



**MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Wroclaw, Poland  
Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> August at 10:15**

**In Attendance**

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair  
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus  
Mr Al Levy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Mr Patrick Choy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mr Marc de Pauw, Treasurer  
Mr 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  
Mrs Kari-Anne Opsal, Member  
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member  
Mr Douglas (Kip) Rotchell, Member  
Mrs Suzi Subeck, Member  
Mr Ben Thompson, Member

**Also, in Attendance**

Mr David Harris, General Counsel  
Ms Arianna Testa, Secretary to the Executive Council  
Ms Lilian Sun, Interpreter

**By invitation of the President**

Mr Eitan Levy, former Member  
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour Committee Member  
Mrs Georgia Heth, Honour Committee Member

George Retek, Honour Committee Member

**Attending via Zoom**

Mr Mazhar Jafri, Honour Committee Member

**Excused**

Mr Adam Wildavsky, Member

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

1. Opening & Greetings

The President welcomed the Council to the Meeting and congratulated the new elected member AJ Stephani from USA.

Then, he welcomed the President Emeritus José Damiani and the Members of the WBF Honour Committee Panos Gerontopoulos, Mazhar Jafri, Georgia Heth and George Retek.

2. Approval of the minutes of the E.C. Meeting in Salsomaggiore, March 2022

The Executive Council unanimously approved the minutes of the previous Executive Council meeting held in Salsomaggiore Terme, in March 2022.

3. President's report

The Members of the Executive Council received the report that the President will present to the Congress on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

4. Treasurer's report

The treasurer presented his report (attached).

After a discussion the Members of the Executive Council voted to sell \$750K out of the invested fund.

The proposal was approved with the abstention of Mr Al Levy.

The President and the Council thanked the treasurer.

## 5. Affiliations, Suspensions & Cancellations

Mr Bernard Pascal reported that the situation about Zambia will be decided next year, during the Zonal congress.

Mr Eric Laurant reported that in Zone 1 Albania has no contact with the Zone since a long time and they won't attend the Congress.

Bosnia & Herzegovina and Georgia asked for extra time in order to be able to rebuild their Federation.

Lebanon also asked for more time to pay the 2021-2022 fee.

Mr Kamras suggested that the policy should be to encourage them rather than punish them.

In Zone 5 Panama is 3 years behind with the payment (to the WBF, they paid the Membership due to the Zone) and Mr Caracci said that they will pay in the next few days.

In case an NBO didn't pay for 2 years without having a *force majeure* reason, it will be suspended (and reinstated as soon as they pay).

The President of Bangladesh Bridge Federation is currently in Wroclaw (being a Candidate to the Executive Council) and will pay before the end of the day.

The Executive Council discussed the matter, all the critical situations are in discussion and the Members took conscious decision not to suspend for the moment the NBOs that are struggling to pay.

Technically they could be in suspension however discussions have been held.

From Zone 5 arrives the request of affiliation of the Santo Domingo Bridge Club.

The Executive Council approves unanimously, and it will be submitted to the Congress tomorrow.

12. 7<sup>th</sup> World Youth Transnational Bridge Championship, Salsomaggiore, 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022, Report by GA Rona 11:37

Mr Rona reported enthusiastically about the youth event. The profit from the youth championship will convey in the youth fund.

10. 16<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Series, Wroclaw, 19<sup>th</sup> August - 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

10.1. Organization & Attendance, Report by G.A. Rona

10.2. Financial, Report by M. De Pauw

10.3. Credential Committee, Report by M. De Pauw

10.4. Technical aspects, Report by M. Di Sacco

The President reported about the current event.

There is a good number of pairs participating 230 (vs 250 predicted) but unfortunately is the only format above the budget.

The teams registered are 79.

One of the reasons is that there are no teams from China (for COVID related reasons).

For other countries, players are afraid to move, to fly for Covid and because of the near war in Ukraine that certainly contributed to increase the prices.

Also the costs of the entry fees and the flights is prohibitive in these days (even though Poland is a relatively cheap country compared to others in Europe). The flights are still expensive, some of them have been cancelled. There are various reasons related to this specific moment rather than a decreasing overall movement.

In Salsomaggiore, despite the situation, we had all the teams participating.

Mr Marc de Pauw commented on the type of contract with PBU that this time was a bit more “tailor made”. The same strategy will be applied for 2023 for Marrakech.

A long time has been needed to conclude this agreement with the PBU

Mr Caracci commented that from Zone 3 is impossible to attend, due to the costs of the flights and the entry fees which are too expensive.

The Members discussed about a possible changing in the format that would allow players to play for more days using different formulas.

Mr Stephani suggested that teams that reach the KO stages should pay more.

Mr Thompson suggested a “Season ticket” that would allow the players to play for the whole time with a convenient fare.

WBF gets the profit from the championship, since dues are not enough to cover the expenses.

The Council pointed out that the hand records should be provided during the events. Starting from tomorrow the hand records will be printed.

Mr Eric Laurant suggested to revise the criteria for MasterPoints assignment, being the number of participant teams very low, we should consider a different rule instead of awarding everybody.

Also for the Opening Ceremony, Mr Laurant expressed his concerns. We should find a way to encourage the participation.

The President informed the Members about the case of sexual harassment occurred during the open pairs championship where a Polish player made offensive gestures to his Australian opponent. The Polish player has been disqualified from the Championships.

Mr Adam Wildawsky arrives at 12:30.

The Members discussed about the need of a sexual harassment policy.

12:45 Break

14:30 Start

Everybody attending the session except Mr Adam Wildawsky.

13. WBF/Cali, Colombia, 19 & 20 May 2022 Report by M. Caracci & GA Rona

Mr Marcelo Caracci reported about the NBO’ Seminar held in Cali, Colombia. He shared the satisfaction of the participants, the enthusiasm of the young people involved now in the administration of Bridge (5 participants were U30 delegates).

It’s been a very productive and a good experience and everybody agreed on the importance of bringing young people to play and to the administrative positions.

Mexico and Zone 5 were invited.

The WBF can update the NBOs about policies, rules & regulations.  
The officers change so we need constantly to meet newcomers.  
At the end of the seminar all the materials have been sent to give the NBOs the opportunity to develop their own activity in their own country.

11. 45<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Teams Championship, Salsomaggiore, 27<sup>th</sup> March – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Report by GA Rona & J Kamras 14:50

Mr Kamras reported about the Championships. Covid was the main havoc, we had to cancel the side event after the start and we had to take lots of decisions on the fly. Players started to test positive and we allowed the teams to have substitutes which led to misinterpretations of the rule and there were players coming back in the team as soon as they tested negative (even though they were obliged to observe a 7 days quarantine according to the Italian law). It's been also a problem to calculate MP awards. Players expressed happiness for some decisions and unhappiness for other decisions.  
We handled it reasonably under the circumstances.

9. Antidoping, WADA, medical matters, Report by the Medical Commission

At 15:05 the President invited the Medical commission to report.  
The presentation of Mr Capelli is attached.

The President announced that Dr Gabriele is retiring after his long career in the Bridge world. The Executive Council thanked Dr Capelli and Dr Gabriele for their contribution.

15:54

Coffee break

16:10

16. Distinctions & Awards

While President Rona was out of the room, Mr Kamras made a proposal, since Mr Rona is arriving at the end of his presidency, he asked the Executive Council to submit the proposal to the Congress to award him

with the title of President Emeritus. The Executive Council unanimously approved and tomorrow a formal proposal will be addressed to the Congress.

The meeting was adjourned at 16.30 to be reconvened on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> August after the Congress.



**MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Wroclaw, Poland  
Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> August at 11:30**

**In Attendance**

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair  
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus  
Mr Marc de Pauw, Treasurer  
Mr Jan Kamras, Hon. Secretary  
Mr Patrick Choy, 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  
Mrs Kari-Anne Opsal, Member  
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member  
Mr Franck Riehm, Member  
Mr Douglas (Kip) Rotchell, Member  
Mr AJ Stephani, Member  
Mrs Suzi Subeck, Member  
Mr Ben Thompson, Member

**Also, in Attendance**

Mr David Harris, General Counsel  
Ms Arianna Testa, Secretary to the Executive Council  
Ms Lilian Sun, Interpreter

**By invitation of the President**

Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour Committee Member  
Mrs Georgia Heth, Honour Committee Member  
Mr Al Levy, Honour Committee Member  
Mr Eitan Levy, Championship Committee Member



George Retek, Honour Committee Member

**Attending via Zoom**

Mr Mazhar Jafri, Honour Committee Member

**Excused**

Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member

Mr Adam Wildavsky, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 11 :30. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

The Executive Council proceeded with the election of the WBF President. Mr Jan Kamras, being the only candidate, has been elected with 18 votes out of 18 voting members.

The President elect proposed the 2 vice presidents:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Mr Ben Thompson

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mr Eric Laurant

The President elect proposed the Treasurer:

Mr Marc De Pauw

The President elect proposed the Honorary Secretary:

Mr Adam Wildawsky

For the Management Committee, Mr Kamras proposed Mrs Helen Kruger and Mrs Wang Yannan to replace him on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

Adam arrives 12 :30

Mr Patrick Choy said that in the Statutes is written that the 2 vice Presidents should come from two different Zones with the intention of distributing the power equally within the Zones. He then addressed the Council saying that the main goal should be to bring Bridge in the Olympic

Games. The second challenge is to find suitable venues for our events. Being Zone 6 a crucial Zone for both these purposes, Mr Choy presents his candidacy as vice president.

After a break, the Council voted the following proposal:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice president Mr Ben Thompson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mr Eric Laurant  
Honorary Secretary Mr Adam Wildavsky  
Treasurer Mr Marc de Pauw  
Helen Krüger from the Congress

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January Jan takes the chair and Wang Yannan enters in the Management Committee.

The proposals of the President elect were unanimously approved.

The new Committees will be discussed tomorrow.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.45 to be reconvened on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> August at 10:15.



**MINUTES OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Wroclaw, Poland  
Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> August at 10:15**

**In Attendance**

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair  
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus  
Mr Jan Kamras, President elect  
Mr Ben Thompson, 1<sup>st</sup> vice President  
Mr Eric Laurant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mr Marc de Pauw, Treasurer  
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member  
Mr Patrick Choy, Member  
Mr Nader Hanna, Member  
Mr Gonzalo Herrera, Member  
Mrs Helen Kruger, Member  
Mr Fernando Lema, Member  
Mr Kirubakara Moorthy, Member  
Mr Gilad Ofir, Member  
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member  
Mr Franck Riehm, Member  
Mr Douglas (Kip) Rotchell, Member  
Mr AJ Stephani, Member  
Mrs Suzi Subeck, Member

**Also, in Attendance**

Mr David Harris, General Counsel  
Ms Arianna Testa, Secretary to the Executive Council  
Ms Lilian Sun, Interpreter

**By invitation of the President**

Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour Committee Member  
Mrs Georgia Heth, Honour Committee Member  
Mr Al Levy, Honour Committee Member  
Mr Eitan Levy, Championship Committee Member

George Retek, Honour Committee Member

## **Excused**

Mrs Kari-Anne Opsal, Member

Mr Adam Wildavsky, Honorary Secretary

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

### **21. Russian Bridge League & Belarusian Contract Bridge Union, Report by GA Rona**

The President reported about the situation with Russian Bridge League & Belarusian Contract Bridge Union. Russian and Belarus players are not accredited to the Championships. There are currently no grounds to suspend the Federations.

For the moment we maintain the same decision, we don't invite the players from the two federations but we don't take official decision about the suspension.

The Management Committee during the last meeting took this decision. If something will change the Executive Council will be informed.

Next year we will probably face a different situation and other decisions might be taken.

The Executive Council unanimously approved to maintain the same decision, not to suspend the Federations and not allowing players from those two Federation to participate in our events.

10:55

### **22. Olympic Virtual Series & World Online Bridge Championship, Report by J. Damiani**

Mr Damiani presented the Olympic Virtual Series during the Congress (Presentation attached).

There are no news from the IOC and we are still waiting for an answer.

At 11:05 the President proposed the following committees/panels:

#### WBF Disciplinary Panel

Chairman: Jurica Caric; Members: Per Ola Cullin, Heather Dhondy, Ron Gerard, Francoise Lejuste, Lorenza Mel, Dominique Portal, Matthieu Verhoeven, Herman de Wael (Secretary)

#### WBF Antidoping Hearing Panel

Chairperson: Lorenza Mel; Members: Jurica Caric, Per Ola Cullin, Heather Dhondy, Ron Gerard, Francoise Lejuste, Dominique Portal, Matthieu Verhoeven, Herman de Wael (Secretary)

#### Medical & Prevention Committee

Chairman: Giovanni Capelli; Members: Kevin Fay, Jaap Stomphorst, Anna Gudge (Secretary)

#### TUE Commission

Chairman: Jaap Stomphorst; Members: Giovanni Capelli, Claudio Muccioli, Anna Gudge (Secretary)

The Executive Council unanimously approved.

#### 24. Investigation Committee, Report by E. Laurant

At 11:15 Mr Eric Laurant reported about the job of the Investigation Committee. He summarized the procedure for the new Members. For Salsomaggiore they had the names of the participants relatively close to the event but they managed to analyze the records and they proposed to prosecute players from Turkiye and Spain who then confessed. There's still the case of the Italian TD to be completed, the job is almost done, they are working in these days on the report to submit to the prosecutor.

Mr Laurant reported also on the use of the tablet, appreciated in Veldhoven for the European Youth Championship and he said that the tablet will be used also for the Small Federation Games in Larnaca and the Champions' cup in Helsinki next November.

Bidding boxes will be there as well in case needed.

Love bridge offered the tablets for free this year but they will send a proposal for the future and we'll have to evaluate.

The advantage is to have all the bidding recorded and no more need of the bridgemates.

Break 11:30

During the break the WBF President, the President elect and the Treasurer signed the contract with the President of the Royal Moroccan Bridge Federation for the 2023 Championships in Marrakech.

After the break, at 12:10, Mr Laurie Kelso, Chairman of the System Committee was invited to report about the System review. The new version will be more concise and more easily understandable by the players.

The President and the Executive Council thanked Mr Kelso.

Mr Stephani described the projects he's involved in the ACBL. For the investigation job they have an agreement according to which the recorders of the various investigatory committees can share the information. He's currently in contact with a law firm and a possibility could be to sign an agreement that can be extended to the Zones (to be evaluated with the Kellerhals&Carrard firm).

Another project, in cooperation with the ACBL is the development of an algorithm to detect cheating online, primarily, but also in face-to-face bridge.

Concerning the number of teams participating in the Teams Championships, the quota are confirmed and the old rule related to the participation in the world bridge games is reinstated.

Mr Choy reminded the next appointments in the calendar to pursue the goal of making Bridge an Olympic Sport.

The Singapore National Olympic Council organizes in 2023 the SEA, Southeast Asian Games in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

(at 13:15 Mr Wildawsky joins the meeting).

For the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Bridge could be a sport to be included as well as in the Asian Games in Hangzhou in 2023.

The President and the Council thanked Mr Choy.

(At 13:25 Mrs Opsal joins the meeting)

The Council agreed that another possibility is that even if Bridge doesn't become an Olympic Sport, WBF can still organize the events with the support of the IOC.

Mr Damiani reminded that with the Olympic Virtual Games, Bridge will get a massive media coverage.

Mrs Sophonpanich invited the Members to consider the 2030 Youth Olympic in Thailand as a perfect chance to introduce Bridge in the Olympic movement.

## 21. Appointment of the WBF Committees

Mr Kamras proposed the Committees for the next term as follows:

### Development Committee

Chairman: Franck Riehm; Members: Jan Kamras, Ben Thompson, Kari Anne Opsal, Gilad Ofir, Bernard Pascal, Kip Rotchell, Samantha Punch

### Statutes & ByLaws Committee

Chairman: Jan Kamras; Members: Kari Anne Opsal, Marcelo Caracci, Patrick Choy, AJ Stephani, David Harris, Adam Wildavsky

### Finance Committee

Chairman: Marc De Pauw, Co-Chairman: Nader Hanna; Members: Jan Kamras, Gilad Ofir, Bernard Pascal, Suzi Subeck

### Technology Committee

Chairman: Marcelo Caracci; Members: Ben Thompson, Adam Wildavsky, Traian Chira, Hans van Staveren, Fotis Skoularikis

## Senior Committee

Chairman: Gonzalo Herrera; Members: Fernando Lema, Patrick Choy, Marek Malysa

## Women Committee

Chairman: Esther Sophonpanich; Members: Helen Krüger, Wang Yannan, Suzi Subeck, Sevinç Atay, Aaida Abu Jabber

## Youth Committee

Chairman: Gilad Ofir; Members: Fernando Lema, Wang Yannan, AJ Stephani, Carlotta Venier, Geert Magerman

## Championship Committee

Chairman: Jan Kamras; Members: Eric Laurant, Adam Wildavsky, Marc de Pauw, Gilad Ofir, Maurizio Di Sacco, Antonio Riccardi

## Credential Committee

Chairman: Marc de Pauw; Members: Ben Thompson, Kari Anne Opsal, Marcelo Caracci, Kirubakara Moorthy, AJ Stephani

## Laws Committee

Chairman: Ton Koojiman; Members: Maurizio Di Sacco, Fu Qiang, Eitan Levy, Matt Smith, Howie Weinstein, Laurie Kelso

## Master Point Committee

Chairman: Jan Kamras; Members: Ben Thompson, Nader Hanna

## Rules&Regulation Committee

Chairman: Adam Wildavsky; Members: Jan Kamras, Kirubakara Moorthy, Suzi Subeck

## Rules&Regulation Committee



Chairman: Adam Wildavsky; Members: Jan Kamras, Kirubakara Moorthy, Suzi Subeck, Maurizio Di Sacco, Eitan Levy

#### Systems Committee

Chairman: Laurie Kelso; Members: Maurizio Di Sacco, PO Sundelin

#### TDs Committee

Chairman: Laurie Kelso; Members: Eitan Levy, Fu Qiang, Antonio Riccardi, Maurizio Di Sacco, Ken Horwedel

#### SPECIAL APPOINTMENT: Seminar Committee

Chairman: Kari Anne Opsal

#### Small Fed Committee

Chairman: Kip Rotchell

The Executive Council unanimously approved.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 14:00 to be reconvened *sine die*.

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