



WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CONGRESS

Saturday, 11th August 2012 – 09:30
Lille, France

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr. J. Ortiz-Patiño, President Emeritus
Mr. José Damiani, Chairman Emeritus
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Mr George Retek, Secretary
Mr Jeff Polisner, General Counsel

The following Executive Council Members attended

Mrs Sevinç Atay
Mr Yves Aubry
Mr Bruce Blakely
Mrs Chen Zelen
Mr Patrick Choy
Mr Jean-Louis Derivery
Mr Ernesto d'Orsi
Mrs Joan Gerard
Mr David Harris
Ms Georgia Heth
Mr Mazhar Jafri
Mr Radek Kielbasinski
Mr Bernard Pascal
Mr John Wignall

Also in Attendance

Ms. Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the President

The meeting was called to order at 09.30 a.m. by the President, Mr. Rona, who welcomed the delegates to this Congress meeting and thanked them for their presence in Lille. The meeting then proceeded as follows:

1. Roll Call to Determine Quorum

Mr George Retek declared a quorum. The following member NBOs were represented by their President or his accredited representative, or by that representative's proxy:

ARGENTINA	GERMANY	PAKISTAN
AUSTRALIA	GREECE	PANAMA
AUSTRIA	GUADELOUPE	PHILIPPINES
BELGIUM	ICELAND	POLAND
BERMUDA	INDIA	ROMANIA
BOTSWANA	IRELAND	RUSSIA
BRAZIL	ISRAEL	SAN MARINO
CANADA	ITALY	SCOTLAND
CHINA	JAPAN	SINGAPORE
CHINA HONG KONG	JORDAN	SLOVAKIA
CHINA MACAU	KENYA	SOUTH AFRICA
CHINESE TAIPEI	LUXEMBOURG	SPAIN
COSTA RICA	MALAYSIA	SWEDEN
CROATIA	MARTINIQUE	THAILAND
CYPRUS	MEXICO	TRINIDAD &
DENMARK	MOROCCO	TOBAGO
ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS	TURKEY
FINLAND	(THE)	UKRAINE
FRANCE	NEW ZEALAND	USA
	NORWAY	WALES

The President declared the meeting open, there being 56 NBOs represented.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2010 Meeting

The minutes of the 2010 meeting of Congress, held on 8th October 2010 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which had previously been circulated to all NBOs, were approved and ordered filed with the official records of the Federation.

3. President's Report

The President requested the delegates to stand in silence in memory of Mr Ding Guan Gen, the former President of the WBF Congress who died a few days ago. He then read his report.

He emphasized the changes to the structure of the organization. During the past two years, an office had been established in Lausanne and we have obtained official recognition from the Canton de Vaud which will give us fiscal and administrative benefits.

A great deal of emphasis had been placed on the development of Youth bridge which we hope will produce benefits in the years to come.

He thanked the staff who had worked with him over the years and the delegates for attending the meeting.

The report was adopted with acclamation.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. De Pauw presented his report which summarized the financial position of the WBF at end 2010 and 2011.

He explained that the objects of the WBF were to match the fixed items of expenditure with the fixed income. To date this has been satisfactorily achieved with the variable items showing a reasonable amount of income over expenditure.

The President thanked Mr De Pauw for his report which was adopted.

5. Future Championships

The President informed the meeting of the forthcoming future events.

Mr Pascal, speaking on behalf of Zone 8, referred to the level of entry fees for world events. For small countries the entry fees are proportionally very high. The rules regarding participation in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Seniors Cup, mean they cannot play if they have not taken part in Lille. Thus it is likely that they will not participate in the Zonal Championships next year since they could not qualify in any case.

The President thanked him for his comment which will be given consideration.

Esther Sophonpanich pointed out that several countries from Zone 6 would be participating in the PABF Congress starting on 24th August, the day after these World Bridge Games finish. Since they were unable to attend both, it seems harsh that they cannot qualify to play in Bali.

Samina Esmail from Kenya endorsed what Mr Pascal said for the countries in Africa and asked that the Executive give this some consideration.

6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

The President thanked all the delegates for coming and, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned sine die at 10:34.