



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Lyon, France
Saturday, 19th August 2017 at 10:00**

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
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 Ata Aydin, Chairman of the Youth Committee
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 Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Vice President
Mr Bernard Pascal, 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. Headquarters, personnel & structural organization – agenda item 21

The President noted that the Milan office will close at the end of this year and everything will be centred in Lausanne.

2. Communication & Secretariat – agenda item 35

Mr Fellus reported on activities in Lausanne where he is always in contact with Marc De Pauw and Dirk de Clercq, as well as Skyping with the President and Marina, and keeping close contact with Anna Gudge about communication (website and FaceBook).

Two new Instagram accounts have been opened, one for WBF and another for WBF Youth. Here in Lyon, there will be live streaming of broadcasting with 4 cameras: the table, vugraph area, outside, presentation of the matches and interviews.

3. Zonal Presidents Reports – agenda item 34

3.1 Zone 1 – agenda item 34.1

Mr Aubry gave his report. The President thanked him.

3.2 Zone 2 – agenda item 34.2

Mr Gidwani sent the presentation he has been making to the ACBL membership. The ACBL is financially stable, with membership remaining much the same and the average age of members increasing to more than 72 years. He plans to focus on increasing membership, especially by involving teachers of bridge. He also want the ACBL to increase its involvement in online bridge. He reported that the ACBL is re-examining its involvement in international bridge.

3.3 Zone 3 – agenda item 34.3

Mr Caracci read his report and the President thanked him. The President congratulated Mr Caracci for his re-election as President of his zone but suggested that the presidential term should be increased to 4 years.

3.4 Zone 4 – agenda item 34.4

Mr Jafri noted that the President of the Zone is in Lyon and will provide a report by mail.

3.5 Zone 5 – agenda item 34.5

Mrs Rayner presented her report and the President thanked her and congratulated her on her re-election.

3.6 Zone 6 – agenda item 34.6

Mrs Sophonpanich presented her report and the President thanked her. He congratulated her for the great job she is doing with the youth and the TDs in her zone. Mr Gerontopoulos asked what was happening with the youth in Indonesia – she replied that it was not as prominent as before. In Thailand, they have started a program of mini-bridge. Mrs Sophonpanich was very interested in the new program that Micke Melander presented and she will meet with him in Thailand next year.

3.7 Zone 7 – agenda item 34.7

Mr Wignall read his report and the President thanked him.

3.8 Zone 8 – agenda item 34.8

In the absence of Mr Pascal, the President noted that during the General Assembly, Mr Pascal was re-elected as President with Helen Kruger as Secretary. The 2019 Championship will be held in Kenya. Mr Pascal will provide the committee with a copy of his report.

4. Laws Committee & 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge – agenda item 30

Mr Wignall reported that the work is ongoing to provide a commentary on the new Laws. The committee has been very active here and should be congratulated on doing a very good job.

5. World Bridge Championship 2019 – agenda item 17

The President reported that although Belfast had proposed hosting the 2019 Championships, they would now host the 2021 World Bridge Championships. The CCBA have made a bid for 2019 to be held in Sanya.

6. Any other business – agenda item 37

Mr Duboin reported that he had received a complaint from the captain of the French Kids' Team, supported by the captains of other teams. The European qualification trials for the 2018 World Kids Championship to be held in Wujiang, China, had been held earlier this year in Samorin where some players were 15 and so ineligible to play in the World Championship next year in Wujiang. There is a request to derogate, as already done for the past championship held in Salsomaggiore, Italy in 2016, allowing the kids who played in Samorin to play in Wujiang.

President Rona said that in 2016 was expressly announced that the exception was exceptionally made for Salsomaggiore, being the first official World Kids event and will not have repeated in the future. He remarked that many NBOs complained for this exception.

Mr. Aubry reported that he received in Samorin the same petition, but he announced before the start of the event and confirmed at the end of it, publishing an official communicate on the Daily Bulletin and also reaffirming in his Closing Speech, that no derogation should have been made.

After discussion, the Executive Council resolved unanimously, by 18 votes, to keep the rule as it is, up to 15, irrespective if the qualifications are held in the same year of the World Championship or one year before.

The decision has to be communicated to the interested parties and published on the WBF Website.

There being no further business, the President thanked the Executive for their work and for the honour and privilege of re-electing him as President. He will try to do his best in this function and thanked them for their confidence.

He also wished those members who were leaving, safe travel back home.

Mr Jafri expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the President's chairing of the meetings and congratulated him again on his re-election to the Presidency for the period 2018-2022.

The meeting was adjourned sine die at 12:10.