



**MINUTES OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Wuhan, China  
Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September at 10:00**

**In Attendance**

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair  
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus  
Mr Al Levy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Mr Patrick Choy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer  
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member  
Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member  
Mr Nader Hanna, Member  
Mr Jan Kamras, Member  
Mr Eric Laurant, Member  
Mr Eitan Levy, Member  
Mr Kirubakara Moorthy, Member  
Mrs Kari-Anne Opsal, Member  
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member  
Mr Douglas (Kip) Rotchell, Member  
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, Member  
Mrs Suzi Subeck, Member  
Mr Adam Wildavsky, Member

**Also in Attendance**

Mr David Harris, General Counsel  
Mr Simon Fellus, WBF Secretary  
Ms Arianna Testa, Secretary to the Executive Council

**By invitation of the President**

Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour Committee Member  
Mrs Georgia Heth, Honour Committee Member  
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Honour Committee Member  
Mr John Wignall, Honour Committee Member

**Excused**

Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member  
Mr Ben Thompson, 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. Finance Committee

On the proposal of the President the Executive Council unanimously approved to appoint Mr. Douglas "Kip" Rotchell as member replacing Mrs. Sheena Rayner. The Committee is composed as follows: Marc De Pauw (Chairman), Marcelo Caracci, Patrick Choy, Eric Laurant, Alvin Levy, Bernard Pascal, Douglas "Kip" Rotchell (Members), Dirk De Clercq (Secretary)

## 2. World Tour Report agenda item #23

Mr Jan Kamras presented his report concerning the "World Tour" as follows:

*For the benefit of those not participating in the last EC meeting, the idea is inspired by world tours in sports like golf, tennis etc. It will rank **pairs** in **existing** Team and Pair events with strong international participation. The only event added to the calendar would be the Tour Final for the top 16 pairs, probably sometime in the first quarter of the following year.*

*During the past months I have worked mainly on four aspects - (1) what events to include, (2) if/how to categorize them, (3) what scales to apply and (4) if/how to apportion points in teams of more than two pairs.*

*On points 1 and 2 I have consulted various top level players from different countries and Zones, but it is still a work in progress.*

*On points 3 and 4 Herman De Wael is of immense help in back-testing various scales. This is also a continuous process.*

*I have also discussed sponsoring with various people, but nothing is yet finalised. I believe we will need €50.000-75.000 to provide a "Top 16" Final where we cover the cost of travel, accommodation and per diem for the participants. Preferably there should also be some cash prizes (to attract particularly the qualified US professionals who may be hesitant to pass up a weekend of a ACBL "Regional". I would prefer sponsors who will not insist on influencing the field qualifying for the Tour Final (I suspect a couple of persons might cover the whole thing if they are guaranteed a spot). I would appreciate suggestions of persons to contact - maybe "Bam Bam"? Mr. Yeh?*

*It is unrealistic to start the Tour already with the 2020 season and I propose to start with the 2021 season.*

### Which events

*For the first season we would nominate the events, but subsequently NBOs could apply for inclusion also of other events. The basic conditions should be:*

- *Open to all eligible members of WBF NBOs.*
- *Strong international participation.*
- *Verifiable results and line-up reporting.*
- *Typically at least a 3 day event.*

*Obvious candidates for initial inclusion are the WBF and EBL transnationals, the main events at NABCs, Zonal championships that are transnational, EBU Spring Foursomes, HCL International, Gold Coast (Australia). Other candidates mentioned are the main events of the festivals in Biarritz, Tel Aviv, Chairman's Cup (Sweden). There are of course many other, and stronger, events but they are typically "invitational" in the true sense of the word and with limited entries.*

### Categories

*It becomes clear from the provisional list above that there needs to be different categories, with different top point awards, in order provide reasonably fair comparisons. The present working assumption, on which our back-testing is presently based, is for three categories with top scores in the ratio 100/70/40.*

### Scales

*We are experimenting with regressions of 80-90% and awarding points to maximum one third of the field. This is fine for large fields but will sometimes need "tweaking", e.g. for the Reisinger BAM Teams.*

*Another difficult area is handling Pair contra Team events. Should the scales reflect that at least two pairs get 100 in a top category Team event whereas only one pair gets 100 in a corresponding Pair event? My instinct tells me "no" for the following reason: The reality of sponsoring among today's elite players is that most clients only sponsor teams, so all top pairs will play those events. Those who also play Pairs will sometimes play with regular partners, sometimes with friends mainly for fun and occasionally with a sponsor. If accepting this theory one could of course compensate by not giving any Pairs event the 100 top score, but I feel that is overdoing it and maybe not "politically correct".*

### Apportioning point awards in 5-6 person teams

*It does not seem fair that all 3 pairs on a winning top category event get 100 points, particularly since one pair is often playing less than the others. Why should a pair playing, say, 50% of the boards get as many points as one on a four-man team playing all the boards? And why should a total of 300 points be awarded one team but only 200 another?*

*One could say that you need to play at least 2/3 to get full points and otherwise only e.g. half. That makes it relatively easy (provided line-ups are available), but is also not ideal.*

*Another alternative is to simply say that the winning team gets 200 (or 210) points to be split among them in strict proportion to how much they played. That means a winner on a four-man team gets more than one on a larger team, but maybe that is only fair?*

### Back-testing

*Thanks to Herman De Wael's efforts we are now, and have been for several months, back-testing the 2017 and 2018 seasons covering most events mentioned above, using various scales and apportioning principles. It is an enormous manual job but can surely be simplified once going "live".*

*I want to see how various methods work out, i.e. who the top 16 (or whatever) pairs would have been. We collectively know enough about the real strength of the top international pairs to judge if it seems reasonable.*

The Executive Council thanked Mr. Kamras, congratulating him and unanimously approved.

### **3. Officers Seminar 2019, Singapore 8-10 June and plan for 2020** agenda item #21

The President reported about the Office Seminar:

*As announced the WBF – APBF NBOs Officers' Seminar was held in Singapore from 8th to 10th June. It followed both the successful NBO Officers' Seminar organised in Medellin in 2016 for CSB and in Cape Town in 2017 for ABF, according the new policy introduced by the Executive Council in 2015 to annual NBOs Officers' Seminar in the various Zones.*

*This year the event, reserved for the Officers of the Federations affiliated to the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation, has been organised by the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation, chaired by its President Esther Chodchoy Sophonpanich together with the Singapore Bridge Association and its Bridge Ambassador Jane Choo and hosted in Singapore, under the coordination of the WBF. The Seminar was extremely successful and was attended by the representatives of China (Wang Yunnan and Sun Chengmo), China Hong Kong (Lik Cheung), Chinese Taipei (Hsieh Cheng-Hong and Lo Sheng-Chun), Indonesia (Miranda Swaray Gultom, Purba Robert Mangapul Sianipar and Joto Then), Japan (Tadashi Yoshida), Malaysia (David Law), Singapore (Jane Choo, Chua Gang, Kelvin Ong) and Thailand (Chaiyut Assaneeyawong and Chayawat Pisessith). Also Australia (Allison Stralow and Bruce Nell) attended the Seminar.*

*Reports and presentations were made by the WBF President Gianarrigo Rona, the Vice Presidents Alvin Levy (via Skype) and Patrick Choy, the Treasurer Marc De Pauw, the General Counsel David Harris, the Secretary Simon Fellus, the Coordinator of the Youth Development Gilad Ofir and the Chairman of the Bridge & Science Committee Marek Malysa. The WBF Executive Council Members Ben Thompson attended the event and the President Assistant Marina Madia provided the operation of secretariat and logistic.*

*Books, booklets and CDs concerning the WBF activity and several documents, continuing the theme of the Seminar, were delivered. Very profitable discussions followed the various reports and presentations giving opportunities to discuss the various items. The program of the Seminar (delivered to the members with the Schedule of Works), all the reports, the presentations and the documents can be found on the Website, in the Seminars Section.*

*The Seminar was very successful and appreciated by the participants who expressed their agreement by thanking the WBF for the initiative.*

*For 2020 contact are in progress with Marcelo Caracci to organise the Seminar in Lima, Peru, in occasion of the CSB Festival and General Assembly. In addition we will have a space for 2/3 lectures/reports at the EBL Officers Seminar in Prague in January/February, for which we are very grateful to EBL President Jan Kamras for his kind hospitality.*

The Executive Council thanked the President for his report, congratulated him and the Seminar Speakers for the success of the initiative and approved the project of the 2020 Seminar.

#### **4. 2020 WBF Congress** agenda item #20

The President reminded that according to the WBF Statutes and By-laws:

- I. starting from 2022, all the members of the WBF Executive Council and the President and the Boards of the Zonal Conferences must be elected for a quadrennial term. The Zonal Conferences elections have to be done before the celebration of the WBF Congress. All the Zonal Conferences, if not already provided, have to adopt this rule in their Statutes and By-laws.
- II. Zone 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and HLPC are already in line with the rule and their representatives are in charge until 2022. These Zonal Conferences will provide their election for the legislature 2022-2026 before the celebration of the 2022 WBF Congress.
- III. The Presidents the Boards and the WBF Executive Council Members elected or re-elected by Zone 3 and Zone 8 in 2020 & 2021 Zone 3 and Zone 8 that have their election in 2020 and 2021 will finish their term in 2022.
- IV. The 3 Members of the WBF Executive Council elected by the Congress in 2020 will finish their term in 2022.

The Executive Council unanimously approved.

#### **5. Youth Matters** agenda item #15.8

The President introduced Mr Amaresh Deshpande who illustrated a new way of teaching Bridge and presented his tool HOOL to the Council.

The Executive Council thanked and congratulated Mr Deshpande.

Mr. Deshpande left the room.

#### **6. Honorary Secretary Election** agenda item #6

Upon proposal of the President, Mr Jan Kamras was unanimously elected Honorary Secretary. Mr. Kamras accepted the position and thanked the EC.

#### **7. Disciplinary Matters**

##### **a. WBF Disciplinary Codes & WBF Anti-doping Rules** agenda item #12.1

The President presented the Amending of art. 2.4 and 9.2 of the WBF Disciplinary Code giving the Disciplinary Tribunal competence in antidoping matters and the

consequent amending the WBF Antidoping Rules replacing the WBF's Doping Hearing Panel with the WBF Disciplinary Tribunal.

The Executive Council unanimously approved the amendments which are immediately in effect.

**b. The Helgemo Doping Case and the Zimmermann Appeal's to CAS agenda item #12.2**

General Counsel provided an outline of the Drug Violation by Geir Helgemo during the Rosenblum Cup Final in Orlando that led to a hearing of the WBF Anti-Doping Tribunal that took place in February; Geir Helgemo had accepted that he was guilty of the violation and was suspended for a period of 12 months. As a consequence of that breach the Tribunal automatically disqualified the result of Team Zimmerman and the Team was therefore considered to have lost the final.

Following the disqualification, Pierre Zimmerman appealed the decision to CAS. CAS indicated its readiness to accept and endorse an agreement between the parties and gave them a term to submit it. The President was keen authorized by the Management Committee to find a resolution of this issue that would enable Team Zimmerman to have the title restored to them whilst maintaining the integrity of applying our rules.

The following agreement has been submitted to the CAS that accepted and endorsed it: *Team Zimmermann shall be reinstated as victor of the Final together with all resulting titles, medals, awards and master points save that the individual sanction against Geir Helgemo, including, for the avoidance of doubt, the disqualification of his individual result in the Final, be maintained in full.*

The Executive Council thanked the General Counsel for his report and unanimously ratified and approved the Management Committee decision and the President work, thanking and congratulating him for the result reached.

**8. Antidoping and Medical Matters agenda item #14**

The President reported that during the meeting of the Medical Commission, also in view of a more liberal revision of the WADA Code in progress, the Executive Council received a strong recommendation to update art. 11.2 of the WBF Anti-doping Rules in the sense that at least two players have to be found positive to the doping in order to disqualify the entire team, according to the WADA Rules concerning the teams competitions. The President asked the Members to ratify the following decision taken by the Management Committee:

1. to modify art. 11.2 of the WBF antidoping rule including the suggested specification: Title and awards revoke will be automatic if at least two teammates are found positive to the antidoping controls.

2. To confirm that The Executive Council has the right and the power to decide to reassign the title, readjusting the ranking or to maintain it vacant.
3. To confirm that a new document, including the updated Guidelines for antidoping, must be attached at the commitment form.

The Executive Council unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:30 to be reconvened on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> September at 10:00.