



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Chennai, India  
Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 at 14:00**

**In Attendance**

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair  
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus  
Mr John Wignall, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Mr Al Levy, Executive Vice President  
Mr Yves Aubry, Vice President  
Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Vice President  
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**

Mr Patrick Choy, Vice President  
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

**Invited**

Mr Ata Aydin, Chairman Youth Committee  
Mr Philippe Cronier, HLPC Member  
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President Zone 6  
Mrs Suzi Subeck, President Zone 2

The President called the meeting to order at 14:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

Mr Levy announced the sad news that Carolyn Lynch had passed away and asked the Executive to stand for a minute's silence in her memory.

### **1. 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Open Championship – agenda items 12 and 34**

The President welcomed Mr Aydin to the meeting who then presented his report on the 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Open Championships held in Opatija, Croatia from 20<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> August.

Mrs. Atay reported about the Kids, underlining the great support offered in Opatija by the Chinese representative composed by more than 100 young players, the majority of them under 15 and remarking the impressive activity developed in China in teaching bridge to the school pupils.

The President thanked Mr. Aydin and Mrs. Atay congratulating them for the excellent job done and the successful result achieved

Mr, Atay reported that the Youth Committee, with majority of votes of its members, suggested increasing the age limit for Juniors from U25 to U28, informing about the reasons of the proposal. Mr. Aubry informed that the EBL members of the Committee voted against this proposal. After some discussion, the Executive voted against this by an overall majority.

### **2. 15<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Games - Format for Wroclaw – agenda item 27.2**

The President suggested that a new category of “Mixed” should be introduced so that, in addition to Open, Women and Seniors, there would be a Mixed National Teams (with one team allowed per Country) and a Mixed National Pairs (with unlimited number of pairs per Country) events. The Mixed Championships will be played contemporary with the other categories and with the same format. This was approved with 4 abstentions.

### **3. Proposed changed in format for future editions of World Bridge Series – agenda item 10**

The President proposed that consideration be given to creating a new format for future editions of the World Bridge Series in which the Rosenblum is given more importance and therefore would be played over 8-9 days, while the other events would be reduced to 4-5 days each.

Mr Retek told the Council that in his opinion the 2018 championships in Orlando had the potential to be the most successful run in the USA. There was a substantial bridge-playing population in Florida which could well be attracted to Seniors events.

### **4. Any other business – agenda item 43**

#### *Bridge MOOC*

Mr Damiani brought up the subject of teaching programmes in schools, universities etc. These programmes, which have been on various websites for some time, are now being updated to make use of the new technology.

Mr Jafri, on behalf of all Members of the Executive, thanked the President for his hospitality and chairmanship of the meetings.

The President thanked the members for their presence at these meetings and the meeting was adjourned sine die at 16:30.