



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Lille, France**

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012 – 09:30**

**In Attendance**

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

Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member  
Mr Yves Aubry, Member  
Mr Bruce Blakely, 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, 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

**In attendance via Skype**

Mr Al Levy, Member

**Excused**

Mr José Damiani, Chairman Emeritus  
Mr Nick Nickell, Member  
Ms Sylvie Willard, Member  
Mr Robert S. Wolff, Past President

**Invited**

Mr Ata Aydin  
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos  
Mr Jan Kamras  
Mrs Sheena Rayner  
Mrs Lilian Sun  
Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano

The President called the meeting to order at 9:30. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows:

### **Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council were approved unanimously.

#### **1. WBF Rules & Regulations: Scoring Sub-Committee- agenda item 23**

Mr d'Orsi presented the report of the Scoring Sub-Committee filed with these minutes as Exhibit 2-5<sup>th</sup>. He explained the following features for the new VP scale: the scales are given to two decimal places: subject to a cap each IMP translates to a specific VP award: each additional IMP in the winner's margin is worth no more than the previous one. The report was accepted and will be published on the website.

#### **2. WBF Committee Reports – agenda item 24**

Mr Aubry presented the minutes of the WBF Credentials Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012. This report is filed with the Minutes as Exhibit 3-5<sup>th</sup>. These included the requirement of the WBF Eligibility Code which should be followed by all Zones. It was also clarified that US Trials are to be considered as Zonal Championships and consequently the Eligibility Code applies to them. The requirements have been approved unanimously with Mr Pascal voting against.

#### **3. WBF Web Site Manager Report – agenda item 10.1**

Mr Aubry asked for the floor and said that the contract with Mr Gerontopoulos will expire 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 and that the EBL and its representatives on the WBF Executive Council do not want to have any further relations with Mr Gerontopoulos in technological matters. The President reminded the Council that the contract with Mr Panos Gerontopoulos expires at the end of December 2012.

Mr Gerontopoulos presented a verbal report on the progress and improvements made over the past year. New services have been introduced with video coverage of the events.

He presented a Federation Management System (FMS) covering a wide range of topics. On enquiry, he explained the system was not for sale but might be adopted by the WBF later. Several members of the Council were not convinced of this.

Mr Kamras outlined the work currently being done on the new WBF website of which Fotis Skoularikis will be in charge under the chairmanship of Mr Al Levy.

The President said that the presentation of Mr Gerontopoulos should be considered as a private presentation and that in any case it will be presented and discussed further at the next meeting of the Technological Committee.

#### **4. Future events – agenda item 22**

##### *a. 2013 World Youth Open Championship, Orlando/Atlanta*

Mrs Gerard presented a proposition to hold these championships in Orlando rather than in Atlanta as proposed by the ACBL during the August 2013 NABC.

After discussion it was agreed to accept the ACBL suggestion. The President said that, together with Mr Aydin, he will meet the ACBL representatives in San Francisco to discuss and define the details of the organization.

*b. 2014 World Bridge Series*

Three candidatures have been received from Poznan, Poland, Lucca, Italy and one from Izmir, Turkey. Mr Aydin reported that Turkey might prefer to have the Bermuda Bowl in 2015. A decision will be taken later this year at the Officers' Meeting.

*c. 2015 World Teams Championships*

No firm offer had been received but depending on the venue for the 2013 World Bridge Series it was expected that Lucca, Izmir or Warsaw might make a presentation. The President reported that there was also a candidature from Deauville, France.

*d. 2016 World Mind Sports Games*

Mr Damiani said he hoped to have signed a contract with Brazil by the end of May 2013. If the World Mind Sports Games cannot be held there then perhaps the World Bridge Games could be accommodated there.

*e. 2017 World Bridge Teams Championship, Gold Coast, Australia*

Mr Wignall reported that he was confident that these Championships will be held on the Gold Coast but said the President of the Australian Bridge Federation believes the budget will be too high. As requested by Mr Wignall, the President confirmed that a WBF delegation composed of Mr d'Orsi, Mr Wignall, Mr De Pauw and himself would visit Australia next year before the Bali Championship to see the venue and the hotels and to negotiate a suitable contract.

*f. 2018 World Bridge Series, Orlando*

The President said that the contract has been signed with the Marriott Hotel and the USBF to hold the 2018 World Bridge Series in Orlando, Florida. Mr d'Orsi, Mr De Pauw and Mrs Gerard reported briefly on the venue and the conditions. The Executive Council unanimously approved.

## **5. Membership – agenda item 21**

Mr De Pauw presented his report on the situation of the membership filed with these minutes as Exhibit 6-5<sup>th</sup>.

It was proposed that the following countries be suspended from the WBF with immediate effect:

Antigua  
Dominica  
Somalia

This was approved by the Executive Council.

If the following countries have not paid by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012, then they will be suspended automatically:

Anguilla  
French Guyana  
Martinique  
Mongolia

This was approved by the Executive Council.

The following countries have asked to be re-instated:

Bahrain  
Kuwait  
Saudi Arabia

This was approved by the Executive Council subject to unpaid dues being settled.

**6. WBF Hall of Fame & WBF Awards Rules and Regulations – agenda item 18**

In view of the current existence of the WBF Committee of Honour it was decided to do nothing about a Hall of Fame.

**7. 2013 World Championships, Bali – agenda item 22**

Indonesia will make a presentation later this week.

They have offered to present a Bali Cup with replicas for the winners of this year's Transnationals, an offer which the President had accepted.

**8. WBF Directory and Publications – agenda item 28**

The WBF Directory will be published later this year.

The WBF Rules and Regulations Booklet has already been distributed to all members of the Executive Council.

The publishing of the Championship book is still under discussion.

The historical book of 'The First Fifty Years of the World Bridge Federation' will be available next week. The President thanked Mr Ortiz-Patiño for all his work.

The WBF is working on a promotional video and brochure which will be available for future sponsors.

It is proposed to give a greetings calendar for the youth for 2013. This is still under discussion.

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Mr Wignall expressed the thanks of the WBF Executive Council to Mr Retek who was retiring after his 24 years of service as a member of the Council. In responding Mr Retek said he had enjoyed working with his fellow members for the future of bridge.

Mr Jafri thanked the President for hosting the meetings and arranging the hospitality.

The President thanked all the members for their support and the meeting was adjourned sine dei at 15:45,