

2011.2 NABC – Toronto, Canada
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
Fairmont Royal York
Monday, July 25, 2011 - 11:00 a.m.

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

10 others were Present: David Berkowitz, Peter Boyd, Drew Casen, Joan Gerard, Jan Martel, Dan Morse, Barbara Nudelman, Howard Weinstein, Adam Wildavsky and Kit Woolsey

Becker called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Wednesday, December 1, 2010, Orlando meeting were approved.

2011 USBC Exit Report

Martel attributed the record low turnout to scheduling the tournament just after the Cavendish event. The playing space was not ideal, as there weren't any small rooms available for knockout play.

2012 USBC Site and Date

Rather than return to Las Vegas, the USBF scheduled the 2012 USBC to be held (again) at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield in Schaumburg, IL, a suburb of Chicago, beginning on April 27, 2012, and ending about Sunday, May 6th. Martel reported that the hotel has undergone a major renovation. The Cavendish tournament starts Thursday, May 10th. Unfortunately, the attendance at this USBC or the Cavendish will suffer as a result of the close scheduling of the events, but the early date of the USBC was necessitated by the early schedule of the Olympiad, which starts about August 11th, and the need to schedule the Senior and Women's USBCs soon after the USBC has concluded to allow prep time for the winners.

2012 CoCs

Becker went over the (non-substantive) redlined changes to the 2012 CoCs. These changes were approved.

Becker suggested that the USBC use the newly approved ACBL Seeding Point formula as a seeding component used in setting the bracket of non-bye teams. After discussion, the committee approved the use of the ACBL's "Method One" seeding formula, (based on domestic performance), rather than use the greater of "Method One" and "Method Two" (which is based on international performance). The use of the Method One formula would enable Appendix A (the V/S/R component) and Appendix B, (the ACBL Masterpoint Log), to be eliminated, since Method One includes both of these.

Becker recommended that Appendix D also be removed. Appendix D describes the possible formats of the USBC based on various entry sizes. The Appendix has value between the day the Vanderbilt ends and the day entries for the USBC close. Since the USBF.org website informs potential participants of these formats, the Appendix is not really needed and its elimination would save the writers some time.

The committee agreed to remove Appendices A, B and D, but to keep the lettering of the remaining appendices the same.

The committee discussed when the 2012 USBC entries should close, after taking into account that the spring NABC concludes March 25, 2012 and the USBC starts April 27, 2012. It was agreed to close entries on Monday April 9th, and have a late entry closing date of April 12th to try to resolve “BAD” numbers. Systems would still have to be submitted two weeks before the start of the event, on April 13th.

GCoCs

Jan Martel presented a minor change to the GCoCs regarding kibitzers, which was approved. The committee asked Jan what her procedure was to make changes to the GCoCs, and Jan reported that her procedure was to consult with the Technical Committee, as no other body was interested in reviewing these matters.

USBF Update

Gerard reported that there was a small but vocal minority on the ACBL Board that favors removing the ACBL from all international matters, such as paying WBF dues and holding International Fund Games to subsidize U.S. representatives in international competition. One ACBL Board member’s website, www.kenmonzingo.com, contains this anti-WBF/USBF view. Gerard said that the issue was brought up at the Board of Governors meeting, and that Jade Barrett, Ellen Kent and Barbara Nudelman gave excellent speeches opposed to limiting ACBL involvement. By a vote of 65 to 4, the Board of Governors defeated the motion to reduce the ACBL’s involvement in international bridge. This wide margin clearly put to rest any grass roots effort to change the ACBL’s policy on involvement with international bridge.

Martel reported that the USBF Board was constructing a procedure to be used to select future teams in case a U.S. team was invited to participate in an event like the 2011 Sport Accord Games. The Board will report back to the ITTC on its proposed solutions, for comment.

United States Mind Sports Association

Weinstein said the above organization is in the process of being officially formed in August, and he is presumptively to be the first president. The forces for duplicate poker have been the main impetus in the formation of the USMSA, partly as a step in getting duplicate poker officially recognized as a mind sport by the International Mind Sports Association (headed by Jose Damiani). The organization does not expect any financing from the ACBL or USBF. The inaugural duplicate poker tournament will be held at the London Eye in November, with 12 countries sending teams of six players each. Possibly other mind sports may be participating as well. Though still way too early in the process

to have any real idea, Weinstein believes this could potentially be a good thing for bridge in the future.

Adjournment and Notice of Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 in Seattle, WA, at a time and place to be announced.