



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Lyon, France
Wednesday, 16th August 2017 at 15:00**

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 Mazhar Jafri, Vice President
Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Vice President
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
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 Executive Council

By invitation of the President

Mr Philippe Cronier, Chairman HLPC
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6
Mrs Lilian Sun, Interpreter

Excused

Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
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. Youth Bridge – agenda item 15

1.1 The 5th World Youth Open Championship, Lyon, 15th-25th August – agenda item 15.1/15.3

Mr Ata Aydin presented his report on these Championships.

The President noted that there were two delegations here from China. This year we have exceeded the previous years' attendance.

1.2 Youth Fund & Subsidizing Youth – agenda item 15.2

The kids receive full accommodation and food offered by the WBF.

The President noted that sadly not everyone had been able to attend the opening ceremony for these championships but the participants very much appreciated it.

1.3 Kids – agenda item 15.4

Mrs Atay presented her report.

1.4 Development Program – agenda item 15.5

Mr Ofir presented a new site for 'Youth Bridge Online Magazine' that has just gone online a couple of days ago. There are articles for beginners, videos and news. Dedicated site for youth and kids designed in a way that is popular with the juniors. One of the aims is to create a 'live' community.

The President congratulated Mr Ofir for an excellent presentation. He also believes that the success of the event in Lyon has also benefitted by all the contacts he has made in the past few months.

1.5 New tools for teaching – agenda item 15.7

Mr Melander made a presentation on the project to introduce bridge to juniors with a MiniBridge course. By having bridge courses for schools, after one year the new players will be able to play properly. The President thanked Mr Melander for his presentation.

Mrs Kong presented a short video on a championship that the Chinese had organized between parents and children.

1.6 2018 World Youth Bridge Teams Championship, Suzhou City, Wu Jiang District, China – agenda item 15.10

The President presented the contract that has been signed between the WBF and CCBA to host the 2018 championships.

2. Bridge & Science – agenda item 24

Mr Marek Malysa was invited into the meeting and made a brief report on the new project on Bridge & Science about the importance of bridge in keeping the brain active and helping to reduce the risk of dementia or Alzheimer in older people.

3. FISU & University Bridge – agenda item 14.8

Mr Harry Van De Peppel made a report on behalf of Geert Magerman. University Bridge is very important for the future of bridge. Today's students will be the decision makers of the future. If one of the future managers or CEOs plays bridge, they will think about sponsoring their sport.

Bridge is recognized by the EUSA and FISU as a University sport. Sadly, many national University sports federations do not recognize bridge as a fully-fledged sport. Therefore, it is essential that sports managers be convinced and for that we need support from every NBO as well as the WBF and EBL.

Many NBOs give all their youth budget to these championships rather than to university championships. If we fail to increase the number of teams in FISU as

well as EUSA championships, then FISU and EUSA may possibly stop organizing Bridge championships.

This year, there is a European championship in Fuengirola, Spain. As of last Saturday, there were 13 teams registered but unfortunately 4 teams have dropped out for financial reasons. Next year there is a world championship in Xuzhou, China in October. We hope that as many as possible will come to that championship and that all NBOs will want to promote the championship.

4. Antidoping & Medical Matters – agenda item 27

4.1 Medical Commission Meeting & WADA Questionnaire – agenda item 27.1

Anna Gudge gave a report on the meeting of the Medical Commission that was held in Lausanne earlier this year. The tests from last year were all clear thankfully and the tests have already been arranged for these Championships. She also told the meeting that the WADA questionnaire is not only extremely extensive but also very complicated to complete.

The NADOs (the National Antidoping Officers) in Italy and Portugal went into two senior championships and did random testing. All of the women tested in Italy were positive for doping. The players had to pay €400 each for the test but did not get any sanction. It is essential that all NBOs are made aware of the possibility of this happening in other countries. If a player is playing in a certain level of event then they should request an exemption.

5. Women's Bridge – agenda item 28

Mrs Sophonpanich gave a short report on a meeting that she held with Mrs Chen Zelan, Mrs Sevinç Atay and Anna Gudge where it was decided to reduce the number of members but to have liaison people in the various zones. They intend to keep the online bridge with BBO.

6. Publications – agenda item 36

The President noted that the members had all received a copy of the Wroclaw Book and the 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

7. TDs matters – agenda item 31

Mr Harsanyi read his report on the meeting of the TD Committee which took place on Tuesday afternoon. The Committee proposed to make Rui Marques a Chief TD. The Executive ratified this proposal. The Committee proposed keeping Max Bavin as a mentor and hoped to find a special title for him. The President noted that Max Bavin had already been appointed as WBF Honorary Chief Tournament Director (a title shared with Bill Schoder) and had been awarded the WBF Gold Medal.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00 to be reconvened at 14:00 on Thursday, 17th August.