



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Veldhoven, The Netherlands
Monday, 17th October 2011 – 09:30 am**

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, President Emeritus
Mr José Damiani, Chairman Emeritus

Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member
Mr Yves Aubry, Member
Ms Chen Zelan, Member
Mr Patrick Choy, Member
Mr Marc De Pauw, Member
Mr Ernesto d'Orsi, Member
Mr Jean-Louis Derivery, Member
Mrs Joan Gerard, Member
Mr David Harris, Proxy for Mr Jens Auken
Ms Georgia Heth, Member
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Member
Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Member
Mr Al Levy, Member
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member
Mr George Retek, Member
Mr Jonathan Steinberg, Member
Mr John Wignall, Member

Also in Attendance

Mr Jeff Polisner, General Counsel
Ms Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the Executive Council

Excused

Mr Robert S. Wolff, Past President

Invited

Mr Jean-Claude Beineix, Honorary Member of the WBF
Mrs Lilian Sun, Translator for Mrs Chen Zelan

The President called the meeting to order at 09:30 am. After declaring a quorum, the meeting proceeded as follows.

1. Item 8 – Membership

a) Kenya

Mr Pascal, President of Zone 8, reported on the situation in Kenya where two entities – the Kenya Bridge Association and the Kenya Bridge Africa Ltd – were claiming to be the official NBO for Kenya. After extensive research and having received solid proof that the Kenya Bridge Association was recognized by the Kenya Sports Council and was able to produce its statutes, the Management Committee of Zone 8 decided to recognize the Kenya Bridge Association which was the original entity set up many years ago.

General Counsel noted that the By-Laws state, in the event that there are two entities in a Zone which claim to be the official NBO, it is up to the Zone to decide which one they are going to accept and to inform the WBF accordingly.

Mr Pascal will write to the WBF informing them of this decision and will travel to Kenya to meet with both the entities and explain the decision to them. The Executive approved.

The Executive authorized the President, with the approval of General Counsel, to accept the official letter from Zone 8 informing the WBF of the official NBO.

b) Cuba

There was some discussion on the situation in Cuba but it was decided not to take any decision at the present time but to monitor the situation closely.

The President reported that a simple questionnaire had been sent to all concerning the National Olympic Committees. Only 25 responses had been received.

2. Item 25 - WBF Eligibility Policy & Zones Eligibility Policy

General Counsel read his report on the WBF Eligibility Policy & Zones Eligibility Policy which is attached as Annex 25 to these Minutes.

There was a great deal of discussion on the need to clarify the rules of eligibility and harmonize these throughout the organization both at national and zonal level. These rules will not apply to WBF Junior events.

It was decided that while WBF regulations would accept bona-fide residents, should a national federation have stricter rules, then these would apply.

The Executive agreed on the proposed regulations which would come into effect on 1st January 2013.

General Counsel will prepare the new regulations with the President.

The President reported that a warning will be sent to an NBO concerning the lack of merit of two appeals filed by a Bermuda Bowl team. In future such incidents by this NBO may be sent to the Disciplinary Commission.

3. Item 14 – Disciplinary Code, Disciplinary Commission, Appeals Committee, Amendment to the By-Laws

a) Amendment to the By-Laws

General Counsel suggested the following amendments:

Amend Article 8.9c to read:

"All issues of eligibility to participate in world championship events, as well as all qualification events which may be run by a Zone or NBO, are governed by regulations to be enacted by the Executive which may be amended from time to time."

This was approved unanimously by more than 75% of the Executive Council and will become effective following approval of the NBOs.

Amend Article 8.11 to read:

"Disciplinary Commission and Appeals Tribunal

The President shall appoint a Disciplinary Commission consisting of not fewer than five (5) members, at least two of whom shall be members of the Executive Council. The function and duties of the Disciplinary Commission shall be to investigate and judge any matter involving alleged unethical or reprehensible conduct or behavior as assigned to it by the President which may be in violation of the Disciplinary Code as adopted by the Executive. Any appeal of a determination of the Disciplinary Commission shall be made to an Appeals Tribunal which shall be appointed by the President and which shall not include any member of the Executive who served on the Disciplinary Commission that rendered the determination being appealed. The WBF General Counsel, or his designee, shall represent the WBF as the prosecutor before the Disciplinary Commission as well as before the Appeals Tribunal."

This was approved by more than a 75% majority, with one against, and will become effective following approval of the NBOs.

Amend Article 10.3.3 as follows:

"The Tournament Appeals Committee shall hear and adjudicate timely filed appeals from rulings made by a tournament director as well as any other matters assigned to it by the President."

This was approved by more than a 75% majority, with one against, and will become effective following approval of the NBOs.

b) Disciplinary Code

After certain modifications, this was approved unanimously. The amended version is attached to these minutes as Annex 14b.

4. Item 11 – IOC: update on IOC matters

The President read his report which is attached as Annex 11.

General Counsel will prepare a regulation concerning illegal betting that will be inserted in the Daily Bulletin.

Mr Auken joined the meeting, as did Mr Panos Gerontopoulos as an observer.

5. Item 12 – WADA: Compliance with the WADA Anti-Doping Code

Mr Auken gave a verbal report and said that WADA has agreed that out-of-competition testing can be held the day before the start of the Championships. The WBF did 4 tests immediately following the Captain's meeting. There will be 6 more random tests during this Championship. In addition, the WBF is not obliged to provide the addresses of the players.

Mr Auken expressed his sincere gratitude to Mrs Gudge for all her very hard work and assistance in this matter.

The President said that it was thanks to the excellent work that Mr Auken had done that WADA had agreed to allow the WBF to undertake the out-of-competition testing in this way and he expressed the thanks of the Executive. He also said that in view of this, the WBF would have to be very rigid in carrying out this testing.

The report was adopted with acclamation.

6. Item 16 – WBF Dress Code Policy

The President outlined the WBF dress code policy. After some amendments, the dress code was approved and the amended version is attached as Annex 16.

There was a vote on the penalty to be imposed and this was approved with 4 votes against. It was later decided that, instead of the penalty, if a player was not in uniform, the WBF would give him or her one warning; the second time, the player would not be allowed to play.

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Mr Auken left the meeting.

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7. Item 26 – WBF TDs Policy & Official TDs Register

The President presented a short report on the TD Policy and Official TDs Register which was instituted in Philadelphia. The official TD register was approved by the Officers in Louisville and by the Management Committee in Poznan and now requires ratification by the Executive.

The WBF wishes to continue training TDs around the world and Mr Koolijman has already run a course in Chennai, India, which was very successful.

The Chief Tournament Director is requested to make a report on each of the TDs at any one event who are then evaluated by the WBF. From now on, there will be exams, seminars and the possibility for national TDs to attend WBF events as a "pupil" until such time as they are felt to be sufficiently qualified to work on a WBF championship as a TD. It was suggested that guidelines be created to evaluate the performance of the TDs both professionally and personally after an event.

The TD register was approved unanimously.

8. Item 10 – SportAccord

Mr Damiani reported on relations with SportAccord into which the WBF was accepted as a member in 2002 in Monaco. The new president of SportAccord wants to be more involved with the International Federations and SportAccord had decided to organize the first SportAccord Mind Games in Beijing in December 2011.

The 4 member federations of IMSA will take part and bridge will have 4 teams and 12 pairs each in the Open and Women's teams and pairs events, and 24 players in the Individual. It will be held from 9-16 December.

Each sport will be required to have all players dressed in the same colour, whether this takes the form of polo shirts or uniform with the official logo. The commitment for the WBF is to bring the best possible players and to provide the technical organization of the event.

9. Item 32 – World Wide Bridge Contest & World Charity Pairs

Mrs Gudge read her and Mark Newton's report on the World Wide Bridge Contest and the World Charity Pairs. Both events made a small profit for the WBF.

Mrs Gudge requested that her sincere appreciation for Patty Taylor at the ACBL, who did a wonderful job and had been a great help, be minuted.

The President suggested that more simultaneous events be held during the year as a way to raise more funds for the WBF – perhaps even every other month – which could then be invested in the Youth. Mrs Gudge and Mr Newton would be prepared to run these and believes that she would be able to encourage players to give commentaries, even if this was to be run over the internet. She also believes that these events could be fun and could be set up very quickly. To improve payments, Mrs Gudge & Mr Newton are looking into ways of getting payment immediately when the players upload their results.

10. Item 20 – WBF Headquarters in Lausanne

The President reported that the offices in Lausanne have been open since 1st July 2011 and the costs are being shared between EBL and the WBF. A meeting of the Management Committee is being planned in Lausanne for 2012 in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:30 to be reconvened on Wednesday, 19th October at 09:30.