



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Lille, France
Sunday, 12th August 2012 – 14:00**

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
Mr Bruce Blakely, Member
Ms Chen Zelan, Member
Mr Patrick Choy, Member
Mr Marc De Pauw, Member
Mr Jean-Louis Derivery, Member
Mrs Joan Gerard, Member
Mr David Harris, Member
Ms Georgia Heth, Member
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Member
Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Member
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member
Mr George Retek, Member
Mr John Wignall, Member

Also in Attendance

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

Excused

Mr Ernesto d'Orsi, Member
Mr Al Levy, Member
Mr Nick Nickell, Member
Ms Sylvie Willard, Member
Mr Robert S. Wolff, Past President

Invited

Mr Ata Aydin
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos
Mrs Sheena Rayner
Mrs Lilian Sun
Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano

The President called the meeting to order at 14:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows:

1. Treasurer's Report – agenda item 5.3

Mr De Pauw presented the 2012 budget which had been accepted by the Finance Committee. There would be additional costs involved for the new website and the budget for these World Championships in Lille will probably be break-even at best thus the overall result for 2012 is expected to be flat.

He also presented the budget for 2013 and pointed out that future expenses for IT will make it hard to break even. However, the budget for the Bali championship currently shows a profit dependent on the number teams in the TNOT. The entry fees were set at \$4,000 for the teams and \$1,500 for the Transnationals.

His report is filed with these Minutes as Exhibit 1-2nd.

Two simultaneous events will be organized in September and October of this year and four or five simultaneous events will be organized in future years, the income of which will go to a fund dedicated to the development of Youth Bridge and to subsidize smaller NBOs.

The budgets for 2012 and 2013 were approved unanimously.

2. Requirements for participation in Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup – agenda item 15

The President introduced a discussion on the requirements to play in the World Bridge Games in order to participate in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup. Mr Pascal explained the reasons why Zone 8 is not in favour of the existing rule which penalizes the small federations. After debate and on a vote it was agreed to maintain the current regulations with one vote against from Mr Pascal and one abstention from Mr Harris.

3. SportAccord Matters – agenda item 8

Mr Damiani reminded the meeting that as well as being members of the IOC the WBF also belongs to SportAccord. This body organizes the annual SportAccord Mind Sports Games in Beijing until December 2014. This is an elite event with the best players of the 5 mind sports participating. Bridge sends four teams in the Open and four in the Women's who will play Teams, Pairs and Individual. All expenses are covered by the organization including cash prizes.

The media coverage for the event is excellent and can be watched anywhere in the world on internet.

Mr Damiani's report was accepted by acclamation.

The President proposed that this year the invited teams will come from China as host, France (the World Women's Champions), the Netherlands (the World Open Champions), USA and the winners of these Mind World Games or, if the winner is already included, then the next runner up or the next team in the ranking, in case the runner up is already qualified, will be invited. This was approved unanimously

The President reported he had been very impressed by the General Assembly of SportAccord in Quebec, by the importance that they gave to this event and by the promotional video shown.

4. IMSA Matters – agenda item 11

Created in 2005 in Berlin, Germany, IMSA was recognized by SportAccord who support the concept of bringing together similar sports into groups, e.g., mind sports, combat sports, etc. Following on official recognition by SportAccord, the next step will be official recognition by the IOC for IMSA events.

Two other federations – Draughts and Go – are in agreement with this policy while FIDE want to go their own way. The statutes of IMSA would need to be modified raising potential problems. Unfortunately the financial situation of the IMSA is not very good this year and this will need to be resolved before the retirement of Mr Damiani.

The President agrees that bridge should continue to support IMSA which is very useful to the WBF. His vision of getting into the Olympics is excellent.

Mr Ortiz-Patiño thanked Mr Damiani for everything that he had done.

5. IOC Questionnaire – agenda item 12

The President reported that compliance with the questionnaire distributed by WADA on behalf of the IOC has been excellent.

There was comment that the random drug testing carried out at the beginning of the event might have been more tactfully handled and it was agreed that the procedures would in future be explained to the participating players in sympathetic manner.

6. World Youth Teams Championships, Tai Cang, China – agenda item 19

Mr Aydin, Chairman of the Youth Committee, presented his report which is filed with the Minutes of this meeting as Exhibit 6-2nd.

The President thanked Mr Aydin for his report. He noted that although some NBOs support the Open and Women's teams, they do not necessarily support the Youth. An American team of photographers was in Tai Cang to film the Championships and will make a documentary in the coming months.

He also thanked Mrs Chen Zelan and, in particular, Mrs Lilian Sun for all their assistance before and during the Championships. The Championships were extremely well organized and there was a fantastic atmosphere between the players.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:45 to be reconvened on Monday, 13th August 2013 at 14:00.