



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Wroclaw, Poland  
Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 10:00**

**In Attendance**

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair  
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus  
Mr John Wignall, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Mr 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  
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 Ata Aydin, Chairman WBF Youth Committee  
Mr Philippe Cronier, HLPC  
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour and Advisory Committee Member  
Mr Robert Hartman, CEO ACBL  
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President APBF  
Ms Lilian Sun, CCBA

**Excused**

Mr Al Levy, Executive Vice President who joined the meeting later  
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 10:10. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

The President welcomed Mr Hartman, CEO of the ACBL, to the meeting.

### **1. Women's Committee – agenda item 34**

Mrs Atay, the Chairman of the EBL Women's Committee, gave a short report in the absence of Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano.

### **2. World Wide Bridge Contest – agenda item 20**

Mrs Gudge was invited to the meeting and gave a brief report on the World Wide Bridge Contest which was played in June this year. She said that the winners were thrilled about going to Beijing for the final stages and there had been quite a lot of positive publicity about the event. She is hoping that we will be able to build on this next year.

Mrs Gudge then left the meeting.

### **3. 2018 World Youth Teams Championship – agenda item 29.2**

Mrs Sun showed a video presentation of the venue for this event in Su Zhou in the Wu Jiang district which is not far from Shanghai and can be reached by speed train. The dates will be from 9<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August 2018. 4 categories Juniors, Girls, Youngsters and Kids.

There will be access to internet throughout. Arrangements have been confirmed with 6 hotels, with another 3 under negotiation. The approximate cost for full-board accommodation will be \$95 single room and \$70 per person double room in 4\* hotels.

The Agreement with CCBA provides for free availability of the venue, personnel and all the technical equipment. A subsidy of \$50,000 has also been agreed.

The President thanked Mrs Chen Zelan and Mrs Lilian Sun for their presentation.

### **4. World Youth Teams Championship, Salsomaggiore – agenda item 7**

Mr Fellus presented a video synthesis of the championships.

Mr Aydin then read his report on the Championships.

The President thanked Mr Aydin for his report. He said that the Youth movement is growing. There was great support from the local authorities which made the championship very successful. The atmosphere was marvellous and the participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves. He is confident that the next event in Lyon will also be very well attended.

### **5. Spot for Youth – agenda item 43**

Mr Fellus presented a short video for Spot for Youth which was well received. Each Zone has already received a personalised copy to be used for promotional purposes. It was agreed that this video be made available on the WBF website.

### **6. Minutes of the Management Committee in Budapest – agenda item 9**

The Minutes of the Management Committee held in Budapest from 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were unanimously approved and the Executive Council unanimously ratified the adoption of the WBF Code of Ethics (attached as Exhibit 6.1), the

IOC Code of Prevention (attached as Exhibit 6.2), the affiliation of Kazakhstan since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016

## **7. Unethical behaviour: activity in Europe & North America - agenda item 17**

Mr Aubry read his report on the activities of the EBL.

Mr Kielbasinski requested that it be noted that in Chennai a Polish pair had been banned and the PBU had decided not to investigate, a decision that was criticized by many. In fact, the PBU constitution allows a period of one year only to begin an investigation of unethical conduct and that year had already passed by October 2015. However, the PBU decided to grant permission to the EBL to conduct an investigation and would apply whatever sanctions were decided by EBL. A few weeks ago there was an Extraordinary General Assembly to change the By-Laws to give the PBU 5 years in which to bring proceedings against individuals suspected of unethical conduct. That change was approved, but only applies for new cases.

Mr Duboin explained that there is a link on WBF website which will receive anonymous complaints. The HLPC recommends that NBOs have a link to the WBF website. There should be more co-operation with the TDs who should, in major championships, report any case of unethical behaviour or incorrect information to the Chief TD.

It would also be of assistance to have more cameras recording the action at all tables if possible. Finally, co-operation between NBOs, TDs and the HLPC is vital.

Ms Heth explained that the Bridge Integrity Task Force is working on developing a new type of hearing for high level players accused of collusive cheating. The case would be heard by a panel of high level players in an arbitration procedure.

She chairs the Appeals and Charges Committee which hears appeals of convictions and automatically reviews all convictions for ethical violations; two cases are due to be heard by the Appeals and Charges Committee in November and will then become final. The ACBL gives reciprocity to other bridge organisations' sanctions provided they meet the WBF guidelines.

The President commented that because of accusations of unethical behaviour and consequent suspensions, the atmosphere in the playing areas in Chennai had not been good. It is hoped that when all tables are under camera surveillance things will be improved.

Mr Wignall congratulated Mr Aubry of making such a good job of a very difficult situation as EBL President and Chairman of the WBF Credentials Committee.

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Mr Kielbasinski introduced the new PBU President, Mr Witold Stachnik, who then welcomed everyone to Poland and presented the members with a welcome gift.

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## **8. Advisory Committee – agenda point 18**

Mr Damiani reported on the meeting of the Advisory Committee which held a meeting on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September. The Committee was happy with the decisions that had been made by the Credentials Committee this year but believed that they might benefit from a little more guidance in the future.

He mentioned that he had thanked Mr Wignall for the article that appeared in the Bulletin of Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September. Communication is very important and the players should be made aware of this.

The By-Laws must ensure that players found guilty of collusive cheating will be banned for life from playing together, and also from playing with any other player found guilty of cheating in any way. To be rehabilitated a player must serve at least two-thirds of his sentence. Finally, in future no pair or team in WBF events may contain more than one player who, in the past, has been found guilty of unethical behaviour.

With respect to the assignment of titles, in the present circumstances this is likely to be the problem of the EBL.

With respect to the proposed changes to the By-Laws, there was no consensus on the President being elected by the Congress although the Advisory Committee did believe that some of the representatives should be.

He reported that the Advisory Committee would like to propose the election of Mrs Georgia Heth and Mrs Chen Zelan to the Committee of Honour. After a secret ballot, both Mrs Heth and Mrs Chen were duly elected. The Executive congratulated both on their election.

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Mr Alvin Levy joined the meeting at 16:10

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## **9. WBF Congress – agenda item 8**

The President went over the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws that will be presented to the delegates at the meeting of Congress on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September for their approval, since these have been circulated to them previously.

The Executive approved, with 4 abstentions, to put this before the Congress.

## **10. Agreement with Cartamundi – returning to agenda item 22**

Mr Damiani introduced Mr Philippe De Somer, President of Cartamundi, Mr Jean-Jacques Maartense, Vice-President & Mr Kris Gelade. They gave a video presentation about their company which has a long history.

There is now an agreement in place (for three years with rights of extension) whereby Cartamundi will produce the WBF Symmetric Cards and pay the WBF an annual fee.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:10 to be reconvened on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September at 15:00.