



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia  
Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013 – 14:30**

**In Attendance**

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair  
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus

Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member  
Mr Yves Aubry, Member  
Mr Bruce Blakely, Member  
Ms Chen Zelan, Member  
Mr Patrick Choy, Member  
Mr Bill Cook, Member  
Mr Marc De Pauw, Member  
Mr Ernesto d'Orsi, Member  
Mr Jean-Louis Derivery, Member  
Mr David Harris, Member  
Ms Georgia Heth, Member  
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Member  
Mr Paul Janicki, Member  
Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Member  
Mr Al Levy, Member  
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member  
Mr John Wignall, Member

**Also in Attendance**

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

**Excused**

Mr Nick Nickell, Member  
Ms Sylvie Willard, Member

**Invited**

Mr Jean-Claude Beineix, Committee of Honour  
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Committee of Honour  
Mr George Retek, Committee of Honour  
Ms Esther Sophonpanich, President Zone 6  
Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano, Chair of the Women's Committee

**1. Opening and Greetings**

The President called the meeting to order at 14:30. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

## **2. Welcoming New Executive Council Members**

The President welcomed the members to these meetings. He congratulated Mr. Al Levy for his re-election and Mr Paul Janicki for his election as a new member of the WBF Executive Council, both for Zone 2. He congratulated Mr. Bernard Pascal on his re-election both as President of Zone 8 and member of the WBF Executive Council.

The President also welcomed Mr Bill Cook, new elected President of the ACBL, who has been elected to take over the late Joan Gerard's place for the rest of her term. He also thanked Mr Retek for his devotion to duty during his 23 year term on the Executive from which he retired last year.

## **3. Jaime Ortiz-Patiño & Joan Gerard Commemoration**

The President reminded the Executive that this year the WBF had suffered two great losses in the passing of both Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, former President and President Emeritus for many years and also of Joan Gerard who had been a member of the Executive Council for many years and was one of the most loyal and hard workers in the bridge world.

Mr Damiani said a few words about Mr Jaime Ortiz-Patiño who had been so instrumental in raising the profile of the WBF and guiding its progress and development.

Mr Gerontopoulos remembered how he had met Mr Ortiz-Patiño many years ago and how it was through him that he had got into organized bridge. He will be sadly missed by all.

Messrs. d'Orsi and Levy spoke of their great admiration for Joan Gerard and the incredible amount of work for bridge she did over a long period.

The meeting observed a minute's silence in respect for the deceased.

\* \* \* \* \*

The President commented on the schedule of events and said that on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September in the morning a Delegation from CCBA and Sanya will make a presentation for the World Bridge Series 2014, while in the afternoon a French Delegation will be making a presentation of its candidature for the World Teams Championship 2017 in Lyon.

On Thursday there will be a presentation from Goa of its candidature for the World Teams Championship 2015 and the Gala Dinner in the evening. No meetings, at the moment, are planned for Friday. The Zonal Presidents' reports will be given on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **4. President's Report**

The President gave his report, which is attached as Annex 4 to these Minutes, highlighting his very busy schedule over the last year.

## **5. Officers Meeting, Lausanne, November 2012 & Management Committee Meeting, Milano, March 2013: Ratification of the minutes and the statements. Ratification of the Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive, Lille**

The Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Counsel in Lille were approved with one amendment.

The minutes and the statements of the Officers meeting, in Lausanne in November 2012 and the Management Committee meeting in Milan in March 2013 were ratified unanimously with two minor additions.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer gave his report which is attached as Annex 5 to these Minutes. He presented the 2012 accounts, an update on the 2013 budget and the proposed budget for 2014. These were approved and adopted unanimously.

The Treasurer then presented the Membership and Dues situation. In Zone 1, Liechtenstein has been dismissed while the President will write once again to Albania & Montenegro whose membership will be suspended if their dues remained unpaid on 31.12.2013.

There was no problem with Zone 2. In Zone 3, Peru will be asked to pay their dues before the end of 2013 or they will be suspended.

Three NBOs in Zone 4 have been readmitted – Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Bahrain is a new Federation constituted and recognised by the National Olympic Committee in 2013. In any case they paid all the previous unpaid dues.

Anguilla has been suspended.

For Zone 6, Mongolia will be written to by the President. The report was adopted.

## **7. Bali Championships**

### **7.1 Preparation & Organization**

The President reported briefly on the preparation and organization of this event which he had covered in his report. The President reported that there are some problems with the data communication because of over usage. He congratulated the staff for the amazing job they did in view of the late arrival of the equipment in unloading and setting it up in time to start the championship. The players are very pleased with the venue, which is exceptional.

### **7.2 Budget**

The Treasurer said that he had already covered the budget in his report.

### **7.3 Credentials Committee**

Mr Aubry said that the only problem for the Credentials Committee was with Bahrain, but Bahrain has been admitted because, as already mentioned a new Federation constituted and recognised by the National Olympic Committee in 2013 and so could not

participate the World Games in Lille, not being at the time officially constituted .

#### **7.4 World Computer Championship**

Mr Levy read a short report. Mr. Levy reported that last year's robot championship was held successfully in Lille as part of the 14<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Games. The article on the championship that Mr. Levy wrote for the International Computer Games Association Journal is appears in the Journal. This year the championship will be held here in Bali from 23-28 September.

The President gave a short overview of the problem that had occurred with regard to the Israelis which resulted in them not participating here in Bali. Sweden was invited to participate in their stead.

### **8. International Mind Sports Association – IMSA – agenda item 8**

Mr Damiani reminded the Council that Bridge had been officially recognized by the IOC, and that Mr Samaranch himself had said "Bridge is a Sport and deserves to be recognized as such." In order to obtain better visibility and come closer to the Olympic movement the International Mind Sports Association was created to stage a Mind Sports Olympics. Thanks to China, a major event was staged in Beijing in 2008 where 100 Youth teams were invited and paid for.

Now however IMSA seems to want smaller events aimed at a limited number of top contestants.

The future seems precarious for IMSA although Mr Damiani is hoping that something will be resolved before the next SportAccord Mind Sports event to be held in December 2013. Mr De Pauw reported that a scheduled meeting of IMSA in September had not occurred. In the meantime the President of FIDE has taken over the Presidency of IMSA. The WBF will need to make its own arrangements for the World Bridge Games in 2016.

The President reported that Mr Marc De Pauw has been elected Treasurer of IMSA and congratulated him thereon.

### **9. Election of the WBF President for the legislature 2014-2018 according to Art. 7.1 of the By-Laws – agenda item 10**

Mr Levy proposed, and this was seconded by the whole Council, Mr Rona for another term and this was unanimously approved by acclamation. The President thanked the board and declared to accept the election.

\*\*\*\*\*

The President reminded the Council that there will be a presentation from Lyon on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September at 11:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00 to be reconvened on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September at 14:30.