

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**

**March 7, 2002
6:30 P.M. CST - Houston, Texas**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Shawn Quinn, Dan Morse, Alan Popkin, Bruce Reeve, Bob Friend, Nick Nickell

Others Present: John Wignall, Nadine Wood, Joan Gerard, Barbara Nudelman, George Retek, Rena Hetzer, Peter Rank

Call to Order and Quorum Established

Mike Becker called the meeting to order. A quorum was established

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the February 27, 2002 meeting were approved.

Wignall and Retek

John Wignall urged USBF to continue its pursuit of USOC recognition and expressed confidence that bridge will become an Olympic Sport when the IOC meets in Mexico in November.

George Retek spoke of the USBF and ACBL reducing overlapping duties. Becker's letter to the Board caused much discussion. A Liaison Committee of Morse, Friend, Baum, Retek and other ACBL Board members will meet and discuss how the two organizations can function more efficiently when dealing with related matters. One area that has overlapping duties is the junior program. Retek asked the USBF to form a Senior ITTC and run the Trials, even though it is likely this will be a Zonal Trials. The Board agreed. The USBF will accept entries from ACBL and ABA members into the Montreal events.

Subcommittees

Bruce Reeve is added to the Tournament Committee and to the Junior International Team Trials Committee (JITTC). Jade Barrett is added to the JITTC; Bill Pollack to Grievance; Barbara Nudelman to Special Events and PR/Publicity; Nadine Wood to PR/Publicity and Membership; Charlotte Blaiss to JITTC. Shawn Quinn resigned from the Tournament Committee.

Tournament Committee

A. Trials Conditions

The 2002 Open USBC Conditions of Contest will be reviewed by the ITTC and after any

corrections thereto, will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

The Conditions of Contest will be revised to reflect the USBF Email address as customerservice@usbf.org.

B. Eligibility

Becker discussed an update letter from Gitelman on moving to the US and applying for a green card. The Board was disappointed that he has not moved here yet and that he will not have applied for a green card as requested. If he has not moved here by the Trials, he will not be permitted to play. Becker was asked to tell him.

C. Junior Team Trials COCs

The question arose as to how many teams must enter for the event to expand by ½ day. No conclusion was reached.

A JITTC will be formed. They will discuss the Conditions of Contest for their USJBC. The JITTC will be asked to suggest to the Board the team that should be sent to the University Bridge Championships in Belgium in August and another event in May.

Website Update

The following additions to the USBF web site are needed:

1. Conditions of Contest
2. Donation Form
3. Active Member Application Form
4. PPs List for Open and Women's events

USBF Booth at NABC

Nell Cahn, Renee Mancuso, Joel Wooldridge, Barbara Nudelman and Rena Hetzer will take turns being present at the USBF Memberships desk in Houston.

It was agreed to give Active Members who were tardy in paying their dues amnesty, but any full team earning PPs in Houston would not be granted an amnesty.

Ongoing Contact with IOC and USOC

An effort will be made for the USBF to be present and observe future IOC meetings. A meeting with the USOC President will be arranged. Rank will continue to stay in contact with the USOC authorities and attempt to arrange a meeting between the USOC, CEO and USBF members.

Trials \$25 International Fund Surcharge

It was agreed to keep the \$25 surcharge per team per session added to trials entry fees. However, these surcharge monies will be deposited directly to the USBF account rather than be credited to the International Fund maintained by ACBL. These funds will be earmarked to subsidize the Open US teams in the 2003 Bermuda Bowl.

Report of ACBL Board Actions regarding USBF Matters

Refer to comments by Retek at beginning of these minutes.

Questions still to be resolved:

1. Who sends team to FISU Championships in Belgium August 4-13?
2. Will the ACBL junior fund subsidize the team going to Belgium?

The ACBL Board agreed to recognize USBF disciplinary action. A USBC was deemed to be a sanctioned event. The USBF would inform the ACBL of disciplinary action taken at a USBC. The local ACBL district in charge could review the matter. The ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee or the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee might be involved also.

Donation Letter

Nickell will compose a more current donation-solicitation letter.

Welland Team Reisinger Matter

Becker reported that the Welland team will not appeal the PPs ruling made by the ITTC Credentials Committee.

Committee Reports

No committee reports were presented. Becker urged the Bylaws Committee to meet as soon as possible.

SLC Composite Media Coverage

A 25-minute tape of the SLC event's coverage by the media was presented. It was well received by all present which included Joey Silver, a member of the SLC Gold Medal Canadian Men's Team. Silver was congratulated for his team's victory.

Miscellaneous

1. It was agreed that the Bylaws or Board should resolve that:
A democratic method shall be used to select teams for Olympic or other international play except that for the IOC Grand Prix, US teams may be selected in any way the USBF Board sees fit. Nothing was decided on how to formalize this policy.

2. Rank will prepare a letter patterned after the ACBL letter on USBC winners not using banned drugs in international play.
3. Becker asked the Bylaws committee to examine whether dual members are allowed to vote twice. Although Becker asked for members to be identified as either from ACBL or ABA, it is presently only possible to know who might join USBF and not be an ACBL member. (Some number of ABA members are also ACBL members but ACBL does not know who they might be).
4. A bridge event similar to golf's Ryder cup was discussed (Europe vs. North America). The Board thought it was an excellent idea and recommended that the WBF pursue the idea. Morse was asked to forward the idea to the WBF.

Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

The date and time of the next meeting was not set. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.