



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Veldhoven, The Netherlands  
Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2011 – 3.00 pm**

**In Attendance**

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair  
Mr Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, President Emeritus  
Mr José Damiani, Chairman Emeritus

Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member  
Ms Chen Zelan, Member  
Mr Patrick Choy, Member  
Mr Marc De Pauw, Member  
Mr Ernesto d'Orsi, Member  
Mr Jean-Louis Derivery, Member  
Mrs Joan Gerard, Member  
Mr David Harris, Proxy for Mr Jens Auken  
Ms Georgia Heth, Member  
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Member  
Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Member  
Mr Al Levy, Member  
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member  
Mr George Retek, Member  
Mr Jonathan Steinberg, Member  
Mr John Wignall, Member

**Also in Attendance**

Mr Jeff Polisner, General Counsel  
Ms Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the Executive Council

**Excused**

Mr Yves Aubry, Member  
Mr Robert S. Wolff, Past President

**Invited**

Mr Craig Robinson, President of the ACBL  
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honorary Member of the WBF  
Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano  
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6  
Mr Jean-Claude Beineix, Honorary Member of the WBF  
Mrs Lilian Sun, Translator for Mrs Chen Zelan  
Mr Ata Aydin, Chairman of the Youth Committee

The President called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. After declaring a quorum, the meeting proceeded as follows.

## **1. Greetings from the President**

The President welcomed the members of the Executive to these meetings in Veldhoven, the first meeting of the Council in plenary session since he took over as President. He also welcomed to the meeting Mr Craig Robinson, President of the ACBL; Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6; Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano; Messrs Panos Gerontopoulos and Jean-Claude Beineix, Honorary Members of the WBF; Mr Ata Aydin, Chairman of the Youth Committee and Mrs Lilian Sun, who is translating for Mrs Chen Zelen.

The President then introduced Duccio Geronimi, responsible for the IT, who gave a short presentation on the electronic mail boxes that have been set up here for each member of the Executive and one for the whole of the Executive. This means that documents can be shared electronically.

## **2. Address from the President Emeritus**

The President gave the floor to Mr Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, President Emeritus, who gave a short address to the Executive Council and congratulated his successors on the wonderful job they had done since he stepped down. He also said that the most important thing that still needed to be done and concentrated on was the need to get more junior players, since the present bridge population is ageing. He wished everyone good luck and success to the World Bridge Federation.

## **3. Address from the Chairman Emeritus**

The Chairman Emeritus, Mr José Damiani, read his report to the Executive Council which is attached as Annex 3 to these Minutes. He touched on the 2010 Championships that were held in Philadelphia and congratulated Mrs Joan Gerard on reaching a very satisfactory settlement with the host hotels.

The President thanked him most sincerely for his excellent Presidency of the WBF for so many years.

## **4. Item 5 – President's Report**

The President read his report but first asked for a minute of silence in memory of Mrs Maria Erhart, a well-known player and friend, who had died recently. He also informed the Executive that two former members of the Executive Council had died, Jim Kirkham two days ago and Nadine Wood suddenly in August. The Executive stood.

He then continued by giving the Executive an update on his activities and extensive travel in the last year. His report is attached as Annex 5.

## **5. Item 4 – Approval of Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council in Philadelphia, the Officers' meetings in Louisville, Kentucky, and ratification of the Management Committees in Poznan, Poland**

After motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council in Philadelphia and the minutes of the Officers' meetings in Louisville were approved. The Executive also ratified the minutes of the Management Committee held in Poznan, Poland.

## **6. 40<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Team Championships & 8<sup>th</sup> World Open Transnational**

The President congratulated the NBB for the fantastic event that they are running here. Although there is a lot of walking involved, the set-up is excellent.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

The report will be split in two as there are further meetings to be held in the next few days so the Treasurer reported first on the 2010 finances. The audited accounts for 2010 were approved on motion duly made and seconded.

There was some discussion concerning the setting up of the office in Lausanne which will require a certain amount of work and papers.

The Treasurer proposed the appointment of Ernst & Young as the official auditors for the current financial year. This was approved.

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Mr Levy reported on the Computer Championships which are becoming ever more popular and gave special thanks to the Dutch Federation who are helping him set up here. He also thanked the WBF and everyone for their support.

The President informed the Executive that Mr Jay Baum will be leaving the ACBL at the end of this year after 10 years as its CEO. The WBF will be presenting him with a plaque at the farewell dinner to be held in Seattle in November. He has been a very good friend to the WBF and will be missed.

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## **8. Item 9 – IMSA**

Mr Damiani, as President of IMSA, read his report which is attached as Annex 9. He asked whether anything could be done to encourage Vietnam and Brunei to join the WBF. Mrs Sophonpanich said that she had tried to contact Vietnam but had no luck so far. Mr Damiani said that many of the Arab countries were still a little suspicious of card games.

He gave particular thanks to Mrs Chen Zelan and Mr Patrick Choy for their support which allowed IMSA to stage the very first IMSA World Mind Sports Games in Beijing, China in 2008.

He believes that an agreement will be signed with Brazil for the 2016 WMSG which will definitely establish our "Olympic" Association and bring our strategy to life. Mr d'Orsi will be able to follow that process in his position of Vice President of the Brazilian National Mind Sport Association (ABRESPI) which already received a nice letter of support from João Havelange, former President of the International Football Federation (FIFA) and IOC Member and had a great deal of publicity in the Brazilian press. Mr Damiani thanked Mr d'Orsi most warmly for his support.

Finally, he reported on the choice of site for 2012. The original idea was to try to hold the 2012 WMSG in Manchester, United Kingdom but, due to the riots that

took place in the UK earlier this year, Manchester has withdrawn its offer. There is a chance that this will be held in Cardiff, Wales but this is still under discussion and a decision may not be taken until next month. If no deal can be made, it would still be possible to hold the World Bridge Games in Europe.

Mrs Sophonpanich was concerned that the event must remain in the same format as the old "Bridge Olympiad". The President assured her that this was definitely still the case and that it had not been changed other than in name.

Although the venue has not yet been decided upon, it is sure that the World Bridge Games will be held somewhere in 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm to be reconvened with only the full Executive at 09:30 on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> October.

