

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
3/2/2005
8 PM CST
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Jan Martel.

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

Present: Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Bill Pollack, Steve Beatty, Shawn Quinn,
Marvin Comer, Bob Hamman

Also Present: Peter Rank, Gary Blaiss, Mike Becker, Joan Gerard, Nick Nickell,
Chris Compton and Rena Hetzer

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MEETING OF 1/11/05

The minutes of the 1/11/05 meeting were approved as amended

IV. COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS FOR 2005

The board reviewed all standing committees with President Martel appointing or re-appointing Chairs for all committees retained. The Bylaws Committee was eliminated there being no present work for that committee. The previous Marketing Committee and Member Communications Committee were combined and is now the Marketing and Member Communications Committee.

A listing of the 2005 Committees, their Chairs and present members is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

V. PORTUGAL ROOM RESERVATIONS

The board unanimously agreed that the USBF should book a block of rooms at the host hotel closest to the playing site (Palacio) for all USA teams and should pay whatever is required to assure the reservations.

Martel will handle this project.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Augmentation Committee

Chris Compton reviewed the report of the Augmentation Committee. After lengthy discussion, the Board asked that the committee reconvene and attempt to suggest some specific objective criteria for augmentation. Compton agreed to do so.

B. Dress Code

Meltzer and Quinn will draft a letter to be sent to all team captains and team members outlining what is expected of the US teams regarding their dress both during play and more particularly at the opening and closing Ceremonies.

C. Marketing Committee

Quinn gave an overview of her report submitted to the Board for this meeting, discussing the various ideas she has in mind to market the USBF and in particular to gain name recognition for the organization.

The Board approved Quinn to pursue her idea of obtaining designated space in the ACBL Bulletin for the USBF. Quinn hopes that the USBF can provide a value to ACBL with contributions to the Bulletin that the ACBL might otherwise have to pay for, thereby creating a win/win situation for both organizations.

The Board also authorized Quinn to contract with an individual to man the USBF booth at the Pittsburgh NABC for the purpose of not only collecting membership dues but also "selling" the Houston USBF Regional and its various special events and generally provide a visible presence for USBF at the NABC. Quinn was authorized to spend a maximum of \$1,000 on this endeavor.

Quinn also suggested that we reapply to the USOC. Peter Rank will place a call to his USOC attorney contact to test the waters as to how receptive the USOC might be to our application.

VII. USBC AND HOUSTON REGIONAL

Quinn was authorized to open a checking account to facilitate making necessary arrangements prior to the event.

Other issues were deferred to the next meeting.

VIII. JUNIOR MATTERS

A. 2006 Championships

Note that there will be 2: 26 and under and 21 and under. See <<http://www.worldbridge.org/competitions/worldchampionships/TeamChampionships.asp?qmenuid=31>>

B. Drinking

Given the likely changes in the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations and other considerations, the USBF Board will refrain from creating any regulations on this particular issue.

IX. FINANCIAL ISSUES

A. Authorization to spend money.

Pollack moved and Meltzer (?) seconded that a majority of the Executive Committee of the Board could authorize expenditures of up to \$1000.

B. Release of financial information

A motion was passed that the USBF will release our audited financial statements upon request, but will not publish financial data and will not release any financial data that is not final and audited.

In accordance with this resolution, the Board authorized Cherie Turman, ACBL Controller, to send Shirley Seals the last audited USBF Financial Statement.

C. 2006 World Championships will be more expensive than expected.

The Board took note of the fact that entry fees and hotel expenses will be higher than anticipated because of a change in WBF policy and the falling value of the dollar compared to the Euro.

X. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 6, 2005 8:00 PM CST.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.