



**MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Wuhan, China
Thursday, 19th September at 14:00**

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus arrived at 16:00
Mr Al Levy, 1st Vice President
Mr Patrick Choy, 2nd Vice President
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Mr David Harris, General Counsel
Mr Nader Hanna, Member
Mr Jan Kamras, Member
Mr Eric Laurant, Member
Mr Eitan Levy, Member
Mr Kirubakara Moorthy, Member left at 16:00
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

Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member
Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member
Mr Ben Thompson, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 14:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

1. TDs Committee agenda #31 report Harsanyi

The President welcomed and introduced Mr Josef Harsanyi, Chairman of the WBF TDs Committee, who reported as follows:

a) TDs at the 2019 World Championships

The appointed Tournament Directors run these championships on a high professional level to the satisfaction of the participants. The decision to appoint 7 local TD-s is on the one hand necessary to serve the English nonspeaking local players, on the other is it a great opportunity for the Chinese TDs to learn from the WBF TDs.

b) WBF TDs Committee Meeting

The Tournament Directors Committee held its yearly meeting on September 18th 2019 with the discussion and proposals for future TD-training and Qualification Projects, for changes on Official WBF TD-Register, and for potential changes in TDs Committee itself. The committee formulated ethical guidelines for TDs and staff members.

c) The WBF TDs Official Register

The TDs Committee promoted from Assistant TD to TD: Sudhir Gopal Aggarwal (India) Robin Barker (England), Richard Bley (Germany); from TD to Assistant Chief TD: Ken Horwedel (USA), Peter Eidt (Germany) Jacob Duschek (Denmark).

The WBF TDs Committee submits to the WBF Executive Council the following promotions: Laurie Kelso (Australia) from Co-Head TD to Head TD; Jeanne Van den Meiracker (USA) from Chief TD to Co-Head TD; O. Rahmi Iyilikci (Turkey) from assistant Chief TD to Chief TD.

The WBF TDs Committee proposes to remove Sean Mullamphy from the register on health reason.

d) Commissioners

After the meetings with the WBF Zonal presidents the following list of TD Commissioners is submitted for approval to the WBF Executive Council according to Article 7 of the WBF TD Regulation.

<i>Zone Present commissioner</i>	<i>Commissioners after 2019</i>
<i>1 Eitan Levy</i>	<i>Eitan Levy</i>
<i>2 Matt Smith</i>	<i>Matt Smith</i>
<i>3 Gustavo Chediak</i>	<i>Gustavo Chediak</i>
<i>4 Anand Samanth Srinivasan</i>	<i>Sudhir Gopal Aggarwal</i>
<i>5 Jack Rind</i>	<i>Jack Rind</i>
<i>6 Chen Zelan</i>	<i>Anthony Ching</i>
<i>7 Laurie Kelso, Murray Wings</i>	<i>Laurie Kelso, Murray Wings</i>
<i>8 Waleed El Menyawi</i>	<i>Waleed El Menyawi</i>

e) WBF TDs Committee members

On the proposal of the President the following changes in the WBF TDs Committee is submitted for approval:

<i>Present TD-Committee TD</i>	<i>Committee from 01.01. 2020</i>
<i>Josef Harsanyi chairman</i>	<i>Josef Harsanyi chairman</i>
<i>Phillippe Cronier member</i>	<i>Maurizio Di Sacco member</i>
<i>Maurizio Di Sacco member</i>	<i>Laurie Kelso member</i>
<i>Bertrand Gignoux member</i>	<i>Eitan Levy member</i>
<i>Laurie Kelso member</i>	<i>Fu Quiang member</i>
<i>Antonio Riccardi member</i>	<i>Antonio Riccardi member</i>
<i>Matt Smith member</i>	<i>Matt Smith member</i>
<i>Peter Eidt secretary</i>	<i>Peter Eidt secretary</i>

f) TD Education Program 2020 – 2022 of WBF

The WBF TD-s Committee and the Bridge Federation of India propose for Zones 4 to run a course and examination over 3-4 days planned for 2020 March in Delhi. The sharing of costs will be similar to the successful courses run in 2017 in Jakarta – Hong Kong – Wu Xi. The negotiations with the participating NBOs are promising. In 2019 the EBL organized its main TD refresher course and usual examinations between 06-09 February 2019 in Antalya. Six TDs from other Zones participated at this high-level TD training. Thanks to EBL and special thanks to its TD Committee Chairman Eitan Levy for keeping open the door for our TDs from other Zones. Invitation has been sent for the EBL TD Workshop in Belfast 06-09 February 2020. This is a TD educational event and it can serve as a sample to adapt in all Zones. Following on from the above, we can organize different seminars for TD-Training in any Country on their invitation and cost coverage. CCBA has shown a preliminary interest for a TD training and examination for 2020 or 2021.

g) To create up to date TD education we should organize webinars and create new forms of testing, consulting on internet. The recently published Official Commentary of 2017 Laws edited by Ton Kooijman and published on the WBF web site: www.worldbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/2017LawsCommentary.pdf is a new basic manual for TD-s. Further materials, tests, educational videos about solving of situations at the table could increase the quality and harmonize the TD's work all over the world.

Mr. Harsanyi submitted the list of internet projects for Training TDs By Maurizio Di Sacco, as follows:

- Video: I prepared the screenplay of 20 different TD calls, and in some of them I offered different scenarios, for a total of 53 plays.*
- Animations on videos: I prepared animated slides about the videos (e.g. you can see the TD trying to get eye contact with a player, as example of good practice, or the TD addressing the calmer player at the table in cases where the situation is stormy).*
- Presentations: I prepared slides on the WBF commentary, at the moment focusing on the major topics I have already written lectures on, but the project is headed to cover all laws.*
- Exams: in some place, and especially in China, there is a language barrier which makes difficult to analyze the result of the exams. I prepared texts with multiple answers, so be able to easily check the results.*

- *I have the plan to write a manual for group leaders (teachers).*
- *I have ready a plan for video conferences (with technical details in it).*

Mr. Harsanyi asks the WBF Executive Council to approve the proposal shared unanimously by the WBF TDs Committee. A raising of fund for this development is asked in amount of 20.000 EUR.

The President asked for a detailed project, presented by Mr Di Sacco to well understand the feasibility and the Executive Council, accordingly, postponed any decision at regard.

The Executive Council thanked Mr. Harsanyi for his detailed report and unanimously approved:

- I. the promotions and updating of the Official TDs Register, the appointment of the Commissioners and the appointment of the TDs Committee as submitted;
- II. the educational program 2020-2022 at point e), subject a budget previously submitted to the President and the Treasurer and by them approved;
- III. to postpone any decision concerning the Maurizio Di Sacco project submitted by the TDs Committee after the examination of its feasibility;
- IV. to ratify the updated WBF Official TDs Register as follows: WBF Honorary Head Tournament Director: Max Bavin (England), Bill Schoder (USA); WBF Honorary Chief Tournament Director: Claude Dadoun (France), Maurizio Di Sacco (Italy), Ton Kooijman (The Netherlands), Richard Grenside (Australia); Head Tournament Directors: Matt Smith (Canada), Antonio Riccardi (Italy), Laurie Kelso (Australia); Co-Head Tournament Directors: Dimitri Ballas (Greece), Bertrand Gignoux (France), Jeanne Van den Meiracker (USA); Chief Tournament Directors: Marc van Beijsterveldt (Netherlands), Bernardo Biondo (Italy), Anthony Ching (China Hong Kong), O. Rahmi Iyilikci (Turkey), Rui Marques (Portugal), Sol Weinstein (USA); Assistant Chief Tournament Directors: Jacob Duschek (Denmark), Peter Eidt (Germany), Manolo Eminent (Italy), Ken Horwedel (USA), Slawek Latala (Poland), Jacek Marciniak (Poland), Waleed El-Menyawi (Egypt), Fearghal O'Boyle (Ireland), Gordon Rainsford (England); Tournament Directors: Sudhir Gopal Aggarwal (India), Mihaela Balint (Romania), Robin Barker (England), Richard Bley (Germany), Gustavo Chediak (Uruguay), Chen Xiangyang (China), Denis Dobrin (Russia), Henrik Johansson (Sweden), Jakub Kasprzak (Poland), Ihsan Qadir (Pakistan), Fu Qiang (China), Marieke Quant (The Netherlands), Mike Roberts (USA), Robert Schuster (Austria), Balasundaram Subramanian (India), Tang Yunjian (China), Tiffany Tse (China Hong Kong); Assistant Tournament Directors: Rob Bosman (The Netherlands), Kelvin Chan (China Hong Kong), Tan Chen (China), Jerome Cheung Ka Fai (China Hong Kong), Abby Chu (China Hong Kong), Christer Grahs (Sweden), Zheng Zhihao (China), Li Ming Hua (China), Wang Ai Jun (China), Yoshiro Kido (Japan), Jeppe Knappe (Denmark), Matt Koltnow (USA), Koh Luwen (Singapore), McKenzie Myers (USA), Pan Naxing (China), Ma Junging (China), Ryszard Sliwinski (Sweden), Gerald Tang (Singapore), M. Fahir Uzumcu (Turkey).

2. Technological Matters agenda item #13.2

- 1) The President reported about the agreement (copy delivered to the members) to be signed, under the auspices of GAISF and ARISF, concerning the domain "dot sport". The Executive Council unanimously approved the signature of the contract.
- 2) On the proposal of the President, the Executive Council unanimously approved to renew, at the same conditions, the contract with Jannersten Forlag s. a. concerning the supply of cards and duplicating machines for the championship until the 31st December 2022.
- 3) The President informed that, to avoid problems happened in the past concerning the use of music in our social platforms, he signed an agreement with Open Sound (copy delivered to the members), so we can use music for our multimedia productions. The Executive Council unanimously approved and ratified the President decision.
- 4) The President reported about the contract (copy delivered to the members) signed with Velol Azur, as requested by our secretariat and technological section, about which Simon Fellus will report later. The Executive Council unanimously approved and ratified the President decision.

3. WBF Website updates agenda item #24

Mr Fellus submitted his reports as follows:

*Calendar of Events open also to Festivals and Tournaments around the world. So I encourage your NBOs to send me the event you want to publicize. Be aware, that these events must be approved by the NBO. They cannot be private events.
The picture database was updated.*

The WBF made a deal with Open Sound regarding the music on our social platforms: we can use music for our multimedia productions – videos on our social media: YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and our youth social media.

The WBF has the need to increase its range of services and business offering using new tools improving in terms of effectiveness, reliability and security the usability of our products. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to create a new-Azure based cloud architecture that can meet the business requirements of the WBF in terms of functionality and services. The architecture identified will allow the WBF the usability of its proprietary software, and services related to the same software, considerably strengthening some key aspects:

- 1. **Security:** guaranteed by the basic services and architectural components used within the new architecture, will limit possible DDos attacks and*

unwanted access to existing virtual machines;

*2. **Scalability:** will allow, when necessary, the possibility to increase/decrease resources to cope with important computational workloads in certain situations and/or specific time slots. This particular aspect will be highly configurable on the basis of customizable criteria and rules;*

*3. **Reliability:** will allow a fast recovery time of the services used and backups available always updated;*

*4. **High Availability:** will guarantee available access to all services with a percentage guarantee of use of this service between 99.95% and 99.99%.*

*5. **Support and Customer Care Assistance:** assistance on the services use and configuration. Resolution of infrastructural problems. Monitoring of the performance and resources used by the running services. Definition of metrics and warnings to identify anomalies on individual services with consequent targeted and timely intervention when necessary.*

Over-all Winners Section ("The Winning Federations" and "The Great Players": from Static (Francesca Canali and I add the results manually) → Dynamic (Once one Championship is over, the system created by our IT Manager, Fotis Skoularikis, will automatically update each section);

All the Zone's Websites are working properly, they are updated, except Zone 8 (African Bridge Federation) continue not to have a website; Regarding Zone 2, I spoke with Jan Martel and she told that the NABF will not have its own website.

New features regarding the online registration and payments which allow online monitoring of payment for our events.

4. Youth Matters agenda item #15

Mr Fellus presented his reports as follows:

a. Youth Website agenda item #15.4

Main Activities

- 1. Dynamic Online magazine for youth: events, articles, news and videos.
<http://youth.worldbridge.org> – Gilad Ofir, Fernando Lema, Ana Roth and Simon Fellus.*
- 2. Coverage of 2nd WBF Youth Teams Online Championship (February – July, 2019).*

3. Coverage of Youth Events: ex. White House 2019 (Amsterdam) – Fernando Lema and Ana Roth were on site to cover the event live.
4. Social Media (Facebook, You Tube, Instagram).

Articles and Videos:

- More than 1200 articles – Coaches, teachers, journalist provide articles and news of the youth events, whenever is possible. Thanks to the Facebook Community we have the opportunity to receive news and articles from the Youth Coordinators.
- More than 300 Videos (Interviews and Riddles)
- Every week we publish a riddle on our social platform, and the week after we publish the solution. Players from all over the world are very happy to help us.

Social Media

- WBF Youth FB page – More than 3,800 followers:
<https://www.facebook.com/World-Bridge-Federation-Youth-137841906309958/>
- WBF Youth FB Group – Online tournament.
- Instagram account – almost 750 followers:
<https://www.instagram.com/wbfyouth/>

Facebook community

Private Group: 450 members including Youth coordinators, NPC and players.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/262145427646602/>

b. Youth Online Championships agenda item #15.2

The First Youth Online Champs 2018

Participants

- U16 Category: 13 Teams.
- U26 Category: 29 Teams.
- Total of 31 NBO's

The Second Youth Online Champ 2019

Participants

- U16 Category: 19 Teams
- U26 Category: 33 Teams

- Total of 36 NBO's +10 teams +5 NBOs

New Format Youth Online League 2020

A. Format – Short Guidelines U26

- a. Premier League – 2 Groups** of 8 teams.
 - i.** Qualifications – Full round robin, 7 rounds of 14 boards.

For each Group

- ii.** Rank 1-2 → Semi Final: 1st (A) Vs. 2nd (B) , 1st (B) Vs. 2nd (A)
- iii.** Rank 3-4 → Stay in the Premier League.
- iv.** Rank 5-6 → Playout: 5th (A) Vs. 4th (A, 1st Division), 6th (A) Vs. 3rd (A, 1st Division)
- v.** Rank 7-8 → Drop to the 1st Division.

- b. First Division – 2 Groups** of Equal teams (as much as possible)

- i.** Qualifications – Full round robin if possible, 7 rounds of 14 boards.

For each Group

- ii.** Rank 1-2 → Qualify to the Premier League.
- iii.** Rank 3-4 → Playout Vs. Premier league teams: As written above.
- iv.** Rank 5-8 → Stay in 1st Division.
- v.** Rank 9+ → Drop if there will be no place for 2021.

If Team from PL won't register, the next ranked team of 2019 will take her place.

There is No QF, we start from the Semi-finals + New playout.

B. Format – Short Guidelines U16

- a. Premier League – 1 Group** of 8 teams.
 - i.** Qualifications – Full round robin, 7 rounds of 14 boards.

For each Group

- ii.** Rank 1-4 → Semi Final: 1st Vs. 4th, 2nd Vs. 3rd.
- iii.** Rank 5-6 → Playout: 5th Vs. 4th (1st Division), 6th Vs. 3rd (1st Division)
- iv.** Rank 7-8 → Drop to the 1st Division.

- b. First Division (1 Group) – Up to 11 teams** registered.

- i.** Qualifications – Full round robin if possible, 7 rounds

of 14 boards.

- ii. Rank 1-2 → Qualify to the Premier League.
- iii. Rank 3-4 → Playout Vs. Premier league teams: As written above.
- iv. Rank 5-8 → Stay in 1st Division.
- v. Rank 9+ → Drop if there will be no place for 2021.
- vi.

c. First Division (2 Groups) – 12 or more groups registered.
2 Groups of equal teams (as much as possible).

- i. Qualifications – Full round robin if possible, 7 +/- rounds of 14 boards.

For each Group

- ii. Rank 1 → Qualify to the Premier League.
- iii. Rank 2-3 → First will play 2nd (A) Vs 3rd (B) and the winners will play at the Playout Vs. Premier league teams (3rd & 4th, the best 1st division team vs 4th (Premier))
- iv. Rank 4-8 → Stay in 1st Division.
- v. Rank 9+ → Drop if there will be no place for 2021.

C. Format – Short Guidelines Girls U26 (New = First year)

a. Premier League – 1 Group of up to 13 teams.

- i. Qualifications – Full round robin, 7 rounds (By draw) of 14 boards.
- ii. Rank 1-4 → Semi Final: 1st Vs. 4th, 2nd Vs. 3rd.
- iii. Rank 4+ → Stay in the league.

c. Development & New Tools for the NBOs agenda item #15.5

WBF Teaching Material: I will use Micke Melander (Project Manager of this initiative) words to describe this material: "This material is made for everybody, as an individual member or a club, and it is a manual and a toolbox for helping and inspiring young people to start playing bridge. It does not matter whether it is in school, at a bridge club, at home in the kitchen, or anywhere else. To keep this initiative going, it is very important that we continue to work with both the wide perspective and the top level. We need new talent, and this is also important for bridge in general, to stay alive and well in the future, and not die out is the same rhythm as its older players are vanishing. This file consists of eight main chapters. They are general, the junior, the instructor, the school, media, the bridge club, economy, and other things. The hope is that this covers all components needed for successful junior bridge in general and at school in particular. The real reward will come several years later, when the students stand on the podium to receive medals in a championship, with the national anthem in the loudspeakers. The road there is a

long one, however, and apart from training, commitment from members, clubs, and juniors themselves is needed."

University of Stirling: *The WBF recently funded a research project at the University of Stirling titled: Sociology of Bridge: Understanding Dynamics and Interactions of the Bridge World. The work is progressing well with two academic papers presented at the recent Leisure Studies International Conference in Scotland. Prof Punch provides a brief update revealing how the bridge research provoked interesting discussions with academics from a variety of disciplines, particularly in relation to what constitutes a mind sport and how it fits with what we know about leisure. Prof. Samantha Punch reports about the project.*

APBF Seminar in Singapore – June 2019: *All the NBOs from Zone6 are recognized by their own NOC, Ministries of Sport or other authorities. All of the NBOS from Zone6 (except Macao) participated in 2018 Asian Olympic Games. The 2018 Asian Olympic Games was an amazing opportunity for the NBOs but also for the Bridge Community. Visibility in a Worldwide competition. Most of them have financial support which is very good and in some cases they receive money when they win medals. NBOS from Zone6 have a website (except Macao). China, Malaysia and Macao don't use Social Media. Most of the NBOs have programs to develop bridge and they already enter in the schools with regular bridge courses/lessons as well. All of them (except Malaysia) have both local/regional and national youth activity. They organize tournaments and Championships. In fact, during the World Youth events, there is always a very good attendance from the teams coming from Zone 6.*

Tablet during the 6th Youth Open Championships (Opatija, August 2019): *we decided to do this experiment during the Youth Event, specifically the BAM. Very different feedback from the players: some of them like it, some others say after 2 hours of playing they have very tired eyes, some others say they missed the cards, some other say they play bridge to have a real contact with other human being (after being everyday in front of the laptop/mobile/tablet).*

Seminar Development (MSI Workshops) - The items are:

- *Which are the right questions that an IF has ask herself?*
- *So how best can IFs ensure the distribution of their development resources is well-grounded?*
- *What are types of support that IFs should be offering? How can IFs create an effective formula to dictate the level of support different members should get?*
- *And how can IFs ensure that such funding and services are being used appropriately?*

At the end of his detailed report the Executive Council thanked Mr. Fellus and expressed to him, the Youth Development Coordinator, Gilad Ofir, the Youth Minisite redactors Fernando Lema and Ana Roth and the entire Youth and Kids Committees and their Chairmen Ata Aydin and Sevinç Atay its appreciation, congratulating all of them for the excellent job done and the project in progress.

5. Zonal President Report agenda item #32

a. Zone 1 Report by Mr Kamras

General and Financial

As I stated a year ago we have worked hard to get our finances in order after years of losses. I am happy to report that this has already born fruit, resulting in a small profit for 2018 (after adjusting for extraordinary income and fund provisions). This should be compared with an initial budgeted loss of some € 35.000. This has largely been achieved by the very measures outlined in my last report i.e. cutting administrative, meeting, travel and representation costs. We have also had better cost control during our championships, but more on that later. It is amazing how much one can save, without compromising quality of the output, if one makes cost-cutting a targeted priority. It is also satisfying that we are now 380.000 individual members (365.000 according to the treasurer) among 45 fully paid-up NBOs, an increase of 28.000 from a year ago. We have continued with online polling of participants after our events, which has proved a very useful tool in making future events even better. Participants also appreciate simply being listened to.

Championships and Events

Small Federations Games, Budapest/Hungary 25-27 Oct. 2018

As many as 17 NBOs, plus a team from Guernsey, participated in this yearly event, efficiently organized by the Hungarian federation in a way that makes participation very affordable. The medallists were, in order, Latvia, Croatia and Hungary.

Champions' Cup, Eilat /Israel 8-10 Nov. 2018

As usual 12 national champion teams participated, one from each of the top ten NBOs in the most recent European National Teams Championship plus last year's winners and a team from the host NBO. The Israeli federation together with David and Alon Birman did a great job hosting the event. In a very strong field the medallists were, in order, BC't Onstein (NET), Connector (POL) and Black (ENG).

Tournament Directors Course, Antalya/Turkey 6-10 Feb. 2019

59 TDs participated this time. The popularity of these courses is evidenced by us accepting entries also from Hong Kong, USA, S. Africa and India (Europe is growing☺). The EBL would like to cooperate more formally with the WBF in the future to satisfy the demand from other Zones. Our TD committee, together with the Turkish federation, organized this top level course brilliantly, as always. The course comprises various tests and the overall top scorer was Denis Dobrin, proving that he is more than an excellent scorer. All materials, tests, etc. is freely available at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/education/td-training/courses/>

European National Mixed Teams Championship, Lisbon/Portugal 22-28 Feb. 2019

We were pleased to welcome no less than 30 NBOs to this inaugural event, serving also as the qualifier to the World National Mixed Teams here in Wuhan, playing a complete "Round Robin". Since the event did not compete with the corresponding Open or Women championships the quality of the field was very high. The venue was a hotel where most participants also stayed, and the organisation by the Portuguese federation was perfect. The medallists were, in order, Sweden (with a 4-handed team with an average age of about 23 years), Latvia (also 4-handed) and France.

European Transnational (formerly "Open") Championships, Istanbul/Turkey 15-29 Jun. 2019

We are renaming our championships to avoid the confusion, among participants and organisers alike, created by the use of "Open" to sometimes refer to a Series/Category and sometimes to an event open to all. We now clearly differentiate between "National" and "Transnational" events.

After many twists and turns between venues in two countries we finally ended with "Plan D", resulting in a very short preparation time. We were naturally worried but thanks largely to a giant effort by the Turkish federation it turned out to be quite successful with good participation numbers and players who were happy with the playing conditions. Thanks to our diligent cost controls referred to above it also turned out to yield a satisfying financial result. All bridge results can be found at

<http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/19istanbul/microsite/Results.htm>

European National Youth Teams Championships, Oslofjord/Norway 4-11 Jul. 2019

The event was hosted at an excellent venue for youth event purposes, with great playing conditions and opportunities for "extra-curricular" activities. The Norwegian federation put in an enormous effort to bring this to fruition.

The participation numbers were both good and mediocre, depending on which category you look at. The Open categories will always vary from year to year for natural reasons, players ageing from one category to the next. The U16 participation was record high, probably in no small part due to strong financial support from the EBL. The "problem child" is the U26 Women where low numbers (only nine teams) cannot be blamed on girls moving among the age limits. I have my theories about the reasons but that should be the subject of a separate discussion.

The medallists were, in order: U26: Sweden, Netherlands and Germany; U26W: Poland, Hungary and Netherlands; U21: Netherlands, France and England; U16: Israel, Denmark and England.

Meetings

The 13 Executive Committee members met 8-9 Nov. 2018 in Eilat; 21-22 Mar. 2019 in Lausanne and 19-21 Jun. 2019 in Istanbul. Thanks to increased efficiency and preparations for the meetings (e.g. no reports are read during the meetings - all members are supposed to have read them and prepared comments in advance) we have dramatically shortened them, saving both on accommodation costs and per diems. The small Management Committee "meets" frequently by Skype or similar, physically during the events. I have also held several meetings with Gianarrigo

(sometimes including Eric and Marc) to discuss and coordinate topics of common interest to both organisations. We have many assets, both human and materiel, in common. I hosted a dinner for team sponsors during the Istanbul championships, resulting in a very fruitful and appreciated exchange of ideas and concerns. While in Las Vegas I attended the USBF meetings and held discussions also with the new ACBL Executive Director Jo Jones, a non-bridge player. Amongst other things this has already resulted in 3 ACBL TDs attending our next TD Workshop in Belfast. During my various visits I also met with many top players concerning the World Bridge Tour project (see separate report).

NBO and Future Venue visits

Since my last report I have held meetings with representatives of about 15 of the smaller federations (all during the event in Budapest) plus separately Lithuania, Finland, Monaco, Portugal, Israel, Russia, Switzerland, Poland, Ukraine (partly), France, Austria and all 6 Nordic federations (at the Nordic Bridge Union Congress in Norway). I have also visited potential venues in Istanbul, Zurich, Biarritz and Albena.

Upcoming Events

- Small Federation Games in Novi Sad/Serbia, 21-23 October 2019.*
- Champions' Cup in Bucharest/Romania, 14-16 November 2019.*
- EBL EC meetings in Bucharest, 14-15 November 2019.*
- NBO Officers Seminar in Prague/Czech Republic, 31 January/2 February 2020. The WBF will participate with a few program items.*
- TD Workshop in Belfast/N. Ireland, 6-9 February 2020.*
- European Winter Games in Monaco, 29 February - 6 March 2020.*
- European National Team Championships in Funchal/Madeira, 17-27 June 2020.*

The Executive Council thanked and congratulated Mr Kamras for his detailed report, the activity done and the results achieved.

b. Zone 2 Report by Mr Al Levy

NABF President's Report to WBF Executive Committee By Jan Martel, NABF president:

The North American Bridge Federation (NABF), the new Zonal Authority for Zone 2, was incorporated on December 19, 2018 as a New York State Not for Profit Corporation. The original incorporators met on April 11, 2019, adopted Bylaws and elected the current Board of Directors, who are: Beto Cohen, representing the Federacion Mexicana de Bridge, John Carruthers, representing the Canadian Bridge Federation, Nader Hanna, representing the Canadian Bridge Federation, Georgia Heth, representing the ACBL, Al Levy, representing the ACBL, Jan Martel, representing the United States Bridge Federation, Brad Moss, representing the United States Bridge Federation, Beth Palmer, representing the United States Bridge Federation, Suzi Subeck, representing the United States Bridge Federation. The new NABF Board of Directors met by conference call on April 29th and unanimously elected the following officers and representatives to the WBF Executive Council: President: Jan Martel; Secretary: Nader Hanna; WBF Executive Council representatives: Beto Cohen, Nader Hanna, Al Levy, Suzi Subeck, Adam Wildavsky.

The USBF and CBF have held selection competitions for the 2019 World Bridge Championships and sent teams to the championships in all 4 categories.

The Executive Council thanked and congratulated Mr Levy.

c. Zone 6 Report by Esther Sophonpanich

Congratulations to the World Bridge Federation in organizing the 44th World Teams Championships and the 12th Transnational Open Teams in cooperation with the Chinese Contract Bridge Association, and the Bridge Association of Wuhan. We are very proud of the achievements of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association in the continued development of bridge, not only as world class players, but also in the successful organization of many major Championships. Most importantly, the promotion of bridge amongst the young players.

On behalf of all our NBOs, I would like to thank Mr. Rona and the World Bridge Federation for the excellent initiative in organizing the APBF NBO Officers' Seminar, from June 8th – 10th, 2019 at the York Hotel, Singapore. Thank you also to Marc De Pauw, Simon Fellus, David Harris, Gilad Ofir and Marek Malysa who provided the input of WBF structure, Communication and Promotion as well as expectations from our Zonal Conferences and NBO organization. Ethics and Integrity as well as the future of bridge, and the development of our Youth players was also on the agenda. And a special thank you to Marina Madia for liaising with us. Thank you to all Officers of the 9 NBOs from Zone 6 and Zone 7 (Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong) who attended and joined in the discussions. I am sure that we all enjoyed and benefited from the Seminar, and all NBOs could use as guidelines in developing their own bridge community.

The election of the new APBF Executive Officers for 2019-2023 took place in Singapore at the APBF Championships in June this year. President: Khunying Esther Chodchoy. Sophonpanich; Executive Vice President: Ms. Wang Yannan; Honorary Executive Vice Presidents: Michael Bambang Hartono, President of BFAME (Zone4), Derek Zen, Allison Stralow; Honorary Secretary: Tadashi Yoshida; Assistant Honorary Secretary: Honorary Secretary of BFAME; Honorary Treasurer: Anthony Ching; Representative to WBF: Patrick Choy, Khunying Esther Chodchoy Sophonpanich.

Also, the selections for the 44th World Teams Championships took place. Besides China, the host country the Zone 6 representatives are: Open: China Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore; Women: China Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Japan; Senior: Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Japan; Mixed: Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Thailand.

*Many other tournaments were held successfully in this region. **Chinese Taipei hosted the Invitation Yeh Mixed Teams Cup** in July 2018 with 26 teams; the annual **Hongkong Inter City** in July 2018 with 70 teams from 7 NBOs ; The **Philippines hosted the 3rd SEABF Championships** from 27th November 27 – December 1, 2018, 39 Teams from 9 NBOs of Zones 1 and 6 participated. Other regular tournaments are the **Pesta Sukan** in Singapore in August; **Kepri***

*International in Indonesia in August. **Japan hosted the 22nd Yokohama Bridge Festival** in February 2019 with 35 teams from overseas and 17 local teams competing for the Yokohama Cup. **Thailand hosted the Amazing Thailand Bridge Festival** March 30th -3rd April, 2019 with 30 teams from 10 NBOs of Zones 1,4,6 and 7.*

***23rd APBF Youth Teams Championships** was held in Bangkok from 5th – 11th April, 2019. 45 teams from Zone 6 and 7 with 104 pairs took part in the Youth IMP Pairs, and 116 pairs in the Youth MP Pairs. China sent a record of 12 Kids Teams and Thailand had 8 Kids Teams. China won the Junior, Youngster, Kids Teams and MP Pairs. Indonesia won the Girls Team and Thailand won the IMP Pairs.*

We must congratulate all the Captains and Coaches on the well-mannered and well-dressed youth from all NBOs that participated. It is encouraging to know that many of our NBOs are promoting the development of Youth Bridge ... This is not only good for the future of our Sport, but for the development of a well-rounded citizen of our countries.

***Vietnam Bridge and Poker Association:** The newest addition to our Zone 6. We sent two coaches from Thailand to start preliminary teaching of bridge to teachers in Hanoi.... All from the 5 different poker clubs in Hanoi and a couple from Saigon... all beginners... It will take some time...We will need some patience with their organization.*

Bridge is now in the Asian Games, and we are a Sport on par with all other sports in the Olympic movement. We look forward to again participating in the 2022 Asian Games to be hosted by Hangzhou, China.

The Executive Council thanked and congratulated Mrs Sophonpanich.

d. Zone 3 Report by Marcelo Caracci

The status of Bridge in our Countries

Our continent has some countries with serious economic problems, with a great impact on the development of the Bridge. Argentina: good level, but they are going through an economic crisis. That is why they have many problems sending teams to international events. Colombia: several places with good periodic championships, in Medellín, Cali and Bogotá. Chile: Very good development in Santiago, with tournaments every day. Many young players with classes in schools and universities. The program to teach young players in conditions of social vulnerability is now six years old and has produced a great result, with many new players and a great impact on their lives (two of them now study engineering at two prestigious universities). Bolivia: With the support of the WBF and its President, they have a program to train 24 new players in Santa Cruz de la Sierra and are preparing a course to teach a group of children in the poor city of El Alto. Brazil: Very good level of participation in international event, but little progress in the creation of youth programs. Uruguay: Stable, good job of Gustavo Chediak with youth. Peru: They have new authorities and are organizing the next South American championship for next May. Venezuela: The economic situation of the country cannot be worse, with a

severe impact on the development of bridge. Ecuador and Paraguay: they have a new impulse in the development of our discipline with the effort of theirs NBOs, despite the null support of the authorities of their countries.

Bridge Youth Development

Zone 3 sent three teams to the Youth championship in Croatia, having participated in two categories:

- Chile with teams in Juniors and girls, with seven players from the program for socially vulnerable children;*
- Uruguay with a team in juniors, including a Colombian player*

This participation has only been possible thanks to the support of the WBF and its President.

International Tournaments 2018

As usual when the world championship is in North America, our Zone had a good participation in Orlando 2018. Players from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Venezuela participated in Open, Women, Seniors and Mixed, both in teams as in pairs.

Presence in Wuhan 2019

Zone 3 had to decline various of its places in the Championship. Both the costs of the trip from South America to China and those of the registration did not allow us to send most of ours teams in the different categories. In short, we are participating with two teams in Open and only one in Women and Mixed.

Mar del Plata 2019

Last May we played our selective Zonal for the 2019 world championship, in the Open, Women and Mixed categories. The classified teams were: Open, Argentina and Chile; Women, Argentina and Venezuela; Mixed, Argentina and Brazil.

After the Zonal we played the pairs tournament and the next six days we played our usual Transnational tournament. The result was not very good because there were not many participants from Argentina due the economic situation of the country, although we had the participation of prestigious international players, such as Juan Carlos Ventin, Adam Stokka, Antonio Palma, and many of our stars, such as Agustín Madala, Diego Brenner and Joaquín Pacareu.

Website Development

Our site is of high popularity in our zone and around the world, with approximately 48.000 visits per month, and during major events that figure is increases a lot.

Similarly, we have developed a Facebook group, which right now has 2300 followers.

Lima 2020

Next year in Lima we will have a Transnational tournament that will be played at El Pardo Double Tree by Hilton hotel between May 16 and 23. We are working hard not only to have a great Bridge Tournament with more than 50 teams from around the world, but also for an outstanding and very pleasant stay for our foreign visitors.

As everyone knows, Lima is a very special destination for tourists from all over the world for many reasons. Lima has been named the world's number one gastronomic destination for several years in a row. They have several restaurants among the top 50 worldwide according to various agencies and two on the list of the top ten. A Peruvian chef has been awarded as the best chef of the world, for a survey of the best chefs. Peru also has wonderful tourist sites like Machu Picchu, the Amazon River, the Nazca Lines, etc. Our web site www.sudamericanolima2020 will be ready in October and will have a link to the CSB site. Meanwhile it will be possible to arrange reservations directly with our 5 stars Hilton hotel: <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/L/LIMPUDT-BRI-20200514/index.jhtml>

The Executive Council thanked and congratulated Mr Caracci. For the activity done despite the difficult socio-economical situation of many South American Countries.

e. Zone 8 Report by Mr Bernard Pascal

Mr Pascal started his intervention by saying that he did not have a report to present to the Council as a formal protest. Since 2009, the year in which he's been elected, he worked with passion and motivation, but unfortunately, for reasons that he doesn't understand, he feels he's been treated as a "second class" member. A couple of years ago he sent an email to the President, asking two questions: 1. What are the effective initiatives to fight collusive cheating? Pascal says that WBF should provided some material to show to all those who want to know what WBF is actually doing. 2. Can the members have a presentation on the advantages and disadvantages to be member of the Olympic committee (IOC)?

Mr Pascal continued complaining because he never got any answer. In Orlando he's been told that the mails never arrived and he resent it to the President, without any answer. Mr Pascal felt frustrated and unhappy. Mr Pascal continued asking for some material, a presentation on these two topics. He finally highlighted the importance of communication (which is alarmingly weak).

At the end of the intervention, the President, apologizing for having quite unintentionally caused a personal resentment to Mr. Pascal, replied that during this period and before there was a considerable correspondence between them concerning several matters and that he was always at complete disposal of Mr. Pascal for any relevant problem with regard to his and the Zonal activity, including subsidies and support and Mr. Pascal confirmed. The President did not answer to this specific questions because, being Mr. Pascal member of the Executive Council since his election at the Presidency in 2010, there was no answer to be given since they all know the same things and lived the same experiences. All the information has been discussed in details and shared during the very successful NBO Officers Seminar held in Cape Town in 2017 and there are a lot of documents, relations and statements about the Cheating. About the IOC, in addition to all the other documents, there is a very detailed, in-depth and unambiguous article, wrote by the President Emeritus José Damiani in the IBPA bulletin. The President opined that Mr. Pascal, if requested, has to give answer to him in subject matters. The President

reaffirmed his will to be available at any time for any explanation, clarification and debate at the Executive Council meeting table and in the institutional bodies. The President concluded that the missing of the report is in any case disrespectful and shows lack of sensitivities to the colleagues of the Executive Council and cannot be intended as a formal protest towards the President, to whom he can officially or unofficially engage his recrimination without penalizing the colleagues that are not involved.

The members of the E.C. remained astonished and after the final answer thanked the President.

The President postponed the Reports of the Zones 4, 5 and 7, not being at the moment their representatives in the room.

6. The WBF 60 Years virtual book & the WBF Virtual Museum

agenda item #26

Mr Gerontopoulos reported about the WBF 60 year's virtual book and the WBF Virtual Museum and the works in progress.

After the book published for the 50th anniversary of the WBF, a new approach has been approved for the last ten years of WBF history. There will be a virtual extension of the previous book and some supplementary material will be available also for the 50th anniversary book. The final product will be available on the WBF Website and in PDF at the beginning of 2020.

Concerning the WBF Virtual Museum, born by an idea of the President and approved with enthusiasm by the Executive Council, it's a very ambitious project very important, to be proud of it, not only for the image of the WBF but also for the celebration of the Personalities who made its history and very attractive and stimulating for bridge players, being them champions or newcomers, for officers and operators, for representatives of the sport and culture institutions, for simple visitors and spectators. The general lines of the project have been already planned together with the collection of the needed material & documentation, and the works to realize it will start as soon as the 60th Anniversary Book will be finished and published on the website.

The Executive Council thanked and congratulated Mr. Gerontopoulos for his report.

7. Disciplinary Matters: The German Doctors new action

agenda item #12.3

General Counsel provided an update on the latest Claim brought by the German Doctors. The Claim had been served on our office in Lausanne in March and we requested that they be translated into French in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention and Swiss Cantonal Law. Preliminary consideration indicates that they are seeking damages in excess of €100,000 for the damage to their reputation. The matter will be responded to in full when properly served upon us.

A request had been received from the President of the Hungarian Bridge Federation. The German Doctors had applied to play in the Budapest Bridge Festival and they sought advice as to what options were available to refuse the application. They were informed that there are no bans in place against the Doctors following a determination by the German Appeal Court that the WBF was not entitled to impose a sanction on them at that time. They were warned that the Doctors are highly litigious and may bring legal action against attempts to exclude them from any competition.

The Executive Council thanked the General Counsel for his report.

The President remarked that, irrespective of any legal action everywhere promoted by the German Doctors, the position of the WBF will remain strong and unwavering. The Executive Council unanimously shared the position of the President.

8. Executive Committee & Management Committee Meetings 2020

agenda item #19

The President informed the Members about the Executive Council meetings and the Management Committee meetings to be held in 2020. The Executive Council will meet in the first week of the World Bridge Games. The Management Committee will meet in Hengshui, China, during the IMSA World Masters and in North America or in Lausanne or in other site to be decided in autumn. An Officers meeting will be held in Madeira, Portugal, in June during the 55th European Teams Championship.

9. Adjustment of the conversion scale

The President reported that Mr Peter Buchen and Mr Herman De Wael are working on the conversion scale that must be adjusted. The proposal will be submitted to the E. C. as soon as ready.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:00 to be reconvened on Friday, 20th September at 10:00