



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Chennai, India  
Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at 09:30**

**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, Vice President  
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  
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  
Mrs. Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the Council

**Excused**

Mr Philippe Cronier, HLPC Member  
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

**Invited**

Mr. Philippe Cronier, HLPC (entered at 11.00)  
Mr Robert Hartman, CEO of ACBL  
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President Zone 6  
Mrs Suzi Subeck, President Zone 2  
Ms Lilian Sun, CCBA Secretary

The President called the meeting to order at 09:30. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

**1. World Wide Bridge Contest & Agreement with Ourgame – agenda item 22**

Mr De Pauw reported on discussions with Ourgame for the organization of a new format for the World Wide Bridge Contest. Anna Gudge will remain in charge of

the off-line component and Ourgame would be in charge of the on-line component. The on-line game will start in 2016 and the first edition will only be open to Chinese participants in China.

## **2. Disciplinary Code and Rules & Regulations for the WBF Disciplinary Procedure – revisiting agenda item 15**

An amended version of the Disciplinary Code dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 was presented to the meeting. According to 6.3.ii of the revised Code, the WBF prosecutor shall only consider complaints lodged up to *two months* after the final day of the event in question. However, this shall not restrict the prosecutor's ability to commence investigations on his own volition.

This new Code will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 (9.1).

On motion duly proposed and seconded, the new Disciplinary Code dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 was approved with one vote against (Yves Aubry) and one abstention (Marcello Caracci).

Mr. Philippe Cronier joined the meeting at 11.00.

## **3. Sport Integrity and NBOs Disciplinary Sanctions – agenda items 14 & 17**

### *3a – Sport Integrity*

Mr Harris gave a short overview of the situation with regard to the new guidelines for sport integrity, fair play and code of ethics (attached as Exhibit 3a-5) to be adopted by sports federation. These were approved by the Management Committee in Lucignano in June 2015 and were unanimously ratified by the Executive Council.

### *3b – NBOs Disciplinary Sanctions*

The new guidelines for Disciplinary Sanctions and their appliance in international events were presented to the meeting (attached as Exhibit 3b-5). These were unanimously approved.

### *3c - HLPC Duties in Disciplinary matters*

Mr. Harris and Mrs. Georgia Heth reported about the new duties of the HLPC. A special-mail address, accessible only by the HLPC Members, will be created with the purpose of receiving complaints/concerns with regard to potential improper actions being taken by a partnership. The HLPC has the task of providing a preliminary view based upon an analysis of the suspicious circumstances measured against the accepted probabilities of success and to forward their conclusion to the Prosecutor. The Prosecutors of course, to finalize his action, can ask the advice and support of other experts by his choice. The evidence generated would be the basis for pursuing a charge of reprehensible conduct and ensuring a fair process where those accused are given every opportunity to challenge the case against them. It will be necessary to ensure some safeguards are put in place. All members of the HLPC, that is sought to make use of, and any other expert appointed by the Prosecutor should be required to enter into a confidentiality agreement. It is not appropriate for such members to discuss the work that they undertake with bridge players that are not part of the Commission. The Executive unanimously approved.

The President informed that a meeting will be held in the next days with the members of the HLPC present in Chennai and another in Denver, in occasion of the Fall ACBL Championships.

Ms Heth will give an interview to the Bulletin to fully explain the new guidelines.

#### **4. Zone 2 Organization – agenda item 18**

Despite a meeting between the CBA, the USBF, the President, Ms Heth and Mr. Harris, there has been no change since the last meeting. A new meeting will be held in Denver, in occasion of the Fall ACBL Championships.

#### **5. Women's Committee – agenda item 33**

Mrs Torlontano read her report which is attached as Exhibit 5-5. She gave a brief overview of activities over the past year. The President thanked and congratulated her for doing an excellent job. He said this was an example of how to run a committee.

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Mr Damiani then introduced Mr Frank NG, CEO of Ourgame and sponsor of the WBF and the President thanked him for his cooperation and support.

Mr Choy asked how Ourgame coped with internet cheating and wondered whether Mr NG could share his experiences. Mr NG reported that they have tried many different methods. The TDs have absolute power at the venue to deal with any disallowed action. They make a final decision and it remains at the site. Off-line play is easier to deal with as they randomize the time it takes to play a card and each player is in a different location.

The Executive thanked Mr NG

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#### **6. Systems Committee**

Mr Wignall read his report on the meeting of the Systems Committee, attached as Exhibit 6-5. The suggestions were approved, with one abstention. The new guidelines will be published in the Bulletin and on the WBF website once the new Systems Policy has been written.

#### **7. Future events – revisiting agenda item 28**

*2018 – World Youth Championships*

The WBF is in touch with the CCBA to arrange this event possibly in China.

#### **8. Laws Committee – agenda item 32**

Mr Kooijman reported that he had promised that the Committee would complete all the changes by the end of the Championships in Wroclaw in 2016, to come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. Discussions are on-going and will continue among the Committee members.

## **9. Zonal Presidents' Report – agenda item 31**

### *Zone 1*

Mr Aubry, President of Zone 1, presented his report which is attached as Exhibit 9.1-5. The President thanked him for his report.

### *Zone 2*

Mrs Suzi Subeck, President of ACBL Zone 2, gave a short verbal report. The Youth programme is doing well under the direction of Michael Rosenberg. There will be two disciplinary hearings later this year and Mrs Subeck said that they were keen to cooperate fully with the WBF in maintaining the highest ethics possible.

### *Zone 3*

Mr Marcelo Caracci, President of Zone 3, read his report which is attached as Exhibit 9.3-5. He mentioned the devastating loss of Ernesto d'Orsi earlier this year. He then gave an overview of activities in the Zone in the last year. The President thanked him for his report and congratulated him on the organization of their trials earlier this year in Buenos Aires.

### *Zone 4*

Mr. Jafri reported that Mr. Ashok Goel is not available to attend the meeting and he does not have any document to report.

The President informed that the situation of Zone 4 is not very fair because of some conflicts among the NBOs and that he will have a meeting in the next days with the Zone 4 NBOs representatives present in Chennai.

### *Zone 5*

Mrs Sheena Rayner, President of Zone 5, read her report which is attached as Exhibit 9.5-5. The President thanked Mrs Rayner and congratulated her on managing to increase the membership of the Zone.

### *Zone 6*

Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6, gave a verbal report. The Zone had lost one member – Mongolia – but it gained another with Timor Leste. A new entity, the South East Asia Bridge Federation (SEABF), has been created as a reciprocal organization to participate in SEA Games. There is a great of activity in the Zone and they appear to be doing very well. The President congratulated Mrs Sophonpanich for doing a fantastic job working on so many different fronts towards getting bridge into the SEA and ASIAN Games and eventually into Olympics. She noted that she was getting a great deal of help from the member NBOs and thanked them for it. The President thanked Mrs. Sophonpanich for the excellent job done.

### *Zone 7*

Mr Wignall, President of Zone 7, read his report which is attached as Exhibit 9.7-5. He summarized events and progress made in the past year. The President thanked Mr Wignall for his report.

### *Zone 8*

Mr Pascal, President of Zone 8, read his report which is attached at Exhibit 9.8-5. The President thanked Mr Pascal for his report.

**10. WBF Simultaneous Tournaments – agenda item 39**

Mrs Anna Gudge joined the meeting and gave a verbal report on the WBF Simultaneous Tournaments which remain popular and reasonably profitable.

**11. Medical Commission Activity & Meetings – agenda item 40**

Mrs Gudge first reminded the Executive of the sad loss of Finn Mikkelsen, who had been an important member of the WBF Medical Commission. She reported that there would be drug tests taking place in Chennai during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the Championship. A number of exemptions have been registered.

**12. WBF Publications – agenda item 42**

*Sanya World Championship Book* – The President delivered the book.

*Chennai World Championship Book* – Brian Senior confirmed to continue to provide the text of the book and the contract with him will be renewed at the same conditions agreed for the past. The Executive approved.

WBF Directory – The President reported that the draft of the Directory has been typed and the book will be printed and delivered before Christmas.

**13. TDs Committee – agenda item 36**

Mr Harsanyi gave a written report, informing that the situation is unchanged except the appointment of Peter Eidt as Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:30 to be reconvened on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 14:00.