

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

**Tuesday, August 6, 2002
8 a.m. Central Time - Conference Call**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Shawn Quinn, Bruce Reeve, Nick Nickell, Alan Popkin,
Arnold Jones, Bob Friend, Dan Morse, Peter Rank, Jay Baum

Others Present: Gary Blaiss, Jade Barrett, Rena Hetzer, Mary Oshlag

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8 A.M. Central time by Michael Becker, USBF President and the presence of a quorum noted.

Comments of July 18 Minutes

It was noted that the minutes were ambiguous and a request was made to attach the Restated Bylaws and Election Regulations.

Peter Rank pointed out the By-law Amendment changes.

1) Page 2: II. Membership: Previously could be suspended or expelled from ACBL, join ABA and then USBF., as II A. 1 previously read:

“A person who is a citizen of the United States of America and who is a member in good standing of the American Contract Bridge League (‘ACBL’) *or* the American Bridge Association (‘ABA’) is automatically a member in the United States Bridge Federation.”

The by-law amendment reflects that a member suspended by *either* organization would not be eligible:

II. A. 1. “A person who is a citizen of the United States of America and who is a member of good standing of the American Contract Bridge League (‘ACBL’) or the American Bridge Association (‘ABA’) **and shall not be under suspension or discipline by either** is automatically a member in the United States Bridge Federation.”

Should say “citizen of U.S. interested in bridge , not under suspension or discipline of ACBL, or ABA, or any organization.” (Covers potential future organizations.)

II. B. 3. Composition of the new Board

III. B. 4. c) Renamed Nominating Committee “The Nominating Procedures Committee.”

Nominating Committee - can be regular member but not, for example, Hugh Ross, who is a resident.

Page 13, IX: Added committee members under insurance. This takes effect 30 days from now.

Discussion of John Lyddon and Montreal World Championships

A lengthy discussion ensued pertaining to this matter, which was resolved by the WBF's declining the nomination on the premise of not having been informed of Mr. Lyddon's suspension.

It was proposed that 'other such organizations' be added as an amendment to the By-laws.

A vote was taken and the motion was carried.

Becker asked that if a suspended member resigns from one org and joins another, does his suspension from the resigned org still prevent him from being a member in good standing of the USBF? This instance is covered by the proposed amendment.

Nominating Procedures

Motion to accept, vote taken, Nominating Procedures approved.

Board Member Expectations

The Board accepts Board Member Expectations, which are included with above. There was no need to vote.

Removal of USBF Members

Need cooperation of ACBL and ABA.

- 1) U. S. Citizens on the membership rolls of the ACBL and ABA shall be USBF members.
- 2) The USBF shall request the names of persons who have been expelled, suspended or placed on probation for ninety (90) days or more from the ACBL and ABA due to disciplinary causes.
- 3) The USBF shall maintain a roll of persons who are under expulsion, suspension or probation for ninety (90) days or more from the ACBL and ABA. Such persons shall be removed from USBF membership and shall be refused admission for membership in the USBF during such expulsion or suspension.

The written report of the JITTC has not been received. Jade Barrett joined the meeting and presented a report on the first JITTC meeting. Three issues were discussed:

1. NPC List

The JITTC recommended Blair Seidler, Bob Rosen, Henry Bethe, Anne Hoffman and Jade Barrett to be on the captains list. The Board neglected to vote on the recommendations.

There was a discussion of the captain's responsibilities (away from the playing area). A sampling of activities: involvement with team throughout the year, substitute parenting, chaperoning, preventing misbehavior. Barrett said he would not captain a team in 2003 because he felt a conflict due to his chairmanship of the JITTC.

The procedure to be selected as captain was discussed, should the team propose, the board dispose, or should the proposal go to the JITTC first? No conclusions were reached.

2. Junior Active Membership

The JITTC recommended and the Board resolved that Juniors who played in the USJBC would not be required to pay Active Member dues unless they “Qualified” to represent the US. Qualified Juniors must be Active Members. Juniors who Qualified for the 2003 World Championships born after January 1, 1985 shall pay \$10 Active Member dues and Juniors born before that date shall pay \$25 Active Member dues. All dues paying juniors (whether Qualified or not) are considered full Active Members.

It was noted that the USJBC should mention in the conditions that the first and second place teams are required to pay Active Member dues.

3. Selecting Junior teams for invitational events

The JITTC proposed the designation of a USA Junior Team, and will submit a formal proposal to the Board. The committee plans to submit a method of selection thru objective criteria of a USA Junior Team for participation in non-trials qualifying events. Barrett reported there are up to three such events a year. Few are subsidized by the ACBL Junior Fund. The team might have a pool of about 24 members. The proposal will include a Junior Seeding Points Scale which will aid in selecting teams that play in non-trials qualifying events, a rotation method for who is selected to play in these events, and will be flexible enough to add and remove players as needed.

It is hoped the designation of a USA Junior Team would help to draw a commercial sponsorship.

Jade Barrett was thanked and left the meeting.

b. Appointment of Jade Barrett as JITTC Chair

The Board accepted Bob Rosen’s offer to resign and appointed Jade Barrett as chair of the JITTC.

Nick made a motion to lower the fee to \$10 for any player who is under age 18 when championship begins.

Collect \$25 or \$10 depending on how old they are.

Motion carried.

Item 3: We need to run events to increase experience. Create a Junior Pool of top 24 players. Designate a Junior Team with turnover from year to year. Rotate people who go abroad for invitational events. If there is a designated Jr. team we might attract a sponsor. Mike will send criteria of who should be captain.

Mike spoke to Bob Rosen who is willing to resign as Chairman. Jade recommended as chairman.

Motion carried.

Credentials Committee

c. Credentials Committee appointments: add Beth Palmer, Cheri Bjerkan

The Board appointed Beth Palmer and Cheri Bjerkan to the Credentials Committee.

Added Sheri Bjerken, Beth Palmer. Also have Gary Blaiss, Hugh Ross.
Motion carried. Amalia has not answered. Shawn will ask her.

Appendix P:

Written for Trials. Certain sections pertain to Montreal.
Section IV: Residency. Mike suggested this be used in non-trial competition.

Motion made and carried that Section IV of Appendix P apply except if superceded by WBF.

Senior ITT

Dan Morse reported that only three members attended the meeting in Washington. They discussed the COC's quite a bit. Also tentatively approved Las Vegas as site next June.
They will meet in Phoenix and discuss COC's and approve.

Contact USOC:: It was related that Mary Mankynheimer is going to be President of USOC and she is very enthusiastic about bridge. She was involved in the project of process of admission practice, which are going to change. It was suggested that USBF wait until the changes have been made, which will be next April. It is recommended that application not be made this fall, but wait until April.

Election Committee

Current Restated Bylaws: were approved and three Amendments have been approved and passed. Will put Restated and Amendments By-laws on Website.
Shawn said Election Notice is already up.

Finance

Jack Z reported that the \$1.95 tag line is generating about \$4,400 a month or about \$52,000 a year. The Board resolved to keep the ACBL debt at not more than \$50,000. From time to time the ACBL will bill and the USBF will pay for expenses so the debt is held at \$50,000 or less. The Finance Committee was asked to examine whether to reduce the debt. Our cash on hand is about \$160,000, net of money due the ACBL to reduce the debt to \$50,000.

Jack Z also reported that the International Fund (for Open and Women's Teams) had about \$150,000 and the Senior Fund had about \$3,800 available for distribution for the 2003 teams.

Repayment of loan was discussed. Money was borrowed 18 mos. ago, 5 yrs., no interest.
Cash balance: \$195,000.

Owe ACBL: \$74,000.

In June, \$15,731.

Now have additional \$24,000 beyond that.

Budget was done in February. Get another budget in August.

Will have \$150,000 in 2003 for Open and Women's; \$3,800 for Seniors.

ACBL told USBF Trials will cost an additional \$7,000 in future.

Jay Baum's Proposal for Finance Committee:

Since we are going to discuss repayment of this loan, ACBL can take a look of providing 50% back for in-services to ITT.

Proviso: Trials take place specifically in Memphis. 50% rebate in Trials expenses for in kind expenses of Trials held in Memphis.

Example: If repay \$10,000, we will provide \$5,000 in services towards Memphis Trials.

Problem in Team Trials

Bruce: Suggested that a statement be put in files and send letter on behalf of Grievance Committee.

The problem that occurred was that a player, in the Round of 8, with 3 or 4 boards left to go, was dummy on Board 71. He left the table and went unescorted to his hotel room. The monitor saw him but could not stop him. Results of last 4 boards were Push, Win 1, Lose 1, Push.

Incident had to be reported under #5, COC. Reported by Chris Patrias.

The player claims he had a serious problem with something like food poisoning.

In Washington, Chris told Bruce that they (table of player who left) were way ahead of the other table.

It was suggested the player be sent a warning letter stating "This is an action where discipline could have been taken. If a player leaves the room, he must be escorted by a monitor."

It was also suggested that USBF be more active on banning electronics, such as pagers.

Trump Trophy

All agree this is a good idea. Discussion followed as to how to go about this. It was suggested that USBF go through their marketing department.

Cost of Registering USBF Logo

Peter will look into this.

Special Events

Shawn stated that she has ideas and thinks she can raise the funds needed.

Nominating Committee

Sue Picus might be calling Mike re Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has been hard at work soliciting people. About 5 have said yes; 6 maybes. Some have not answered. The Nominating Committee will be meeting Friday, August 9, at 9 p.m. Central. The question was raised, if people who have said yes, are they nominated? Mike said "No." They will have to meet and decide who is accepted. Response to Internet? Has not been put on Internet. Seven or eight additional have expressed interest in being nominated.

Running for Board

Nickell and Quinn haven't said. Bruce expressed concern of conflict if ACBL President in 2004. Mike said if this should occur, Bruce could resign. The USBF Board could appoint or hold vacant Bruce's seat. In the next election, the slot would be filled.

Bruce said he will make decision shortly.

Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was called for Wednesday, September 4, 8 a.m. Central time. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Central time.

Exhibit 1

NOMINATING PROCEDURES

I. Composition

- A. The Nominating Subcommittee shall be composed of the following persons to hold two (2) year terms:

1. Two (2) members of the Board, who are members of the ACBL when such member is not running for re-election.

2. Two (2) members of the ACBL who are not Board members and who may or may not be Athlete Members.

3. Two (2) Athlete Members who are members of the ACBL.

4. One (1) member of the Board who is a member of the ABA, when such member is not running for re-election.

5. Two (2) members of the ABA who are not members of the Board.

II. Nominating and Election Procedures

A. The Nominating Subcommittee shall endeavor to select at least double the number of nominees as are coming vacant for such election year for the category represented and shall certify such nominees to the Elections Committee at least sixty (60) days prior to the election. ACBL Nominating Subcommittee Members appointed under 1.A.1 and 1.A.2, above, shall vote for ACBL nominees; ABA Nominating Subcommittee Members appointed under 1.A.4 and 1.A.5 shall vote for ABA nominees; all members on the Subcommittee shall vote for Athlete nominees.

1. Notice shall be given to the membership of the USBF that candidates are being recruited. Said notice shall be placed on the USBF website a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to the closing date of nominations. Nominations will be closed thirty (30) days prior to the election. Interested parties may submit a request to be nominated to the USBF headquarters prior to the closing date of nominations.

2. Active Members in good standing who are petition candidates may be added to respective ACBL, ABA or Athlete ballots. A valid petition application form requires ten (10) Active Member signatures to get on the ballot. Petitions must be submitted to the USBF headquarters no later than thirty (30) days prior to the election.

3. No person may be nominated for more than one (1) Board seat.

4. All candidates shall receive and review the document entitled "Board Member Expectations."

B. Members of the committees listed in I.A. may not nominate themselves, their parents, siblings, children or spouse.

III. Conduct of Nominating Subcommittee Members

A. All discussions and documents of the Nominating Subcommittee shall be held in strict confidence and may be shared with Subcommittee Members and Election Committee Members only on official business of the Committee.

B. Members of the Nominating Subcommittee may not campaign for candidates, but may disclose for whom they are voting if asked.

Exhibit 2

BOARD MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

(For potential candidates seeking nomination to the Board)

The USBF Board is its most important organizational unit. Elected and empowered by the Members and guided by the Bylaws, it establishes policies, sets fees, admits and disciplines Members and focuses on the long-term interests of the organization.

Board members attend the regularly scheduled Board meetings (more or less as needed, about monthly). Based on the past year, meetings are held by conference call and last two or three hours. Some meetings have been held on the first Thursday evening of the three NABC's. All Board members are expected to chair at least one committee. Most committees meet monthly, while others meet on an as needed basis. Committee meetings are typically held by telephone at times mutually agreeable to most of its members and staff.

In addition, Board members may have some special duties assigned to them by the Board.

Board members will receive, and are expected to read, on short notice, a wealth of reports and written materials throughout the year. A basic understanding of computer word processing and familiarity with E-mail is a plus.

Board members are Bridge ambassadors. They graciously interact with members who offer comments, questions, complaints, suggestions and (occasionally) praise.

As you see, being a Board member is a working position and not a ceremonial one. Board Members should understand that the position is a complete and sacrificing three-year obligation.

Candidates for the Board should refer to the appropriate sections of the Bylaws to learn about the duties, powers and responsibilities of their position. Board members are expected to read and have a working knowledge of the Bylaws.

Exhibit 3

**REMOVAL OF USBF MEMBERS;
REFUSAL OF USBF MEMBERSHIP**

- I. U.S. Citizens on the membership rolls of the ACBL and the ABA shall be USBF members.
 - II. The USBF shall request and receive the names of persons who have been expelled, suspended, or placed on probation for ninety (90) days or more from the ACBL and ABA due to disciplinary causes.
 - III. The USBF shall maintain a roll of persons who are under expulsion, suspension or probation for ninety (90) days or more from the ACBL and ABA. Such persons shall be removed from USBF membership and shall be refused admission for membership in the USBF during such expulsion or suspension.
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Exhibit 4 Junior Proposal

I am proposing that the USBF recognize 24 players as "Olympic quality" (if you will) so that we do not have to recognize a team for every event we participate in if it consists of previously approved players. Allow any group of six of these players to be a USA JR TEAM whenever they play in any competition so that the awareness of the team is raised (this is how many of the USA Olympic sports raise money, along with merchandising). Wherever and whenever they play, they will be listed not by their captain, but as the USAJRTEAM. That is the request that I am making of the USBF JITTC committee. This will allow for more effective fund raising for the USBF (it always helps to have faces for the benefactors to identify), a USBF identity (through the use of our logos merchandising opportunities will arise) and long term planning for preparing winning teams. The money will come if we have a team to show people. The reason for 24 players is that it is often hard to get more than 6 of our 12 players at any one time. The more juniors of international ability we have to promote to potential sponsors, the better.

Exhibit 5 Junior cash won in Netherlands goes to trip's expenses?

I believe that the event in the Netherlands gives prize money to the winning team. What would the USBF's policy be concerning the money? Should it go to the players or back to the what ever group funded the trip. In past events such as this, the ACBL used the money to help cover expenses for the trip.
- Charlotte

Exhibit 6 Trump Trophy

Original Letter followed by comments on Trump Trophy

Original Letter

Today we had a Becker family dinner. Two northern Beckers were here and the talk drifted to the USBF (I played the TV and radio SLC tapes), bridge in the Olympics and publicity for bridge. My 94 year old mother suggested that we have a Trump Team Trials. We discussed the idea. A US Bridge Championship for the Trump Trophy?

Get Donald Trump to donate a trophy (like the Vandy + replicas) or support one or more of our trials in some way. (deductible). What a great name to lend to our event!

One northern Becker, in PR, said that Dan Klores is or was the media relations person for Donald Trump, for what its worth.

Enuf said. Is this a decent idea or did the wine get the best of me?

Mike

=====
Great idea if you can get him to buy it and if he won't, I guess we can give a plastic mug and call it the "No Trump Trophy."

Nell Cahn

=====
Old Chinese proverb "Man cannot say no if you do not ask." Go for it.
George Steiner

=====
Does he play bridge even socially by any chance? Not sure what others think, but it would be publicity, and what is there to lose? Why not try.

Charity Sack

P.S. Colleagues at my new workplace gave me a blue Siamese Fighting Fish (don't ask why). I named him Trump. I guess when he dies... he'll be No Trump.

=====
I like the idea.

Shawn Quinn

=====
Certainly it is an idea worth exploring.

Bruce Keidan

=====
I think this is a great idea, and certainly worth pursuing on as many levels as we can. Let me know if you want me to do anything.

Barbara Nudelman

=====
I think we should go for it.

Jill Meyers

=====
Why not give this a shot. Might want to tie a site (permanent) to the event (Taj Mahal?) if there is long-term sponsorship. The sponsor should be able to request site if \$\$ is large enough.

The option of competitive bidding by venues may likely take name sponsor out, but may also offer an opportunity to raise some reasonable funds. The big problem w/ that is that it is an every year problem.

Jay Baum

Rank Items:

1. USBF Drug Policy. We agreed to simply pattern after the ACBL letter that goes to winning trialists. Peter to draw up a drug letter similar to standard ACBL letter.
2. Discussion of Probation, Suspension from USBF - adoption of a disciplinary code?

Tabled Items:

Mike Cappelletti Jr. as Captain of USA Jr. #1

I have a huge concern about the new USA I team considering Mike Cappelletti Jr as a possible Captain. The least experienced player on the USA I team suggested him because he was "young." Why is that necessarily good? He has not spent 5 minutes or 5 cents working with the juniors. He has never captained or coached a team any team, particularly internationally, which I have done for 12 years. He does not know the foreign coaches or players at all, whom I have interacted with in many countries. If they present his name, I recommend that the committee not approve him because he is totally inexperienced. I understood from you that your wish(which I totally agree with) is that the "approved Captain's" list be people who had worked with the juniors, had expressed a desire to work with the kids or that had demonstrated an ability to impact the juniors. He meets none of those parameters.