



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Wroclaw, Poland
Friday, 9th September 2016 at 15:00**

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 Patrick Choy, 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 Howard Weinstein, 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, HLPC
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mr Robert Hartman, CEO ACBL
Mr George Retek, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President APBF
Ms Lilian Sun, CCBA

Excused

Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Vice President
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 15:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

1. Youth Development Programme – agenda item 33

The President welcomed Mr Gilad Ofir from the Israel Bridge Federation to the meeting who then gave a PowerPoint presentation concerning the development of Youth Bridge. It was also a way of providing information and assistance to the NBOs.

The President thanked him and congratulated him on an excellent job and Mr Ofir left the meeting. The President explained to the Executive that he had met Mr Ofir at the seminar in Medellin earlier in the year and he believed that he would be very helpful to the WBF. On behalf of the Youth Committee and personally, the President asked the Executive for approval to appoint Mr Ofir as Co-ordinator of Youth Bridge Development. The cost of reimbursement will be shared between the Youth Fund and the Development Fund. This was unanimously approved.

2. Computer Championship – agenda item 6.4

20th OurGame World Computer-Bridge Championship being held this year in Wroclaw. Mr Levy thanked Mr Damiani for his help in obtaining the sponsorship of OurGame. He also thanked the Polish Bridge Union for the assistance they had given him in getting the championship set up to start on Saturday, 10th September.

Mr Choy asked whether it would be possible to have a match between a computer and a human as they do with Go? This would garner a huge amount of publicity. Mr Damiani noted that Bridge is not comparable with other board games. One of the ideas behind the Yeh Cup is to show the world that bridge is using all the most up-to-date and modern technology available to them.

Mr. Fotis Skoularikis entered the meeting.

3. WFB Web site restructuring – agenda item 23

Mr Levy introduced the subject. The Technological Sub-Committee set up to restructure, , with the approval of the Management Committee, the WBF website received proposals from 4 alternative sources; it had decided to submit to the Executive the approval for Matteo Baldi to provide the service. Fotis Skoularikis reported that a move to Cloud services would provide better results and limit the amount of viruses, hacking and other problems. Simon Fellus showed a demo of the new website, explaining the “ratio” of this choice. The new website should be installed from 1st January 2017. The Executive congratulated Messer Levy, Skoularikis and Fellus unanimously approved the realisation of the new website and the assignation of the service to Mr. Matteo Baldi, remitting to the President and the Treasurer to define the related agreement.

4. Future Championships – agenda item 29.3 revisited

Mr De Pauw reported that the Australian Bridge Federation had withdrawn their proposal to host the 2019 World Teams Championships in favour of The Netherlands who already have a sponsor in place. An Agreement will be signed with the NBB in due course. This was unanimously approved by the Executive.

5. WBF Statutes & By-Laws – agenda item 10

Following the amendment to the Constitution, amendments to the By-laws have immediate effect subject to written objection by the majority of NBOs within 60 days. The By-Laws were amended as per the attached as Exhibit 5-5.

6. WBF Tournaments On-line– agenda item 27

Mr Levy explained that these tournaments are played with one human against 3 computer robots, the human sitting South. We are proposing to hold WBF on-line tournaments with WBF Masterpoints on a scale to be decided. ACBL also runs these and they are very popular. Mr Levy proposed to appoint Mr Mark g Newton to assist in co-ordinating these tournaments. The Executive unanimously approved.

This could be started by 1st January 2017 together with the new website. They will have to use their real names for purposes of the ranking. The providers could, in any case, find the identity of the IP address.

This could bring in revenue at \$0.50 per player per game if a provider were willing to sponsor these tournaments, like they do with the ACBL.

Ms Heth did not think that the Masterpoints would be enough to encourage players. There should be a new ranking category for on-line points.

7. Tournament Directors – item 40

Mr Harsanyi presented his report which is attached as Exhibit 7-5. In it he made several valuable suggestions for which the President thanked him.

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For part of the meeting Mr Wignall had deputised for the President at the meeting of the Captains of those teams that had KO stages of the four series in progress. All had gone smoothly. They will play four rounds, each of 16 boards on Saturday but only two rounds on Sunday. After that, in the quarter-final and semi-final stages there will be three rounds per day.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:15 to be reconvened on Saturday, 10th September at 10:00.