

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2011
9:45 PM EST
TORONTO, CANADA

Directors Present: Joan Gerard, George Jacobs, Sylvia Moss, Mike Passell;
Howard Weinstein (part of meeting), Ralph Katz (part of
meeting)

Others Present: Barbara Nudelman (by telephone), Jan Martel, Joe Stokes

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Joan Gerard, president, at 9:55 pm

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The president noted that at least a majority of the directors were present at the meeting, thus establishing a quorum for the purpose of transacting business by the Board.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MEETING OF 3/23/2011

Minutes were approved as distributed.

IV. 2012 TRIALS

Barbara reported that she had almost finalized contracts with the Woodfield Hyatt for both the Open and Seniors/Women's Trials. The Open Trials will be held April 27 – May 6, the Seniors & Women's Trials will be held June 1-6. The early dates are because the 2012 World Championships are scheduled to start on August 12.

The room rate for both events will be \$115 and that rate includes internet. Playing space will be ballroom space for the first 1-1/2 days of the Open and first 2 days of the Women's/Seniors. For the remainder of both tournaments, we will have small meeting rooms holding one table each and with attached bathrooms. We will be able to store the screens and other supplies between the two tournaments, which should save substantially on our shipping costs.

Barbara is discussing with the hotel arranging for lunch for the first 2 or 3 days of both events.

V. OPEN TRIALS REPORT

Jan distributed the final Financial Statement for the Trials, showing a loss of \$10,785. The reason for the loss was that we had many fewer teams than was anticipated, so the income from entry fees was low. The Board discussed the low turnout and concluded that holding the Trials in Las Vegas immediately after the Cavendish had not been successful and will not be done again. Other than the financial loss, the Trials went well. We had to remain in a ballroom throughout, because the hotel was unable to give us the promised individual rooms, which made security more difficult, but we had monitors to accompany the players to the bathroom and we played different boards in each match to minimize the security problems.

VI. SENIOR & WOMEN'S TRIALS REPORT

Jan distributed preliminary financial reports from the Women's and Seniors Trials. They showed a small loss for the Women's and a small profit for the Seniors. There were more teams in the Seniors, so income was higher. The expenses were split equally between the two events except where specific expenses could be allocated to one event or the other (board duplication and hand records). Holding the two Trials together worked well, although Cheri had reported at the WITTC meeting that some women preferred to have the Women's separate. Most of the players seemed to like having the Trials together and the Board agreed to continue doing this at least for the next two years.

VII. INVITATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT FOR BEIJING

George & Cheri worked hard to select (recruit) three pairs for the invitational event to be held in Beijing in September. The procedure was to ask first the winners of this year's Women's Trials, then the second place team, then the winners of the 2009 Trials, then the second place 2009 team, then the third & fourth place teams from both years. No complete team wanted to go, but the following pairs have accepted the invitation:

Lynn Baker & Karen McCallum (first place team, 2009)

Cheri Bjerkan & Rozanne Pollack (third place team, 2009)

Renee Mancuso & Pam Wittes (second place team, 2009)

The Board thanked George and Cheri for all of their work on this and wished the team success in Beijing.

VIII. JUNIOR REPORT

We are sending two teams to Croatia. The players were selected in online Trials, one for Under 26 players and one for Under 21 players. The Board approved the following teams and NPCs:

Under 26:

Kevin Dwyer – Owen Lien
Roger Lee – Dan Wolkowitz
Jeremy Fournier – Mitch Towner
NPC – Will Ehlers

Under 21:

Zachary Brescoll – Anam Tebha
Adam Grossack – Adam Kaplan
Stephen Drodge – Dan Emmons
NPCs – Tom & Jenni Carmichael

The total cost for Croatia (travel, entry fees and accommodation) will be about \$45,000.

Joe Stokes reported that because of the uncertainty about dates and places for 2012, we have not yet held Trials for those events. Joan reported that WBF has decided to hold the 2012 Junior Championships for U26, U21, and Girls in Cuba July 25-Aug. 4 and the U28 with the World Mind Sports Games in England in August. Joe and Jan will work on dates and logistics for Trials. Joan will find out from the State Department what is required to travel to Cuba.

The Board thanked Joe Stokes for all of his work with the Juniors.

IX. CREDIT CARD THAT EARNS MILES

The Board discussed whether USBF should try to get a credit card that gives miles, so that we can get a free ticket sometimes in exchange for those we purchase for the Juniors. Barbara will look into this.

X. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joan has appointed George, Cheri, Steve Robinson, and Joe Stokes to the nominating committee and will work on finding a fifth member. The Committee will work on finding nominees to fill the two Board positions (Sylvia's and Mike's) that will become vacant at the end of this year.

XI. UNIFORMS FOR NETHERLANDS TEAMS

The WBF has added a requirement that teams wear uniforms to its Conditions of Contest. However, this was done very late and so they have announced that for the Netherlands, they are only “strongly requesting” that teams wear uniforms. The Board decided that our teams should wear uniforms, to consist of a navy blazer, khaki pants and white shirt for “formal” occasions (Opening and Closing Ceremonies) and red, white or blue shirts (not t-shirts) with red, white or blue sweaters, sweatshirts, or similar items of clothing, for play. Each team is to wear

the same color each day. USBF will provide the teams with large logos with American flags that can be attached to the blazers and with small logos that can be attached to the shirts. USBF will reimburse each player in an amount not to exceed \$150 for the cost of purchasing uniforms. The players must provide Barbara with receipts and she will then reimburse them.

XII. US MIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Howie reported on meetings he has had with representatives of the USMSA. One of the goals of the USMSA is to promote duplicate poker. Before deciding whether to support the USMSA, the Board asked to see more information, including a Mission Statement and business plan. Howie will supply further information to the Board, which will meet by conference call next weeks to determine whether to support the USMSA

XIII. 2018 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Joan reported that the ACBL Board voted to support the 2018 World Championship in the US and will provide the same \$100,000 it supplied in 2010. The USBF Board had previously agreed to support the 2018 World Championship with up to \$200,000. Joan will be negotiating with hotels in Las Vegas and Florida for October, 2018. Sylvia volunteered to help with the negotiations.

XIV. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

No date for the next meeting was set.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30pm EST