



WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CONGRESS Thursday, 16th October 2014 Sanya, China

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr. José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr Ernesto d'Orsi, Past President and E.C. member
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Ms Georgia Heth, Honorary Secretary
Mr Jeff Polisner, General Counsel

The following Executive Council Members attended

Mrs Sevinç Atay
Mr Yves Aubry
Mr Bruce Blakely
Mrs Chen Zelan
Mr Patrick Choy
Mr David Harris
Mr Mazhar Jafri
Mr Paul Janicki
Mr Radek Kielbasinski
Mr. Alvin Levy
Mr Bernard Pascal
Mrs. Sheena Rayner
Mr Merlin Vilhauer
Mr John Wignall

The following Committee of Honour Members attended

Mr. Jean-Claude Beineix
Mr. Panos Gerontopoulos
Mr. George Retek
Mrs. Anna Maria Torlontano

Also in Attendance

Mr. Robert Hartman, ACBL CEO,
Mrs. Esther Sophonpanich, APBF President
Ms. Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the Executive Council

The meeting was called to order at 09.00 a.m. by the President, Mr. Rona, who welcomed the delegates to this Congress meeting and thanked them for their presence in Sanya. The meeting then proceeded as follows:

1. Roll Call to Determine Quorum

Ms Georgia Heth declared a quorum. The following member NBOs were represented by their President or his accredited representative, or by that representative's proxy:

ARGENTINA	FRANCE	NORWAY
AUSTRALIA	GERMANY	PAKISTAN
AUSTRIA	GREECE	PHILIPPINES
BARBADOS	GUADELOUPE	POLAND
BELGIUM	HUNGARY	SAN MARINO
BERMUDA	INDONESIA	SCOTLAND
BRAZIL	ISRAEL	SINGAPORE
BULGARIA	ITALY	SLOVAKIA
CANADA	JAPAN	SWEDEN
CHILE	KUWAIT	THAILAND
CHINA	LEBANON	TUNISIA
CROATIA	MONACO	TURKEY
DENMARK	MOROCCO	USA
EGYPT	NETHERLANDS	WALES
ENGLAND	(THE)	
FINLAND	NEW ZEALAND	

The President declared the meeting open, there being 45 NBOs represented.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2012 Meeting

The minutes of the 2012 meeting of Congress, held on 11th August 2012 in Lille, France, 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 presented the apologies of Mr Zeng Peiyan, the new President of Congress who had prior commitments in China and could not be at the meeting. He then read his report.

He thanked the President of the CCBA, Mr Xiang Huaicheng, and all our Chinese friends for hosting this tournament in Sanya.

He also reminded the delegates of the sad passing of Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, Joan Gerard, Jens Auken and Jean-Louis Derivery, all of whom were at the last meeting in Lille.

The President gave an overview of what has been achieved during his first term including establishing a headquarters in Lausanne, revising the WBF organization; establishing the legal status in Switzerland, Constitution and Statutes and improving information and communication.

He reported in some detail on WADA and anti-doping which is a very important topic. Despite believing that doping does not exist in bridge, the results of surveys undertaken in Lille 2012, Bali in 2013 and Istanbul in 2014 reveal something different.

The President also touched on the changes to the Disciplinary Procedures, the cancellation of the Appeals Committees, and new categories in Youth Bridge. He summarized the various championships and explained the relations between the WBF and other international bodies, including SportAccord.

Finally, he thanked the Executives and the staff who had worked with him over the years and the delegates for attending the meeting.

The report was adopted by acclamation.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. De Pauw presented his report which summarized the financial position of the WBF over the past 4 years.

He explained that the first object of the WBF was to match the fixed items of expenditure with the fixed income and this has been achieved. Overall, the net assets of the WBF have been substantially increased over the past four year period.

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

5. Presentation of new Teaching Programme

The President Emeritus introduced Mr Stéphane Messika who made a presentation on a new teaching programme that the French Bridge Federation is going to launch. This programme MOOC (Massive On-line Open Courses) is web-based and can be modified by the

teachers to add more or less content and to check on students' progress.

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 10:45.