



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Lyon, France
Sunday, 13th 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
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
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 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 members to this Plenary meeting in Lyon, France. He then outlined the schedule of works and times of the meetings for the following week. He thanked the Métropole of Lyon for the delightful Opening Ceremony that was held the previous evening at the City Hall and for their kind hospitality. He also thanked the French Bridge Federation for hosting this event in the beautiful city of Lyon.

2. Remembering Anna Maria Torlontano and the departed Friends

The President reminisced about Anna Maria Torlontano, who passed away at the end of 2016. She was a legend in her own time and will be sadly missed by all who knew her. She was immensely enthusiastic about bridge and was a great friend and huge supporter of the WBF.

He also mentioned that other friends of bridge had passed away recently, including Betty Ann Kennedy, Sandra Landy, Julian Klukowski and Michael Seamon. In addition, while in Montecatini in June, he learned of the passing of Hein Verbruggen, the former President of SportAccord. Finally, in the last few weeks we learned of the sad passing of Virgil Anderson, a former Executive Council member and Henry Francis, for many years the Editor of the Daily Bulletin. Henry practically defined bridge journalism worldwide, and taught two generations how to report bridge competitions.

3. Approval of the minutes of the E.C Meetings in Wroclaw 2016

The Minutes, which had been previously circulated to members, were unanimously approved.

4. President's report

The President started by expressing warm congratulations to Marcelo Caracci, Sheena Rayner and Bernard Pascal on their re-election at the Presidency of respectively CSB, CACBF and ABF, and for being confirmed as members of the WBF Executive Council; to Chen Zelan who, at the last Assembly in April in Aarhus, was elected by acclamation as President of IMSA and to Marc De Pauw who, at the same Assembly of IMSA, had been re-elected as Treasurer by acclamation.

The President gave an overview of his activities since the last meeting in Wroclaw which involved a huge amount of travelling. Amongst other places, he had been in Beijing for the final of the 1st WBF/Ourgame World Wide Bridge Contest in September 2016. He was in Lausanne in October, and later that month in Amman. In November, he was in Turin for the Yeh Cup. This year, in addition to attending the Officers' Meeting in Kansas City, he had travelled to Aarhus, Denmark for the SportAccord Convention; he visited Cape Town, South Africa for the WBF/ABF seminar; the BFAME in Dubai, the CSB in Santiago and the ABPF in Seoul. More recently, he attended the ACBL Summer Nationals in Toronto.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report which included the following items:

- (1) The accounts and balance sheet for 2016
- (2) An update on the 2017 budget

- (3) The budget 2018 proposal
- (4) Key figures/Financial policy guidelines

The Auditor's Report on the year 2016 accounts from EY was received and adopted. The amended 2017 budget figures were adopted as was the 2018 budget.

The Management Committee unanimously approved the 2016 accounts and balance-sheet and the following split of the surplus of income:

To the Youth Fund	+€52,62K
To the Promotion & Development Fund	+€58,56K
To the newly created General Provision	+€100,00K
To the equity of the WBF	+€430,68K

The Executive Council unanimously approved and thanked the Treasurer for the excellent results achieved.

6. Minutes of the Management Committee meetings in Kansas City, USA March & in Montecatini Terme, Italy, June and Ratification of the statements – agenda item 7

The Minutes of the Management Committee held in both Kansas City and Montecatini and all the decisions taken were unanimously approved and ratified by the Executive Council.

The Management Committee at the extraordinary meeting held in Kansas City, inter alia, unanimously approved:

1. On the proposal of the President, to institute the "Anna Maria Torlontano Trophy" for the Women's Teams category in the World Bridge Games
2. On the proposal of the President to award Max Bavin with the WBF Gold Medal for the outstanding services to bridge and to nominate him as WBF Honorary Head Tournament Director, position that currently is covered only by Bill Schoder
3. On the proposal of the President, shared with the Chairman of the TDs Committee, Joseph Harsanyi, to appoint Antonio Riccardi, currently Co-head Tournament Director, as Head Tournament Director, position that currently is covered only by Matt Smith
4. On the report of Josef Harsanyi, submitted by the President, to ratify the appointment made by the TDs Committee, as follows:
 - Bertrand Gignoux and Laurie Kelso, currently Chief TDs, as Co-Head TDs
 - Dimitri Ballas, currently Assistant Chief TD, as Chief TD
 - O. Rahmi Iyilikci, currently Tournament Director, as Assistant Chief TD
5. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Olympic Channel Services

6. A Memorandum of Understanding with Peace and Sport

The Management Committee at the meeting held in Montecatini Terme, inter alia, unanimously approved to appoint a Scientific Committee, Bridge & Science Committee, composed by Marek Malysa, Chairman, Piotr Blajet, Paolo Walter Gabriele, Gilad Ofir, Samantha Punch, Members, Anna Gudge, Secretary.

These decisions were unanimously approved and ratified by the Executive Council.

7. 43rd World Bridge Championships & 11th World Transnational Open Teams, Lyon, France – agenda item 8

7.1 *Organization & Attendance – agenda item 8.1*

As Trinidad and Tobago (from Zone 5) were not eligible to participate, Italy replaced them so that the numbers in both the BB and VC were equal (22).

76 teams are registered in the Transnationals with 26 teams from France. That leaves 50 teams paying the full amount while the French teams have a 25% discount.

The President expects approximately 50 teams to drop into the Transnationals from the main event bringing the number of teams to over 100. If there are more than 120 teams, the format will have to be changed, introducing the Round of 32.

The Opening Ceremony was held at the City Hall which was very impressive, although the fact that there was standing room only was rather difficult for some people. The buffet was fantastic. The venue here is marvellous, rooms being very spacious and the catering good.

The technology was improved with the adoption of a new system of tablets in all the matches broadcasted, one tablet at the entrance of the room and two tablets on each table, where the name of the players and their positions are indicated. They also record how much time has passed. In addition, there is a button which can be pushed to call a director as the whole system is integrated into a central server. In future, there will be enough tablets to cover all the tables.

A new live broadcasting technology was introduced and will be presented to the Executive later.

We continue to print the Daily Bulletin but not in the same quantity. Some of the journalists are working from home which brings the costs down for the WBF.

There has been no problem with the security as it is impossible to enter the building by any means other than by the front entrance.

7.2 *Financial – agenda item 8.2*

The Treasurer reported that he is comfortable with the figures budgeted as they are now.

7.3 *Credentials Committee – agenda item 8.3*

The Credentials Committee had a few problems but nothing that could not be sorted out.

7.4 Live broadcasting – agenda item 8.4

Mr Fellus reported on plans for live broadcasting, interviews with the players, and up-to-date results from the play.

7.5 21st Computer championship- agenda item 8.5

Mr Levy reported that the 21st World Computer Bridge Championships will take place in Lyon from 19th-24th August with 7 competing robots.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00 to be reconvened on Monday, 14th August at 09:30.