



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Wroclaw, Poland
Monday, 5th September 2016 at 14:00**

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr John Wignall, 1st 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
Mrs Chen Zelan, Member
Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member
Mr Josef Harsanyi, Member
Mr Paul Janicki, Member
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member
Mrs Sheena Rayner, Member
Mr Merlin Vilhauer, Member
Mr David Harris, General Counsel

Also in Attendance

Mr Simon Fellus, WBF Secretary
Ms Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the Council

By invitation from the President

Mr Philippe Cronier, Chairman, HLPC
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mr George Retek, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President APBF
Ms Lilian Sun, CCBA

Excused

Mr Al Levy, Executive Vice President
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member
Mr Howard Weinstein, Member

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 4

1.2 Memberships

The Treasurer reported on the membership & dues situation and noted that quite a few countries were overdue:

Zone 3 – Ecuador - Marcelo Caracci will contact them

Zone 5 – Antigua and French Guyana – Sheena Rayner will contact them

Zone 6 – Timor Leste – Mrs Sophonpanich will contact them

Zone 7 – French Polynesia and New Caledonia – John Wignall will contact them

Zone 8 – Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Morocco and Zambia – the Treasurer will discuss this with Mr Pascal.

It was decided to suspend the above countries in Zones 7 and 8 if they have not paid by the 31st December 2016, the suspension to take effect automatically on 1st January 2017.

Mrs Chen Zelan joined the meeting at 14:35.

2. CSB Officers Seminar, Medellin 25th-27th May 2016 – agenda item 19

Mr Caracci reported on the first CSB Officers seminar that was held in Medellin, Colombia from 25th- 27th May 2016 which was very successful. It was attended by the President and various other WBF officers who all made presentations. In addition, all the Zonal NBOs were very involved.

The President believed that this was a good way to introduce them to the administration of bridge. It is interesting to meet people with whom contact has usually been by mail or phone and to be able to put a face to that person.

Mr Pascal joined the meeting at 14:45.

3. World Wide Bridge Contest 2016 & agreement with Ourgame – agenda item 20

26 players coming from the off-line event, will go to Beijing at the end of this month for the final of the event. Each player will receive the sum of \$1,600 towards the cost of travel as well as free room with B&B and \$20,000 for the winners in prize money. Hopefully, more and more people will be interested in joining. The WBF will meet with Ourgame to evaluate the results of this first edition.

4. Yeh Online World Cup & Bridge Intercity – agenda item 26

Mr Damiani reported an event will be held at the end of October/beginning of November. 4 Mixed teams will take part: the USA-BBO team with Bill Gates, Sharon Osberg, Bob Hamman, Jill Meyers, Fred Gittelman and Sheri Winestock playing in Seattle; Chinese team with Mr Zeng Peiyan and Mr Guo Jinlong, Zhang Bangxiang, Li Jianwei, playing with Chinese World Champions Gu Ling and Sun Shaolin Yong; Europe with Giorgio Duboin in the Lavazza Team from Turin, Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Agustin Madala alongside the women who currently hold the top two positions in the world rankings, Sylvie Willard and Bénédicte Cronier and the Sponsor Team, Chen Yeh from Beijing with Yeh

Chen and world champions Shih Juei-Yu, Chen Dawei, Sun Ming, Zhang Ya-Lan and Wang Ping. The website can be found at <http://bridgeonlineworldcup.com>

5. Request for revision of the Mixed events seating policy – agenda item 23

Request received from Sabine Auken to move the women players from their fixed places of South and West in the Mixed events. There is no rule in the EBL. The HLPC will hold a meeting and give the Executive its considered opinion.

6. German Case – agenda item 16

The German doctors have challenged the panel that sat originally but the hearing date was put off until 22nd November. It is unclear whether the court will make a determination or whether or not it will give further directions as to how the case will be handled. Our German lawyer believes that Wladow and Elinescu will appeal if the decision goes against them. Their lawyer stood down but has now been taken back on.

We are hoping that there might be a decision but we have to believe that we will be successful but the cost is quite high. We might recover some of the costs but not much. The German Federation is also subject to legal action brought by the German Doctors.

Mr Harsanyi thinks the WBF should contact the new President of the German Federation. Mr Harris has spoken with him and expects to meet him at the hearing if it takes place.

7. 2017 Meetings & Events – agenda item 30

Officers Meeting in Kansas City, USA from 9th-12th March 2017

SportAccord Convention, Aarhus, Denmark from 2nd-7th April 2017

WBF Zonal Seminar, to be defined, May 2017

Management Committee Meeting, Montecatini, Italy from 20th-23rd June 2017

Executive Council Meeting, Lyon, France from 13th-19th August 2017

8. International Organizations – agenda item 14

8.1 International Olympic Committee, ARISF and SportAccord

Mr. Mike Joyce, Sports Co-ordination Manager of the IOC will attend the dinner on Wednesday and will also attend the Congress meetings. We have very good relations with Jenny Mann from the IOC who is from Australia, and good relations also with ARISF and SportAccord.

8.2 IMSA & Elite Mind Games

The IMSA Mind Games were organized by SportAccord for four consecutive years in China and this year they had the Elite Mind Games in Huai'an in China under the aegis of IMSA and the WBF but organized by the CCBA. These were successful as the venue was good. Mrs Chen Zelan said that the local committee want payment to be completed this week. The SportAccord officials will discuss by the end of this month.

8.3 2018 Olympic Youth Games, Buenos Aires, Argentina – 1st-12th October

Although we await the official letter, it is expected that Bridge will be invited to the 2018 Olympic Youth Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There would be a minimum of eight teams, with Pairs and an Individual. It is expected that accommodation will be offered but there are many questions to be answered, such as the cost of travel, criteria for selection and the fact that the event dates clash with our World Bridge Series in Orlando.

8.4 2018 Asian Olympic Games

Mrs Sophonpanich reported she had asked the NOCs of Zones 4 and 6 to write to the OCA supporting the inclusion of bridge in the 2018 Asian Olympic Games. The meeting will be from 23rd-25th September. For 2020, ARISF has asked the WBF to apply to join the Asian Olympic Games, but the meeting felt the best chance of participation was in the 2022 Beijing Winter Games.

Bambang Hartono was trying to organise a simultaneous event, which, however, would probably not work in both Zones 4 and 6. A Pairs or Mixed Teams might, however, be held separately rather than simultaneously.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:00 to be reconvened on Tuesday, 6th September at 10:00.