsky

Becker called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Monday, July 27, 2009 Washington, D.C. meeting were approved.

2010 CoCs

Becker reviewed the redlined changes in the draft 2010CoC110109.doc. The proposed wording change in III. A., page 6, was not approved. The ITTC was asked to word the paragraph to better reflect what is intended. Becker said that Appendix E would remain incomplete because the Technical Committee found it too difficult to solve some of the thorny combinations of teams entered and qualifying slots available. It was agreed that Appendix E, and the supporting material (Exhibit 3 in the Agenda), “Actual Movements Used for Appendix E,” would act more as a guide than a regulation, and that the movements would be reviewed after entries close (when the number of teams entered and byes are known). The committee was reminded that the Conditions of Contest do contain the wording in V.E., page 13: “...By a supermajority vote (60+% in favor) the International Team Trials Committee may change the format of the Pre-R16 stage(s) after entries close...” All other redlined changes were approved.

Online Preliminary?

Jan Martel led a re-discussion on the proposal of playing the Preliminary Stage, if needed, on-line rather than on-site. Jan reported no consensus came from email discussions using the new discussion group method, ittc@googlegroups.com. After discussion, the Committee tabled the matter.

Augmentation of Former Teammates

Howie Weinstein presented his proposal that was discussed for several weeks by email. The Committee appeared to support his recommendation, but could not agree on all of the details. In addition, Becker felt that with so few ITTC members in attendance, it could not decide the matter at this meeting. Howie was asked to continue the email discussion and present a finished version at the Reno ITTC meeting.

On Dec 3, 2009, at 4:49 PM, Ultimike@aol.com wrote:

USBF Update

Bali or Madagascar?

Dan Morse reported that the WBF was considering holding the 2011 Bermuda Bowl in either Bali, Indonesia or Madagascar. He asked the Committee's opinion on Bali, since there was a terrorist incident in Bali several years ago, and parts of Indonesia have occasionally been on the U.S. State Department's Travel Warning list. The Committee felt that while Bali is not on the Travel Warning List now, it might be in the future, and reminded Dan that our present policy is to not send teams to a place on this list. The Committee offered no further input to Dan.

New and Retiring USBF Directors

Jan reported that as of 1/1/10, Bob Hamman and Bill Pollack have completed their terms on the USBF Board, and Cheri Bjerkan and Howie Weinstein have been elected to replace them. Joan Gerard has been re-elected to the Board for a second three year term (Board members are limited to two terms of 3 years each). Bill Pollack will continue serving as President of the Board, although he will not be a voting member of the Board.

2010 WBF Championships in Philadelphia, PA

Jan reported that plans for Philadelphia are proceeding smoothly and that a significant part of the required funds have been raised, but more money is still required.

USBC Hospitality

The Committee moaned when Jan reported that the hospitality offered at the USBC's has been reduced. Jan explained that the time and expense of the wonderful hospitality provided the players has become too much of a burden for the USBF and its volunteers. The hospitality suite will still be available throughout the tournaments, with drinks, snacks and camaraderie, but lunch will no longer be served. The committee noted its appreciation for all of the hard work that Barbara, Joan, Rena and others have put in over the years to provide such truly outstanding hospitality.

In 2010, at the USBC at the Sheraton Gateway Suites Chicago O'Hare, there will be no lunch served in the hospitality suite during the Round Robin stage of competition, but continental breakfast will still be available and the suite will be open for snacks and drinks during playing hours. During the KO stages, lunch will be served. The "all suite" hotel rooms are equipped with a refrigerator and microwave, and arrangements with the hotel will include provisions for a fast lunch.

In 2011, players can eat quickly and cheaply at the Hotel's restaurants (see below). The hospitality suite will serve a continental breakfast and be open during the rest of the time for drinks, snacks, camaraderie.

2011 USBC

Jan reported that the USBF Board approved holding the 2011 USBC from Tuesday, May 11 to (about) May 20, 2011 at the Green Valley Ranch Resort in Las Vegas, NV. The

Cavendish Invitational Tournament ends on Sunday, May 10th. The Cavendish and the USBF will share the shipping costs for screens and travel costs for directors, and there will also be lower travel costs for some players who plan on playing in both events. The round robin will be held in the same ballroom as the Cavendish, and the K/O rounds will be held in individual hotel rooms. The Board and Resort made a two year agreement, but each side may opt out after the first event is held. The room rates are \$120. Drew Casen has agreed to arrange a golf outing for idle bridge-player-golfers on Monday May 11th. The weather is great. Green Valley has an excellent food court right by the playing area, as well as good restaurants and shopping across the street.

Adjournment and Notice of Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 15, at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, NV, at a time and place to be announced.