



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Lyon, France
Friday, 18th August 2017 at 10:40**

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 Radoslaw Kielbasinski, 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
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, 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 Executive Council

By invitation of the President

Mr Philippe Cronier, Chairman HLPC
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6
Mrs Lilian Sun, Interpreter

Excused

Mr Bernard Pascal, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 10:40. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

1. High Level Players Commission – agenda item 20

Messrs. Cronier and Duboin gave their report on the activities of the HLPC since last year in Wroclaw. Sadly, not much has been done and there is need now for a database of all players. More communication is necessary between the HLPC and the players so that players are made aware of the existence of the Express Line. Messrs. Cronier & Duboin have proposed creating a smaller Committee of experts within the HLPC as often there is little or no communication with the other members.

The NBOs are obliged to report complaints, as agreed at the Congress meeting in 2016. However, they probably need to be reminded from time to time. In addition, all zonal organizations should share any information they have with the WBF. Any complaints received by the tournament directors during events should also be reported to the HLPC.

1. Seniors Bridge – agenda item 29

Mr Janicki read his report on the meeting held here in Lyon.

The Committee made a number of recommendations:

- that the Seniors should play the same number of boards as in the Open and Women's.
- that the Master Points should be revised
- that the Senior age be raised to 65 and that this take place over a 10-year period
- that a Senior World Championships be created separate from the Open Championships. There is a possibility that a trial Senior Transnational could be organized in Zone 6 in 2019
- that the WBF might identify countries where the Seniors Bridge could usefully be implemented.

The proposal to raise the age of the Seniors to 65 over a 10-year period, starting from 1st January 2018 when the age will become 61, adding one year every 2 years was approved with one abstention (Howard Weinstein).

The proposal to discuss the introduction of a 'super-seniors' classification and organize a separate event for them in the year of the Rosenblum was tabled. The inclusion of creating a new event was approved while the 'super-seniors' classification will be put on hold.

2. WBF/ABF Officers Seminar, Cape Town – agenda item 9

The President had already reported on this in an earlier meeting.

3. Organization of Zone 2 – agenda item 25

The President noted that he was going to call a round table between the WBF, ACBL and the Presidents from Mexico and Canada in San Diego in November this year so that by next year there will be a clear decision that can be presented to Congress in 2018.

4. 2018 World Bridge Series, Orlando, USA – agenda item 16

The President reported that the tournament organized at the Dolphin Hotel in Orlando in November 2016, was not a success because of problems with the hotel.

The nationals organized in the Marriott, Orlando in 2010, on the other hand were a great success.

4.1 Format & Schedule – agenda item 16.2

After Sanya, it was decided to change the format a little to reduce the part reserved to the mixed and increase the Rosenblum. With the Rosenblum, there will be 3 sessions in qualifying, Round of 64 in the KOs, Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals, and Finals 6 sections of 16. After the qualification, the players can drop out into the pairs. Start of the McConnell and Seniors will start two days later than normal. The Mixed is reduced and the format is the same Qualification & KO. In Geneva, José organized the youth triathlon which was successful and one will be held in Orlando. This will also be a Seniors Triathlon, the Joan Gerard Cup for players who have finished the Rosenblum.

Mr Levy said that since we are starting with 64 in the KO, there is one day free for the pairs. This was a mistake which will be corrected. The secondary events will be WBF events. The President is discussing with Ourgame about holding the final of the computer championship in Orlando rather than in Beijing in 2018.

4.2 Preparation, Organization, Agreement with USBF, Venue & Hotel – agenda item 16.1

Mr Levy made a presentation on the hotel Marriott and the venue in Orlando. The room rate will be \$159 + 12.5% tax but no resort fee. The reservation service will go up soon with a specific link so that everyone registering for the event will be counted against our quota. New players will register on line and also complete the Players Commitment form.

5. WBF Seminar 2018 – agenda item 32

This seminar will be held in Asia next year the two days before the start of the championships. The Asian Games will be taking place at that time.

The meeting was adjourned 13:03 to be reconvened on Saturday, 19th August at 10:00.