



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Wroclaw, Poland
Sunday, 4th September 2016 at 15:00**

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr John Wignall, 1st Vice President
Mr Yves Aubry, Vice President
Mr Patrick Choy, 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
Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member
Mr Josef Harsanyi, Member
Mr Paul Janicki, Member
Mrs Sheena Rayner, Member
Mr Merlin Vilhauer, Member
Mr Howard Weinstein, Member
Mr David Harris, General Counsel

Also in Attendance

Mr Simon Fellus, WBF Secretary
Ms Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the Council

By invitation from the President

Mr Philippe Cronier, Chairman, HLPC
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mr George Retek, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President APBF

Excused

Mr Al Levy, Executive Vice President
Ms Chen Zelan, Member
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 15:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

1. Opening & Greetings

The President welcomed the delegates and in particular the new member, Giorgio Duboin, to the meetings in Wroclaw.

He noted that both Messrs. Levy and Pascal and Mrs Chen Zelan were absent today but would be here later in the week.

He informed the delegates that sadly Anna Maria Torlontano was also absent due to ill health and said that a message would be sent to her to express the best wishes of the Executive. He also noted the recent sudden passing of Patrick Jourdain, President of the IBPA and a friend of the WBF for many years and asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

2. President's Report – agenda item 3

The President read his report, which is attached as Exhibit 2-1. Since the last meeting of the Executive Council in Chennai, it had been a very busy year. He had travelled to Zonal Championships, had been engaged in the preparations for both Youth and Open championships and had discussions with SportAccord. From time to time, he had been involved in discussions about unethical behaviour and had conferences with our Swiss lawyers concerning the German case and Constitutional changes. Finally, he had conferred with both the International Mind Sports Association and the International Olympic Committee.

He concluded by saying that as administrators of the WBF our main duties are to adopt, introduce and update the appropriate tools to ensure that play in our competitions is fair and, in case our rules are not followed, that there are appropriate sanctions in place to protect the ethical players.

From the financial point of view it was a very successful year, which will be clear from the Treasurer's report.

The members thanked the President for his report.

3. Treasurer's Report – agenda item 4

His report is attached as Exhibit 3-1. The Treasurer gave an overview of the report he presented to the meeting of the Finance Committee held earlier that morning. The 2015 accounts had been submitted on time to the Swiss Authorities before June 2016 having already been audited by EY. The 2015 balance sheet was adopted by the Council.

The initial budget for 2016 had been approved in Chennai in 2015. It was adopted.

There will be a good result from Wroclaw despite a disappointing entry for the teams event which was partly counterbalanced by the addition of the Mixed Teams & Pairs events.

The Worldwide Bridge Contest had been run for the first time in conjunction with Ourgame with an on-line event for Chinese players only. The first edition had

been successful and will be followed up by a visit to China to evaluate the results and discuss how best to proceed for the next four years.

The Treasurer presented a budget for 2017.

The Treasurer will make a Power-point presentation to the Congress Delegate, showing an overview of the 2014 and 2015 results and the 2016 and 2017 budgets.

Mr Damiani, on behalf of the Executive, congratulated the Treasurer on his report and, in particular, for the great results being achieved. He suggested that some of the money be put towards teaching programmes. The President said that the Youth Committee had some ideas to put to the Executive.

Mr Harsanyi wondered whether more people would be moved to Lausanne to improve the presence. The intention is to move more things to Lausanne and have the core of the WBF there.

The budget for 2017 was approved with the abstention of the Treasurer.

4. World Bridge Games, Wroclaw, Poland – agenda item 6

4.1 Organisation

Mr Kielbasinski gave a short explanation concerning the situation with the Polish Bridge Union since the recent election of its new President. Mr Kielbasinski, who was President when the agreement was signed between the PBU and the WBF for Poland to host this event in Wroclaw, was made Chairman of the LOC. He explained that the local sponsors had been very generous and that the preparations had gone very well.

4.2 Participation, Security & Management

The President noted that Qatar had cancelled their participation at the last minute which changed the schedule of play somewhat. The security has been reinforced here and all participants/staff/administrators' badges are scanned before they are allowed to enter the venue. The TDs also ensure that no player has any electronic equipment on their person before entering the playing rooms.

The Open event had been divided into three groups of 18 countries and the Women's event into 2 groups. These two together with the Seniors and Mixed would play a round-robin followed by the KO stages. Teams eliminated would then be able to enter the Pairs.

The Captains' meeting had already taken place and additional screen regulations had been explained. The TDs have been instructed to monitor both the bidding and the play and give a report to the Chief TD every evening of any incident – however minor – that has occurred.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:55 to be reconvened at 14:00 on Monday, 5th September 2016.