

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012**  
**1:00 PM EST**  
**BY CONFERENCE CALL**

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Joan Gerard, George Jacobs, Ralph Katz,  
Sylvia Moss (part of meeting), Howard Weinstein, Jonathan  
Weinstein

Others Present: Jan Martel, Barbara Nudelman, Joe Stokes (part of meeting),  
Marty Harris (part of meeting)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Joan Gerard, president, at 1:00 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 1/24/2012**

Minutes were approved as distributed.

**IV. BYLAW AMENDMENT REGARDING RESIDENT MEMBERS**

The Board discussed a draft Bylaw Amendment prepared by Marty Harris. Several provisions were revised and Marty will re-draft the Amendment for the Board's further consideration at its next meeting.

**V. JUNIOR TEAMS**

The Board approved the Rona Cup team for the 2012 World Junior Championships:

Taylor Compton (Dallas)

Marianna Linz (Boston)

Luz Ortega (Florida)

Sylvia Shi (DC/MD)

Isha Thapa (Palo Alto)

Becca Wernis (Pasadena)

Jenni Carmichael, NPC

The Board thanked Karen McCallum & Valerie Westheimer for volunteering to coach the Rona Cup team.

The Board approved Donna Compton as NPC of USA2 for the Patiño Cup.

Joe Stokes reported that travel plans are almost completed for the 2012 World Junior Championship and he will have a full report of itineraries and costs for the next meeting, but all of the young players will be flying with adults.

Joe also reported that he had just received an email from Mrs. Hunt saying that the Hunts will not be pursuing their objection to the way in which the Rona Cup team was selected.

The Board discussed its response to an email from Alex Ladyzhensky, who was unhappy with the procedure for selection and with the fact that his daughter hadn't been selected (Asya Ladyzhensky & Allison Hunt play together as partners and both had expected to be selected for the team but were not). Joe will send a letter to Mr. Ladyzhensky after review by the Junior Committee and Marty Harris.

## **VI. ITTC CHAIR SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Howie Weinstein reported that he had chaired a Search Committee to find a replacement for Mike Becker who has announced that he will be resigning as ITTC Chair effective after the ITTC meeting in Memphis. The Committee consisted of Howie, Joan Gerard, Mike Becker, Peter Boyd & Chip Martel. The committee had unanimously agreed that Jonathan Weinstein would be the best replacement for Mike and Jonathan had agreed to accept the position. The Board thanked the Search Committee and Jonathan and appointed Jonathan as Chair of the ITTC effective after the Memphis ITTC meeting (Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>).

## **VII. REQUEST BY DAVID GRAINGER TO BE ALLOWED TO ENTER 2012 USBC**

David Grainger has dual US and Canadian citizenship. He competed in the CNTC in 2010 and 2011 and last competed in a World Championship for Canada in 2005 (World Junior Championship). He now lives in Oregon and asked whether he was eligible to compete in the 2012 USBC. Joan asked the Chair of the WBF Credentials Committee whether the WBF would allow him to compete in the 2012 WMSG and was told that they would because at this time they don't take into consideration Zonal Championships and team selection events for purposes of the rule requiring that a player who has represented one country cannot represent another country for 3 years. The Board unanimously agreed to permit David Grainger to compete in the 2012 USBC, but expressly stated that if he subsequently plays in a selection event or World Championship for another country, he could not play in a USBC for 10 years.

## **VIII. TEAM UNIFORMS**

The question of what uniforms USBF would supply to teams (Open, Women's, Seniors & Juniors) was referred to a subcommittee of Joan Gerard, Barbara Nudelman, Jan Martel and Donna Compton. The committee will meet and make a recommendation to the Board.

## **IX. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Board discussed briefly the Financial reports distributed by Barbara. The Board decided to submit the Junior Report , in a more complete form and with a separate report of what the USBF Junior Fund had been used for, to the ACBL Board for its Memphis meeting. The Board further decided to submit a full financial report to the ACBL Board, with a President's Report regarding USBF activities, to the ACBL Board at its meeting in Philadelphia. The Junior Committee will meet soon to revise the Junior Fund Financial Report and prepare an Operational Report. Several Board members expressed a desire for a more complete financial report and Barbara will prepare one.

## **X. STIPEND FOR 2012 TEAMS**

Joan appointed a Stipend Committee of George, Barbara & Jan to make a proposal regarding what stipend should be distributed to USBF Open, Women's & Senior teams for the 2012 World Mind Sports Games. Barbara expressed concern that we don't yet know where the 2012 WMSG will be held. We all hope that we will know soon so that the stipend committee can come up with a proposal based on knowledge of the site.

## **XI. FUTURE TRIALS**

Joan reported that she is close to having a contract with the Buena Vista Hotel in Orlando for 2013 and is hoping to find a West Coast site for 2014. The Board directed Joan to try to find a site that is in a major city that is easy to fly to. San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver & Salt Lake City were discussed as possibilities. George suggested that if the Cavendish is going to be in Monaco in the Fall in even-numbered years, USBF should consider holding the USBC over Mother's Day – starting on the Friday or Saturday a week before Mother's Day and continuing through Mother's Day, since that is a time when there are no conflicting Regionals. Mother's Day in 2014 is May 11, so that would mean starting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **IX. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> or Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 pm EST by conference call, subject to approval by the Directors who were no longer present at the meeting when it finished.

Because of time pressures, some less pressing items on the Agenda were deferred to the Board's next meeting.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm EST