

DRAFT

**2010.3 NABC – Orlando, FL
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
Marriott World Center
Wednesday, December 1, 2010 - 11:00 a.m.**

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

12 others were Present: David Berkowitz, Joan Gerard, Robb Gordon, Christal Henner, Jan Martel, Dan Morse, Barbara Nudelman, Danny Sprung, Howard Weinstein, Sam Whitten, Roy Welland, Adam Wildavsky

Becker called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The one-page minutes from the Monday, July 26, New Orleans meeting were approved.

Subjective Seeding?

Berkowitz reported that he did not lead an Internet discussion on subjective seeding since the last meeting. Becker suggested the matter be tabled until a discussion was initiated. Becker noted that it was proposed to the ACBL C&C Committee that the Toronto Spingold be seeded with some subjectivity for teams 17 and up, (teams 1-16 would still be objectively seeded), with a test run at the Louisville Vanderbilt. The C&C Committee will review the test run before deciding on whether to use any subjective seeding in the Spingold.

2011 CoCs

Non-material changes made to the 2011 Conditions of Contest since the last meeting were approved. The closing of USBC entries at midnight was moved to 11:59 P.M. to avoid confusion as to what day entries closed!

Becker described the MP log the ACBL C&C Committee approved for use in seeding the Vanderbilt and Spingold, replacing its current method. The new log would cap those with 20,360 MPs or more at 11 SPs. It was unanimously agreed to use the new ACBL MP log rather than our USBC MP log. This change would make SPs calculations easier for Jan Martel, and not materially affect seeding the USBC bracket.

GCoCs

Jan Martel offered to lead an internet discussion on simplifying RR1 to RR2 carryover when a split field RR is held.

Philly Exit Report

Joan Gerard reported a whopping 25% shortfall in the USBF room guarantee in Philly. The USBF owes a \$100,000 penalty to the Marriott chain for the room shortfall. Gerard

reported that this amount will be offset by the (extra) funds raised by the USBF for Philly. Gerard hopes that the penalty may be lowered by using leverage the ACBL has with the hotel chain for scheduling future NABC events. Gerard reported some foreigners had a problem obtaining a visa for Philly, either because they applied late or because the U.S. has made obtaining a visa from some countries difficult. Bedbugs were reported at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Becker mentioned that he would not go over the details of his letter to the WBF on Philly at the meeting. Wildavsky urged the committee to read his letter.

Sport Accord Mind Games

Becker and Gerard described what was known (or not known) about the new event, the Sport Accord Mind Games, being held near Beijing, China. The dates are probably December 7 to December 15, 2011*, and teams from Norway, Italy, China, and the U.S. have been invited. The sponsor is offering substantial prize money and is paying all expenses. A lengthy discussion took place on how to select an open team. Three major options were explored: 1) “selection” by a panel of 20 experts voting from a list, which is what the WITTC has recommended; 2) use a “points system” based on Reisinger and Vanderbilt performance (the Spingold *may* have been overlooked); 3) hold a trials (pairs or teams, online, or in conjunction with the Cavendish, or the 2011 USBC, which follows the Cavendish, or at some other time, including the summer NABC). Also discussed were selecting the team from our two current world championship title holders (suggested by Morse), and/or the 2010 and 2011 USBC winner. There was doubt about top pairs being willing to travel to China directly from Seattle, where the NABC ends December 4th (and there is minus 1-day due to the International Date Line). Also, players might not be willing to go because the prize money may be non-existent unless a team, pair or individual wins. But, Berkowitz, Weinstein and Welland all said they would play in the event. A vote was taken, and 2), the “points system,” was unanimously eliminated. A straw vote between “selection” and “a trials” was about even. The method of selecting from winners of previous WBF and/or USBC events was not voted upon. It was agreed that with the “points system” eliminated, the entire ITTC could discuss how to proceed thru Internet discussion, without the time constraints of the meeting. It was also agreed to survey top pairs to see if they were interested in playing in this event.

*After the ITTC Meeting, we found the actual dates of the tournament are December 10th to 16th, with an opening ceremony the night of the 9th.

Internet Trials?

Jan Martel re-advocated using the Internet for a trials event. The USBF has held a successful junior trials on the Internet. A meeting was held earlier in the week with Uday Ivatury and Fred Gitelman of Bridgebase, and H. Weinstein, J. Martel, Wildavsky, Woolsey and Becker. Uday and Fred proposed playing a USBC on Bridgebase (at no cost for the online portion of the expense). The ITTC people at the meeting were reasonably satisfied that the security issue could be resolved (with proctor-director types monitoring each participant). And the overall expense for players would be less (with greatly reduced travel costs but higher entry fees to pay for the proctors). But the ITTC representatives had reservations about mis-clicks and undos, and that bridge on the Internet was a different game, where table presence was minimized. Welland thought USBC participants were not yet ready for online play and mentioned that some pairs, like Zia and Bob, would be at a disadvantage playing in an Internet event. Becker thought that all

bridge tournaments would eventually be played on the Internet, but that it was too soon to do so. It was suggested that holding an online USBC Preliminary Event should be done first -- successfully, before attempting a USBC round robin or K/O stage online.

Adjournment and Notice of Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 1, at Galt House, in Louisville, KY, at a time and place to be announced.