

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION

7/6/2006
8 PM CST
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Steve Beatty, Bob Hamman, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Bill Pollack and Shawn Quinn

Others Present: Michael Becker (part of meeting), Gary Blaiss, Joan Gerard, Al Levy (part of meeting), Barbara Nudelman, Peter Rank

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Jan Martel at 8:00 pm CST

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The chairman 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 MAY 17, 2006

The minutes were accepted and approved as submitted.

IV. VERONA REPORT AND FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

A. Joan reported on the WBF meetings, at which there was discussion of:

1. Changing the Zones to conform to the Olympic Zones. This was unpopular with almost everyone and probably won't happen. If it did, our zone would be expanded to include South and Central America and the Caribbean.
2. Dues structure. WBF will be raising dues, by a total of 50 cents per member, probably starting in 2008, with the full amount of the increase phased in over 3 years.
3. Jose Damiani was reelected as President. Gianariggo Rona was elected First Vice President (which means if Damiani should no longer be serving as President, Rona would become President). George Retek was reelected as one of the other Vice Presidents.
4. Next 3 world championships will be in Shanghai, Beijing and Sao Paulo. Do not know where the next Rosenblum year tournament will be held. The United States would be possible if a sponsor could be found.

5. Juniors. Apparently there's a sentiment on the WBF Executive Council that too much money is being spent on the Junior program and in particular on the Team events every 2 years. WBF will be looking for ways to reduce the costs. Next year there will be a camp and Individual in Nashville. ACBL will be contributing to the cost of the camp and individual but will not be managing it. Joan will continue to keep us informed.

B. Systems Report

Brown Sticker methods will not be allowed in the Round Robin phases of any WBF events (they have previously been allowed in Round Robin matches of more than 16 boards). Jan asked about written defenses to multi 2D; Joan believes that was passed in Estoril and should be effective for Shanghai, but will check.

C. Processing Entries

After a brief discussion, during which it was agreed that it would be more efficient if people who want to play in the various events in the Rosenblum year submitted their entries directly to WBF and WBF then forwarded a list to either USBF or ACBL for verification that the entrants are members in good standing (not under any serious disciplinary sanction), the Board agreed to raise this issue at a time closer to the next such tournament

D. Chinese Results

Al reported that he had asked Jose Damiani whether there was any ongoing investigation into the results obtained by the Open and Women's Chinese pairs in contention in their respective events when they played against their teammates late in the events. Damiani has informed Al that an investigation is in process and the Chinese team manager has been asked to supply details of the hands (bidding and play) as well as any other information the players may wish to have considered.

The Board agreed that it considered an investigation important to bridge, and that if it was found that the pairs not in contention had "dumped" to their teammates some disciplinary action should be taken.

The Board decided to table this matter until our next meeting when, hopefully, we will know the result of the WBF investigation.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Al both for following up on this matter and for keeping us informed of events to date. Al promised to continue to keep us informed of the progress of the investigation.

V. BOARD ELECTION

Jan & Gary will work on getting a nominating committee appointed and arranging for the appropriate notices to be posted on the website. Until a nominating

committee has been appointed, Shawn will be listed on the website as the contact person for anyone interested in running for the Board.

Jan will contact the current ABA president to discover whether the ABA wants a continuing relationship with USBF and if so, what they would like that relationship to be.

VI. RESIDENT MEMBER APPLICATIONS

The Board unanimously approved the resident member applications of Xiaodong Shi, Jiang Gu and Nikolay Demirev, noting that all three have been residents of the United States for a substantial period of time, have green cards, and have not represented any other country in world competition.

VII. INSURANCE POLICY

The Board instructed Jan to confirm that what is called an “M&O” (Management & Organization) policy is actually a D&O (Directors and Officers) policy and assuming that it is to renew the M&O and General Liability insurance policies we currently have.

VIII. 2007 USSBC

The Board agreed to leave it to the SITTC to determine when to hold the 2007 USSBC, but recommends that it not conflict with the European Championships (June 15-30). The Board noted that with the USBC being held June 1-11, probably not many US teams will attend the European Championships, but noted that we had scheduled the USBC over a year ago and it was being held at the normal time.

IX. FOREIGN TOURNAMENTS

The Board agreed to set up a “foreign tournaments” page on our website, but not to send email information about foreign tournaments to our members.

X. WEBSITE

The Board authorized Jan to hire Kitty Cooper to work on our website to make it cleaner and more user friendly both for “visitors” and for those of us responsible for maintaining it. Kitty will be charging us \$60 per hour and has said that the total cost should be between \$600 and \$800.

The Board further authorized Jan to give Kitty Cooper and Steve Cooper 5 year active memberships in exchange for the work Kitty has done setting up the website to display results and other information from the USBC. Jan explained that the “scorecard” Kitty has designed, which is created from the BBO Vugraph file, provides a more complete record than we’ve had before and is easier to access and move around in than the BBO archive of the Vugraph presentation.

In addition, we will have team and pair pages with pictures of the players, some biographical information, and links to their convention cards.

XI. CHICAGO PARTY AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Barbara and Rose reported on plans for the party in Rose's suite in Chicago. They recommended and the Board agreed that the party should have "finger food" instead of a full dinner, because of the size of Rose's suite and the convenience. Barbara also recommended that instead of asking people for donations we should ask them to become "associate members" of USBF. The Board unanimously agreed to offer an associate membership for \$25 a year, if possible to distribute the World Bridge News to all associate members and to consider adding other benefits later. Associate members will not be eligible to compete in USBF tournaments or to vote in USBF elections. Peter Rank suggested that when we next amend the Bylaws (probably to deal with elections more efficiently) we add a reference to the associate membership.

XII. BANK ACCOUNT

Barbara reported that transfer of financial matters is almost complete. At the moment, Barbara, Jan & Steve are authorized to sign checks on the Wachovia account. Bill will soon also be authorized. The Bank has been asked to issue debit cards and will do so. The \$50,000 from the Junior Fund that ACBL is giving us this year should be transferred to the account soon. The Mahaffey funds have been moved into a separate account so that we do not have to deal with accounting for interest on that money.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. New Year's Eve Incident

Rose reported on the New Year's Eve incident investigation. Rose formed a committee consisting of herself, Joan Gerard, Gail Greenberg, Alan Sontag and Roy Welland. The committee met with the juniors involved, Mike Cappelletti, Jr, and at least one of the parents of an involved junior. Although the different people with whom the committee met had somewhat different views of what had happened, making it difficult for the committee to reach any firm conclusions, the committee did find that Mike Cappelletti, Jr was not in any way at fault or complicit in what happened. The committee advised the juniors that they needed to be extremely careful about their behavior, since they are role models for other young bridge players. The committee members also met with the two women who had originally complained about the New Year's Eve party and explained to them what the committee had done and what the committee had concluded. Rose is comfortable that the women are satisfied with our investigation. Rose will write a letter to Bruce Reeve, who had passed the complaint on to USBF, informing him of the committee's conclusions.

The Board thanked Rose and through her the entire committee for their outstanding job handling this difficult matter.

B. \$1.95 Contributions

Steve reported that the \$1.95 contributions from ACBL members seem to be on the upswing, and are approaching their level before the change in format of the ACBL dues renewal form.

XIV. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 12 at 8:00 pm CST via conference call.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm CST.