



**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy
Tuesday, 29th March at 10:30**

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr Al Levy, 1st Vice President (via Zoom)
Mr Patrick Choy, 2nd Vice President (via Zoom)
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Mr Jan Kamras, Hon. Secretary
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member
Mr Nader Hanna, Member
Mr Gonzalo Herrera, Member
Mrs Helen Kruger, Member
Mr Kirubakara Moorthy, Member
Mr Eric Laurant, Member
Mr Fernando Lema, Member
Mr Gilad Ofir, Member
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member
Mr Douglas (Kip) Rotchell, Member
Mrs Suzi Subeck, Member
Mr Ben Thompson, Member
Mr Adam Wildavsky, Member (via Zoom)
Ms Wang Yannan, Member (via Zoom)

Also, in Attendance

Mr David Harris, General Counsel
Ms Arianna Testa, Secretary to the Executive Council
Mrs Lilian Sun, interpreter (via Zoom)

By invitation of the President

Mrs Georgia Heth, Honour Committee Member

Excused

Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member
Mrs Kari-Anne Opsal, Member
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, Member



The President called the meeting to order at 10:30. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

1. Opening & greetings agenda item #1

The President welcomed the Council to the Meeting in Salsomaggiore Terme.

The President reported about all the restrictions due to the Covid19 already communicated and published before the start of the event and reconfirmed during the captains' meeting: everybody accepted the restrictions without complaining. In particular in the playing area only the players and some accredited journalist or photographer are allowed to enter. There are strictly controls concerning the Security and the Safety under the control of the police and the health service in attendance from the start to the end of the play. A special squad of police inspect with the dogs daily the venue to detect bombs. The Championship Committee decided that the players are allowed to bring their devices in the playing area, switched off and visible on the table.

The members shared their concerns about the fact that water is not provided for the players even though this is strictly due to the sanitary restrictions.

The President shared the schedule of work with the Council.

2. Approval of the minutes of the E.C. Meeting in Austin

The Executive Council unanimously approved the minutes of the previous Executive Council meeting held in Austin on the 27&28 November 2021.

3. President's report

The President will share the Report in the following days.

4. Treasurer's report

The President asked the Treasurer to present his Report. Mr De Pauw presented his report as follows:

- 4.1. Generality
- 4.2. 2021 Balance-sheet
- 4.3. 2022 Accounts
- 4.4. Finance Committee

4.5. Memberships



Overall financial situation of WBF (see table). We went through the Covid pandemic without any damage. EY confirmed the revision of the accounts.

I. <u>Accounts 2021</u>

Who would have thought that the pandemic would have lasted for 2 years (and let us hope the health crisis will be over soon) ? After a year 2020 without any (physical) bridge competitions at the international level, the year 2021 has barely been better. At the WBF level, no international competitions have been organized, whilst also IMSA has shown no competition activities. This of course has had a major impact on our finances.

While presenting the budget for 2021, mid of 2020, we still had some hopes of being able to organize the Bermuda Bowl in Q4-21. Also the organization of the 2nd edition of the IMSA World Masters in Hengshui, was included in the budget. Both competitions have been cancelled, eliminating the positive contribution we had awaited in the initial budget. While presenting the updated budget to the Executive Council in its December '21 meeting in Austin, Texas, the positive impact of both activities has already been noted. At this meeting, the global result expected for 2021 was estimated at some + 36 k€.

Attachment 1 shows the budget vs the accounts for the year 2021. Some comments:

I.1. Fixed income & expenses

As already announced, we have realized a substantially lower income coming from the yearly NBO **dues**. In normal years, situated at the level of about 520 k€ (as also in the initial budget for 2021), in reality, we have realized an income of 464 k€. This decrease of our income by about 55 k€ is due to two factors: (1) the weakening of the US\$ against the € during the year 2020 and (2) the decrease in membership figures of the NBOs. Whilst, in the course of 2021 the US\$ has picked up value, the second element is a major source of worry.

Realizing only a symbolic amount in terms of income on assets and booking some various income items (VAT recup, ...), we have noted a total of 471 k€ of fixed income.

The continuing pandemic all year through, has meant that “working at distance” has had an impact on the current expenses. Also the financial aid provided by the Swiss authorities to the IFs, has lowered our personnel and office costs in a significant way.



Items such as “Travel and Representation”, the international relations with the IOC, GAIFS, ... , the “WBF Committees”, to only mention a few, have seen significant lower levels of spending. The governing bodies of the WBF, have mainly worked by using digital facilities. One exception the meeting of the WBF Executive Council in November last year, in Austin, Texas. A majority of our colleagues was able to attend physically, whilst the other members could attend the meeting by logging in to the digital platform. Cost of this meeting, nearly 42 k€.

All in all, total fixed expenses for the year 2021 have amounted to nearly 430 k€, which, confronted with the 471 k€ of income, has left a surplus of 41 k€.

I.2. Variable Income & expenses

Due to the cancellation of all international bridge and mind sports events, we consequently have noted a 0 financial result on these lines of the accounts. Only the online bridge activities have brought a small contribution to the result.

A major impact on the year result comes from the section “Other activities”:

- (1) Zonal organizations/Technical meetings: no activities in 2021.
- (2) Exchange rate differences realized: a negative result of 7 k€.
- (3) Exchange rate differences non realized: you will remember that, due to the weakening of the US\$ in 2020, we had to book an amount of - 97 k€. Because of the inverse movements in the past years, most of this theoretical loss has been recuperated. We have booked a non-realized profit of + 91 k€.
- (4) Half of the yearly IOC grant is normally allocated to the youth championships. Because there were none in '21, 100 % of this grant falls in the basket of the Other activities. Afterwards, in the allocation of the year result, this grant goes to the Youth Fund and to the Promotion & Development Fund, each for half of the amount.
- (5) The loosing party in the CAS – “Swiss case” has had to pay an amount of some 18 k€ to the WBF.
- (6) The “German doctors” case, soon 10 years old, has impacted our 2021 for an amount of some 4 k€.
- (7) Finally, because of the uncertainties around the year 2022 WBF championships, more in particular, concerning their financial conditions and the level of participation in the World Bridge Series, a provision for Covid 19 – linked risks for the organizers of international sports events, of 100 k€ has been created.

Overall, this section has a positive contribution to the result of 24 k€.

The global result of the Variable Income & expenses side of the accounts amounts to 26 k€.



I.3. Global result and proposed allocation.

With a global result for the year of **66,66 k€**, well below the initial budget, but seen the absence of international bridge competitions, we can only be satisfied by the way we came through another pandemic year.

The proposed allocation:

• To the WBF equity	15,61 k€
• To the Youth Fund	13,02 k€
• To the Development & Promotion Fund	13,03 k€
• To the General Provision	25,00 k€

I.4. Funds

Taking into account the proposed allocation of the 2021 result, the evolution of the Funds would be as presented in Attachment 1.

YOUTH FUND

On the income side we note 50% of the IOC grant. As expenses we only had the writing off of some prepaid expenses for the (cancelled) youth championships. Overall, the reserves of the Youth Fund increase from 116 to 128 k€.

PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT FUND

Here too we note half of the IOC grant, whilst, on the expenses side, we only have booked a small financial contribution to the “Virtual Olympic Series” project. The holding of the fund increases from 97 to 107 k€.

GENERAL PROVISION

We propose to allocate 25 k€ to this fund, putting the reserves at 150 k€, the same level reached at the end of 2017.



I.5. Balance sheet

Next, let's turn to the **BALANCE SHEET**, comparing the end of 2020 situation against the end of 2021 one:

	2020		2021
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Fixed assets	19921		29510
Inventories	3851		3851
Receivables	173666		22270
Bank Delen CH portfolio	1011064		1039129
Cash & Banks	1342320		1709687
Prepaid expenses	28456		37082
Total assets	2579278		2841529
<u>LIABILITIES & EQUITY</u>			
Capital & Reserves	2107018		2122622
Beginning of the year	2379608		2107018
Result of the year	-272590		15604
Provisions			
Youth Fund	115907		127670
P&D Fund	97320		107116
General Provision	125000		150000
Other provisions	20000		120000
Accounts payable	55730		31729
Accrued expenses/Prepaid amounts	58303		182392
Total Liabilities & Equity	2579278		2841529

Comments:

Following a year severely struck by the pandemic, 2021 has brought a further strengthening of the WBF financial position. Adding another 15 k€ to the core capital, we have been able to increase the holdings in the various Funds and to create some provisions for future risks.

No structural debts being present on the balance sheet, our holdings consist mainly of an investment portfolio with Delen Bank CH and liquidities at the Credit Suisse Bank.

As ever, our balance sheet shows a very sound structure.



I.6. Audit opinion

The year 2021 accounts have been audited by EY CH, resulting in a “clean sheet” opinion. The EY report can be found in **Attachment 2**.

II. <u>Budget 2022</u> - Update
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Attachment 3 shows the updated budget for 2022.

II.1. Fixed income & expenses

As already indicated previously, the sharp decrease in the NBO membership figures, translating in substantially lower **dues** income, whilst maintaining the present cost of the WBF organization, provokes an important deficit on the fixed side of the budget. Though we have not a full view on the 2022 membership figures, we have expect a new decrease in our main fixed income, some NBOs even showing a reduction by half of their members! The membership figures are contained in **Attachment 4**. **Attachment 5** contains the details of the dues 2022.

Formally, the Executive Council needs to confirm the exchange rate to be used to transform the 1 US \$/regular member into €, for the calculation of the Zone 1 dues. Using, since 2011, the same reference i.e. the average exchange rate \$/€ of Q4 of the preceding year, we arrive at: 1 US \$ = 0,8722 € (source: OANDA). The minimum contribution per NBO of 300 \$ would mean 262 € (against 250€ for the year 2021) for the Zone 1 small NBOs.

Regarding the fixed **expenses**, in comparison with the initial budget, only the cost of the Lausanne Office has substantially changed (rent of an apartment), whilst also a physical meeting of the (new) Management Committee during the Autumn Nationals in Phoenix has been foreseen (TBC). Some other budget lines have been updated, based upon the reality of the 2021 figures.

According to the updated year 2022 budget, fixed side, we would end up with a deficit of some 154 k€ (175 k\$).

The newly elected WBF Council is invited to reflect on this situation, making it impossible to realize the first policy goal, breaking even on the fixed side of the budget, without structural measures.



II.2. Variable Income & expenses

After 2 years without physical bridge competitions at the international level, the **45th World 2021 Bridge Team Championships** are taking place in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy from March 27th – April 9th. **Attachment 6** contains the budget for these championships. If things go as expected, we should end up with a bonus of some 100 k€.

Because, while writing these words, no final agreement with the PBU has been reached on the organization of the **16th World Bridge Series** in Wroclaw, Poland, the budget figures shown are to be taken with some caution. For this kind of “open” championship, the expected number of participants in the various formats of competition is the main parameter. In these post-COVID times, also a war going on in Europe, extreme prudence is needed whilst forecasting the financial result of this event. Because the final financial parameters have not yet, as I am writing these words, been translated into a contract between the WBF and the PBU, no detailed budget is available.

During the Executive Council meetings in Salsomaggiore, an update on the WBS will of course be given.

It should also be reminded that, the year 2021 accounts contain a provision of 100 k€, to cover the effects of the pandemic on our events.

The second week of August '22, Salsomaggiore will also host the **7th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships**. The financial result of this competition will be recorded on the Youth Fund. For the moment being, a small deficit of some 10 k€ has been foreseen.

Without major surprise, the section “WBF Championships & Competitions” should produce a result close to 200 k€.

Because the SportAccord/GAIFS meeting foreseen to take place in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in the month of May '22, has been cancelled due to the war in Ukraine, for the moment being, no physical meeting of the IMSA board has been planned. Possibly, a “digital” meeting will be called for. If more information on the situation within IMSA and GAIFS becomes available between now and the Salso meeting, an update will be brought.

In the meanwhile, the WBF budget contains no effects from IMSA organizations. The income linked to the **2nd World Masters** in Hengshui, China, has been removed from the initial budget.



As in the past year, the GotoGames group has continued organizing online bridge formats, sharing the net income with the WBF. The financial effects of these online competitions are however minor.

Taking into account all of these elements, the “**Championships & Competitions**” section of the Variable budget would close with a positive result of some 200 k€.

Finally, the “**Other activities**” section of the Variable budget is, as always, quite hard to estimate. For the moment being, we estimate a close to break-even result.

Overall, we estimate the result on the variable side of the budget at some +195 k€ (220 k\$).

Together with the result of the fixed side, this would mean an **overall result** of some 40 k€.

This result could be allocated as follows:

• To the WBF equity	26,66 k€
• To the Youth Fund	0 k€
• To the Development & Promotion Fund	13,03 k€
• To the General Provision	0,00 k€

The evolution of the various FUNDS would look as follows (see **Attachment 3**):

YOUTH FUND

For the year 2022 expectations are that the Youth Fund will only have to reflect the financial result of the Transnational Youth Championships. If the deficit would amount to 10 k€, the holdings of the Fund would go down from 127 to 117 k€.

PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT FUND

On the income side, the proposal is to foresee the usual 50 % of the IOC grant and, for given the crisis situation, no extra contribution, as defined in our global financial strategy.

On the expenses side, if a Seminar would be organized, the Fund reserves would go down from 107 to 95 k€/

GENERAL PROVISION

No additional allocation would be foreseen at charge of the 2022 results. The reserves would remain at the level of 150 k€.



III. KEY FIGURES

To keep track of the financial performance of the WBF, it is useful to overview the key financial figures. An overview of the past and the future (figures in k€):

Year	FIXED		VARIABLE		TOTAL	EQUITY	Youth	P&D	Gen	TOTAL
	Income	Expenses	Result	Result	Result	End year	F	F	Prov	FINANCES
2010						690	0	0	0	690
2011	482	483	-1	173	172	862	0	0	0	862
2012	520	483	37	36	73	928	6	0	0	934
2013	518	537	-19	192	173	1086	21	0	0	1107
2014	541	475	66	234	300	1331	77	0	0	1408
2015	542	520	22	213	235	1509	81	50	0	1640
2016	580	530	50	592	642	1939	130	74	100	2243
2017	583	514	69	284	353	2145	156	97	150	2548
2018	518	565	-47	158	111	2206	122	99	75	2502
2019	534	546	-12	302	290	2380	110	92	125	2707
2020	383	453	-70	-174	-244	2107	116	97	125	2445
2021	471	430	-	26	67	2123	128	107	150	2508
2022b	420	575	154	194	40	2150	117	95	150	2512

And, finally, let's remind the set of Financial Policy Guidelines, which have been approved by the Executive Council in Chennai, 2015:

- The **core equity** of the WBF, representing the basic capital constituting the financial backbone guaranteeing the continuity of the Federation. The 2015 target was to arrive to bring this core equity to the level of 2 Mio\$ (1.7 M€) by the end of 2018. This target has been met. Having to face the effects of the COVID crisis in 2020 and 2021, at the end of 2022, we could bring the core equity back to the post-pandemic level of 2,5 Mio €.

- The **Youth Bridge Fund**, if needed, would cover any deficits of these Championships. Also, specific actions taken in favour of the youth bridge can also be funded out of this provision.



- A **Bridge Promotion & Development Fund** intended to gather the financial means necessary for the organization of specific actions and programs serving this purpose. This new fund would be financed by:
 - (a) A yearly contribution of 50 k\$ out of the positive financial result for the year, if available.
 - (b) 50 % of the yearly IOC grant to the WBF (now 32 k\$/year in total), the other 50% remaining in the budget for the Youth Championships.

In its' March '17 Meeting, the Management Committee has approved the following add on to the Financial Policy Guidelines:

- Creation of a **General Provision** intended to cover any financial drawbacks resulting from various causes, among which: bad debtors, failing sponsors for major championships (the WBF being forced to organize relying on its' own resources), various write offs.

At the end of the report the members started the discussion. In particular Mr Pascal asked to debate a new strategy of investments for the future. Mr Caracci pointed out that in the future we will have to consider a greater income from the online bridge. It was also pointed that a revised policy for the membership dues has to be discussed. There is still a question mark on the income of the World Bridge Series.

The Executive Council (the Treasurer abstained) unanimously approved the 2021 accounts and the 2022 Budget and thanked and congratulated the Treasurer for his excellent work.

5. Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting 2ND March 2022 and ratification

The Executive Council unanimously approved the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held via Zoom on the 2nd of March 2022.

5. NBOs Matters:

-Russian Bridge League & Belarusian Contract Bridge Union, Report by GA Rona

The President reported once more the decision to exclude the Russian teams from the competition. The women's team withdrew but the other teams qualified have been excluded. It is not possible to accept Russian teams representing the country. The decision has been taken only for this event. The Management Committee recommended to suspend the Russian and Belarus Federations.

Mr Pascal said that he would have preferred that this matter was discussed within the EC and not only the MC. And that the communication was too political because WBF took side on the conflict.



Mr Thompson suggested to postpone any decision about policies regarding this matter due the topic being too sensitive at the moment.

The EC agreed, but in any case the exclusion of Russian and Belorussian citizens from WBF competitions remains in effect until a final decision is made in this regard.

-Haitian Bridge Federation, Report by Kip Rotchell

Mr Rotchell read the emails concerning the matter:

My Dear Secretary Caleb. Thank you for your communication in which you have clearly stated the position of the Haïtienne Bridge Federation. Please now permit me to respond to the wild and false accusations levelled at myself and my Board. The reports that have reached you are not only incorrect but highly defamatory. At no time did or would I make any racist or discriminatory statements about your officers or your Country. I am not new to the Caribbean having been associated with Barbados since 1971. So let's go through the FACTS as it has been presented to me. Once these issues have been resolved we can look at seeing how I can be of service to you. Please answer the following questions and clarify the numerous issues I have with the behaviour of your "Officers"

- 1. What was the process that was adopted to elect Jean Wilner Pierre (JWP) as President of the Haitian Bridge Federation (HBF)?*
- 2. How many bridge clubs form the HBF ?*
- 3. How many members do you have in Haiti?*
- 4. Who is Jean Baptiste Alain?*
- 5. What has become of the Police action taken against JWP?*
- 6. Have warrants been issued by the Haitian Justice Department to arrest JWP?*
- 7. Why did JWP refuse to return the passports of Jean Baptiste Alain, Mikael Sainvilus and Brene Jean Divenson on the 22nd February 2020? Why did they not make the trip to Guadeloupe?*

- 8. Why would JWP leave Haiti with only 3 players to go to Guadeloupe to play in a Team Tournament when at the very least you need 4 players to make a Team?*
- 9. Why is it that of the 3 players that made that trip only one player (JWP) was the only one to return to Haiti? The other 2 defected or ran away? It is my understanding that when JWP was at the airport to return the last player excused himself to use the bathroom and has never been seen since?*
- 10. My people in Guadeloupe recognizing that none of the players could play bridge awarded the rest of the Teams in the tournament an average score when it was their turn to play against the 3 Haitian players and a Guadeloupéen substitute. Nevertheless, when JWP returned to Haiti he boasted that they had beaten 3 Teams because their score was 50%! Does this not show the total lack of understanding of how the scoring was calculated?*
- 11. Why would JWP post a picture from the Haitian Bridge Federation promoting a Poker hand? Not only does it not represent a bridge hand it only has 12 cards? A further example of his incomprehension of our game.*
- 12. When I last spoke with JWP he was unaware of what an end play, finesse, transfer bid or a ruffing finesse was? These are basic tenets of the*

game. He didn't even know how many tricks he had to take if he bid 7 spades? 13. If there are so many keen players in Haiti then why, in the past several years, has not a single player joined us online? BBO and RealBridge are the 2 platforms we use and never has a Haitian



player joined one of our games? 14. I put it to you that Haiti might be the only country in the world where their Protestant citizens take the position that card playing is a curse? No other country supports this preposterous suggestion! 15. For the record your statement that I had intimated I was aware of racist and discriminatory acts in other sports throughout the Central American and Caribbean region is absolutely false and, quite frankly, borders on libel. 16. The elimination of Haiti from the CACBF website was done for one reason... Haiti is not a member? It has absolutely nothing to do with alleged racist or abhorrent comments? 17. Lastly, I find it very curious and very unusual that all the independent Bridge Clubs of Haiti seem to favor the same typeset and font? It does look like the same person or persons are behind the creation of these numerous so called separate entities? Wouldn't you agree? Trust me, I do not need to be reminded of the articles of the charter of the IOC. Not only am I fully aware of them but I and my NBO's subscribe and obey these basic tenets. In closing, let me be clear. The CACBF and the WBF look forward to welcoming Haiti into our family. However, one has to crawl before you can walk and walk before you can run. The points I have carefully detailed in this communication are submitted so that all concerned can now understand my reticence in accepting Haiti into the CACBF. I look forward to your reply in due course. Yours, in bridge. Douglas (Kip) Rotchell

Mr. Rotchell concluded that Until such time as comprehensive and detailed explanations are forthcoming I strongly recommend that all traces of the possibility that Haiti are members of the WBF be removed forthwith. While a lot of time and effort has been spent on Haiti over the past 2/3 years please note my last paragraph encouraging them to get themselves in order to facilitate a warm welcome into both the CACBF and WBF families.

The Executive Council unanimously approved to remove Haiti from the website with immediate effect.

Mr. Bernard Pascal reported that In the next ABF congress, they will propose the suspension of Zambia

The meeting was adjourned at 13:00 and reconvened at 14:30.

7. 45th 2021 World Bridge Teams Championship, Salsomaggiore Terme,

Mr Di Sacco reported about the Championship. The technical improvement consists in placing cameras at all tables for multiple purposes. The videos will be stored according to the WBF needs. The cameras are at disposal of the zones at their cost to use if they need. The Council thanked Mr Di Sacco.

The President reported that 42 NBOs are represented in Salsomaggiore. All the four categories are complete with 24 teams each. Some replacement was necessary in particular



for the Asian Teams, first of all China, which could not leave their country due to the Covid19 restrictions.

Credential Committee, Report by M. De Pauw

The Credential Committee is working on a proposal for the Executive Council that will be submitted after the meeting of the Committee, later this week.

8. WBF Congress, Report by G.A. Rona

The Congress usually takes place on the first Thursday of the World Bridge Series, therefore it should be on the 25th of August 2022 at Centennial Hall, in Wroclaw, Poland. By the end of May 2022 all the documents should be distributed.

11. Juridical matter, Report by General Counsel

General Counsel provided a brief update on the German Doctors' application to the German Federal Court. As reported previously to the Management Committee, the Doctors have applied to the Federal Court against the refusal by the Appeal Court in Dusseldorf to grant leave for them to challenge the decision that dismissed the key parts of their claim against the WBF. There are a limited number of lawyers who are permitted to appear before the Federal Court; on the advice of our existing German lawyers we instructed Dr Hall to represent us. He has expressed the view that the nature of the Doctor's application is of limited merit and that he views their prospects of success as low. [Subsequent to the meetings, on 12th April 2022 the German Federal Court dismissed the Doctor's application.]

The President and the Executive Council thanked the General Counsel.

13. 2022 World Youth Transnational Championship, Report by GA Rona

The President confirmed that the event will be held in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy from 7 to 14 August. For the first time the U31 category will be introduced. As approved by the Youth Committee the championship will be played on 3 days of pairs, 3 days of teams' and 1 day of individual. There are no sponsors for this championship but the city of Salsomaggiore will provide a subsidy of 30K Euros in addition to the free availability of the venue, Palazzo dei Congressi. The President ended his report saying that there are all the conditions for the championship to obtain a good success.

Some doubts have arisen regarding the individual championship. Gilad Ofir, in his position of member of the Youth Committee and Coordinator of the Youth Bridge Development,



strongly confirmed the importance of the Individual in a Youth events to reinforce the socialization and friendship among the players.

The Executive Council unanimously approved the report and thanked the President.

14. 2022 World Bridge Series 2022, Report by M. De Pauw:

Mr De Pauw reported about the last updates concerning the World Bridge Series. The WBF has been trying to find an agreement with the Polish Bridge Union over the last months. The PBU doesn't have the resources as NBO but they have to find other sources such as funds from the Government and the City of Wroclaw. Apparently they weren't able to find all the resources and they asked to share the income of the entry fee. Mr De Pauw has been negotiating with the President of the PBU and with Igor Chalupec, but until today no agreement has been signed. In these days there are also issues due to the war in Ukraine and that could affect the number of participants.

The President noted that being the Word Bridge Series at the end of August, we have to communicate the final decision as soon as possible to give the participants the possibility to arrange flights and accommodations. He reported that there are alternatives in case Wroclaw won't be confirmed, one is Turkey, and the WBF is also considering investigating a possible location outside Europe. The President added that before the end of the Championship in Salsomaggiore the final decision has to be communicated.

The members agreed on the fact that this uncertainty must be communicated. Mr Kamras proposed to publish that due to the political circumstances, the event is not yet confirmed.

After a discussion the Council agreed on the following text:

"The World Bridge Federation regrets to advise that while its preference is for Wroclaw as the location for the World Bridge Series, due to the current circumstances in the region, all options regarding the dates and location for the event are being considered. Further developments will be published as soon as possible."

16. 2025 World Teams Championship & Bermuda Bowl 75th Anniversary, Report by Kip Rotchell

Mr Rotchell informed the Council that Bermuda is unable to confirm the possibility to organize the championships due to renovation works at the venue. One possibility is to organize Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup in one venue and D'Orsi Trophy and Wuhan Cup in another venue. He reported that Dominican Republic could host the 4 championships.



Mr Kamras suggested that the idea is to organize the 75th anniversary in Bermuda, if it is not possible there is no need for the event to be somewhere else in zone 5 and that all the alternatives will be examine again in due time.

The Executive Council thanked Mr. Rotchell for his report shared the position of Mr. Kamras.

The President thanked all the attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:30 to be reconvened on Wednesday, 29th March at 15:00.



**MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy
Wednesday, 30th March at 15:00**

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr Al Levy, 1st Vice President (via Zoom)
Mr Patrick Choy, 2nd Vice President (via Zoom)
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Mr Jan Kamras, Hon. Secretary
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member
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Also, in Attendance

Mr David Harris, General Counsel
Ms Arianna Testa, Secretary to the Executive Council
Mrs Lilian Sun, interpreter (via Zoom)

By invitation of the President

Mrs Georgia Heth, Honour Committee Member

Excused

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

Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, Member



The President called the meeting to order at 15:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

Before to continue the discussion of the Points in Agenda, the President asked the Council to ratify the decision taken within the Championship Committee that for this specific event allows the teams to replace a player that tested positive to COVID during the competition.

The Executive Council unanimously approved.

12. Olympic Virtual Series & World Online Bridge Championship, Report by J. Damiani

The President asked Mr Damiani to present his report.

Last year the IOC had the first Virtual Olympic Games, 5 Sports were involved: Sailing, Cycling, Motor Sport, Rowing, Baseball. The aim is to promote the sport among the youth. E- Bridge is perfect for this project. 52 Entertainment would be the digital partner of the WBF. 52 Entertainment is the only company that could handle this project, they have 3 platforms, one is BBO, Funbridge and CBO, these platforms have 5 million players registered and 2.5 million players per month on the platform.

For the OVS it is fundamental because the IOC wants to involve international federations that are partner with what on the Framework is called a “publisher” (a platform). The WBF will present the candidature. E- bridge is the only sport where a human can play with 3 different artificial intelligence. In the framework, the IOC asks for several requirements. The first step is to formalize the candidature and to attract the young players as much as possible.

It is important to involve the NBO, the participants will log in with their real names. The rankings should be one for men, one for women and one for juniors.

For this time the event will be free of charge. 3 weeks of qualification between mid-October and mid-November and 1 week for the finals. The deadline is April 15th to submit the program (the concept). The idea is to present a scheme and a video show the features of the platform.

The Executive Council unanimously approved to proceed with the candidature of the WBF for the Olympic Virtual Series.

Concerning the World Online Championship, the purpose is to earn money through the partnership with the platform. Also, the NBO would make money from this event. The cash prize is 500 thousand dollars and 2 phases, qualification phase for 6 months and in



November, the finals in Hangzhou. Travel expenses and full board accommodation for 600 people. The pandemic is increasing there, and it is not possible to start this year.

It was unanimously approved that whenever the situation will allow the organization of this event, the Management Committee can handle the next stages.

The President and the Council congratulated and thanked Mr Damiani.

17. Youth Matters:

17.1. Youth Online Bridge Championship, Report by G. Ofir
Mr Ofir presented his report (see attachment).

17.2. Youth Minisite, Report by F. Lema
Mr Ofir, on behalf of Mr. Lema, presented the report on the minisite (see attachment).

The President and the council congratulated and thanked Mr Ofir, Mr Lema and Mrs Roth.

17.3. University Mind Sport Championship, Report by M. De Pauw
The next FISU World University Championship for Mind Sports will be in Antwerp, Belgium from the 12th until the 17th of September 2022.

To solve the problem of a low participation, some members proposed to use the youth fund to finance the attendance of the students to the FISU events.

The President said that he will have a meeting with the Treasurer and Mr. Geert Magerman to examine the situation and decide about the subsidy to provide.

The Council unanimously approved.

18. International Events & Relations with International Organisations:

18.1. IOC, ARISF, GAISF, SportAccord Convention, Report by GA Rona

18.2. IMSA, Report by M. De Pauw

No news from the previous meeting since the events are suspended, included the Sport Accord Convention in Yekaterinburg, Russia.



WBF received the subsidies from the IOC.

18.3. Asian Olympic Games, Hangzhou, China 10th – 25th September, Report by GA Rona

Bridge has been reconfirmed as part of the Asian Games, from the 14th of September until the 23rd of September. WBF has been asked to send the reviewer (Mr Laurie Kelso).

12 NBOs will participate, there will be 3 Teams' events, 12 teams for the Open event, 10 for the Women event and 11 for the Mixed event.

20. 2022 WBF Zonal Seminar, Report by GA Rona

In 2020 was supposed to be in Peru and unfortunately was cancelled because of the pandemic. This year the Seminar will be held in Cali, Colombia, during the Zone 3 Championship, in May (19th – 20th). The invitation, in addition to the NBOs of Zone 3, will be extended to the NBOs of Zone 5 and to Mexico.

The President thanked all the attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00 to be reconvened on Thursday, 31st March at 09:30.



**MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy
Thursday, 31st March at 09:30**

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr Al Levy, 1st Vice President (via Zoom)
Mr Patrick Choy, 2nd Vice President (via Zoom)
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Mr Jan Kamras, Hon. Secretary
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member
Mr Nader Hanna, Member
Mr Gonzalo Herrera, Member
Mrs Helen Kruger, Member
Mr Eric Laurant, Member
Mr Fernando Lema, Member
Mr Kirubakara Moorthy, Member
Mr Gilad Ofir, Member
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member
Mr Douglas (Kip) Rotchell, Member
Mrs Suzi Subeck, Member
Mr Ben Thompson, Member
Mr Adam Wildavsky, Member (via Zoom)
Ms Wang Yannan, Member (via Zoom)

Also, in Attendance

Mr David Harris, General Counsel
Ms Arianna Testa, Secretary to the Executive Council
Mrs Lilian Sun, interpreter (via Zoom)

By invitation of the President

Mrs Georgia Heth, Honour Committee Member

Excused

Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, Member
Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member

Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member



The President called the meeting to order at 09:30. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

25. Systems Committee, Report by L. Kelso

Mr Laurie Kelso, Systems Committee Chairman, presented the following report to Executive Council:

The current WBF Systems Policy has served the organisation well over the past ~20 years. The players (or 95% of them) understand the policy and are comfortable with it. This does not mean, however, that all is perfect. The most recent changes to the System Policy were promulgated in 2016. At this time, we removed most of the definitions from the preface and inserted some into the body of the document. We also attempted to re-define terms like 'Strong', 'Weak', 'Average Strength', etc with reference to HCP. Whilst this provided better clarity in certain parts of the document, it also led to some problems in other areas. In 2019 the EBL re-drafted their Systems Policy (which until then was identical to that of the WBF). I was a member of the group who carried out that work, but the majority of the changes were only in relation to format, wording and presentation, plus some changes in relation to certain administrative processes. There continue to be no differences between the EBL and WBF in regard to the well-established system (Colour) categorization, nor any variation to the overall effect or impact upon the players. I am now hopeful of being in a position to table an update to the current WBF Policy for your consideration at the World Bridge Series later this year. I also wish to put on record my appreciation of the great job that Anna Gudge does in the lead-up to each Championship in respect to the processing and formatting of the system cards, together with the necessary liaison with the NBOs and Captains. This year there were many more late changes to team composition (usually due to sickness) and in some cases whole teams needed to be replaced. This was all handled with a minimum of fuss and a general high degree of cooperation and good will between all the stakeholders involved. Compared to previous years, I believe that there has been a general improvement in the quality of the system cards submitted. Most of the complaints and enquiries associated with specific cards, (that we did receive), emanated from the Seniors' field, where I believe the level of technological competence is lower. Otherwise, we have seen a significant reduction in the overall number of on-site requests for minor alterations and/or amendments compared to other championships. This I believe is due to most of the significant issues having been previously resolved in a timely manner prior to the deadline for electronic submission and thus well before the commencement of the tournament.

The Executive Council congratulated and thanked Mr Kelso.



23. Antidoping & Medical Matters, Report by Medical Commission

The President reported that Medical Commission will have a meeting tomorrow.

29. 2022 meetings, Report by GA Rona

The next Executive Council meeting and the Congress will be held during the World Bridge Series. According to the Statutes the members of the E.C. elected by the Zonal Conferences and the HLPC will be invited to attend all the meetings. The 3 Members elected by the 2020 Congress will be invited to attend the meetings held before the Wroclaw Congress, when they end their term. The 3 Members elected by the Wroclaw Congress will be invited to attend the meetings held after the Congress.

The Management Committee will meet in November in Phoenix, USA.

30. WBF Publications:

30.1. Wuhan 44th World Teams Championship Book

The Members received the Wuhan 44th Teams Championship Book.

30.2. Salsomaggiore & Wroclaw

The President informed that Brian Senior, who was the Editor of the Championship Books for several years, for personal reasons, connected to his activity, decided to resign. For the Books of Salsomaggiore and Wroclaw the Editor will be Mark Horton.

The Executive Council thanked Brian Senior for the excellent job done and welcomed Marc Horton.

31. Unfinished business

Mr Kamras proposed a motion to update Articles 43 and 48.4 of the By-Laws : The General Counsel has to be part of the committee but not necessary the chairman.

The motion and the new text, as per follows, have been unanimously approved by the Executive Council:

Article 43 – General Counsel

The General Counsel shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the EC.

He shall be the Chief Counselling Officer of the WBF in all legal matters and is

entitled to attend, without voting rights, meetings of the EC, Management Committee and Congress, and to formulate proposals and give suggestions. The General Counsel shall not be a Zonal Representative nor a member of the EC.

48.4. Constitution and By-Laws Committee

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall include the General Counsel, and the Honorary Secretary. The function and duty of this Committee shall be to consider and take account of all matters pertaining to the Constitution and the By-Laws of the WBF and to formulate and recommend to the EC any desirable alterations, amendments or repeals relating thereto.

The President remarked that according to Art. 38 of the Statutes any amendment of the By-Laws shall come into force on the date of the decision of the Executive Council. The amendment shall be notified to the members of the WBF as soon as practicable. If a majority of the members addresses a written objection to the amendment to the President within 60 days from the entry into force of the amendment, the amendment shall be considered as null and void. Consequently the new text is in effect since now and will be forwarded to the NBOs.

28. Lausanne Meeting & Seminars - Secretariat, Report by A. Testa

Arianna Testa reported that there are no news from the previous EC meeting.

21. Investigation Committee, Report by E. Laurant

Mr Laurant reported about the activities of the Investigation Committee.

He stated that cheating is coming down at least at the top level. Players are aware that we are watching them. The aim of our job is not to catch cheaters but to minimize unethical behavior. Unfortunately this is still not the case at low level.

The investigation committee can investigate on players that are in the WBF database and that have been active in the past 5 years.

Once we had the names of players participating in these championships we checked with Nicholas Hammond's software and we used the bbo hands or real bridge hands. Many players have several BBO nicknames and for this reason it is not an easy task. The pre-check found some cheating cases and we needed to know the real name behind the nickname.

Out of 200 checked cases, we found 3 alarming cases. IC decided to investigate and finally the unanimous opinion was of collusive cheating.

The names are known only 6 weeks before the event. After the list of the participant is known, we need to check with Nicholas Hammond's software, then ask a panel of experts a first time and then a second time, finally the Investigation Committee discuss the case.

2 weeks ago we sent a message to the Credential Committee and to the Championship Committee that according to the Investigation Committee those players were cheating.

As a result, today nothing happened, and there are cheaters active here.

The procedure is not clear and if we have to check every participant, we need more time.

Mrs Georgia Heth underlined that the problem is the lack of time. The Prosecutor, in order to make a decision to charge parties has the right to make a review of the report. However, the opinion of the Investigation Committee should be decisive for the Prosecutor to decide.

We have time issue and regulation issue. The first action is to inform the NBO and only if the NBO is not able to proceed, then the WBF can take over.

The Investigation Committee conclusion should be enough for the Credential Committee to disinvite a participant.

Mr Kamras said that it is a political decision to choose to disinvite a person less than two weeks prior the event.

It was remarked that the accused players have to be aware of the charges and they must have the right to defend themselves before any decision can be taken.

It was decided that at the moment it is not possible to take any decision because the existing rule doesn't allow any change. It will be considered a possible change in the Eligibility Code to be submitted by the Credential Committee in the next session.

The EC thanked Mr. Laurant for his report.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:10 to be reconvened on Saturday, 2nd of April at 09:30.

All the reports are attached to and form integral part of these minutes.



MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy
Saturday, 2nd April at 09:30**

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr Patrick Choy, 2nd Vice President (via Zoom)
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Mr Jan Kamras, Hon. Secretary
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member
Mr Nader Hanna, Member
Mr Gonzalo Herrera, Member
Mrs Helen Kruger, Member
Mr Eric Laurant, Member
Mr Fernando Lema, Member
Mr Kirubakara Moorthy, Member
Mr Gilad Ofir, Member
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member
Mr Douglas (Kip) Rotchell, Member
Mrs Suzi Subeck, Member
Mr Ben Thompson, Member (via Zoom)

Also, in Attendance

Mr David Harris, General Counsel
Ms Arianna Testa, Secretary to the Executive Council
Mrs Lilian Sun, interpreter (via Zoom)

By invitation of the President

Mrs Georgia Heth, Honour Committee Member

Excused

Mr Al Levy, 1st Vice President
Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, Member
Mr Adam Wildavsky, Member
Ms Wang Yannan, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 09:30. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

26. TDs Committee, Report by J. Harsanyi

Mr Harsanyi presented his report as follows:

Dear President, dear Executive Council Members, the decision of the WBF EC in Wuhan on the changes in the Official TD-Register has been published and now I ask you in the name of the TDs Committee to approve the new TDs Register from 2022 proposed by the WBF TDs Committee. The first days of the championships ran perfectly without viewable disciplinary problems or disputed TD decisions. I asked the Head TD Antonio Riccardi to follow the procedure below and Antonio read the text at the Captain's Meeting of these championships which is an excerpt of the text of the EBL-NBO Meeting in Paris: TDs must be instructed to strike down hard on unacceptable behaviour and report all infractions to the Championship Committee for eventual disciplinary action. - All TDs must be stricter, not more forgiving, towards the elite players. The organising entity should "protect" the TDs in this respect – they can tell the player they have no choice but reporting the incident. Please fill out a report form and describe the case, what the parties at the table have to sign too. The Championship committee will handle these protocols for basing its steps to keep the desired level of discipline. Former Head TD Matt Smith was honourable disbanded from his position as Head TD, and has been elected WBF Honorary Head Tournament Director. He asked the TDs Committee to release him also from his position of WBF TD-Commissioner of Zone 2. I ask the Executive Council to accept the proposal of the WBF TDs Committee to replace Matt Smith by Ken Horwedel in both positions. Fu Qiang (China) was appointed for the WBF TDs Committee as a member recently he asked to be released from his committee membership. We shall follow his request till the next WBF Championships. Some qualification tournaments were carried out with help of electronic devices. At first Zone 7 applied RealBridge for high level tournament with delegated Observer at the two venues. An education of TDs was previously held. The TDs had the most easy job at the USBF qualification in Chicago where North and East played in one room and South and West in another. room. The players enjoyed the UI-free and free conditions, with undisturbed possibility of highest concentration on the bridge. In Zone 1 an internet portal was used with video connection between the screen-mates. Beside Apart from the at home sitting TDs two observers were delegated to every NBO. The qualification tournament was successful and the cost for the participants and EBL were much lower than at other similar events. In Zone 6 the national teams remained in their country and the TDs worked central and Security Officers from own NBO served and controlled the fair conditions. Like in the USA, tablets were sent and all teams enjoyed the best conditions of play. No protest against cheating or any unfair actions was received. The education program in the last two years were limited because of pandemic situation and the consequent travel restrictions.

It is important, that the WBF supports the TD-education in the Zones 2-8 and qualifies itself the TDs for the future WBF events. Please create a budget for TD Courses and Examinations of TDs at least 5 times in the next two years.

The WBF Budget should cover the travel costs of the lecturers and of the TD Committee Chairman. We need one WBF Lecturer per 9 participating local TDs. Calculating with an average of 2 lecturers per event, the travel cost make an amount of $5 \times 3 \times 700 \text{ EUR} = 10.500 \text{ EUR}$. The result of this Educational Project is about 15-20 new acceptable TDs for the WBF and about 100 TDs for the Zones and for its NBOs. We need more competent TDs, who will be able to work as tournament organisers, TDs and local TD trainers. The future of bridge sport depends on the attraction and sporting value of the national and international tournaments. During these events the TDs are representing the organising NBO or Zone, so the investment in TD training is an investment into the future of national and zonal bridge organisations. At the last I ask the WBF Executive Council to interrupt the validity of Article 21 – Removal for Failure to Practice of WBF Tournament Directors Regulations, and start the new period after the real restart of Zonal and World events.

The Executive Council unanimously approved the proposal to promote Jeanne van der Meiracker as Head TD and Marc van Beijsterveldt, O. Rahmi Iyilikci and Sol Weinstein as Co-Head TD.

The President and the Council thanked Mr Harsanyi.

The complete updated list for the year 2022 is attached.

24. Laws Committee, Report by T Kooijman

Mr Kooijman said that there have been no Laws Committee meetings so far since the members couldn't meet in person. In the past the Members were attending the event even if they had different roles but it was possible to meet, this time, due to the restrictions, it's been impossible for the Committee to organize an in-person meeting. There are no reviews at this point of the Championship. Some members chose to attend the second main event of this year. The job that the Laws Committee has to do is to create some new words on the law in order to be able to catch cheating bridge players. The new version should be finalized, and it is urgent to add new elements to the actual law to be able to catch cheaters. This new wording has to be approved by the Executive Council. The process for the renewal has already started, a good strategy has been proven to ask the bridge community for suggestion/ideas. The collection of these anonymous remarks/reactions will permit the new version, out very soon but we are confident that we'll have better laws in 2027.

The EC thanked Mr. Kooijman.

15. 2023 World Teams Championship, Marrakech:

Mr Belkouch, President of the Federation Royale Marocaine de Bridge, together with Mrs Chafika Tak-Tak, Chairman of the LOC, and Mr Bernard Pascal, presented the location (<https://youtu.be/FzvduyQk-vg>) of the 2023 World Teams Championship, in Marrakech, Morocco. They The works are in progress, the WBF President, Treasurer and Hon. Secretary visited the venue, the hotel and the surroundings, the contract has been reviewed in all the details and the final signature should be between the end of April end the beginning of May depending on the approval of the Moroccan Ministry of Sport and it will be

the result of the synergy between WBF and FRMB. As soon as the contract will be signed the promotion of the event will start (May/June 2022). The dates of the Championship are: 18th august – 2nd September 2023.

The President thanked Mr Belkouch and Ms Tak-Tak who leaved the room.

Mr Kamras reported about the visit on-site. The venue is bigger than what we need but it is not possible for the FRMB to rent only the areas that we'll use. For the Open series' space everything is fine, there is not much to do. The other areas have 2 problems: the total surface is very large but has pillars and an uneven floor. All floors are in marble which makes the acoustics far from ideal. We must have floor covering (a carpet all over the playing area). The spaces for the offices are excellent and are at the same level of the playing area. Being Marrakech a very attractive location, a good attendance for the transnational is expected.

The Executive Council unanimously confirms the approval of the venue and approved the dates.

The President remarked that all the details of the organisation will be defined shortly and he will report in the next meeting.

10. Updating WBF Eligibility Code & Duties of the Credential Committee, Report by M. De Pauw

The General Counsel reported that he asked for the advise of the swiss lawyers on the matter. The first idea was to put more responsibility on the NBO to let them have a stronger role to make sure the people they select follow high quality ethical standards. To impose a condition within our eligibility regulation means impose an additional consequence that follows a sanction, and it will be certainly overturned if challenged. Finally, the Swiss lawyers advised against us doing this.

Mr. Marc De Pauw reported in detail the amendments made to the text of the artt. 1.1, 1.7, 5.3 and 6.2

The Executive Council voted on the amendments: Art 1.1 Unanimously approved; Art 1.7 Unanimously approved; Art 5.3 Approved with the abstentions of Mr Eric Laurant and Mr Marcelo Caracci; Art 6.2 Unanimously approved

The Executive Council unanimously approved the text of the WBF Eligibility Code in force from 3rd April 2022:

Article 1 General Principles

1.1 *The WBF Eligibility Code applies to all those who wish to participate in any WBF Championship or Competition (collectively referred to as "WBF Events"). The WBF organises Events that are either representative in nature or open to all NBO Registered Players ("Transnational"). WBF Representative Events are restricted to participants ("participants" - such term shall include a player, non-playing captain, coach, trainer and/or other team official representing their NBO/Country). WBF*

Representative Events include Zonal Competitions that lead to qualification for a WBF Representative Event.

1.2 *To be eligible for participation in WBF Events, all participants must sign the WBF Participants Commitment Declaration confirming that they accept and will abide by all WBF Rules & Regulations and applicable laws. No participant shall act for more than one Federation in any WBF Event.*

1.3 *All participants must be either a National or a Bona Fide Resident ("BFR" as set forth in section 3 below) of the Country of the NBO that they represent.*

1.4 *No participant may represent another Country in a WBF Representative Event until at least 2 subsequent calendar years (January 1st to December 31st) have passed without a specific proposal from the WBF Credentials Committee based on an extraordinary situation (such as war, revolution, or natural disaster) and subject to approval by the WBF Executive Council.*

1.5 *All matters relating to the determination of the Country that a participant may represent in the above-mentioned events shall be resolved by the WBF Credentials Committee, in accordance with article 48.3 of the WBF By-Laws.*

1.6 *For the avoidance of doubt, the participation and accreditation to any WBF Event is by strict personal invitation and may be denied for such reason as the Credentials Committee in its absolute discretion may determine.*

1.7 *Prospective participants with pending charges, in respect of bridge matters, may be liable to a Provisional Suspension in accordance with the provisions of article 6.4(d) of the WBF Disciplinary Code but subject to article 7.1 of that code.*

1.8 *Prospective participants who have been convicted of collusive cheating are not eligible to play as the partner or team-mate of another participant who has also been convicted of collusive cheating.*

Article 2 Multiple Nationality

A participant who is a National of two or more countries at the same time may represent one of them, as he may elect; such election is deemed to have occurred by his representation of a Country either as a National or as a BFR. Having represented one Country in a WBF Representative Event, he may not represent another Country unless he meets the conditions set forth in section 1.4 and where relevant sections 3.1 to 3.4.

Article 3 Bona Fide Residents

3.1 *To be considered a BFR, a non-citizen is required to submit appropriate documentation to prove that he is a BFR. Failing to so establish that fact will result in a denial of an invitation by the WBF Credentials Committee.*

3.2 *The requirements to prove that a player is BFR of the Country of the NBO approved by the WBF Executive Council are an integral part of this Code.*

3.3 *The choice to represent a Country as a BFR may be made only once in any 10-year period except as approved by the WBF Executive Council and is subject to the limitations of Section 2.1 above.*

3.4 *A participant having represented one Country in a World Championship, or in any event above mentioned at point 1.3, can represent his new country provided that at least two subsequent calendar years have passed since the competitor last represented his former country.*

Article 4 Age Restrictions & Gender

4.1 *There is no age limit for participants in the WBF Representative Events in the Open, Women and Mixed categories.*

4.2 *Participants playing in Youth Events are subject to the relevant Age Restrictions contained within the General and/or Supplemental Conditions of Contest published from time to time by the WBF on its website.*

4.3 *Participants playing in Seniors events are subject to a minimum age requirement specified in the schedule below:*

4.4 *From 1st January 2018, a Senior player must have achieved the age of 61 in the year of the Championship in which he is going to play*

- From 1st January 2020 this minimum age requirement will be raised to 62*
- From 1st January 2022 this minimum age requirement will be raised to 63*
- From 1st January 2024 this minimum age requirement will be raised to 64*
- From 1st January 2026 this minimum age requirement will be raised to 65*

4.5 *The gender of the participant is to be taken as that shown on their valid ID/Passport*

Article 5 Invitations and Entries

5.1 *Invitations to WBF Events shall be extended only by the WBF.*

5.2 *Only NBOs recognised by the WBF and in good standing may submit entries for participants in WBF Representative Events.*

5.3 *NBOs are responsible for ensuring that all participants registered by them for participation in WBF Representative Events are compliant with this Eligibility Code. NBOs are expected to adopt high ethical standards for their players. In particular, the essence of fair play is fundamental to participation in competitive sport. The opportunity to represent one's Country should be regarded as a privilege. NBOs should establish policies and incorporate regulations to ensure that only those who meet the high standards required for fair play will be selected to play in Representative Events.*

5.4 *For participants in Transnational Events, NBOs are responsible for notifying the WBF if those participants are not in good standing with the NBO; a participant who is subject to pending ethical violation charges, for bridge related matters, is deemed not to be in good standing.*

Article 6 Youth and Transnational Events

6.1 *The definitions of Youth Events and Transnational Events are stated in the latest General Conditions of Contest published on the WBF website.*

6.2 *Those players nominated for participation in Representative Youth Events are not subject to the eligibility conditions set forth in Articles 1.3, 1.4, 2 and 3 above, subject to a demonstrable physical link with that Country (for example, but not limited to, by virtue of their presence for schooling, study, training or relocation for work purposes).*

Article 7 Violations

Violations of this Eligibility Code are subject to the WBF Disciplinary Code. If one or more members of a team are deemed to have been ineligible as provided for in this

Code (including any qualifying event), the entire team shall be disqualified by the WBF Disciplinary Commission.

Article 8 Interpretation

Whenever the context indicates, the masculine gender shall encompass the feminine and neuter, and the singular shall encompass the plural, or vice versa. The headings are solely for organisation, convenience and clarity. They do not define, limit or describe the scope of this Eligibility Code or the intent in any of the provisions.

Article 9 Effective Date

The WBF Eligibility Code as amended becomes effective on 3^d April 2022.

21. Investigation Committee, Report by E. Laurant

Part II

Mr Laurant continued his report with a last issue. Since the Investigation Committee started, in November 28th 2020 we all have worked *pro bono* and many people have worked a lot. It is time that the committee gets a budget to pay some money to people that do the job so often. A budget should be allocated also for Nicholas Hammond who provides the data. The request is to have a budget every year for the Investigation Committee's job. An estimation of the budget needed will be presented for the Executive Council to be approved. For the experts' job, 50k Euros Should be allocated.

The Executive Council in general agreed on the proposal to allocate a budget for the IC, which will be finalized once the estimate has been presented.

The President and Council thanked Mr Laurant for his job.

27 Zonal President's Report: Zone 1 – Zone 2 – Zone 3 – Zone 4 – Zone 5 – Zone 6 – Zone 7 - Zone 8

The Zonal Reports have been circulated before the meetings.

Mrs Heth asked the Executive Council to reconsider the criterion for the USA teams in 2025, in order to give them the chance to go back to the same number of member that they used to have before the pandemic and that gives them the right to have 2 teams per category representing the country.

The Executive Council unanimously approved.

The President informed the Council that following the publication of the announcement about the uncertainty of Wroclaw as location for the upcoming WBS, he received an official communication from the PBU saying that they are ready to accept all our conditions, the contract will be signed in the next days, therefore the event is confirmed to be in Wroclaw, Poland, in August 2022.

The EC unanimously approved the signature of the contract with the Polish Bridge Union to hold the championship in Wroclaw.

The President thanked all the attendees for their great contribution to the works.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:30 to be reconvened *sine die*.

All the reports are attached to and form integral part of these minutes.