



WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CONGRESS Thursday, 8th September 2016 Wroclaw, Poland

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr. José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr John Wignall, 1st Vice President
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Ms Georgia Heth, Honorary Secretary
Mr David Harris, General Counsel
Mr Mike Joyce, Sports Coordination Manager, IOC
Mr Simon Fellus, Secretary

The following Executive Council Members attended

Mrs Sevinç Atay
Mr Yves Aubry
Mr Marcelo Caracci
Mrs Chen Zelan
Mr Patrick Choy
Mr Mazhar Jafri
Mr Paul Janicki
Mr Radek Kielbasinski
Mr. Alvin Levy
Mr Bernard Pascal
Mrs. Sheena Rayner
Mr Merlin Vilhauer
Mr Howard Weinstein

The following Committee of Honour Members attended

Mr Panos Gerontopoulos
Mr. George Retek

Also in Attendance

Mr Dirk De Clercq, Assistant Treasurer
Mr. Robert Hartman, ACBL CEO
Mr Per Jannersten
Ms. Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the Executive Council

The meeting was called to order at 09.08 a.m. by the President, Mr. Rona, who welcomed the delegates to this Congress meeting and thanked them for their presence in Wroclaw. The meeting then proceeded as follows:

Mr Per Jannersten introduced the dignitaries at the top table.

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	Finland	New Zealand
Australia	France	Norway
Bangladesh	Germany	Pakistan
Belgium	Hungary	Palestine
Bermuda	India	Poland
Bosnia&Herzegovina	Indonesia	Portugal
Brazil	Ireland	San Marino
Canada	Israel	Scotland
Chile	Italy	Singapore
China	Japan	South Africa
Chinese Taipei	Jordan	Spain
Croatia	Luxembourg	Sweden
Cyprus	Macau	Switzerland
Denmark	Malaysia	Thailand
Dominican Republic	Mexico	Turkey
Egypt	Monaco	Ukraine
England	Netherlands	USA
Estonia	New Caledonia	

The President declared the meeting open, there being 53 NBOs represented. In particular, he welcomed the presence of the Sports Co-ordination Manager of the IOC, Mr Mike Joyce.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2014 Meeting

The minutes of the 2014 meeting of Congress, held on 16th October 2014 in Sanya, China, which had previously been circulated to all NBOs, were approved and ordered filed with the official records of the Federation.

These were approved unanimously.

3. President's Report

The President began by thanking the Polish Bridge Union, its President Mr Witold Stachnik and its Former and Honour President Radek Kielbasinski for hosting these Championships. He then reminded the delegates of the sad passing of both Patrick Jourdain, President of the IBPA and Goran Grguric and together with the President Emeritus reminded the passing, after the last session of the Congress in Sanya, of two pillars of the WBF, Ernesto d'Orsi and Jean-Claude Beineix. The President asked the delegates to stand for a moment's silence in their memory.

The President read his report which is attached as Exhibit 3.

The report was adopted by acclamation.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report to the delegates, copy of which had been circulated to all present. He outlined the financial management policy guidelines which were: 1. To break even on the fixed side; 2. To consolidate and increase financial reserves of the WBF; and 3. To increase the Youth and Development and Promotion Fund. He confirmed that all these targets had been realized and said that the WBF was in a sound financial position and had substantially increased its equity. When questioned, he confirmed that the investment portfolio is controlled by the Banque Delen in Switzerland.

The accounts for 2014-2015 and the budgets for 2016 and 2017 were unanimously approved.

The President thanked Mr De Pauw for his report (attached as Exhibit 4) which was adopted by acclamation.

5. Proposed amendments to the articles 8(h) and 11 of the WBF Constitution and the addition of articles 15, 16 and 17

The President introduced the proposed changes to the Constitution and Mr Harris then explained what was needed.

Mr Nader Hanna, Canada, asked for clarification of the wording of Article 8 concerning the majority required to vote. Mr Harris explained and added that this was required by Swiss law.

Mr Micke Melander, Sweden, also questioned the wording of Article 8 with respect to the dissolution and asked whether it was a two-thirds majority or 75%. Mr Harris explained that it was a two-thirds majority of 75% of the Congress present.

Although Article 11 already exists in the Constitution, the change is in the way in which the amendments to the By-Laws come into effect, i.e., immediately upon a decision being taken by the Executive Council subject to there being no objections from the NBOs within 60 days of written notification.

Mr Mike Ash, Scotland, asked about Article 17 with respect to sanctions. It was explained that Article 17 allows the WBF, at its discretion, to apply sanctions that are in compliance with the proposed Guidelines enacted in 2015. He then suggested that this information be sent to the NBOs as well as posted on the website.

Mr David Stern, Australia, asked if he was banned in Scotland and by the EBL would the WBF then impose the same ban? The answer to this question was probably based on the particular circumstances. He then asked about the effect of ACBL sanctions. The ACBL is not an Olympic member therefore the WBF cannot give reciprocity to its decisions. The ACBL does give

reciprocity to other NBO and WBF sanctions if they comply with the Guidelines. The ACBL publishes a list of all pending ethical charges and players currently under sanction on its website.

Upon motion duly made and seconded:

Art. 8, lett. h) – Dissolution and liquidation

The Congress shall have the exclusive power to resolve upon the dissolution of the WBF. This decision requires a two-thirds majority of 75% of all Delegates to the Congress. If the WBF is dissolved, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on the WBF shall be fully discharged and its remaining assets, if any, shall be donated to organizations active in activities similar to bridge.

Article 11 – By-laws

The Executive Council shall adopt a set of By-Laws providing for the rules of enforcement of the Statutes and the regulation and management of the affairs of the WBF. Thereafter, the By-Laws or any part of them may be amended by the Executive Council by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all its members entitled to vote.

Any amendment shall enter into force on the date of the decision of the Executive Council. The amendment shall be notified to the members as soon as practicable. If a majority of the members addresses a written objection to the amendment to the President within 60 days from the entry into force of the amendment, the amendment shall be considered as null and void.

The amendments to Articles 8 and 11 were approved unanimously.

Article 15 – Principle of Autonomy

Members and Zonal Conferences retain their entire autonomy and independence of action and are free to set up their internal organisation as they see fit, within the limits imposed by this Constitution. The WBF observes strict neutrality in the internal affairs of its members.

Article 16 - Jurisdiction for competitions

The WBF, members and Zonal Conferences shall have jurisdiction (including, without limitation, technical and disciplinary jurisdiction) over the competitions governed by their own statutes and competition regulations, as provided by the WBF By-laws.

This Article 16 shall not prevent the WBF from issuing regulations providing for certain of its rules and regulations to apply within the context of qualification systems for WBF Events and events that award WBF Master-points under the jurisdiction of members or Zonal Conferences.

In case of dispute between any entities (WBF, member(s), Zonal Conference(s)) as to who shall assume jurisdiction over a disciplinary matter, the WBF shall decide at its own discretion. The WBF's decision shall be final and binding on all members and Zonal Conferences.

Article 17 – Principle of Reciprocity

Each member and Zonal Conference must accept and respect all decisions taken by other members and/or Zonal Conferences in disciplinary matters. In particular, all members and Zonal Conferences shall apply and enforce sanctions of other members or Zonal Conferences or of the WBF (including for the avoidance of doubt suspensions or bans) within their geographical jurisdiction, provided that such sanction respects the principles set out in this Constitution and in any other WBF Regulations.

All sanctions must be reported to the WBF in a timely manner by the member and/or Zonal Conference imposing the same.

The WBF may, at its discretion, decide to apply a sanction rendered by a member or a Zonal Conference to the events under its jurisdiction and/or grant worldwide effect to it.

All decisions rendered by the WBF in application of this Article shall be final and binding on all members and Zonal Conferences.

The addition of Articles 15, 16 and 17 were approved unanimously

6. Presentation of the General Principles of the WBF Constitution & By-Laws

Mr Rona then discussed the need to make further changes to the Constitution and By-Laws to follow the rules of the IOC. These include the right of Congress to elect representatives to the Executive and determination on whether the Congress or the Executive elect the President of the Executive. In addition, Zone 2 - North America – will be formally constituted and it is possible the ACBL will be made an associate member of the WBF. As soon as a draft of the Constitution has been defined by the Executive Council it will be forwarded to all the affiliated NBOs to be then submitted to the approval of the Congress.

Mr. Ata Aydin from Turkey expressed his opinion saying that being part of the Olympic Committee is not only a privilege but constitutes a great indispensable support for the National Bridge Federations. He said that the changes in the Constitution have to be approved as soon as possible and the Congress has to elect the members of the Executive Council, being the supreme body of our organisation.

7. Cartamundi

The President welcomed the Cartamundi officials, Jean-Jacques Maartense & Philippe De Somer, who gave a presentation on their corporation and their wish to cooperate with the WBF to provide the playing cards. They presented the Co-operation Agreement which will give WBF 3% on the annual sales and was a three-year renewable Agreement.

The officials outlined some of the advances in technology that they were working on, all of which would benefit the WBF. Cartamundi will promote bridge as much as possible as part of the partnership.

8. Presentation for 2017 Lyon

Mr Patrick Bogachi, Vice President of the FFB gave the presentation on the forthcoming championships to be held in Lyon in 2017. He apologized on behalf of President Patrick Grenthe, Vice President Jean-Daniel Chalet and General Director Eric Remy who were missing for medical reasons but who sent their best wishes and looked forward to seeing everyone next year in Lyon. This presentation will be posted on the WBF website. Two new events include the First International Bridge School Championship, a school pupil championship which will be of interest to the media.

Mr Damiani added that he is a fan of school bridge and all federations that send a delegation to Lyon will be very welcome. The FFB is prepared to offer full board to the youngsters. It is a very short event however it could be very interesting.

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Hartono from Indonesia reported that bridge may be included in the Asian Games in 2018 but still needs support from the Asian countries.

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9. Presentation of University Bridge and relations with FISU

The President noted that FISU could not be discussed or presented since Geert Magerman was not present in Wroclaw.

10. Unfinished business

There was no unfinished business.

11. Adjournment

The President thanked all the delegates for coming and, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned sine die at 11:45.