



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Lille, France
Friday, 10th August 2012 – 15:00**

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
Mr Bruce Blakely, 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, Member
Ms Georgia Heth, Member
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Member
Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Member
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member
Mr George Retek, Member
Mr John Wignall, Member

Also in Attendance

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

Excused

Ms Chen Zelan, Member
Mr Al Levy, Member
Mr Nick Nickell, Member
Ms Sylvie Willard, Member
Mr Robert S. Wolff, Past President

Invited

Mr Panos Gerontopoulos
Mrs Sheena Rayner
Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano

1. Opening and Greetings

The President called the meeting to order at 15:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and welcomed members of the Executive Council to Lille, in particular Bruce Blakely and David Harris for whom this is their first meeting.

He noted that Jens Auken had had to resign for health reasons and thanked him for his considerable contribution to the work of the WBF in particular his work with WADA. The Executive unanimously requested the President to send their best wishes to Mr Auken for a speedy recovery.

The President also noted that Mr Al Levy had recently undergone emergency surgery and, consequently, was unable to attend these meetings although he would try to connect via Skype. The Executive expressed their hope that Mr Levy would recover as quickly as possible.

The President went over the schedule of meetings for the coming week and the revised schedule is attached.

2. Welcome

He introduced Mr Ortiz-Patiño, WBF President Emeritus, who addressed the Council saying that he was delighted to be in Lille and had every confidence that, despite the dire economic climate, the World Bridge Federation would continue to thrive.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Executive Council in Veldhoven

On motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Executive Council held in Veldhoven on 22nd October 2011 which had been circulated to all members previously.

4. President's Report

The President presented his report, copy of which is filed with these Minutes as Exhibit 4-1st.

He began by asking for a minute's silence in memory of Ding Guan Gen, President of Congress, who passed away recently.

He outlined his travels and meetings during the past year which had been extensive. The points raised in his report will be covered in depth later in the agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr De Pauw presented the income and expenditure statement and Balance Sheet for 2010. He noted that the Fixed Income approximated the Fixed Expenditure and after the Variable items of income and expenditure, there was a small profit. The accounts, as presented, were adopted and would be on the agenda for the Congress the following day.

He went on to present the accounts for 2011 showing an excess of income over expenditure of \$231,665. It was noted that much of this arose from the sponsorship of the Veldhoven championships.

6. WBF Congress

The Congress will take place on Saturday, 11th August 2012 at 9:30.

7. Lille Championships

Mr Damiani gave an overview of the World Minds Sports Games. He had been giving a number of interviews to the press and television indicating there was a great deal of media interest.

The President expressed his gratitude to Mr Damiani for managing to find a venue, after Manchester, England and Cardiff, Wales had pulled out. He had also succeeded in obtaining sponsorship for the event from Pierre Zimmermann and Chen Yeh.

With respect to 2016, Mr Damiani said that discussions would need to be held with Mr d'Orsi in relation to the Brazilian Mind Sports Organization.

There is a reduction in the participation this year, compared with Beijing in 2008. There are 60 teams in the Open against 71 in 2008, 43 in the Ladies against 54 and in the Seniors there are two more teams (34) than in 2008. In the Transnationals, there are only 40 paying teams although 60 were budgeted.

In the other Mind Sports there are approximately 300 Draughts players and a similar number of Go players. Chess on the other hand is distinctly down in attendance because of forthcoming championships. It is possible that the participation is down because of the aging of the players.

The venue here in Lille is excellent as are the hotels.

Mr Aubry read a short report on the Credentials Committee which is filed with these Minutes as Exhibit 7-1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:05 to be resumed on Sunday, 12th August at 14:00.