

DRAFT
2005.1 NABC – Pittsburgh, PA
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
Westin Hotel, Armstrong Room, Sunday, March 13, 2005, 11:00 A.M.

Michael Becker, ITTC Chairman, conducted the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Present: Steve Becker, David Berkowitz, Marcia Bernstein, Gary Blaiss, Peter Boyd, Ira Chorush, Chris Compton, Mark Feldman, Jan Martel, Chip Martel, Dan Morse, Barbara Nudelman, Bill Rosenbaum, Larry Simon, Adam Wildavsky, Howard Weinstein, Bobby Wolff

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 24, 2004, New York City, NY, Fall NABC meeting were approved.

2005 Conditions of Contest

Becker reported that several minor changes were made (suggested by Peter Boyd) to the 2005 USBC Conditions since the Orlando meeting, but none were substantive. If the structure of the event remains the same, the 2006 USBC Conditions will need very little additional work.

Houston USBC Regional

Quinn reported on the upcoming USBC in Houston, having met earlier in the week with Marcia Bernstein and Barbara Nudelman. Quinn mentioned that a problem with room rates has been resolved, discussed airport transportation, hotel amenities, described the charity event preparations, and asked about whether the regional tournament or charity event should have any favors, prizes or giveaways. Those offering an opinion on whether there should or should not be giveaways leaned toward none, but most had no opinion. Ten experts have been presold for the charity event, including some who were sold more than once! Quinn was asked to prepare a USBC informational email to all participants after entries close April 15th.

Augmentation Report

Becker began a discussion of the Augmentation Committee Report, which quickly bogged down during a discussion of criteria for selecting committee members. Wildavsky presented an alternative approach to the one proposed in the report, where notice is given that a team will be augmenting player(s); players wishing to be augmented to the team submit their names to the Credentials Committee (CC); the CC, after consultation with the augmenting team's captain, chooses the player(s) to be augmented from the list of players who submitted their names. Players who place themselves on the augmentation list promise to accept augmentation if selected. After discussion, it was agreed to propose this method to the USBF Board, subject to the details being written up by Wildavsky and Howard Weinstein, who volunteered to prepare the proposed augmentation method. Getting back to the criteria for selecting Augmentation Committee members, it was agreed to delete the first paragraph of the report's section A., so that it would be possible for bridge professionals to serve on the augmentation committee.

New Business

Bill Rosenbaum urged the ITTC to schedule the USBC in such a manner as to avoid conflicting with the Cavendish Calcutta.

Bobby Wolff began a discussion on the seeding of the Vanderbilt, where this year there are four-way and two-way matches on the first two days, reducing the field from 78 to 48 to 32 teams. Members of the ACBL's Competitions and Conventions Committee who were present at this meeting supported the movement as the best way to run the event once the ACBL Board mandated that no more than one bye could be awarded. Some believe three-way matches with two survivors could lead to dumping.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 P.M.