



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Chennai, India  
Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 14:30**

**In Attendance**

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair  
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus  
Mr John Wignall, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Mr Al Levy, Executive Vice President  
Mr Yves Aubry, Vice President  
Mr Patrick Choy, Vice President  
Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Member  
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Vice President  
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer  
Ms Georgia Heth, Hon. Secretary  
Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member  
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member  
Ms Chen Zelan, Member  
Mr Josef Harsanyi, Member  
Mr Paul Janicki, Member  
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member (entered at 16.30)  
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member  
Mrs Sheena Rayner, Member  
Mr Merlin Vilhauer, Member  
Mr Howard Weinstein, Member  
Mr David Harris, General Counsel  
Mr Simon Fellus, WBF Secretary

**By invitation from the President**

Mr Philippe Cronier, Member of the HLPC  
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour and Advisory Committee Member  
Mr George Retek, Honour and Advisory Committee Member  
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President APBF  
Mrs Suzi Subeck, President ACBL  
Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano, Honour and Advisory Committee Member  
Ms Lilian Sun, CCBA Secretary

The President called the meeting to order at 14:30. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

**1. Opening and Greetings**

The President Emeritus welcomed everyone to Chennai and especially the new members.

## **2. Welcoming of New Executive Council Members**

The President congratulated Chen Zelan, Patrick Choy, Georgia Heth and Mazhar Jafri on their re-election to the Executive Council and the newly elected members of the Executive Council, Josef Harsanyi from Zone 1, Howard Weinstein from Zone 2, Marcelo Caracci from Zone 3 and Janice Seamon-Molson from the HLPC. He also congratulated Esther Sophonpanich for her re-election as President of Asia Pacific Bridge Federation, Ashok Goel for his election as President of Bridge Federation of Asia and Middle East and Simon Fellus who, since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, assumed his function of Secretary, operating full time in Lausanne. The President expressed his gratitude to Carol Von Linstow who left the Lausanne Office, while she will continue to be part of the WBF family, joining the various meetings in her position of Secretary to the Council.

## **3. Departed Friend's Memory**

The President honoured the memory of great friends and colleagues who sadly and in some cases suddenly passed away and reported: *"All of you are already aware of the passing of Ernesto d'Orsi and Jean-Claude Beineix and I have already reported at the meetings both of the Officers in New Orleans and of the Management Committee in Lucignano. It seems to me due today remember them that in the last meeting of the Executive Committee, hold in Sanya, were seated with us at this table. Looking at the picture of the Honour Committee members taken in Sanya, it is still very difficult to me to accept that they are no more with us. Consent to me to officially repeat in this report at the Executive Council that Jean-Claude and Ernesto were two pillars of the WBF organisation. Ernesto was one of the most eminent personalities in the history of bridge over the last forty years: an essential point of reference, who represented, with his advice and his suggestions, a sort of "permanent school" for everybody. Jean-Claude was an authoritative member of the Executive Council for ten years up to 2003, but since then has continued to serve the WBF with competence, passion and dedication at the Championships and also as Chairman for the delicate sector of the organisation of the Tournament Directors. Ernesto and Jean-Claude were great friends of us all and their memory will accompany us and all their bridge friends everywhere in the world for the rest of our lives. Unfortunately other Friends passed away and for all of them I want, on this occasion, remember Gary Hayden, five times World Champion in Seniors, who sadly passed away just few days before being awarded the medal and the trophy for the victory in Bali; Jeff Johnston, who was a pillar of strength for the ACBL organisation and who always helped and supported us in organising our events in US; Fulvio Colizzi for more than twenty year responsible of the Main Office and of organising and setting the equipment both in the WBF and EBL championships. To them and to all the other Friends who sadly passed away, we pay tribute with gratitude and fondness and I ask you to honour their memory with a moment of respectful silence."*

The meeting then stood in silent memory of the deceased.

## **4. President's Report**

Before starting his report, attached as Exhibit 4, the President introduced Mr. Philippe Cronier, appointed as temporary substitute of Mr. Fulvio Fantoni, as member of the HLPC, asking to the Executive Council the approval of his

appointment as permanent member, in case of suspension or withdrawal of Mr. Fantoni. The Executive Council approved and welcomed Mr. Cronier. The President referred to the Press Conference made Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September and broadcasted online via streaming, concerning number of accusations of irregular conduct that had been made in recent weeks. The WBF has systems in place to find unethical players who would be subject to due process. Our Disciplinary Code would be updated.

The President Emeritus reminded the meeting that the best defence against cheating is the vigilance of the players themselves.

Yves Aubry, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, reported that participation in WBF events is by invitation only, and that the invitation to the Polish pair Balicki-Zmudzinski had been withdrawn and the Polish Open Team had been authorized to provide a substitute pair.

At 16:30 Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson entered the meeting.

The Executive Committee approved unanimously the President's report.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented his report which is attached as Exhibit 5.1. This had been adopted by the Finance Committee.

The President thanked the Treasurer and his assistant Dirk De Clercq for the excellent job done. The report was adopted by acclamation.

#### **6. Membership**

The Treasurer then went through the membership situation, explaining which NBOs were in arrears. (attached as Exhibit 6.)

There is an increase of some 4,000 members over the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:30 to be reconvened on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September at 14:30.