

**DRAFT**

**2010.2 NABC – New Orleans, LA  
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING  
Marriott Hotel  
Monday, July 26, 2010 - 11:00 a.m.**

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

Ten others were Present: David Berkowitz, Peter Boyd, Joan Gerard, Rena Hetzer, Jan Martel, Jim Miller, Bill Pollack, Larry Simon, Howard Weinstein, Sam Whitten

Becker called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Becker noted (again) that the [third consecutive] small turnout for the meeting suggested either Committee member apathy or satisfaction with the CoCs.

**Approval of Minutes**

The one-page minutes from the Monday, March 15, Reno meeting were approved.

**Subjective Seeding?**

Berkowitz reported on the use of his hypothetical subjective seeding of the 2010 USBC. He kept no written records of the group that unofficially seeded the event, but he noted that the players thought the “Welland Group” was much stronger than the other group in the RR. Martel reported that an equal number of teams qualified from each group. The committee divided 3 - 3 on whether to use subjective seeding of the RR in 2011. Berkowitz was asked to lead an ITTC internet discussion on the subject.

**2011 CoCs**

It was unanimously agreed to permanently move the RR captain’s meeting from the night before the Round Robin to 30 minutes before the start of play.

Jan Martel brought up a subtle unfairness in the seeding of team 3 when team 4 has a bye to a different stage of the event, and team 5 has a bye, but team 6 does not. Team three may be punished if it draws the 4-slot, having to play the 1 seed, and either the original team 5 or team 6, the highest seeded from the Round Robin. To correct this minor unfairness, team 3 will still shuffle with team 4, but after teams 5 and 6 are shuffled, team 6 will reshuffle with teams 7 & 8. Jan will propose new language for the CoCs to achieve this result.

The proposed entry closing dates suggested in the CoCs were approved.

Subject to any new issues that may arise, the CoCs were approved (notwithstanding the Appendices that need revision after the 2011 Vanderbilt).

## **GCoCs**

Jan Martel presented two changes in the screen procedures suggested by the directors. The changes coincide with how the WBF (rather than the ACBL) treats screen procedures. The committee approved the changes.

It was agreed that the GCoCs include specific cell phone penalties. Regardless of whether a cell phone was on or not, the penalty for having a cell phone in the playing area during play shall be 3 VPs during the RR, and 9 IMPs during the KO stage. Viewgraph operators will be instructed to inform the DIC if a cell phone is in the playing area.

## **USBF Update**

Bill Pollack congratulated the USBC winners.

Pollack reported that the USBF raised the funds it pledged to the WBF for the 2010 World Championships in Philadelphia, thanks in large part to the efforts of Nick Nickell, Bob Hamman and Chris Compton, and the many donors. Joan Gerard reported reservations made for [USBF pledged] hotel rooms are holding their own so far. Bill hopes that President Obama will send a welcome letter to the tournament participants, which may describe that his grandmother played bridge and that he was a score caddy!

The USBF regional-at-sea (held in the Florida district last year and in 2010), has become contentious. The USBF renegotiated its 2010 and 2011 agreement with the Florida district so the USBF receives a significantly greater return from the Regional.

Pollack said that the WBF Executive Council decided to form a Player's Committee, to provide expert player feedback directly to the Council. Our zone is entitled to 3 seats on the committee. Of the 12 members, 2 will have voting seats on the Council. Bill Pollack will name a subcommittee that will work with the Canadian Bridge Federation to nominate 3 worthy grand masters for the panel. Nominations will be subject to USBF BoD and ACBL BoD approval.

Becker mentioned the 2012 Olympiad, now called the Mind Sports Games, will be held in Manchester, England, from August 11 to August 25.

Becker noted the retirement of Gary Blaiss on April 30, and Rena Hetzer on June 30. The committee expressed its gratitude for their many years of providing support to the ITTC and USBF.

Sam Whitten, Rena's replacement, was introduced to the committee. Jim Miller, who is taking up some of Gary Blaiss's duties, was also present at the meeting.

There was a moment of silence in memory of Aileen Osofsky.

## **Adjournment and Notice of Next Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 1, at the Orlando Marriott, at a time and place to be announced.