



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Sanya, China  
Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> 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  
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**

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 Mrs Esther Sophonpanich to the meeting.

## **1. Disciplinary Code and Rules & Regulations for the WBF Disciplinary Procedures**

The President and the General Counsel reported that together with Maitre Gillard and Maitre Wenzel started to prepare a revision of the Disciplinary Code. The item will be discussed next year before the Chennai Championship. For the moment it's only necessary for reason of time and cost to amend the code providing that the decision of the Disciplinary Commission can be appealed directly at the Court of Arbitration of Sport, so eliminating the WBF Appeal Tribunal. The General Counsel will provide the related amendment to the By-Laws to be forwarded to the NBOs according to the Constitution

The Executive Council approved with one abstention

## **2. Technological matters**

Mr Levy reported on the technology committee, the website and the international data base.

Although the site seems to be working, there have been some problems in the background that are being worked on. This might involve moving the site and doing additional work or even re-writing it, which might come at some cost.

With regard to the international player database, he reported that this would be used to identify players throughout the world. He is hoping that this will be completed by the end of the year.

He thanked Fotis Skoularikis and Anna Gudge for the work that they have been doing on the website.

The Mixed Teams final is being broadcast by Ourgame with commentaries by Barry Rigal, David Stern, Mark Horton and Patrick Jourdain.

Mrs Sophonpanich asked why there were no vu-graph rooms in Sanya. The President said that the main problem was a shortage of suitable space, but the finals would be broadcast on Ourgame. Also there are 3 national TV channels that will be broadcasting.

The President thanked Mr Levy for his report.

## **3. Simultaneous Pairs**

Mrs Gudge reported on the various simultaneous pairs that have been held this year, including one for the Philippines disaster early in the year which raised €15,000, two for Youth bridge which raised approximately €3000 and a couple of others, one of which will be held in December.

## **4. New Anti-Doping Rules and Regulations**

Mrs Gudge reported on the new rules, some of which are mandatory and come directly from WADA. She said that hopefully next year WADA will agree to drop the out-of-competition testing for mind sports although in-competition testing will continue. A decision has been made by WADA that if one player in a team

tests positive, the team will be disqualified. This will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

The Management Committee approved the WBF rules on anti-doping in Croatia in July 2014 and these were sent to WADA. The final text still has to be sent to WADA for approval. The Executive Council gave their approval and Mrs Gudge will send the text to WADA.

## **5. Zonal Matters**

### ***5.1 Zone 2 Organization: ACBL, Canada, Mexico & USBF***

Ms Heth reported on her attempts to reach an agreement with Canada for the ACBL to represent them as the Zonal organization, all of which have failed miserably. The Canadian Bridge Federation represents 10% of the ACBL membership and is holding the ACBL to ransom.

The President informed that he will send a letter to the three NBOs (USBF, Canada & Mexico) to call a meeting to define the Zonal Authority.

### ***5.2 Asian Olympic Games & SEA Games***

Mrs Sophonpanich reported on the South East Asian Games (SEA Games) in which 11 countries compete. In order for Bridge to be eligible to play, there must be six countries that are recognized as sports federations. To participate in the SEA Games or the Asian Olympics, the WBF needs to have 50% of the number of affiliated countries and get enough votes in order to be registered with the SEA Games. Zone 6 is working to achieve this goal.

The President thanked Mrs. Sophonpanich and congratulated her and her APBF colleagues for the excellent job they are doing.

## **6. New Affiliations**

Grenada is a new member of Zone 5. Cameroon (Zone 8) has been accepted as a temporary member subject to the confirmation from the Zone 8 Congress in March 2015. East Timor will also be applying from Zone 6 and has been approved as a member subject to receipt of the appropriate papers. The United Arab Emirates (UAE - Zone 4) are also expected to apply. Georgia (Zone 1) has been re-admitted.

## **7. Charity Foundation pro Youth**

Mr De Pauw has discussed this proposal with the Swiss lawyers but for the moment it is not feasible to set this up.

## **8. Format for the Bermuda Bowl**

The format for the Bermuda Bowl to be held in Chennai, India in 2015 will remain the same as in the past, as will the quota. Thus there will be 21 teams plus the host country.

## **9. Zonal Presidents' Report**

### ***9.1 Zone 1 – EBL***

Mr Aubry, President of the EBL, ready his report which is attached as Exhibit 9.1-4.

After reading his report, he again raised the question of the declaration of membership numbers which is becoming a serious problem in Europe, as it is for the WBF. In some countries, clubs as such do not exist. Without any extra resources, any restructuring of the dues is very difficult.

The President thanked Mr. Aubry and congratulated him and his colleagues of the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 to be resumed on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 15:00.