



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Philadelphia, USA
Saturday, 10th March 2018 at 09:00**

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 Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Vice President
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Ms Georgia Heth, Hon. Secretary
Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member
Mr Marcelo Caracci, 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 Executive Council

Excused

Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member
Mrs Chen Zelan, Member
Mr Josef Harsanyi, Member
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 09:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

Ms Heth reported that the Canada Bridge Federation has agreed to pay the full amount of dues for this year.

1. Disciplinary Matters – agenda item 6

1.1 HLPC Report – agenda item 6.4

The President reported that there were two reports on this from Philippe Cronier and Giorgio Duboin. Mr Harris said that the players were happy to try to help. He had suggested that an association of professional players be created. However, the President remarked that the official voice of the players is the HLPC and any comments or complaints from players should come from this vehicle. The laws of bridge are very clear that the WBF should not accept any cheaters. The players do not believe that the WBF is strong enough to forbid cheaters to come, so this should be made clear to all concerned.

The perception among players appears to be that the WBF is not doing enough to ensure that cheaters are not invited to play. Although this is clearly not the case but the message is not getting through to the players. It is a given that it is very difficult and costly to prove that players have cheated.

Ms Heth noted that the players should start to take responsibility for reporting any rumours of cheating to the HLPC or the WBF. Comprehensive letter to be sent to explain this issue.

The members voted unanimously for an official statement on the position of the WBF with respect to cheaters to be published.

2. Surveillance System – agenda item 7

The system provided by Traian Chira using tablets and cameras at the table where all the play is recorded, will be employed in Orlando as much as possible. In addition in Orlando will be introduced a new camera surveillance system, already experienced in ACBL events, managed by Marcin Waslowicz. This should go some way to restricting accusations of illegal conduct.

3. 43rd World Bridge Championships & 11th World Transnational Open Teams, Lyon, France – agenda item 8

The FFB and its President have been congratulated and thanked for the splendid job that they did in organizing this event at some considerable cost. The players were very happy with all the conditions – whether playing or accommodation. The FFB also organized side-events for children, youngsters and disabled players.

4. World Bridge Teams Championship: categories, format and quotas – agenda item 9

The HLPC has suggested that Mixed championship be organized with the same format and quotas as the Open, Women's and Seniors events. Mixed events are taking on much more importance and growing bigger every year. The income from this is also important. This was unanimously approved to begin in 2019.

The President suggested raising the number of teams from 22 to 24 by giving Europe an extra two places. There would be 8 days of round robin and 96 boards in the final stages. This was approved with two abstentions to begin in 2019.

5. Zone 2 Constitution – agenda item 11

Georgia Heth reported that the ACBL will remain the authority for this year, as the 3 NBOs are working on their Constitution.

6. Next meetings – agenda item 12

The Management Committee will be held in Ostend from 14th – 16th June with delegates arriving on 13th and leaving on 17th

For Orlando the dates are, arrival 21st departure 29th September for the Executive Council members to attend the meetings from 23rd to 28th. Congress will be held on 27th. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the creation of the WBF. There will be a special ceremony to mark this occasion.

7. WBF Statutes and By-Laws – agenda item 10

The draft Statutes, attached, were presented to the members of the Executive. Every article was discussed and some amendments, including corrections of terminology.

The result of the discussion was:

Articles 1/2/3 – approved

Article 4 – approved with the contrary vote of Mr Levy concerning point c)

Article 5/6/7/8/9/10 – approved

Article 11 – approved with the contrary vote of Mr Wignall

Article 12 – approved

Article 13 - void

Article 14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27 – approved

Article 28 – approved, adding “The current President and Treasurer shall be entitled to vote in this election”

Article 29 – approved,

Article 30 – approved with two abstentions. Messrs Pascal, Levy & Vilhauer objected to 3 members being elected by Congress.

Article 31 – approved, changing the date in the 1st paragraph to 2022 – re-word; adding at the 4th paragraph “The three persons elected must be from different Zonal Conferences”, rewording the 5th paragraph “The HLPC shall elect one representative of each gender, who shall be from different Zonal Conferences”.

Article 32/33 - approved

Article 34 - void

Article 35 – approved, adding “There shall be at least one man and one woman”.

Article 36/37/38/39/40 - approved

Article 41 – approved but has to be redefined with regards to the “source of income”. Mr Levy objects to the age restriction

Article 42 – approved, adding “However, serving on the board of a Zonal Conference, an NBO or an Associated Member does not constitute a conflict with the interests of the WBF”.

Article 43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51a/51b - approved

The Hon. Secretary Georgia Heth, took note of the amendments and corrections, that will be incorporated and the revised edition will be presented to the Management Committee in Ostend in June for the final test to be submitted to the Congress for the approval.

8. Bridge on-Line – agenda item 13

8.1 WBF Robot Bridge Tournaments – agenda item 13.1

8.1.1 Technical organization, Awards & Master Points – agenda item 13.1.3

Mr Levy gave a brief report. Everything is available on the website. Participation so far has been disappointing but it is expected to increase with publicity.

8.1.2 Coordination and Management of the project – agenda item 13.1.4

Mark Newton has done an excellent job on uploading the data for the Master Points.

8.2 WBF Online Women Bridge Festival – agenda item 13.3

Mrs Atay reported that the Festival was now being organized.

9. World Youth Bridge Championship, Wujiang, China – 8th-18th August – agenda item 14

The President reported that the organisation of the championship is going well and this year in Wujiang the record of participation will be probably achieved with a total of 77 teams, representing 32 NBOs (22 teams in Juniors, 22 in Youngsters, 15 in Girls and 18 in Kids. If the numbers will be confirmed it will be a great success.

10. International Relations

10.1 – IMSA – agenda item 18.2

Mr De Pauw presented his report and Mr Damiani added that he had been in touch with various high-ranking Chinese and other people to join the IMSA Advisory Committee and Committee of Honour.

Finances for IMSA for 2017 – they are doing quite well. This is not a big organization but moving in the right direction.

10.2 Asian Olympic Games, Jakarta – agenda item 18.3

Mr Choy said that there was nothing new to report.

11. World Championships 2020 & 2021 – agenda item 21

Izmir or Antalya, Turkey are possible venues for 2020. Australia in 2021 may still hold the Bridge Teams Championships on the Gold Coast, Adelaide, or possibly Perth. A decision will be made by the incoming ABF Management Committee.

12. 2018 WBF Zonal Seminar – agenda item 25

This will be held in Indonesia just prior to the Asian Games. Laurie Kelso has been invited as a Reviewer in the Games.

13. 44th World Bridge Teams Championship 2019 – agenda item 20

The contract has not yet been signed with the CCBA but this may be arranged prior to the start of the Asian Games. The proposed dates are from 19th October to 2nd November.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:40 to be reconvened on Sunday, 11th March at 10:00.