



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Veldhoven, The Netherlands
Wednesday, 19th October 2011 – 09:30 am**

In Attendance

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

Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member
Mr Yves Aubry, 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 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 09:30 am. After declaring a quorum, the meeting proceeded as follows.

1. Item 27.1 Future events

a. Bali 2013

Mrs Sophonpanich introduced the Indonesia delegation which consisted of Mr Widi Pancono, Mr Judianto Hasan, Mr Edi Julianto, Mr Agus Muldya, and Mr Bonifatius Agune Herindra and Liliek Soeparman from the Indonesian Embassy in The Hague. Mr Judianto Hasan made a video presentation of the site and venue for the 41st World Bridge Championships which will be held in Bali from 16th – 29th September 2013. The area of Nusa Dua is extremely safe. The Indonesians would like to hold a Bridge Clinic for about 1000 young players from all over Indonesia where they could meet the top world bridge players before the start of the Championship. They can then follow the play on internet. The President thanked the Indonesian delegation for their presentation.

Mr Choy then left the meeting.

b. Berlin, Germany 2014

Mr Josef Harsanyi presented a video of the venue proposed for the 2014 World Bridge Series from 18 July to 2 August. Mr Ulrich Wenning, President of the Deutscher Bridge-verband e.V. explained briefly that bridge has not been recognized by their National Olympic Committee but they have managed to obtain very good rates at the Estrel Convention Centre and hotel. The President thanked Messrs Harsanyi and Wenning for their presentation.

c. China 2012 World Youth Championship

Mrs Lilian Sun made a presentation on behalf of Mr Wang Xiaofeng, Deputy Secretary of CCBA. There are two candidates for this event. Wu Han city is located in the centre of China and is the capital of Hu Bei Province. The other possibility is Taicang which is 45 km from Shanghai. Bridge events are often held in Taicang as it has a large bridge population. The event would be held at the Taicang City Stadium. There is a 5 star hotel for the officials within 3 km while there is a student hotel for the players 1 km away. The preference would be for Taicang which is easier to reach. Wu Han would be very hot in July while Taicang has a more temperate climate.

d. Poland Bermuda Bowl 2015

Mr Kielbasinski, President of the Polish Bridge Federation, introduced Mrs Ewa Bak, Director of the Sports Department of Poznan and Mr Hubert Piotrowicz, Manager in the Sports Department. Poznan hosted the 5th European Open Bridge Championships in 2011. 2015 will be very close to the 60th anniversary of the creation of the Polish Bridge Federation and a World Championship would be a good boost. Mr Piotrowicz then made a presentation of the city. Mr Kielbasinski noted that most of the players going to a championship are looking for good playing conditions and good food. Both these can be found in Poznan. The food and drink are good, plentiful and not too expensive. The dates have not yet been decided. August would be a good time to go. The President thanked the Polish delegation for their presentation.

The President noted that a contract has already been signed with Bali for the 2013 Championships. Mr d'Orsi said that the space was excellent and the hotel – the Nusa Dua Beach – is extremely good. There are many hotels around the Convention Centre within easy walking distance.

The dates proposed for Berlin are not acceptable as they clash with many other events. Although the dates could be changed, the cost for the venue would be much higher.

The President thanked Mrs Chen Zelan and Mrs Sun very warmly for their presentation which they had put together with very little notice. The Council will give an answer before the end of the Championships, if China can meet the conditions of full board and lodging for the Youth.

Two candidatures have been received for 2015 – South Africa, which would be the first time that a Championship would be held in Zone 8, and Mr Pascal said that he had also received a request from Marrakesh, in Morocco. The problem of security was raised, particularly with relation to South Africa. The Executive would need to receive a complete proposal - including the costs, the facilities and the ease of access and a risk evaluation – for both these sites by March 2012 at the latest so that this can be discussed during the Officers' meeting. With respect to Poznan, the Executive will only have to make a decision for or against as the site is already known.

For 2017, the President is in contact with Australia and this is a distinct possibility. An answer will probably be given in a few months. Mr Wignall said that he had been in contact with Keith McDonald, the President of the Australian Bridge Federation, who is looking for a sponsor but Mr Wignall is sure that this will be successful.

Mrs Gerard reported that there were two venues in Orlando, USA, which are interested in hosting 2018. One is the Peabody which now has a convention centre next to it. The President noted that there was no question of having to sign with any hotel to guarantee occupancy of a certain number of rooms. Las Vegas is also prepared to make an offer. Mr Retek said that a decision would have to be made on the dates as there would be a better rate in August rather than in September. He said that another consideration is the availability of extremely cheap hotels around both Orlando and Las Vegas and wondered whether there would be a two-tiered system of payment for those who stayed at the official hotel and those that chose to go elsewhere. Mr Damiani said that this has been tried before but does not work. It was felt that, although Las Vegas would be more popular with players, the cost of the travel and ease of access would be more difficult.

Mr Pascal raised the question of sponsors, asking what is currently available. The President said that he was preparing a new brochure for the end of the year and will also be the WBF Directory.

2. Item 22 – Women's Committee

Mrs Torlontano read her report outlining the activities of her Committee over the last year. Her report is attached as Annex 22. The President thanked Mrs Torlontano for her excellent report and the tremendous work she is doing.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 to be reconvened on Thursday, 20th October at 3:00 to hear the Zonal Presidents' Reports.