



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Chennai, India
Friday, 2nd October 2015 at 14:00**

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr John Wignall, 1st Vice President
Mr Al Levy, Executive Vice President
Mr Yves Aubry, 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 Patrick Choy, Vice President
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

Invited

Mr Ata Aydin, Chairman Youth Committee
Mr Philippe Cronier, HLPC Member
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President Zone 6
Mrs Suzi Subeck, President Zone 2

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

Mr Levy announced the sad news that Carolyn Lynch had passed away and asked the Executive to stand for a minute's silence in her memory.

1. 4th World Youth Open Championship – agenda items 12 and 34

The President welcomed Mr Aydin to the meeting who then presented his report on the 4th World Youth Open Championships held in Opatija, Croatia from 20th-29th August.

Mrs. Atay reported about the Kids, underlining the great support offered in Opatija by the Chinese representative composed by more than 100 young players, the majority of them under 15 and remarking the impressive activity developed in China in teaching bridge to the school pupils.

The President thanked Mr. Aydin and Mrs. Atay congratulating them for the excellent job done and the successful result achieved

Mr, Atay reported that the Youth Committee, with majority of votes of its members, suggested increasing the age limit for Juniors from U25 to U28, informing about the reasons of the proposal. Mr. Aubry informed that the EBL members of the Committee voted against this proposal. After some discussion, the Executive voted against this by an overall majority.

2. 15th World Bridge Games - Format for Wroclaw – agenda item 27.2

The President suggested that a new category of “Mixed” should be introduced so that, in addition to Open, Women and Seniors, there would be a Mixed National Teams (with one team allowed per Country) and a Mixed National Pairs (with unlimited number of pairs per Country) events. The Mixed Championships will be played contemporary with the other categories and with the same format. This was approved with 4 abstentions.

3. Proposed changed in format for future editions of World Bridge Series – agenda item 10

The President proposed that consideration be given to creating a new format for future editions of the World Bridge Series in which the Rosenblum is given more importance and therefore would be played over 8-9 days, while the other events would be reduced to 4-5 days each.

Mr Retek told the Council that in his opinion the 2018 championships in Orlando had the potential to be the most successful run in the USA. There was a substantial bridge-playing population in Florida which could well be attracted to Seniors events.

4. Any other business – agenda item 43

Bridge MOOC

Mr Damiani brought up the subject of teaching programmes in schools, universities etc. These programmes, which have been on various websites for some time, are now being updated to make use of the new technology.

Mr Jafri, on behalf of all Members of the Executive, thanked the President for his hospitality and chairmanship of the meetings.

The President thanked the members for their presence at these meetings and the meeting was adjourned sine die at 16:30.