



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Orlando, Florida
Tuesday, 25th September at 10:15**

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 Patrick Choy, Vice President
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Vice President
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Ms Georgia Heth, Hon. Secretary
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member
Mrs Chen Zelan, Member
Mr Paul Janicki, Member
Mr Jan Kamras, Member
Mr Eric Laurant, Member
Mr Eitan Levy, Member
Mrs Kari-Anne Opsal, 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

By invitation of the President

Mrs Sevinç Atay, WBF Youth Committee
Mr Ata Aydin, Chairman WBF Youth Committee
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mr Gilad Ofir
Mr Marek Malysa
Mr Dan Morse, former Executive Council Member
Mr George Retek, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6
Mr Witek Stachnik, President of Polish Bridge Union
Mrs Lilian Sun, interpreter

Excused

Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 10:15. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

The President welcomed Mrs Sevinç Atay, Mr Ata Aydin, Mr Gilad Ofir as well as Mr Witek Stachnik, President of Polish Bridge Union and Mr Marek Malysa to the meeting.

1. Youth Matters – agenda item 25

1.1. World Youth Championship, Wuijiang – agenda item 25.1

Mr Aydin presented his report on the World Youth Championship held in Wuijiang in August 2018. Thanks to the professional works of the WBF crew, and efforts of the CCBA and the local Authorities, together with the back-up received from various sponsors headed by the Hengtong Group, the Championship, in spite of some difficulties with internet, has been smoothly and successfully run to the general satisfaction of all participants. As in the previous editions of the World Youth Teams Championship, the overall participation figures from Zones 1, 2, and 6 were highly satisfactory. With the inclusion of the Consolation BAM Tournament for the teams eliminated from the main event, a total of 111 Teams competed throughout the various events in the Championship setting a new record for our youth team championships. For the first time this year, a case of misconduct by the participating players have been experience. The case has been thoroughly investigated by a committee led by WBF President Gianarrigo Rona, and Ata Aydin and decided that the accusations were without merit and dismissed the case.

Mrs Atay gave a report on the Kids' Championship: aAs per the well-established trend since its inauguration into the WBF calendar since 2014, The Kids participation in the World Youth Teams Championship held in Wuijiang set a new record of 18 teams from 16 different countries. The Kids series will continue to develop in the upcoming Zonal and World events and our Committee will endeavour to encourage all NBO's to allocate resources, time and efforts to raise the Kids bridge in their respective countries in the coming years.

The meeting congratulated Mr. Aydin and Mrs. Atay for their report and for the success achieved. The President congratulated and thanked the CCBA and the Wuijiang Authorities for hosting this event.

Mr Eitan Levy suggested changing the names of the Youth Categories to simply reflect their ages: from Juniors, Girls, Youngster & Kids to Under 26 Open, Under 26 Women, Under 21 and Under 16. It remain intact that "players competing in Junior and Girls events must not have achieved their 25th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place. In the case of special events (e.g. for younger players or University events) the Supplementary Conditions of Contest shall detail the age requirements. Players competing in Youngster events must not have achieved their 20th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place. Players in the Kids events must not have achieved their 15th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place."

The Executive Council approved unanimously, directing the Secretariat to amend as above the Eligibility Code, the Conditions of Contest and all the other WBF documents referring to the Youth events.

1.2 Youth Matters – agenda item 25.2,3,4

Mr Ofir made a video presentation of the activity done in youth development, including the new tools adopted and introduced, the Mini Site, the Online Championship and the future programs. All these activities have been funded by the Youth Fund not from the WBF funds.

The President informed that the Agreement with the Swedish Federation for the use of the Youth Bridge Teaching Program has been defined and a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed in the next days. The translation in English will be completed by Mr. Jan Eric Larsson before the end of the year, so this new tool will be post on the WBF Website and available without any charge for all the NBOs. This represents another success of the new development strategy and is another important step reached in helping and supporting all our affiliated members in their activity towards youth bridge. The cost of the project (€ 20.000 to the SBF and € 3.000 for the translation in English) will be covered by both the Development and Youth Funds.

The meeting was impressed by the activity done and by the results achieved and in particular Mr Damiani congratulated Mr Ofir and his team for doing a very good job. The President felt that the inclusion of social media on this site and the inter-active aspect were marvellous innovations.

Mr Mark Newton was asked to give a short overview of the proposed plan for awarding Youth Master Points. This plan was approved unanimously.

The President then presented Mrs Atay, Mr Aydin, Mr Ofir and Mr. Newton with the 60th Anniversary Medal.

1.3 FISU 7 University Bridge – agenda item 25.5

In the absence of Mr Geert Magerman, the President reported that there were great difficulties with this event and only 7 teams were registered for this year. We need to find more ways to support this event. We need to find a way of involving the Federations in this and encouraging them to add their support. The FISU recognises officially Bridge, but we need to get official recognition from the National University Sport Organisations so that we can send teams with their say-so.

2. World Youth Open Championship 2019 – agenda item 19

This event will be held in Opatija, Croatia in one of the following venues: the old one, the Sports Palace, or the third option is the new venue. This will depend on the number of participants. The period will be from 20th-29th August. The cost of rooms is between €70-€88 depending on the hotel, sharing a room and with full board. Mr Eitan Levy suggested negotiating a hotel shuttle to and from the airports.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:00 to be reconvened on Wednesday, 26th September at 09:45.