



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Chennai, India**

Tuesday, 29th September 2015 at 14:30

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr John Wignall, 1st Vice President
Mr Al Levy, Executive Vice President
Mr Yves Aubry, Vice President
Mr Patrick Choy, Vice President
Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Member
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Vice President
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Ms Georgia Heth, Hon. Secretary
Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member
Ms Chen Zelan, Member
Mr Josef Harsanyi, Member
Mr Paul Janicki, Member
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member
Mrs Sheena Rayner, Member
Mr Merlin Vilhauer, Member
Mr Howard Weinstein, Member
Mr David Harris, General Counsel
Mr Simon Fellus, WBF Secretary
Mrs. Carol Von Linstow, Secretary to the Council

Excused

Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

Invited

Mr Philippe Cronier, HLPC Member
Mr Robert Hartman, CEO of ACBL
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour & Advisory Committee
Mr George Retek, Honour & Advisory Committee
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President Zone 6
Mrs Suzi Subeck, President Zone 2
Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano, Honour & Advisory Committee
Ms Lilian Sun, CCBA Secretary

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

1. World Championships 2016 – agenda item 27.1

The 16th World Youth Teams Championships will take place in Salsomaggiore, Italy from 3rd – 13th August 2016. The contracts and the schedule were made available to the meeting.

The EC unanimously approved.

2. 43rd World Teams Championship & 5th World Youth Open Championships – agenda items 28.1 & 28.2

The contracts and the tentative schedules for these two events were presented to the meeting. The 43rd World Teams Championship will be held in Lyon, France from 12th-26th August 2017 and the 5th World Youth Open Championships from 15th-24th August.

The President believes that attendance will be good as Lyon is easy to reach and the hotel rates should be good. The FFB is making a good job of promoting this event.

The EC unanimously approved

3. International Bodies – agenda item 25

3.1 IOC: Olympic Games 2020, Asian Games 2018, Sea Games 2017 – agenda item 25.1

Mr Choy reported that Bridge has been accepted as a member of the Sea Games and is hopeful that it will be included in the 2017 Games to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

With the support of Indonesia, there is a good chance that Bridge will be included in the 2018 Asian Games.

The President congratulated Mr Choy and thanked him for his efforts as well as those of the President of the Zone and the Presidents of the NBOs.

3.2 SportAccord – agenda item 25.2

In April there had been the General Assembly and the election of the President. Following a major disagreement between the presidents of the IOC and SportAccord, the latter was obliged to resign and Mr. Gianfranco Kasper the senior VPs has been appointed Acting President. It is in progress the change of the whole organization and statutes of SportAccord and everything will be decided in the next General Assembly. The organisation of the annual SportAccord Mind Games has been suspended.

3.3 ARISF – agenda item 25.3

Until the situation with SportAccord is clarified, this is on stand-by.

3.4 IMSA – agenda items 25.4 and 25.5

Mr De Pauw presented his report which briefly summarized recent activity within IMSA. This organization has terminated its contract for a Lausanne office, while the WBF has taken over. IMSA now has an office in Russia.

IMSA will organize the first Elite Games from 5th-12th January 2016 in China adopting the format of the previous SportAccord Mind Games (48 of bridge)

players -24 men and 24 women- competing in teams, pairs and individual championships).

The EC unanimously approved the decision to invite to participate in the Elite Games, in addition to the Host Country China, the first three teams qualified of both the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup, provided that four members of the winning team could attend. If not, then the next placed team would be invited.

3.5 Olympic Channel – agenda item 25.7

Mr Fellus reported about the initiative that will be effective in brief.

4. Secretariat activity & Communication Project – agenda item 38

Mr Fellus gave a PowerPoint presentation on the activities done since starting to work at the WBF office in January 2015.

The EC thanked Mr Fellus and unanimously approved his report.

5. Technological matters – agenda item 29

Mr Levy presented his reports on the various aspects of technology in playing bridge, including the WBF website, on-line tournaments and a World Electronic Championship.

The planning of a future world electronic championship, involves a lot of work. High Level Players should be involved. The President was authorized to appoint a committee to look into this and make suggestions.

Mr Levy thanked Mr Damiani, Mr Rona and Mr Hartman for their support which is invaluable.

Mr Damiani mentioned the bridge teaching programme which is on-line. This is getting rather stale and really needs to be up-dated. The French have come out with a new interactive on-line programme and he suggested that other organizations should follow suit.

The symmetrical cards are an excellent tool to promote the game of bridge, establishing our own singular identity.

Before closing the session, the President reported that he had received a petition from 14 teams requesting that the team from Poland participating in the Bermuda Bowl remain a 4-player team rather than adding yet another system with a new pair. However, Mr Wignall reported that the new pair has been approved by the Credentials Committee and will play the Polish Club System, because at least one other pair has filed the same system.

The EC unanimously approved that the petition cannot be received.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:30 to be reconvened at 09:30 on Wednesday, 30th September.