

04.2 NABC – New York, NY
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
Sunday, July 11, 2004, 10:30 A.M.

Michael Becker, ITTC Chairman, conducted the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Present: Gary Blaiss, Peter Boyd, Chris Compton, Mark Feldman, Joan Gerard, Jan Martel, Chip Martel, Dan Morse, Barbara Nudelman, Shawn Quinn, Barnet Shenkin, John Sutherlin, Howard Weinstein, Bobby Wolff

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 21, 2004, Reno, NV, spring 2004 NABC meeting were approved.

Comments on the 2004 USBC

Becker led a discussion of the 2004 USBC.

The 2004 USBC Financial Report was not ready yet.

Gary Blaiss reported that the 2004 USBC was in all respects the best USBC ever. The players enjoyed it and the staff had few problems. The 2.5 day format was well received and internet broadcasting was increased. The Committee proposed that the USBF provide as much internet coverage of the USBC as possible.

Becker thanked all those who volunteered to assist in the broadcasts: Jan Martel, Jo Anna Stansby, Gary Blaiss, Rick Beye, Jo Morse, Paul Luxweiler, Dave Smith and others. Becker also thanked Rena Hetzer, Barbara Nudelman and Joan Gerard for the fine hospitality they provided over the years.

Comments on the USBC General Conditions of Contest

Jan Martel noted that the system summary forms worked reasonably well, considering this was the first time they were in use. However, a few players did not fill out the form or filled the form out sparsely. Blaiss suggested that a computer literate person be designated to assist computer challenged players in filling out the form.

A curtailed board during the RR stage provoked a discussion, but it was agreed to continue the current policy that a curtailed board's result at the other table was "rub of the green." There were no proposals to change our current policies on time and slow play.

USBF Update

Jan Martel and Chris Compton reported that the USBC and USSBC #2 teams and the USWBC's #1 team would represent the USA in Istanbul. If the venue is changed prior to September 1st, the #1 teams would replace the #2 teams. After that date, the #2 teams will be certain to be the USBF's Olympiad Teams.

Compton reported that the USBF still had \$150,000 in its treasury and that the \$1.95 tag line donations had inched up to about \$6,000 a month.

Shawn Quinn presented a written report on the 2005 USBC, (appended), suggesting net revenues to the USBF from all sources of \$35,000 to \$75,000, even though Gallery Furniture was contributing \$30,000 rather than \$75,000 to the event. The proposed early June date of the 2005 USBC would have to be moved due to a conflict with a nearby regional. The ITTC approved shifting the USBC to a mid-May date. Quinn offered several ideas to make the regional special, including a raffle based on predicting winning teams each K/O round and viewgraph in the regional playing area. Quinn estimated at least 20 experts would volunteer to play in the charity event, either coming from R16 winners or losers, teams entering with byes to the QF or others playing in the regional. Mark Feldman objected to scheduling the charity event in the middle of the 2005 USBC as it may add an extra day to the event. While others sympathized, the ITTC is committed for 2005 to hold a charity event after the R16 concludes. Becker suggested the sessions preceding the R16 be two or three days rather than the 1.5, 2.5 or 3.5 days currently, so the USBC RR could start in the morning. The CoCC was asked to sculpt the conditions to provide for the one session evening charity event.

2006 USBC

Compton alerted the committee that the 2006 World Bridge Championships were scheduled from June 10-June 24, conflicting with the usual time of the USBC. The committee noted that the 2006 USBC for USA I in the 2007 Bermuda Bowl could and should be scheduled after the 2006 Summer NABC.

Thank You

Becker thanked Peter Boyd for his fine editing of the CoC over the years. The Committee applauded Becker for leading the ITTC.

Conditions of Contest Committee Chair

Since Chris Compton began serving on the USBF Board two years ago, he has been unable to perform his duties as CoCC chair. Becker has been filling in for him. There being no one else interested in chairing the CoCC, the committee appointed Becker to replace Compton as Chair of the CoCC.

Old Business

Blais suggested (again) that the USBF try to develop a special form of USBF membership that raises money thru dues and offers something of value in return.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

APPENDIX to 04.2 MINUTES

2005 United States Bridge Championships
Update from Shawn Quinn

Rough Budget:

Donations (Sponsorship)	\$30,000
Charity Game Proceeds	\$10,000 to \$20,000
Regional Proceeds	\$5,000 to \$20,000

Charity Game Format

Two expert pairs (hopefully Hamman/Soloway and Meckstroth/Rodwell) will play some hands privately. Pairs will enter the event and choose one of the pairs as their teammates. The entrant's results will be compared with their teammates with a North/South winner and an East/West winner being awarded. Entry fees will be \$100 per pair.

In addition to those expert volunteers, we will have other experts volunteer to play in the event with a patron. We will pre-sell the experts for \$250 each.

We will have hospitality expenses for the event that I am estimating will be approximately \$25 per person. Therefore I expect to net at least \$10,000 from this event with a real possibility of netting \$20,000.

I realize that this is a mild inconvenience to some of the Trials participants. But I also think the benefits are very important to the expert community. First of all, we are helping to raise money for ourselves. Secondly, creating the situation where the bridge community at large has an opportunity to interface with and even play with experts will create a lot of goodwill. This has the potential to benefit us in several ways:

1. Possible increase in donations (the \$1.95 check-off box in addition to others).
2. Possible increase in membership.
3. Demonstrate to the ACBL that the expert bridge community is an asset.

Demonstrating the ability to generate sizable revenue from an event structured solely for the purpose of playing bridge with us will give us more currency with the league.

NOTE: This report given at the 2004 New York Summer NABC.