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MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, JULY 22, 2019
11:00 AM MDT
LAS VEGAS, NV

Directors Present: Kate Aker, Mark Aquino, Marty Fleisher, Brad Moss, Beth Palmer (by phone), Dave Caprera, Josh Parker (part of meeting, by phone)

*Others Present: Jan Martel, Julie Arbit, Stan Subeck, Suzi Subeck, Howard Weinstein, Joe Stokes, Adam Wildavsky (NABF Representative), Marty Harris (USBF Counsel), Bonnie Bagley (ACBL Board & USBF SM), Al Levy (ACBL BOARD, WBF Exec Comm), Eric Laurent (EBL VP), Jan Kamras (EBL President), Joe Jones (ACBL Executive Director)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Marty Fleisher at 11:03 am CDT.

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2019

The Minutes of the March 25, 2019 meetings were unanimously approved.

III. ACBL BOARD ACTIONS

Suzi Subeck reports that ACBL voted to remove titles of cheaters convicted going back to Aug 22, 2015 and from this point on, all future titles of convicted cheaters will be removed as well. Titles will remain "vacated," because it is too complicated to try to move lower placing pairs/teams up.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Stan Subeck reports that the audit is underway. The total retained now is over \$1m, up about \$200k from the end of 2018. These assets are split among the international fund (about \$300k of which will be spent for 2019 World Championships), junior fund, and unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds dropped due to WBF dues and USBC purchases.

V. 2019 USBC REPORT

Jan Martel reports that the sequential events worked well. We purchased boards for this year, and expect to buy bidding tablets and computers if bidding programming and BBO functionality (respectively) are completed by next year, which is expected.

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Hospitality expenses are continuing to rise. More hosts/hostesses will be recruited in the future to ease the job slightly.

The financial loss was not extreme or unusual, but given the high comparative cost of ACBL team event entries, we should consider raising entry fees, at least for later rounds. The issue will be discussed further by email.

VI. APPROVAL OF TEAMS FOR 2019 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Marty Harris confirms that if votes are unanimous, recusals and conflicts of interest are not an issue.

Two teams (BB USA2 & Venice Cup USA2) have 7 players listed, pending travel eligibility for winning team members for China. Justin Lall and Tobi Sokolow (replacements, respectively) have already been approved unanimously by the credentials committee as replacements.

Dave moves and Kate seconds the approval of all team members. All players are approved unanimously.

Team captain motions:

- i. Bermuda Bowl USA1 - Jill Levin – Dave moves, Kate seconds. Unanimous approval.
- ii. Bermuda Bowl USA2 - Jan Martel – Kate moves, Dave seconds. Unanimous approval (Brad & Marty abstain).
- iii. Venice Cup USA1 - Sam Dinkin – Brad moves, Kate seconds. Unanimous approval.
- iv. Venice Cup USA2 - Paul Lewis – Dave moves, Kate seconds. Unanimous approval.
- v. Senior's USA1 - Barbara Kastle – Dave moves, Brad seconds. Unanimous approval.
- vi. Senior's USA2 - Lisa Berkowitz – Kate moves, Brad seconds. Unanimous approval.
- vii. Mixed USA1 - Joe Stokes – Brad moves, Mark seconds. Unanimous approval.
- viii. Mixed USA2 - Jeff Aker – Brad moves, Dave seconds. Unanimous approval (Kate abstains).

VII. STIPEND COMMITTEE REPORT

Jan reports that the committee met by email. They agreed that more than 2 days are required to acclimate to time zones. They recommend:

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\$241 Per diem for each day of play, and for 4 days pre-tournament to acclimate to time zone (must be in same time zone, but not necessarily in Wuhan) and 1 day to prepare for departure. \$106 Per diem for 2 travel days

Teams that qualify for the Semifinals will receive per diem for all 14 days of the tournament, provided they attend the Closing Ceremony.

Specific amounts (the Round Robin is 8 days long, each KO stage is 2 days):

Players whose team does not qualify for KO stage: \$3345 ($\$241 \cdot 13 + \$106 \cdot 2$).

Players whose team loses in the Quarterfinal: \$3827 ($\$241 \cdot 15 + \$106 \cdot 2$)

Players whose team makes the Semifinal and who attend the Closing Ceremony: \$4791 ($(\$241 \cdot 19 + \$106 \cdot 2)$)

Dave moves to accept the proposal and Mark seconds. Dave, Mark, Josh, and Beth vote yea; Kate, Marty, and Brad abstain.

VIII. JUNIOR ELIGIBILITY FOR JUSBC AND THE ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM

Joe Stokes reports that some junior players from outside the US are participating in our online training program and also representing other countries in international junior bridge events. The Junior Committee recommends that junior players who live in the US but are citizens of other countries and who participate in the USBF Junior Online Training Program and/or play in the biannual JUSBC must list USA as their home country for international junior bridge during the time they are living more than six months a year in the USA. After January 2, 2020, if a non-US citizen living in the USA lists their country affiliation as other than USA in international bridge tournaments, s/he will no longer be eligible to participate in the USBF Junior Online Training Program or to compete in the JUSBC.

Dave moves to accept the proposal and Mark seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

IX. 2020 USBCS

A time-sensitive issue is the notion of raising entry fees. One option is to raise fees only for rounds AFTER Round Robin and first KO match. Stan will put together projections for how helpful this would be to the USBF financial status quo 5-10 years in the future so as to better inform a decision.

Another time-sensitive issue is the rules of playing in multiple events and competing in world championships. Marty proposes a committee to consider complaints and attempt to get a sense of the effect of new rules on general players – Beth, Dave, Mark agree to form a committee and report back with an email report with recommendations by the end of August.

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There will be a different order of events in 2020 – Open, Mixed, Seniors, and Women’s concurrent with Seniors. This eliminates problem of people who would rather play in Seniors/Women’s than the Mixed in the World Championship as well as women who want to play in the Open USBC.

X. RESIDENT MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Resident member applications for Radu Nistor and Raluca Nistor go to vote. Brad moves and Kate seconds their approval. The motion passes unanimously.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session and invited Marty Harris, Stan Subeck, Jan Martel, and Julie Arbit to join; other attendees left.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm MDT.