



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Wroclaw, Poland  
Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 10:00**

**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 Mazhar Jafri, Vice President  
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer  
Ms Georgia Heth, Hon. Secretary  
Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member  
Mr Marcelo Caracci, 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

**Excused**

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

The President called the meeting to order at 10:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

### **1. Credentials Committee – agenda item 15**

Mr Aubry read his report on the meeting of the Credentials Committee. This was circulated to all members.

The current situation is that when a player moves to a different country, he cannot change again for 10 years. It was decided, however, that in a case where a player returns to his country of birth or first nationality, the period should be reduced to 3 years. This was unanimously approved.

For the sake of clarification, players in smaller countries such as Guadeloupe, Martinique, etc., which are in fact departments of France, they must fulfil the criteria of Bona Fide Residence. This was approved.

With respect to invitations to the Championships, it is suggested as follows:

The recommendation of the Credentials Committee is to add in article 1 of the Eligibility Code:

- 1.8 Any player with pending ethical violation charges is not eligible for invitation to play in a WBF event
- 1.9 Any player who has been convicted of collusive cheating is not eligible to play as the partner or teammate of another player who has been convicted of collusive cheating

This was unanimously approved.

This will also be included in the By-Laws.

### **2. Anti-doping and Medical Commission Activity – agenda item 28**

Dr P.W. Gabriele and Dr G. Capelli joined the meeting and gave an excellent presentation on the activity of the Commission over the past several years and the discoveries they have found. They explained that anti-doping tests have now been carried out on the youth to teach them that they are now international players and get them used to how careful they need to be with what substances they put into their body.

They also carried out a quiz, which can be accessed on a smart phone, which again teaches players what some of the rules of anti-doping are.

### **3. Systems Committee – agenda item 38**

Mr Wignall presented a revised and up-dated WBF Systems Policy which is attached as Exhibit 3-6. No major changes had been made but the category of "Red" systems had been sub-divided into two groups. His report was adopted.

### **4. Rules & Regulations Committee – agenda item 39**

Mr Wignall reported that a note had been put into the Bulletin at these Championships advising of several decisions taken by the Rules & Regulations Committee. These related in particular to which player was allowed to remove the tray from the table, open or close the aperture, replace the tray, and the manner in which the opening lead is made.

## **5. Technological Commission – agenda item 32**

Mr Levy reported on experiments with new technology which would indicate on tablets where any player should be seated at any particular time. He will report further in due course.

## **6. Seniors Committee – agenda item 36**

### *6.1 Bridge60+*

Mr Marek Malysa, Vice President of the PBU and member of the Seniors Committee, joined the meeting and reported on the introduction of Bridge60+, a programme aimed at the older generation. The aim of this is to promote bridge at all levels particularly for the older players. Dementia is spreading rapidly all over the world and bridge players have four times less chance of developing it than normal.

The other programme is called 'Play Bridge with Grandchildren' aimed at getting the young involved by playing with their grandparents.

He is approaching the European Union for financial backing and also the World Health Organization.

Mr Malysa is hoping to get more people to join the PBU and special rates will apply to those participating in these two programmes.

### *6.2 Report by Paul Janicki*

Out of the original number of the Seniors Committee, six have left and there are now only four remaining. The Committee discussed having separate Seniors' Championships outside of the proper championships but this was not very well received. There is the cost and also the time needed to arrange these separately. Not everyone of senior 'age' wants to play in the Seniors as they prefer playing in the Open both in team events and pairs.

## **7. Zonal Presidents' Reports – agenda item 44**

### *7.1 – Zone 1*

Mr Aubry read his report on the activities over the past year.

The President thanked Mr Aubry on his report.

### *7.2 – Zone 2*

Mr Robert Hartman, CEO of ACBL, reported that the ACBL had several strategic priorities: 1. To increase membership; 2. To train TDs both experienced and inexperienced; 3. To secure its finances; and 4. To gain confidence from members following several cheating cases.

To achieve this, they have invested in a number of new video cameras, signed a \$2 million contract over 4 years with BBO and begun to bring their technology up to date.

A programme is in place to reduce the size of the Board of Directors and Board of Governors and thereby reduce expenditure. Finally, the ACBL needs to redefine its role particularly in regard to its relationship with the World Bridge Federation.

The President thanked Mr Hartman for his report.

### *7.3 – Zone 3*

Mr Marcelo Caracci, President of Zone 3, read his report which was very detailed.

The new President of the Republic of Argentina is a bridge player, which might help in the organisation of bridge in schools there.

#### *7.4 – Zone 4*

Mr Jafri reported that since he is no longer President of the Zone, he would not make a report, particularly since the President is playing here in Wroclaw. There was a long discussion with the general opinion that the situation had become unacceptable. Mr Jafri suggested that on his return home he will contact the other NBOs and ask whether he can make a report on their behalf to send to the President.

#### *7.5 – Zone 5*

Mrs Sheena Rayner read her report of Zone 5. The President underlined that for the past two years, bridge had improved in the Zone with new countries coming back in. The President congratulated Mrs Rayner for her report.

#### *7.6 – Zone 6*

Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President of the Zone, presented her report which is attached as Exhibit 7.6-6. She thanked the President for attending their Zonal Congress, which had been well attended by players from all countries. She also reported on an extensive programme aimed at younger players and introducing children to the game of bridge. The situation in Timor Leste is complicated but, since it is a province of Indonesia, they may be of help.

#### *7.7 – Zone 7*

Mr Wignall read his report which is attached as Exhibit 7.7-6. His Zone is disappointed that small countries have to participate in either the World Bridge Games or the Rosenblum/McConnell to qualify for a subsequent Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup. In most cases, the funding is not there.

There is a distinct possibility that the ABF will offer to host the World Teams Championships in Adelaide in 2021. The President pointed out that Northern Ireland was also a contender with a likely venue in Belfast.

#### *7.8 – Zone 8*

Mr Bernard Pascal, President, read his report which is attached as Exhibit 7.8-6. Nothing much has happened in the Zone for the past year but South Africa is working on the 2017 Championship to be followed by the Congress to be held in Cape Town. A WBF seminar will be organised to trigger a new era of youth development and better administration. It will probably be held just before the Championships because the countries are poor and the distances are huge. The Moroccan Royal Bridge Federation saw their Board collapse and they had to convince Chafika Tak-Tak, a previous president, to return. The President thanked Mr Pascal for his report.

### **8. Laws Committee – agenda item 37**

Mr Ton Kooijman was invited into the meeting and reported that the Laws Committee had held 5 meetings this week. All NBOs and some individuals were asked, after Veldhoven, to send in ideas and views for discussion in the Laws Committee. During the last two years a number of difficult subjects were discovered which had been left over until this last week. This gave rise to a number of interesting and differing discussions but final decisions have now been made. Generally speaking, the desire has been to achieve a bridge result by playing a board even if an infraction has taken place.

The remaining task is to write up the decisions made which will be done by Laurie Kelso, Secretary, in conjunction with Adam Wildavski. The Draft Laws will

be sent to NBOs at the end of the year for comment and to the Executive for discussion at the Officers Meeting in March. The final Laws will be approved by the Executive in Lyon and promulgated to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

The President thanked Mr Kooijman and his Committee for a great job.

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The President raised the matter of a player expelled by the Austrian Federation for reasons not directly connected with bridge as such. In effect, if reciprocity is applied to her case she will be unable to play bridge elsewhere. After discussion the following was decided:

"A player may request to be registered with an NBO, other than the one with which they were first registered, and for an exception to the reciprocity of sanctions. Such request will only be granted if the player concerned can prove that they were sanctioned for non-bridge related reasons (non-ethical behaviour). This exception would only apply to facilitate admission to Open/Transnational events. The player would still have to establish the existence of dual nationality or satisfy the Bona Fide Residence requirements before being entitled to apply to represent their new NBO in any representative Championships."

This was approved by the majority with one vote against.

#### **9. Formal constitution of Zonal Conference 2 – agenda item 11**

This was referred to the Management Committee to find a solution.

#### **10. Communications & Secretariat – agenda item 42**

Mr Fellus gave a brief report of his activities.

#### **11. University Bridge & Relations with FISU – agenda item 41**

The President reported briefly on this subject. Basically, FISU does not want to have anything to do with bridge although they are supposed to recognise all officially recognised sports federations.

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Mr Aubry said that the proposed change in the number of the WBF Council Members elected by the Zones has not been fully discussed which, in his opinion, should happen before it is presented to Congress. The President replied that up now he informed in general about some changes to be introduced in the Statutes and By Laws according to the principle of democracy, transparency and efficiency strongly recommended by the IOC and requested by the Swiss Laws. The draft of the text will be discussed in the appropriate places before to submit the final text to the Assembly. In any case he reminded that the Statutes is a matter under the absolute control of the Congress and nor the Zones or other bodies are entitled to decide about it.

The President thanked the members for attending these meetings and for all their hard work and felt that the Executive had made some important decisions.

He also thanked Messrs Duboin and Cronier for their presence at the meetings which had been long and sometimes difficult.

Mr Jafri expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the President's chairing of the meetings. He also thanked Mr Damiani for chairing the Advisory Committee.

The meeting was then adjourned sine die at 18:10.