

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
8/9/2005
8 PM CST
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Jan Martel called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM CST

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

Board Members Present: Steve Beatty, Bob Hamman, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Bill Pollack, Shawn Quinn

Others Present: Gary Blaiss, Peter Rank, Michael Becker

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MEETING OF 5/25/05

The Minutes of 5/25/05 were approved with a minor amendment

IV. REVIEW OF 2005 USBCS

Jan noted that we don't yet have final financial statements for any of the USBCs, but that all of them lost money. Need to evaluate whether we want to change anything before next year (note that only USBC in 2006).

V. APPOINT USBF RECORDER?

Report from Rose Meltzer about incident at Women's Trials and suggestion that USBF should have a Recorder. Rose will look into possible people to serve as Recorder and also try to develop a "job description" for the Recorder, with Gary's assistance.

VI. APPROVE ESTORIL TEAMS & NPCS

The Board approved all of the nominated teams and NPCs for Estoril. Between meetings, the Executive Committee approved Rozanne Pollack as NPC of Venice Cup 1, so all of our teams now have NPCs.

VII. ESTORIL ENTRY FEES

The WBF has taken the position that the entry fee is \$4700 per team for any team that didn't make hotel reservations through Top Atlantico, despite the fact that all of the literature we have been able to find said the entry fee was \$3500 per team so long as players stayed in "designated hotels." Jan has been

discussing with Jeff Polisner and Anna Gudge, has sent list of which hotels our players are staying in, will talk with José in Estoril. Unfortunately, we paid the higher amount (even for the Nickell team who did reserve through Top Atlantico) because Rena was on vacation when the bill arrived at ACBL.

It was agreed that Jan would ask the ACBL reps to the WBF to intercede on our behalf. Jan has done so with mixed response. Some of the reps believe that it is appropriate for us to pay the higher entry fee for all teams that did not reserve through Top Atlantico, although all agree that the letter requesting the entry fee did not make that requirement. The representatives have promised to continue to work on this in Estoril

VIII. ESTORIL SYSTEMS

WBF Convention cards for all 3 events are due August 15. All of our teams have filed their convention cards.

IX. 2006 USBC

Dates in Fall of 2006 (September-October). Possibilities for location are Santa Clara, NYC, Memphis. We will hold in Memphis unless we can get sponsorship for either Santa Clara or NYC. For the future, we will look for other possibilities. Note that 2007 USBC/USWBC is scheduled for June 4-12 in Chicago.

X. JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MAHAFFEY)

The Board agreed to take over this fund. Jan called and discussed with Mahaffey and Peter Rank has prepared new documentation. The Education Foundation wanted assurance that the purposes of the Fund are within USBF authorized purposes. Jan & Peter informed Education Fund that if they wanted a review of this, their attorneys should do it at their expense. Haven't heard back

XI. JUNIOR TEAMS FOR 2006

A. Schools team – 1 or 2?

Deferred to a later meeting when Joan and Charlotte could be here.

B. Training

The Board agreed to organize BBO sessions for the Juniors, and get some of our experts to volunteer to play and then critique. Also some bidding practice sessions, either on BBO or using hands we send them to bid and then someone looks at and discusses with them.

XII. INDONESIA

The Board delegated selection of a team to the Executive Committee. Only a few players were actually interested in going. The Executive Committee approved a team of Chris Compton, Jacek Pszczola, JC Carruthers & Howard Weinstein.

XIII. ACBL MOTION RE GIVING US \$1 FROM EACH MEMBER'S DUES

Motion was deferred to Denver because there was no supporting information. Unlikely it will pass, but we need to provide ACBL Board with our current financial position, fund-raising possibilities, and what we would do with \$150,000 a year if they actually gave it to us. Steve will work on this.

XIV. INCREASE DONATIONS FROM ACBL REQUEST WITH DUES?

Jan's proposal: Increase the requested amount to \$5 or \$10 and for every \$5 or \$10 contribution, the contributor receives an entry into a monthly drawing – prize is one session of on-line bridge with an expert of the winner's choice (I thought we'd let them name 3 and promise they'd get one of the three, but limit to people who hadn't been chosen within the last 6 months, so no-one has to do it more than twice a year). Anyone who contributes \$25 or more also gets an invitation to a cocktail get-together Rose has agreed to host at the next NABC.

Jan has looked into possibilities for collecting payments online. Paypal charges thirty cents plus 2% per transaction, so we'd only get about \$4.50 for every \$5 donated. Jan is trying to find out how ACBL accepts credit card payments online and whether that's any cheaper.

XV. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 8 PM CST.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 CST