

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, JUN. 15, 2015
4:00 PM EDT

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Marty Fleisher, Bob Katz, Brad Moss, Josh Parker, Sue Picus, Howard Weinstein,

Others Present: Jan Martel, Joe Stokes, Stan Subeck

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Howard Weinstein at 4:02 PM EDT.

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 FROM MARCH 16, 2015

The March 16, 2015 Minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. USBF RECORDER

The Board has previously approved Jack Oest as the USBF Recorder. Jack is an expert bridge player and a lawyer. Howard reported that based on some recent matters, he, Josh & Jack believe that the USBF Disciplinary Procedures and Code need revision. Howard has appointed a committee: Josh, Chair; Jack Oest, Marty Harris, Howard & Jan, to review and revise the ByLaws and Disciplinary Code and draft Recorder Rules.

V. D&O INSURANCE

The USBF's D&O insurance needs to be renewed in August. The current limit under the policy is \$1,000,000. The premium is relatively small (Stan did not have the exact amount, but somewhere around \$1,000 per year). Stan reported that it may be difficult to obtain higher limit D&O coverage. Howard stated that he didn't think \$1,000,000 was adequate and also wanted to determine who is covered, whether the insurance includes the cost of defense above the deductible, and whether that is included in the \$1,000,000 limit. Stan will call our insurance broker and ask him to look into higher limit policies and get answers to Howard's questions.

VI. JUNIOR AUGMENTATION POLICY

The Board unanimously adopted the Junior Augmentation Policy as follows:

Our default Board position is our junior teams will comprise six players, and each player will play a sufficient amount to qualify for WBF masterpoint awards.

In unusual circumstances, the Junior Committee may recommend to the Board 1) sending a team of four or five players or 2) augmenting a four-person team with a player or a pair who may not be expected to play the minimum number of boards required for masterpoint awards. In the second case, before joining the team, the added player/pair (and their parents if the players are under 18 years old) should be aware of and consent to the possibility of their playing time being restricted. The Junior Committee will tend to give more weight to sending six-person teams and to fulfilling the minimum play requirements for U21, as opposed to U26, teams. In any case, the Board will have final authority to make exceptions to our default position but will give strong consideration to a request from the Junior Committee.

Even when the Board approves exceptions to our usual policy of six players all playing the number of boards required to receive masterpoint awards, the NPC will make a good faith effort to see that all players are eligible for masterpoint awards. Original members of teams that qualified to represent the USA will meet the minimum play requirements irrespective of strength of play.

An NPC, for cause (e.g., sickness, problematic behavior), may choose not to play any player the minimum amount required to receive masterpoints. The NPC should confer with other NPCs in making this decision (especially for conduct), but s/he retains ultimate authority. Strength of bridge play, however, without prior Board approval, is not a sufficient reason for the NPC not to field a player for the minimum play requirements.

VII. 2015 USBCS

The Board went into Executive Session; Jan Martel, Joe Stokes & Stan Subeck were invited to participate.

The Board came out of Executive Session.

A. Future Women's Trials

Cheri reported that the Women's committee had decided to have the Women's USBC opposite the end of the Open. Jan reported that for 2016, the hotel where the Open is being held did not have room for the Women, so for 2016 it will be held separately, but for 2017, she will try to schedule at the site of the Open and starting opposite the Open Quarterfinal.

B. Financial Report

Jan reported that the Open, which had 21 teams and lasted for 10 days, lost approximately \$6000; the Seniors, which had 10 teams and lasted for 9 days,

lost approximately \$8000, and the Women's, which had 6 teams and lasted for 7 days, lost approximately \$7000.

The Board unanimously agreed that there should be some tangible token of appreciation given to the hospitality hostesses and their assistants. Jan was instructed to purchase tokens of appreciation for Lisa Berkowitz, Martha Katz and their assistants.

C. Policy when boards are fouled

The question of what should be done when boards are fouled was referred to the ITTC Technical Committee to make a proposal for a section in the General Conditions of Contest, which would then be reviewed by the ITTC, WITTC and SITTC.

D. Rights of NPC's and Kibitzing

There was a situation where a team attempted to add an NPC in order to prevent a player from barring that person as a kibitzer. The Board agreed that an NPC has to be added to a team for any USBF tournament before the event and instructed Jan to have the ITTC Technical Committee draft appropriate language.

The Board discussed whether kibitzing should be allowed at all at the USBCs. The Board referred the question of what restrictions should be placed on kibitzers to the ITTC Technical Committee

VIII. APPROVE TEAMS FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Board unanimously approved the following players and NPC's for the 2015 World Championships. Two teams have not yet selected NPCs; as soon as they do so, Jan will notify the Board and ask for approval for them:

Venice Cup USA1:

Hansa Narasimhan

Judi Radin

Jill Meyers

Migry zur Campanile

Jill Levin

Jenny Wolpert

Venice Cup USA2:

Sylvia Moss

Joann Glasson

Janice Seamon-Molson

Tobi Sokolow

Lynn Deas

Beth Palmer

NPC: David Sokolow

Bermuda Bowl USA1

Nick Nickell

Ralph Katz

Bobby Levin

Steve Weinstein

Jeff Meckstroth

Eric Rodwell

NPC: Donna Compton

Coach: Eric Kokish

Bermuda Bowl USA2:

Paul Fireman

Gavin Wolpert

Vincent Demuy

John Kranyak

John Hurd

Joel Wooldridge

NPC: Shane Blanchard

Senior Bowl USA1:

Reese Milner

Hemant Lall

Bob Hamman

Mark Lair

Zia Mahmood

Michael Rosenberg

NPC: Petra Hamman

Coach: Jacek "Pepsi" Pszczola

Senior Bowl USA2:

Doug Simson

Jeff Aker

Dennis Clerkin

Jerry Clerkin
Mark Tolliver
Marc Zwerling

IX. NAMING SENIOR USBC

Howard reported that it had been suggested we name the Senior USBC after Henry Bethe. The Board discussed this and decided to defer it to the next meeting in order to allow for careful consideration.

X. MAHAFFEY FUND

Money from the fund is being used to help support the USBF Junior training camp this year and next.

XI. WORLD BRIDGE SERIES

Howard proposed that the USBF support changing the World Bridge Games (formerly the Olympiad) to allow multiple teams for each country starting in 2016 or 2020. The Board unanimously approved.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday morning, August 10th in Chicago.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm EDT.