



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Sanya, China

Thursday, 16th October 2014 at 15:00

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
Mr Patrick Choy, Member
Mr Marc De Pauw, Member
Mr Ernesto d'Orsi, 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
Mrs Sheena Rayner, Member
Mr Merlin Vilhauer, Member
Mr John Wignall, Member

Also in Attendance

Mr Jean-Claude Beineix, Honour & Advisory Committee Member
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour & Advisory Committee Member
Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano, Honour & Advisory Committee Member
Mr Jeff Polisner, General Counsel
Ms Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the Executive Council

Excused

Ms Chen Zelan, Member
Mr Nick Nickell, Member
Ms Sylvie Willard, Member

Invited

Mr Robert Hartman, ACBL CEO
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, APBF President

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

The President welcomed Mr Robert Hartman to the meeting and thanked him for hosting the WBF at their Spring Nationals.

He then read a letter from the Indonesian Bridge Federation in which it was stated that they would be in a position to pay what they owe by 19th January 2015. The Council unanimously agreed to accept this delay.

1. Zonal Presidents' reports

1.1 Zone 2

Mr Robert Hartman, CEO of the ACBL, read the report from Zone 2 which is attached to these minutes. The President thanked Mr Hartman and congratulated him.

1.2 Zone 3

Mr d'Orsi gave a short verbal report on the activities in his Zone. He noted that the South American Transnational was a big success in Chile. He reported that he had been re-elected as President of the South American Bridge Federation. The Zone is likely to lose Bolivia but on the other hand, the average age of the main open teams is low – 45 yrs this year. The President thanked Mr d'Orsi for his report and concurred that the South American Festival was very successful.

1.3 Zone 4

Mr Jafri read the report on behalf of the Zonal President and the report is attached to these Minutes. The President thanked him for his report.

1.4 Zone 5

Mrs Sheena Rayner, President of Zone 5, read her report which is attached to these Minutes. Since writing the report, she said that she has received interest from the Dominican Republic and will follow up on this. She also said how much she missed Jean-Louis Derivery who had been her mentor for many years. The President thanked her for her report.

1.5 Zone 6

Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6 and APBF, read her report which is attached to these Minutes. The President congratulated her and her zone for the development of bridge for youth and that they were doing a fantastic job. Nearly all the NBOs attend every tournament and congress which is excellent.

1.6 Zone 7

Mr Wignall, President of Zone 7, read his report which is attached to these Minutes. The President congratulated Mr Wignall for the work being done with the youth and also that both Australia and New Zealand were increasing their membership.

1.7 Zone 8

Mr Bernard Pascal, President of Zone 8, read his report which is attached to these Minutes. The President said that he hoped that Nigeria would join Zone 8 and he said he had also met with someone from Zambia who might be interested.

Ms. Carol von Linstow left the room.

2. WBF Structure & Organization, Headquarters & Personnel, Plan and Strategy for the quadriennium

The President and the Treasurer reported about the plans and strategy for the new legislature and about the organisation of the WBF Headquarters in Lausanne, the personnel and the agreement with the consultants.

The Executive Council unanimously approved to mandate to the President and the Treasurer to define according to the reported political and economical strategy:

- a) a new agreement, substituting the existing one as of January 1st 2015, with Ms. Carol von Linstow, who will continue to be in charge as Secretary to the Executive Council providing the preparation, the minutes and all the other related necessities of the Meetings of the Executive Council, Management Committee and Officers;
- b) to review and adapt the agreement with Fotis Skoularikis, according to his position of full time employee
- c) to review and adapt the agreement with the Operation Director Maurizio Di Sacco;
- d) to maintain the other existing agreements with personnel and consultants;
- e) to define the employment at the Lausanne Headquarters of Mr. Simon Fellus.

Ms. Carol von Linstow re-entered the room.

3. Master Points & Rules & Regulations

The Master Points for this tournament had been reviewed. New scales will have to be created for the National Pairs. The Executive Council unanimously approved.

The survey concerning the new VP scale was very successful and most players approved. Preparations have already started for the Rules & Regulations for the National Pairs.

4. Laws Committee

On behalf of the Chairman of the Laws Committee, Mr Ton Kooijman, Mr Wignall reported that the work of the Laws Committee was going well and he felt that no change should be made to the make-up of this committee.

5. Systems Committee

Mr Wignall read his report on the meeting of the Systems Committee which met earlier today. He reported that the Committee felt that the Red Systems be eliminated. This was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee, which also approved that the National Pairs World Championships be designated a Category 3 event.

6. Seniors Committee

The President noted that a new program for Seniors will be produced and this will be presented for approval to the Executive.

7. TD's Committee

Mr Beineix said that there had not yet been a meeting as one will be held at the end of next week. However, he reported that there are now 3 new TDs included in the Official Register and already approved by the Management Committee: Mihaela Balint (Romania), Christian Bordonneau (France) and Jacek Marciniak (Poland). The Executive Council ratifies the approval and thanked Mr. Beineix.

8. Credentials Committee

Mr Aubry read his report which is attached to these Minutes. He explained that in fact, despite a few queries, there had been few problems since the new Eligibility Rule had come into effect.

9. WBC Book

The President reported that the contract with Brian Senior will be renovated for this year's championship book. The Executive Council unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:00 to be resumed at 09:00 on Friday, 17th October.