



## WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA  
Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 10.30 am**

### **In Attendance**

Mr José Damiani, President in the Chair

Mr Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, President Emeritus and Proxy for member

Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member

Mr Yves Aubry, Member

Mr Patrick Choy, Member

Mr Marc De Pauw, Member

Mr Jean-Louis Derivery, Member

Mr Ernesto d'Orsi, Member

Ms Georgia Heth, Member

Mr Mazhar Jafri, Member

Mr Radislaw Kielbasinski, Member

Mr Al Levy, Member

Mr Dan Morse, Member

Mr George Retek, Member

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, Member

Mr Jonathan Steinberg, Member

Mr John Wignall, Member

### **Also in Attendance**

Mr Jeff Polisner, General Counsel & Proxy for Member

Ms Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the President

### **Excused**

Mr Bernard Pascal, Member

**By Invitation as observers**

Mr Jens Auken

Mr Ata Aydin

Mrs Joan Gerard

Mr Panos Gerontopoulos

Mr David Harris

Mrs Anna-Maria Torlontano

The President called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. After declaring a quorum, the meeting proceeded as follows.

The President welcomed the members of the Executive Council to these meetings in Philadelphia with a particular mention for Mrs Sevinç Atay who is a new member. He also welcomed back Mr Radek Kielbasinski who had been a member of the Executive previously. Also various committee chairpersons: Mrs Joan Gerard, Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano, Mr Panos Gerontopoulos and Mr Ata Aydin.

Finally, the President welcomed Mr David Harris, General Counsel of the EBL. He noted that Mr Bernard Pascal would be in and out of the meetings as he was playing. Mr Ernesto d'Orsi would be playing as well.

**1. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Council held in São Paulo, Brazil on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009.**

The Minutes had been circulated to all members of the Executive and were approved unanimously.

The President then mentioned that he had received a letter from Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr, copy of which was in the books. He said that he would ask for a moment of silence for the late Juan Antonio Samaranch during the Congress meeting.

**2. Report and discussion on the 2009 World Teams Championship, São Paulo, Brazil**

The President expressed his appreciation and congratulations to Mr d'Orsi for the profitable and successful running of the Bermuda Bowl in São Paulo, Brazil in 2009.

### **3. 2010 World Bridge Series Championships, Philadelphia, USA**

The President thanked Mrs Joan Gerard for the tremendous job that she has done in organizing these championships, almost single-handedly. He noted that, unfortunately, the number of participants was down this year probably due to the economic downturn. He advised that 130 visas were refused, including some from Turkey, Bangladesh and various other countries. This could be due to the perceived threat of terrorism.

The hotel room numbers are down too. Mr Polisner told the members how the hotels negotiate their convention contracts whereby they provide the public areas for free but raise the room rate to cover their charges. This means, in turn, that participants may well go to other hotels where the room rate is less, thus reducing the numbers in the official hotel.

Mr Rona mentioned that the EBL had also had problems with visas for Italy showing that the problem is not confined to the USA.

Drug testing is proving a problem here as there are only two official laboratories in the US.

### **4. Computer Championships**

Mr Levy reported briefly on this event which will be played here. He is expecting a record number of robots to be playing in Eindhoven.

### **5. Juniors Championships**

The President said that at the end of the week the Ortiz-Patiño Cup, the Damiani Trophy and the Rona Cup events will be held. He is disappointed that despite all the WBF has done for the teams – in Beijing the WBF sponsored 110 teams – the numbers are down this year. However, there will be 18 teams for the Ortiz-Patiño Cup, 16 in the Damiani Trophy and 4 teams in the Rona Cup.

## **6. Credentials committee**

There were more difficulties this year where the events are transnational. The registration system was difficult and, when asked, occasionally the national federations have problems with players who have not paid dues. If players are banned in their own country they will not be accepted by the WBF.

## **7. President's Report**

The President read his report which is attached to these Minutes as Annex 1. He proposed that the WBF establish a permanent office in Lausanne by renting space from FISU. It will have a permanent employee, Ms Carol von Linstow (who is already contracted to the WBF) and in part be shared with the EBL. It would also become a depository for WBF records currently held by Ms von Linstow, the President Emeritus and the President.

The proposal was adopted unanimously.

He then made particular mention of the inclusion of bridge in the South East Asian Games in Indonesia next year. This is an important breakthrough.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer read his report which is attached to these Minutes as Annex 2. It was agreed that the current Treasurer would complete this year's accounts.

The President thanked the Treasurer for his report and for the good job he had done.

## **9. Membership**

### ***a) New members: Cuba***

We have now received an official response from the Cuban government that it has accepted the formation of a Cuban Bridge Federation which will organize the Zone 5 Zonal Championship next year in conjunction with their Festival. The President said that Mrs Enma Castro, Raul and Fidel Castro's sister, is here in Philadelphia.

***b) Resignations***

Unfortunately, there were two resignations this year from Aruba and St Vincent.

***c) Zonal members***

The President has been unable to convince Lebanon to join Zone 4. They consider themselves as being one of the founder members of the EBL (Zone 1) and want to remain there. The EBL wishes to keep them as members and the Executive approved this decision unanimously.

***d) Pending: Kenya***

Despite the efforts of the President to have the two Kenyan federations dissolved and for a new one to be established in its place, the situation has not been resolved. The General Counsel noted that in a situation where there were two national entities, it was up to the Zone to act. A decision was deferred.

**10. 2010 WBF Congress**

The 2010 Congress will also be asked approve the amendments to the Constitution as follows:

Amend Article 9 a) to read as follows:

**"a) Members.** The Executive shall consist of as many zonal representatives as are authorized by the By-Laws, plus the President of the WBF, who shall for his first term be elected from the members of the Executive and, upon assuming office, shall resign as a zonal representative. Additionally, two members of the High Level Players Commission shall also be members of the Executive. Each member of the Executive, including the President, shall be entitled to one vote on all matters within the Executive' s jurisdiction. "

Amend Article 10 to read as follows:

**“,ARTICLE 10 - COMMITTEES.**

Standing or special committees of the WBF, including a Management Committee, may be constituted from time to time and, subject to applicable law and the By-Laws, such committees may be vested with such powers as the Executive may see fit. The members of all committees, other than the High Level Players Commission, shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Executive. "

## **11. IOC**

### **a) Asia Pacific Federation – Asian Olympic Games 2014 – SEA Games 2011**

These issues had been discussed under item 7 of these Minutes.

### **b) WADA**

Mr Auken reported on the out-of-competition testing for bridge players. He said that he had this had been suspended for the moment but he is waiting for a response and more clarification from WADA.

## **12. SportAccord**

The President reported that SportAccord is taking mind sports very seriously. He made a presentation of Beijing and they decided to organize a SportAccord Games in Beijing last month for combat games and will organize the SportAccord Mind Sports event in 2011.

## **13. IMSA**

The President advised that Poker has been admitted to the International Mind Sports Games, but only in its Duplicate form.

Mr Auken explained the EBL reluctance to be associated with poker in any way and added that in some European countries the gambling aspect of poker could well damage the perception of bridge.

The President Emeritus pointed out the big difference between poker and duplicate poker.

The 2011 SportAccord games will include duplicate poker, as will in all probability the 2012 World Mind Sports Games. After long discussion, it was agreed that the WBF would participate. Some delegates from Zone 1 voiced their reservations.

## **14. MSI – Lausanne**

### **a) Headquarters and office**

This point was covered earlier in the meeting.

## **15. FISU**

### ***a) 2010 Chinese Taipei***

Mr Rona reported on the university championship that was held in Chinese Taipei earlier this year. He said that it was well organized but the attendance, because of the distance involved, had been disappointing.

### ***b) 2012 Reims, France***

Mr Aubry advised that the French University Federation was working with FISU to run the event in Reims, France. There is a problem with the dates as the American nationals are also at that time. The President suggested that USBF try to get their University organization to provide money to send a team.

## **16. Players Commission**

The President will discuss with the HLPC before the Congress meeting to see who they have elected to the Executive Council. Mr Choy asked why the representatives were to come from Zones 1 and 2? This was in fact a mistake and the members will choose who they want. The meeting with the members of the HLPC will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 1 pm in the restaurant.

## **17. Youth Committee**

### ***a) 2011***

Mr Aydin advised that there was some problem with the original venue but that the USBF might be able to host it. This was still under discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:30 to be re-convened on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010.