

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
JUNE 20, 2008
8:30PM CDT
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Steve Beatty, Joan Gerard, Bob Hamman. George Jacobs, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Bill Pollack

Others Present: Barbara Nudelman, Gary Blaiss

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Jan Martel at 8:30PM CDT.

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The chairman noted that all members of the board of 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 APRIL 17, 2008

The minutes were accepted and approved as submitted.

IV. JUNIOR TEAM FOR MIND SPORTS EVENT

The 2008 Mind Sports Games Youth Team requested that the Board approve Jenny Wolpert to replace Josh Donn who is unable to go to Beijing because of work commitments. There are five players from the 2006 championship team still on the MSG team.

Joan Gerard moved and Rose Meltzer seconded that Jenny Wolpert replace Josh Donn on the team. Carried unanimously.

V. CODE OF CONDUCT

Bill Pollack chaired a committee that drafted a Code of Conduct to be added to all entry forms and handed out at each of the Trials to the team captains. Every member of each World Championship team must sign the Code. Following is the Code as approved by the Board:

USBF CODE OF CONDUCT – June 24, 2008

As a condition of USBF qualification to represent the United States, I agree to abide by all regulations of the USBF, ACBL, WBF and other sponsoring organizations regarding international competition, including the Olympic Rules

adopted by the WBF. I recognize that it is a privilege to represent my country as a member of both the USBF and the ACBL. For the duration of the competition I will adhere to the regulations of proper dress and deportment at all times including tournament play and any related events and ceremonies.

International bridge events are not the time or place for any type of planned or spontaneous personal statements, demonstrations or public displays. I agree that they are intended as a respite from politics, with all nations welcome to participate. Without permission from the USBF, only the winners and their official captain and coach are to appear on the podium to receive medals at the award ceremonies where full respect is to be given to the US and the USBF through absence of all non-bridge related activity.

I understand that the USBF reserves the right to sanction any participant who violates the Code of Conduct.

I hereby agree to these conditions, as a representative of the USBF.

After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the Code of Conduct.

Joan will send this Code to the ACBL Board of Directors per request in a motion before the Board at their meetings in Las Vegas. The Code of Conduct will be included in future Team Trials Bulletins.

VI. JUNIOR TRIALS

The Conditions of Contest committee – Jan Martel, Gary Blaiss, Jason Feldman & Joan Gerard completed the Conditions of Contest for the two Junior Trials to be held in Las Vegas and the teams have started to enter online.

Jan presented a proposed budget for the Junior Trials:

Director – Matt Smith – hotel room for two (2) nights, per diem and director’s fee	\$ 1000
Pre-duplicated boards - \$15 per set – estimated at	350
Vugraph for semi-finals and finals - \$300 per day for connection	300
Hotel room + per diem for 2 nights for Jan Martel	400

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved spending up to \$2000 on each of the two Junior Trials.

Note: Juniors do not pay entry fees.

FISU trials will also have a Round Robin to reduce to 4 teams, then a double elimination to choose two teams.

VII. TRIALS REPORT

Jan reported that final financial reports are not done. Best guess is that 2 of the Trials lost some money. Open Trials lost about \$3000. Women's Trials lost about \$2000. Senior Trials made about \$1000. Web site costs for the 3 Trials (programming for use of Bridgemates and online lineup submission) was about \$6000.

Jan reported that money was spent this year to set up Bridgemate scoring, which worked for the Women but not for the Open and wasn't used for the Seniors. Jan is hopeful that the Bridgemate people will change their programming so that we will be able to use them in the future.

We need Vugraph operators if we are going to continue our Vugraph presentations from the Trials. Preferably local so that operators do not have to be flown in and given hotel rooms. The Host group needs to provide monitors to go with people who smoke and need to go to the bathroom (if there is not a bathroom in the playing room). A source of funds for Vugraph would be helpful. Bob suggested that we charge \$1 a viewer to watch as one possible source of revenue if it could be worked out with BBO. Jan is to talk with Fred Gitelman and David Smith about this.

VIII. 2009 & 2010 TRIALS

OPEN TRIALS – The 2009 Open Trials will be in White Plains, NY starting on June 5th. Based on the current Conditions of Contest and assuming no more than 26 teams in the Round Robin, the Trials will end on June 15th.

WOMEN'S TRIALS – The 2009 Women's Trials will be in Sacramento, CA probably starting on May 23rd and ending on May 26th. If more than 10 teams enter the event it will start on May 21st. Jan will inform the Women's Committee that there needs to be a \$360 event entry fee in addition to the Session fee of \$120 per session so that the Women's Trials will not continue to lose money.

SENIOR'S TRIALS – At the moment we do not have a site for this event in 2009. The Green Valley Ranch in Las Vegas has suitable dates and playing space but is way out of our price range. San Antonio does not have enough playing space for more than 10 teams. We are looking at other locations and hope to have something to report soon.

2010 OPEN TRIAL (note that there are no Women's or Senior's Trials in 2010)

Joan has started negotiations with the Hyatt in Schaumburg for 2010. We hope to be able to use June dates and avoid Memorial week Regionals and the Las Vegas Regional. Although we might consider running in the late summer or early fall, we can't do that because the WBF has not yet scheduled the 2010 World Championships.

IX. FUTURE TRIALS

Jan stated that in the future we will be looking for hotels that are willing to give us private rooms with bathrooms starting with the Round of 8 and preferably the Round of 16. The security and convenience advantages are enormous.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Steve reported that he, Joan & George had investigated possible attorneys and had asked Marty Harris if he would be interested in serving as USBF attorney pending Board approval. Marty is interested and the Board unanimously approved his appointment pending a satisfactory arrangement regarding compensation.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Length of USBC

After much discussion about reducing the number of boards played in the Open Trials and possibly shortening the time allowed for each segment, a motion was made, seconded and passed to ask the ITTC to look into possible ways to reduce the time for the USBC. Jan will let Mike Becker know of our request and discussion.

B. Stipend for Beijing

George, Barbara, Steve & Jan will work out how much money we can give to each of our Beijing teams and report back to the Board for approval.

C. Auditor fee

Steve reported that we have an initial bill for the Audit work for \$1000+ but Barbara said there were some things to be worked out about the Audit fee and she will report back at the next meeting.

XII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be by conference call Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at 9:00PM CDT.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10PM CDT.