



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Orlando, Florida
Monday, 24th September at 14:30**

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 Patrick Choy, Vice President
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Vice President
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Ms Georgia Heth, Hon. Secretary
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member
Mrs Chen Zelan, Member
Mr Paul Janicki, Member
Mr Jan Kamras, Member
Mr Eric Laurant, Member
Mr Eitan Levy, Member
Mrs Kari-Anne Opsal, 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

By invitation of the President

Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mr George Retek, Honour and Advisory Committee Member
Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6
Mrs Lilian Sun, interpreter

Excused

Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member

The President called the meeting to order at 14:30. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

1. Zonal Matters – agenda item 12

1.1 Zone 2 Constitution – agenda item 12.1

Mrs. Heth reported about the situation.

The President noted that, according to the By-Laws, the Executive Council must request the USBF, the largest Zonal NBO, to form a Zonal Conference within six months. In case this will not be done, the Executive Council must constitute the Zonal Conference. The vote was unanimous to mandate the USBF to create a Zonal Conference within a period of 6 months. The President will forward an official letter to the 3 North American NBOs – Canada, Mexico & USBF -

The Executive Council unanimously confirmed that the status quo with regard to the North America representatives in the WBF Executive Council (5) and the USBF berths in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Trophy, Mixed National Teams, Patino Trophy, Damiani Cup, Rona Trophy & Koch University Trophy (2) would remain the same since the USBF will maintain the minimum number of 140.000 register members.

1.2 Asia Bridge Federation

After the report by the President, Mrs. Sophonpanich, Mr. Choy and Mr. Jafri, the meeting heard of serious tensions between the countries of Zone 4 BFAME and Zone 6 APBF. The matter was referred to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee which will meet the next day.

1.3 Subsidy to EBL

The President reported that he received an official request of subsidy from the EBL to go against the legal costs run up by the cheating cases. He said that in Ostend, the Management Committee discussed the matter and agreed, exceptionally, to contribute to the EBL the sum of €75,000 from WBF funds. The approval of the Minutes of the Management Committee included this decision, but the President requested a specific approval by the E. C. Mr. Kamras in his position of EBL President briefly reported about the ratio of the request. A vote was taken which was unanimously approved by the Executive Council with the abstention of the EBL members.

2. Accusation of plagiarism against Mark Horton – agenda item 15

Mr Harris reported that Mark Horton, normally the principal editor of the Bulletin at WBF Championships is absent from Orlando. A charge of plagiarism had been brought against and publicised on social media. Although it appeared to have little basis it would not have been appropriate for him to work here.

It is anticipated that he will continue to work with the EBL and with the WBF and will, in future, attribute any quotes.

3. World Bridge Tour – agenda item 28

Mr Kamras gave a short report on the possibility of organizing a World Bridge Tour, similar to those in golf and other sports. This was unanimously approved by the Executive Council.

Mr Kamras will form a small committee to discuss this and bring a proposal to the Executive at its next meeting.

The President thanked Mr Kamras and congratulated him for his idea.

4. Disciplinary Matters – agenda item 14

4.1 The Fantoni-Nunes Case – agenda item 14.1

General Counsel confirmed that following the successful appeal brought by Fantoni-Nunes in respect of the EBL Disciplinary decision, they had asked the Federal Appeal Tribunal of the FIGB to review its decision to suspend them for 3 years; the Tribunal had acquiesced to the request and removed the suspension.

4.2 The Elinescu-Wladow Case – agenda item 14.2

General Counsel reported that Elinescu-Wladow had submitted a claim for €24,708 in respect of the costs they incurred for the proceedings brought in Germany. The request had been rejected on the basis that the WBF would await the determination of the German Court in Cologne.

(Subsequent to the report of this matter, the Court in Cologne had determined that the amount awarded against the WBF was €6,165.26 and this sum has now been paid).

4.3. Cheating Detection System agenda item 14.7

The President reported that while in Philadelphia in March 2018, Mr Nicholas Hammond showed the President (also Mr. Damiani, Mrs. Heth, Mr. A. Levy, Mr. Laurant, Mr. Harris and Mr. Fellus attended the meeting) a programme which can show up cheating. Gather information, then identifying where it came from and then analyse. The President said and Mrs. Heth agreed that the program is very expensive and in their opinion is not completely exhaustive.

The Executive Council agreed that nothing has to be decided at regard.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00 to be reconvened on Wednesday, 25th September at 10:15.