



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia
Thursday, 19th 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 Zelen, Member
Mr Patrick Choy, Member
Mr Bill Cook, Member
Mr Marc De Pauw, 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 Ernesto d'Orsi, Member
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
Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano, Chair of the Women's Committee

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

1. 2015 World Team Championships, presentation from Goa, India – agenda item 21.4

Mr Jafri introduced Mr & Mrs Haque, Mr Kawel Singh and Mr Sudir Agalwal, the delegation from India, who made a presentation for the hosting of the 2015 World Team Championships in Goa. The President thanked them and the delegation left the meeting.

After a good deal of discussion, it was unanimously agreed to offer the 2015 World Team Championships to India subject to a prior site-visit by the President, Mr d'Orsi, Mr De Pauw, Mazhar Jafri and Maurizio Di Sacco and the fulfilment of all the requirements.

2. 3rd World Youth Open Bridge Championship, Atlanta – agenda item 11

Mr Levy read his report which is attached as annex 2-3 to these Minutes. He showed various clips from YouTube which demonstrated the wonderful atmosphere at the event. The President thanked Mr Levy for his report.

The President then read a report from Mr Ata Aydin, Chairman of the Youth Committee, who could not be present in Bali. One of the main points was that there is need for a new age category as there are many very young children who are playing bridge, particularly from China and the USA. In Atlanta, 50% of the children were born after 2000. Thanks went to Chris and Donna Compton who had managed to raise in the region of \$30,000 from private donations in addition to the money given by the ACBL and USBF.

The President informed the Council that Al Levy, as on-site organizer and WBF/ACBL representative, was awarded the WBF silver medal.

3. Technological matters – agenda item 16

Mr. Levy reported that the website is the face of the organization. While a good website doesn't guarantee a good name for the WBF, a bad website indeed gives the organization a bad reputation. The old website hurt our reputation as it had no modernization, few updates, and many broken links and 'under construction' signs, as well as 'freezing' during world championships due to difficulties with heavy traffic.

The new website is modern, informative, and easy to navigate and contains a new section on News, a new Photo Gallery as well as containing all the unique information related to the WBF, our organization and world championships. The organization and all the modern features were demonstrated by Mr Levy as he surfed through sections of the website.

A great plus going forward is the individual and collective talents of a new team working closely together. Mr Levy chairs the Technology Committee and will oversee much of the activities. Fotis Skoularikis as webmaster and IT manager will add much to the future of the WBF. Anna Gudge adds much in making the website interesting and informative. Gianni Baldi will work on future technology projects including scoring systems and a WBF global database which will interact with Bridgемate. Jan Kamras will monitor the EBL website. Kitty Cooper and company will assist in necessary scheduled website updates and improving

current features. The 'team' works exceptionally very well together and will oversee the future growth and improvements of the website and IT developments. All this for a small initial cost and at an annual cost of approximately 40% lower than in previous years.

All this should greatly enhance the reputation of the WBF, improve our performance and serve our members.

4. 2014 World Youth Teams Championship, Istanbul, Turkey – agenda item 21.2

Mrs Atay read her report on the preparations for the 2014 World Youth Teams Championship that will take place in Istanbul, Turkey from 13-23 August. The agreement has been signed with the Turkish Federation. In Istanbul an invitation championship for kids under 15 will be held. The Executive Council unanimously approved.

5. Zone 2 North America (Canada, Mexico, USA) – agenda item 18

The Canadian Bridge Federation wishes to elect its own representative to the WBF. At present, it is the ACBL – the zonal organization – that appoints the delegates to the WBF rather than the individual NBOs. The President has suggested that each country in Zone 2 (USA, Canada and Mexico) gives its written consent to allow the ACBL to continue to do this, but Canada will not agree. Ms Heth is still trying to find a solution to this problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:15 to be reconvened on Saturday, 20th September.