



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Philadelphia, USA  
Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018 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 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  
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 Executive Council

**Excused**

Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member  
Mrs Chen Zelan, Member  
Mr Josef Harsanyi, Member  
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 10:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

**1. World Bridge Series, Orlando – agenda item 15**

*1.1 Preparation, Venue & Hotel – agenda item 15.1*

Mr Levy reported on preparations for this event being held in Orlando from 21<sup>st</sup> September through 6<sup>th</sup> October. There will be secondary events organized alongside the main events but there will be no regionals.

So far, we have a 38% booking rate though we need 75%. Hopefully, this will not be a major problem as there are still over 190 days to go. There will be complimentary breakfasts for the first week.

### *1.2 Organization, Format & Schedule – agenda item 15.2*

The first week is very full with the Rosenblum, McConnell Cup and Rand Senior. These are followed by the Pairs events. Junior Players will also be able to enter the Youth Triathlon event starting on Saturday 22nd September.

In addition, there will be the Joan Gerard Cup – a pairs event – starting on Saturday 29th September, a Seniors Triathlon starting on Monday 1st October, as well as a Short Track Pairs starting on Friday 28th September and an IMP Pairs starting in the morning of Friday 5th October.

## **2. World Wide Bridge Contest – agenda item 16**

### *2.1 2017 Final, Beijing, China – agenda item 16.1*

Mr Levy reported on the 2017 World Wide Bridge Contest, held at clubs through the world, which culminated with a final event held in Beijing, September 22-24, 2017. There were 40 pairs invited to play in the final event, with expenses paid. 24 pairs qualified from the World Wide Bridge Contest heats (not including China) run by the WBF and 16 Chinese pairs qualified from online heats run in China on the Ourgame website. The format was a complete round robin, 39 rounds of 4 boards each, 156 total boards, played over 3 days. Everyone used the WBF standard system. There was a prize pool of \$20,000.

The President thought that it was a very good event for development and the ensuing publicity from those who had participated would be excellent.

### *2.2 2018 Edition – agenda item 16.2*

The same format will be used. 24 players will be invited to the final and, in addition, 4 top players will be invited to play with Chinese VIPs.

## **3. Asian Olympic Games, Jakarta – agenda item 19**

Mr Choy reported that this event would be held from 21<sup>st</sup> August through 2<sup>nd</sup> September. There will be Men's, Women's, Mixed and Super-Mixed events. Zone 4 and Zone 6 NBOs have been invited. There will be no costs for the players as these will be covered by the governments.

A TDs seminar will be organized on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> prior to the start of the bridge event.

## **4. WBF Master Points: definition of the correct terminology – agenda item 22**

Mr Levy suggested that a final decision be made by the Executive on the use of the word(s) "Masterpoints" or "Master Points". The Executive agreed to use "Master Points" as two words.

## **5. Bridge & Science Project subsidy – agenda item 26**

A request had been received by both the WBF Bridge & Science Committee and the EBL for support for a study by Prof Samantha Punch of the University of Sterling, UK, into the beneficial effects of playing contract bridge by possible sufferers from Alzheimer's disease. The President commented that this is important research which will result in good publicity for the WBF. It was resolved, therefore, to make a grant of €25,000.

## **6. Any Other Business – agenda item 28**

### *6.1 Zone 7 – agenda item 28.1*

Mr Wignall reported that the annual meeting of Zone 7 was held recently and he confirmed that he would be resigning as both Zone 7 President and WBF delegate from November 2018. Ben Thompson, President of the Victoria Bridge Association, will take over as President at that time. He advised that he would suggest there be a limit to the terms of Presidency – either two or three.

### *6.2 Zone 3 – agenda item 28.2*

Mr Caracci reported that a complaint had been received concerning the yearly Zonal events when Open & Women's are held one year then Seniors & Juniors the next year. The complaint was in relation to the format and the place of the next South American Championship.

## **7. Headquarters, personnel, logistic organization – agenda item 17**

Mr De Pauw advised the Executive that from July of this year, Simon Fellus would be employed full-time by the WBF.

The office in Milan will be closed eventually and the storage unit will be moved. In addition, the WBF will invest in buying new packing boxes. MSI in Lausanne has been asked to provide more office space.

## **8. WBF TDs Seminars in Zone 6 – agenda item 23**

In 2016, China invited Maurizio Di Sacco to teach TDs who worked at national level. This worked very well and was repeated in 2017 and arranged by the WBF TD Committee in Jakarta. For the development of bridge in Zone 6, the standard of Tournament Directing needs to be at a high level and the WBF can help in this considerably.

## **9. International Relations – agenda item 18**

### **9.1 – MSI Seminars & Workshops for IFs – agenda item 18.5**

Mr Fellus presented a report on his activities in this field.

## **10. Youth Matters – agenda item 24**

Mr Fellus presented a report on the Mini Site & Development and the Youth Online Championship.

## **11. Communication & Secretariat – agenda item 27**

Mr Fellus presented his report on the current situation in Lausanne.

\* \* \* \* \*

The President mentioned that he had received a communication from the EBU concerning transgender players asking whether the WBF would publish any official statement? This was discussed in the Medical Commission in 2017. Until such time as the ID fits with the gender of the individual, there is no comment to be made. The matter will be discussed again at the meeting of the Medical Commission next April in Lausanne.

\* \* \* \* \*

There being no further business, the President thanked the members for attending these meetings in Philadelphia and for their hard work.

Mr Jafri, on behalf of his colleagues, thanked the President for chairing these meetings. He congratulated Ms Heth and Mr Harris for their work on the Statutes and thanked Mr Damiani for his continued guidance.

The meeting was adjourned sine die at 12:40.