



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Sanya, China
Sunday, 12th October 2014 at 09:30**

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

Excused

Mr Nick Nickell, Member
Ms Sylvie Willard, Member

Invited

Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano
Mrs Lilian Sun, Interpreter

The President called the meeting to order at 09:30 He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

The President welcomed the members to Sanya and to the meeting. He congratulated the new members and those who had been re-elected: for Europe,

Zone 1, Yves Aubry, Sevinç Atay, Marc De Pauw, David Harris and Radek Kielbasinski. Merlin Vilhauer has been elected to the WBF Executive Council from Zone 2, Sheena Rayner joins the Executive Council from Zone 5, and Patrick Choy and Chen Zelan were re-elected from Zone 6.

The President then reminded the members of the loss of two former members of the Executive Council – Jean-Louis Derivery who sadly died in December 2013 and Jens Auken in January 2014. Since then, Guido Ferrari has also passed on and two days ago we learned of the death of Tony Priday.

The President Emeritus spoke movingly about both Jens Auken and Jean-Louis Derivery with whom he had worked closely for many years and who had both been close friends. The members of the Executive Council then stood for a minute's silence in memory of all four.

1. President's Report

The President read his report which is attached as Exhibit 1. He gave a detailed overview of his activities since Bali which involved extensive travel and meetings throughout the world. He also explained all that had been done to meet the legal requirements of the Swiss authorities.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Council Meetings in Bali September 2013

The minutes of the 4th and 5th meetings of the Executive Council in Bali had previously been circulated to the members. On motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report which is attached as Exhibit 3. The balance sheet for 2013 was ratified, with the Treasurer abstaining. The members took note of the accounts to date for 2014. The budget for 2015 was approved with the mandate to the Treasurer to adapt it according to the economical decisions which will be taken in the course of these meetings. The treasurer will submit the updated version to the Management Committee.

The Executive thanked the Treasurer for his detailed report and congratulated him on an excellent job. At the end of a 4-year cycle the net assets of the WBF had been increased from \$684,000 in 2010 to \$1,123, 000 – a very satisfactory performance.

The Treasurer then reported on the membership information, indicating which countries had been suspended or cancelled. He noted that there were some problems with Zone 4 – Bahrain, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and Qatar – and requested Mr Jafri to try to get in contact with these countries.

With respect to Zone 5, Mrs Rayner reported that they were having problems with Martinique who are not responding to correspondence. Mr Damiani suggested that Mrs Rayner contact the French Bridge Federation to ask for assistance. With respect to the Virgin Islands, it was decided to suspend them.

Cameroon has been accepted temporarily from Zone 8 while it was noted that Morocco and Tunisia are seriously in arrears with their dues. Mr Pascal assured the Treasurer that these latter countries will pay.

There was then discussion about membership issues. Mr Blakely asked whether there was cause for concern with the loss of numbers in some of the larger EBL countries. The President noted that while it was normal to lose some, it was unfortunate that they could not include the younger kids as members. Mr Choy said that there were a huge number of players in both Indonesia and China but they were not members of the NBOs as there were very few clubs. They tended to play bridge in the community rather than in clubs.

The President noted that while the WBF could do much to promote bridge, to show the way, the various NBOs had the main duty of building up their membership and of introducing our game with schools and universities.

This does not always happen. In 2008 the WBF invited more than 100 pairs to Beijing, with most expenses paid, but there has been little sign of any serious follow-up.

The work of the WBF is to do the groundwork and then it is up to the Federations to do the rest.

4. Sanya World Bridge Series

Mr d'Orsi reported on the Sanya Championships, saying there had been minor changes to the Conditions of Contest, particularly in the timing of the sessions. Entries had been disappointing, in particular in the Seniors and Women's events, which had attracted only 22 and 25 teams respectively. For the first time there would be no Appeals Committees, and a Reviewer had been appointed.

The playing conditions and the hotel accommodation were excellent, though the restaurants were rather expensive.

At this point, the President expressed the thanks of the WBF to Chen Zelan and CCBA.

Mr Levy reported on the World Computer Championship that will be played here in Sanya during the second week. He reported also that robotic bridge is proving to be extremely popular. There was some suggestion that a form of robotic bridge could be offered on the WBF website. On-line bridge is an excellent way of interesting people in the game, but the aim is, obviously, to bring people to the table.

Three national Chinese TV Channels will be broadcasting the play during the quarter- semi-finals and finals. Concerning the Internet broadcasting, BBO and Ourgame will broadcast 6 tables each up to the finals, which will be broadcasted by Ourgame, with the commentary of our 4 journalists of the Bulletin Staff.

5. WBF Congress

The WBF Congress meeting will be held on Thursday, 16th October at the Hotel Sheraton at 09:00.

6. Election to the Committee of Honour

The Executive Council unanimously approved the posthumous awarding of the Committee of Honour pin to Jens Auken and Jean-Louis Derivery.

The General Counsel explained how the election to the Committee of Honour would take place. The President Emeritus then asked for nominations from the Executive. The following persons were validly nominated by three zones: Patrick Choy, Marc De Pauw, Al Levy and Anna-Maria Torlontano.

Upon secret ballot, all four were elected to the Committee of Honour. The President congratulated the new members and the President Emeritus welcomed them to the Committee.

7. Future events

7.1 2015 World Teams Championships, Chennai, India

This will be the first time that a world championship is held in Zone 4. They will be held from 26th September to 10th October 2015. The President reported that the hotel and the venue are excellent.

7.2 2015 World Youth Open Championship, Opatija, Croatia

This event will be held in Opatja from 19th – 29th August 2015.

7.3 2016 World Bridge Games, Wroclaw, Poland

The Polish Bridge Federation has finally decided to host this event in Wroclaw from 4th-19th September 2016 and the Executive Council approved. Mr Kielbasinski gave a presentation of the town and the venue.

7.4 2016 World Youth Teams Championship, Salsomaggiore, Italy

This event will be held between 3rd and 13th August 2016 in the Palazzo dei Congressi which hosted several European and world events, included the 1992 Bridge Olympiads. The Executive Committee approved the choice of this venue.

7.5 2017 World Teams Championship, Lyon, France

This event will take place from 12th – 26th August 2017. The preparation of the event is already in progress.

7.6 2017 World Youth Open Championship

The championship will take place in Lyon, starting after the first week of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Trophy.

7.7 2018 World Bridge Series, Orlando, USA

The contract with Marriott for this event has been signed for a few years through the good offices of the late Joan Gerard as well as the contract with the USBF signed one month ago. The dates for this event are from 22nd September to 6th October 2018.

7.8 2018 World Youth Teams Championship

A request has been received from China to host this event.

7.9 2019 World Teams Championships

Mr Wignall reported briefly on the fact that Australia, under the new President Bruce Neil, is keen to hold this event on the Gold Coast and the President will meet next year the Australian Authorities to discuss the project.

8. Istanbul World Youth Teams Championship

Mr Ata Aydin, Chairman of the Youth Committee, joined the meeting and read his report on this event which is attached as Exhibit 8a.

The President thanked Mr Aydin. The President then made his report, attached as Exhibit 8b, in which he praised the extraordinary job done by Sevinç Atay, Ata Aydin, who were awarded the WBF Gold Medal and Murat Molva who was awarded the WBF Plaque.

The President then reported on a letter that had been received by himself, Yves Aubry and Marc De Pauw from the Turkish Bridge Federation complaining about certain aspects of the World Youth Teams Championship. A reply would be sent.

Mr Aydin proposed that a new category of championship be established for players aged between 25 and 35 years of age. He felt that successful junior players were being lost to the game because after 25 there is too big a gap to reach the top standards. A discussion followed and the item had been adjourned.

9. Minutes of the Officers and Management Committee meetings in Dallas and the Management Committee in Opatija

The minutes of these meetings and the decision taken by the Committee were unanimously ratified by the Executive Committee.

10. By-Law Amendments – Art 3.3 & Art 4.4.1 – Ratification of Postal Ballot

The President reported about the postal ballot concerning the By-Laws Amendments which had been sent out to all NBOs on 10th July 2014 and not receiving any contrary vote at 10th October 2014, according to the Constitution, were adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:15 to be resumed on Monday, 13th October at 14:30