



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Wroclaw, Poland  
Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 15:00**

**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 Patrick Choy, 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  
Mrs Chen Zelan, Member  
Mr Giorgio Duboin, 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

**Also in Attendance**

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

**By invitation from the President**

Mr Philippe Cronier, HLPC  
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour and Advisory Committee Member  
Mr Robert Hartman, CEO ACBL  
Mr George Retek, Honour and Advisory Committee Member  
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President APBF  
Ms Lilian Sun, CCBA

**Excused**

Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Vice President  
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. Agreement with Lindsey Weinger for PR & Sponsorship – agenda item 21**

Mr De Pauw introduced Ms Lindsey Weinger, who specialises in obtaining sponsorship at the corporate level. She gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining various possibilities for the WBF. After she had left the meeting, Mr De Pauw explained that we had signed a contract with her company allowing her to raise funds from which her commission and expenses will be deducted.

In recommending acceptance, Mr Damiani pointed out the difficulties with respect to sponsorship these days but, if we are prepared to work with sponsors who are by and large unacceptable to the IOC, then there may be more scope.

### **2. Cartamundi – revisiting agenda item 22**

Mr Choy pointed out that there may be the appearance of a conflict of interest when discussing the proposed arrangement with Cartamundi. Mr De Pauw, some years ago, had sat on the Board of a Cartamundi subsidiary and Mr Damiani had purchased the patent for the symmetrical cards from a company that subsequently was bought by Cartamundi. Both Mr Cronier and Mr Duboin strongly recommended the adoption of the symmetric cards for all world championships but others felt that the NBOs might prefer to design their own cards for their own championships. The agreement with Cartamundi is that the WBF would recommend to zones that they adopt the symmetric cards throughout.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Executive approved the contract with 2 abstentions (Mr Aubry and Mr Harsanyi).

### **3. High Level Players Commission – agenda item 31**

Mr Duboin presented a report from the HLPC which is attached as Exhibit 3-4. The Commission had been asked whether it was necessary in Mixed events for the men and women to sit in pre-determined positions. The HLPC felt it was not necessary and so the Executive unanimously approved the liberalisation of seating in the Mixed.

With respect to players participating in two events running concurrently, a player cannot play in both. This was unanimously approved and will be inserted into the General Conditions of Contest for World Bridge Championships.

The HLPC suggested a new category of Masterpoints for Mixed events. The meeting unanimously approved and Mark Newton will be asked to create a new scale which will be approved by the Management Committee.

The format and schedule for the various Round-Robins have come under scrutiny. The HLPC recommends that in Senior and Mixed categories it is preferable to play three matches, each of 16 boards to qualify 8 teams for the KO stages, rather than four matches of fewer boards. This point will be borne in mind in future when making arrangements for World Bridge Games.

The HLPC had carried out some research about the Express Line on the WBF site, finding that very few players were aware of it. It was agreed that more co-operation was required with Tournament Directors in general and more publicity

was needed for the Express Line. It may, indeed, be necessary to introduce sanctions for NBOs who failed to submit reports of unethical behaviour.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:45 to be reconvened on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> September at 15:00.