



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Orlando, Florida
Sunday, 23rd September at 10:25**

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 10:25. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

1. Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting in Ostend on 14th & 15th June 2018 and ratification of the decisions – agenda item 7

The Minutes of the Management Committee meeting in Ostend, previously distributed, were approved.

2. WBF Congress – agenda item 8

The President reported that the meeting of Congress would be held on Thursday, 27th September, beginning at 09:00. The agenda has also been distributed.

3. WBF 60th Anniversary – agenda item 9

3.1 Introduction

Mr Damiani read out the report he will make to the coming meeting of Congress, introducing the celebrations for our 60th anniversary. He outlined the considerable progress made to date and said he was sure that if we endorsed the new technology and worked together in the Olympic spirit our future would be assured.

3.2 Special anniversary Medal struck

The President arranged the presentation of a 60th anniversary medal to all members of the Council and all the others invited attending the meeting.

3.3 The 60 Years of the WBF

Mr Gerontopoulos presented a video on the first 60 years of the WBF which was warmly received by the Council who congratulated him.

4. WBF Statutes to be approved by the Congress – agenda item 10

The WBF Statutes, that will be put before Congress for approval has been unanimously confirmed as follows:

Chapter 1

Name – Status – Purpose

Article 1 – Name & Duration

The name of the federation is the World Bridge Federation ("WBF"). The duration of the WBF is unlimited.

Article 2 – Status and Resources

The World Bridge Federation, founded on August 18, 1958 in Oslo, recognised by the International Olympic Committee as an International Sport Federation, International University Sport Federation ("FISU"), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO") is a non-profit making organisation of a strictly civil nature incorporated as an association in accordance with article 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code and registered in the Commercial Register of the Canton de Vaud.

The WBF is a recognised member of the Global Association of International Sport Federations ("GAISF"), the Association of Recognised IOC International Sports Federations ("ARISF"), the International Mind Sports Association ("IMSA"), and is a Signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA").

The WBF's resources consist of members' annual dues or charges, gifts and donations and any other resources, such as income from competition, tournaments and other events organized by the WBF; its resources shall be applied exclusively in furtherance of its purposes.

Article 3 – Headquarters

The official headquarters and administrative offices of the WBF are based in Lausanne, Switzerland, but by decision of the Executive Council ("EC"), may be moved to another location in Switzerland.

Article 4 – Guiding Principles & Motto

The WBF recognises and pursues the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter, in particular the aims:

- a) to blend bridge with culture and education and to promote the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles;*
- b) to encourage the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity;*
- c) to fight and reject any violation of the human rights.*

The motto of the WBF is "Bridge for Peace".

Article 5 – Purpose

The purpose of the WBF shall be:

- to promote, foster, promulgate, develop and govern the sport of Bridge internationally;*
- to support and encourage the development of youth bridge, in particular by encouraging and assisting NBOs in promoting bridge in schools, universities and other educational and youth organisations;*
- to be in the Olympic Movement, remaining affiliated with the International Olympic Committee ("IOC") as a recognized International Federation ("IF") in conformity with the requirements of the Olympic Charter and to contribute to the achievement of the goals set out in the Olympic Charter, in particular by way of spreading Olympism and Olympic education;*
- to federate national bridge organisations in all countries,;*
- to devise methods and conduct competitions to award international or world championship titles;*
- to establish standard laws for its contests adopting recognised standards of fair-play and good ethics and supplementing these as may be required;*
- to support and encourage the promotion of positive sport ethics;*
- to dedicate its efforts to ensure that in bridge contests the spirit of fair play prevails;*
- to fight against unethical behaviour, manipulation of competitions and alterations of results in bridge;*
- to fight against doping in sport and to take measures, the goal of which is, to prevent endangering the health of bridge players.*

The WBF endeavours to maintain friendly relations amongst its members and amongst Zonal Conferences. The WBF does not permit any political, religious, gender or racial discrimination or any violation of human rights amongst its members.

Chapter 2 Members

Article 6 – Members

The members of the World Bridge Federation are the National Bridge Organisations ("NBOs").

In accordance with the Olympic Charter, only one NBO for each country may become a member of the WBF.

The expression "country" shall mean any country, state, territory or a part of territory recognized by the international community. The name of the NBO must reflect the territorial extent and tradition of its country and must be approved by WBF as being in conformity with the Olympic Charter and the IOC regulations.

Each NBO must be duly constituted under the laws of its jurisdiction and shall seek recognition by its national governing authority (e.g. National Olympic Committee, National Sports Committee, National Association of Sports Federations and/or Governmental Authorities).

Article 7 – Admission Requirements

Any NBO wishing to affiliate with the WBF is required:

- To exercise Bridge activity in its country and internationally, in particular by organizing and participating in competitions, implementing bridge education and training programs for bridge players, with regards in particular to the development of youth bridge;*
- To respect the Statutes, By-laws, Laws of Bridge, Rules and Regulations and any other guidelines or principles of the WBF as well as to recognize and enforce any decision rendered in application thereof;*
- To conduct its activities in compliance with the Olympic Charter;*
- To implement a Disciplinary Code and a Code of Ethics reflecting the provisions of the WBF Disciplinary Code, the WBF Code of Ethics mutatis mutandis, which shall apply in its sphere of activities, including its jurisdiction;*
- To manage its affairs autonomously and without interference from bodies outside the Olympic Movement;*
- To have an appropriate and updated register of members,*
- To pay the Membership fees and other monies owed to the WBF when due;*
- To refuse membership of any bridge association and/or bridge club located outside of its country, unless duly authorized by the WBF;*
- To be open to all nationals or bona fide residents of the particular country;*
- To agree to play in WBF competitions against all other NBOs which are qualified members of the WBF.*

The Executive Council has the power to decide whether to grant membership to an NBO. The granted membership has to be ratified by the next ensuing Congress.

Article 8 – Resignation

Any member of the WBF may resign in writing to the President on six months' notice. For the avoidance of doubt, the resignation shall not affect any financial or other obligations that have arisen during the term of membership.

Article 9 – Suspension

Without prejudice to any other provision for suspension elsewhere in the Statutes, By-laws, Code of Ethics or other Rules and Regulations, a member may

be suspended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Executive Council either upon the request in writing by the relevant member or if the Executive Council concludes, in its discretion, that the member is not conforming or has not conformed with the requirements for an application for membership of the WBF.

In the event of a failure for a period of two full years to pay the annual dues or charges the suspension is automatically sanctioned by the Executive Council.

A suspended member may not exercise any of the rights or benefits of membership of the WBF during the period of suspension. The suspension does not discontinue the obligation to pay the annual dues.

A member temporarily suspended may be reinstated at any time by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Executive Council on such conditions as the Executive Council may prescribe.

Article 10 – Removal

Without prejudice to any other provision for removal elsewhere in the Statutes, By-laws, Code of Ethics or other Rules and Regulations, a member may be removed by the Executive Council, providing its reasons for such decision are approved on an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total members. The removal has to be ratified by the next ensuing Congress.

After two years of suspension for failure in payment of the annual dues or charges, a member, if not reinstated, is automatically removed by the Executive Council.

Any membership dues owed up until the time of removal remain due and payable notwithstanding the removal.

Art. 11 – Effect

As soon as an NBO is recognised as an affiliated member of the WBF, it automatically becomes an affiliated member of a WBF Zonal Conference (see art. 14 below). No NBO can be an affiliated member of a Zonal Conference without being an affiliated member of the WBF.

Resignation, Removal and Suspension from the WBF are automatically extended to the Zonal Conference.

Chapter 3 Zonal Conferences & Associate Member

Article 12 – Zonal Conferences

The world shall be divided into five continents, following the five rings of the Olympic Movement (America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania). Each continent must always contain at least one Zonal Conference.

The continents of Europe, Africa and Oceania shall be represented by one Zonal Conference each. The continents of America and Asia may be represented, as determined by the Executive Council, by a maximum of three Zonal Conferences. The Executive Council shall be entitled, subject to an affirmative

vote of two-thirds majority, to split or merge Zonal Conferences in the continents of America and Asia.

The role of Zonal Conferences within the WBF system shall be to administer and further the objectives of the WBF and to organize zonal competitions.

Article 14 – Requirements

The Zonal Conferences shall have their own Statutes and By-laws that shall respect and be consistent with these Statutes and the WBF By-laws.

The Zonal Conferences shall respect the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, the Statutes, By-laws, Code of Ethics, Disciplinary Code and other Rules & Regulations, and the decisions of the WBF and otherwise act in the best interest of the WBF. The Zonal Conferences shall also implement a Disciplinary Code and a Code of Ethics reflecting the provisions of the WBF Disciplinary Code and the WBF Code of Ethics mutatis mutandis, which shall apply in their sphere of activities, including their jurisdiction.

Article 15 – Geographical affiliation

Members located within the geographical scope of a Zonal Conference may be affiliated to such Zonal Conference only and not to another Zonal Conference, save that in exceptional circumstances, the Executive Council may, upon application of a member, authorize such member to be affiliated to a Zonal Conference to which it does not geographically belong.

The Zonal Conference concerned by the possible affiliation of a member that does not geographically belong to it shall be consulted prior to any decision being taken by the Executive Council in this respect, without any limitation to the Executive Council's discretion.

Art. 16 – Associated Members

In recognition of historic contribution, outstanding support and distinguished services to the development of bridge, the Congress, on the proposal of the Executive Council, may afford the status of Associated Member to a Bridge Organisation which is not part of the WBF. The relations between the WBF and the Associated Member/s are provided and set out in the By-laws. Associated Members shall not have any vote at the WBF Congress.

Chapter 4 Authority

Article 17 – Principle of Autonomy

Members and Zonal Conferences retain their entire autonomy and independence of action and are free to set up their internal organisation as they see fit, within the limits imposed by these Statutes.

The WBF observes strict neutrality in the internal affairs of its members.

Article 18 - Jurisdiction for competitions

The WBF, members and Zonal Conferences shall have jurisdiction (including, without limitation, technical and disciplinary jurisdiction) over the competitions

governed by their own statutes and competition regulations, which must be approved by the WBF.

This Article 18 shall not prevent the WBF from issuing regulations providing for certain of its rules and regulations to apply within the context of qualification systems for WBF Events and events that award WBF Master-points under the jurisdiction of members or Zonal Conferences.

In case of dispute between any entities (WBF, member(s), Zonal Conference(s)) as to who shall assume jurisdiction over a disciplinary matter, the WBF shall decide at its own discretion. The WBF's decision shall be final and binding on all members and Zonal Conferences.

Article 19 – Principle of Reciprocity

Each member and Zonal Conference must accept and respect all decisions taken by other members and/or Zonal Conferences in disciplinary matters. In particular, all members and Zonal Conferences shall apply and enforce sanctions of other members or Zonal Conferences or of the WBF (including for the avoidance of doubt suspensions or bans) within their geographical jurisdiction, provided that such sanction respects the principles set out in these Statutes and in any other WBF Regulations.

All sanctions must be reported to the WBF in a timely manner by the member and/or Zonal Conference imposing the same.

The WBF may, at its discretion, decide to apply a sanction rendered by a member or a Zonal Conference to the events under its jurisdiction and/or grant worldwide effect to it.

All decisions rendered by the WBF in application of this Article shall be final and binding on all members and Zonal Conferences.

Chapter 5 Organisation

Article 20 – Organisation of the WBF

The government of the WBF shall be vested in a Congress, a President and an Executive Council, together with a Management Committee when the Executive Council is not in session (see Chapter 9).

The officers of the WBF include the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the Secretary and the General Counsel. The Executive Council, on the proposal of the President, elects from amongst its members the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The General Counsel is not a member of the Executive Council and is appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Council.

The honorary officers of the WBF are the President/s Emeritus, and the members of the Honour Committee.

The disciplinary bodies of the WBF are the Disciplinary Tribunal and the Anti-Doping Hearing Tribunal.

The technical advisor of the WBF regarding matters related to the organisation and the rules and regulations of the bridge competitions is the High Level Players Commission.

Standing or special Committees and appointments may be constituted and are subject to the applicable law and the By-laws. The committees may (without limitation to the power of the Executive Council to establish and appoint further committees) include the Advisory Committee, the Finance Committee, the Statutes and By-laws Committee, the Medical and Prevention Commission, the Competitions Committee, the Credentials Committee, the Rules and Regulations Committee, the Laws Committee, the Systems Committee and the Youth Committee.

The officers, honorary officers, advisors, committees and any further special appointments, are further described in the By-laws.

Chapter 6 The Congress

Article 21 – Status

The Congress is the supreme authority of the WBF.

Article 22 – Composition & Attendance

The Congress is composed of the authorised delegates of the members. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to be represented at the Congress by one delegate.

The President chairs the Congress but shall not have any voting rights.

The members of the Executive Council, the Candidates for Elections, the President/s Emeritus, the Honour Committee members, the General Counsel, the HLPC's Chairman, the Chairmen of the WBF Committees, the other WBF Officers and the Presidents of the Zonal Conferences are entitled to attend the Congress but shall not have any voting rights and shall not act as a proxy.

Article 23 – Nature and sessions

The Congress may be held on an ordinary and extraordinary basis.

The ordinary Congress is held every two years in the even numbered years.

An extraordinary Congress may be called by the President and or the Executive Council when deemed necessary at their discretion and must be called upon request of one fifth of those entitled to vote at the Congress. The request must be addressed in writing to the President. At least thirty days notice shall be provided of an extraordinary Congress, and the business is limited to that on the agenda distributed with the notice. Notice may be given by email or by postal mail. An extraordinary Congress has no powers not held by an ordinary Congress.

An extraordinary Congress may be convened together with an ordinary Congress but with separate agendas.

Article 24 – Functions and power of an ordinary Congress

The Congress shall have the powers and functions explicitly conferred upon it by these Statutes and the By-laws of the WBF, including:

- a) To amend the Statutes, subject to a majority of two-thirds of the members present;*
- b) to hear and approve the report of the President;*
- c) to examine the balance sheet and accounts for the two years following the last ordinary Congress and hear the auditors' report;*
- d) to define or to delegate the Executive Council to define, every four years, membership dues;*
- e) to ratify the admission and removal of members decided by the Executive Council;*
- f) to carry out elections, every four years, in accordance with these Statutes;*
- g) to bestow the title of President Emeritus;*
- h) to afford the status of Associated Member, subject to a majority of two-thirds of the members present.*

The decisions taken at the Congress come into effect immediately unless otherwise decided by Congress.

Article 25 – Quorum

One third of the members shall be present for a vote to be validly carried out (quorum).

To vote on the dissolution of the WBF, the quorum shall be four fifths of the members.

Article 26 – Ballots, Number of votes,

Each member is entitled to one (1) vote.

The elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

Voting on any other matters shall take place by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by a majority of the members present.

Whether on a secret ballot or a show of hands, only delegates and duly appointed proxies present at the Congress may cast votes.

*Chapter 7
The President*

Article 27– The President

The President represents the highest single authority of the WBF as the Chief Executive Officer.

The President presides at meetings of the Congress, the Executive Council and the Management Committee and may represent the WBF legally in all circumstances or by authorizing someone to act on his behalf. He represents the WBF on all formal occasions and takes precedence over all other members. He takes all measures necessary to ensure the good conduct and progress of the affairs of the WBF and protect the image of the WBF subject to the subsequent approval of his actions by the Congress, the Executive Council or the Management Committee. He is invited to attend the meetings of all the Committees of the WBF but shall have no vote unless he is otherwise a member of such committee.

The President submits for the approval of the EC the election of the Officers and members of the Management Committee.

Apart from the cases expressly foreseen in the Statutes, the President, with the approval of the EC, appoints and/or revokes the Committees, the Commissions, the special groups or any other person useful to the management of WBF.

In particular, but not limited to the following, the President:

- supervises the day-to-day business and functioning of the WBF;*
- chairs all meetings of the Congress, the Executive Council and the Management Committee;*
- signs every official WBF document, including minutes, rulings and certificates;*
- represents the WBF in all matters involving the IOC and other international sports bodies, political authorities and before judicial courts and tribunals;*
- convenes the Congress;*
- presents to the Congress a report on the WBF activities;*
- appoints and removes from office the General Counsel;*
- other duties upon delegation by the Executive Council or the Congress.*

The President may be represented in his duties by a duly empowered person; a power of attorney shall be given in writing by the President.

Art. 28 - Election

The President shall be elected by the Executive Council at the first meeting of the newly installed Executive Council following the (ordinary) Congress in the electoral year (as defined at art. 31 below). The current President and Treasurer shall be entitled to vote in this election.

A President elected for his first term must be a member of the Executive Council at the time of his election and in order to preserve continuity and to ensure experienced leadership, must have been member of the Executive Council for at least two years of a legislature. The President, upon assuming office, shall resign as a zonal representative.

The rules and procedure for the candidacy and the election of the President are provided by the By-Laws.

The term of office of the President shall be of four years and shall commence on the 1st January directly following his election. The President may be re-elected but may not under any circumstances serve more than three full terms of four years.

Art. 29 – Vacancy

Should the position of President become vacant for any reason or the President is unable as a result of incapacity to fulfill his duties, the first Vice-President will provisionally fulfill the functions of the President.

Should the vacancy or incapacity be permanent, a new President shall be elected at the next ensuing Executive Council meeting for the remainder of the four-year term of the former President.

*Chapter 8
The Executive Council*

Article 30 – The Executive Council

All executive and administrative powers relevant to the effective supervision and administration of the affairs and activities of the WBF (consistent with the WBF Statutes) are vested in the Executive Council.

The Executive Council consists of the President and up to 24 other members, including:

- up to 19 (nineteen) members elected by the Zonal Conferences;*
- 2 (two) members elected by the High Level Players Commission.*
- 3 (three) members elected by the Congress. The President/s Emeritus and the General Counsel are entitled to attend the Executive Council meetings with consultative powers but no voting rights.*

The members of the Honour Committee may be invited by the President to attend meetings without voting rights: they must be invited when the agenda includes the election of new members of the Honour Committee, in which event they shall have voting rights on that issue.

Article 31 – Executive Council Members elections

The rules and regulations for the election and the installation of the Executive Council are provided and set-out in the By-Laws. In any event:

- The election of the members of the Executive Council shall take place every fourth year from and including 2022 (each such year being an “electoral year”).*
- Each Zonal Conference has the right to elect its own representative member(s) as per the By-laws.*
- All elections by the Zonal Conferences or the HLPC must be made in advance of the (ordinary) Congress taking place in the electoral year; such elections must be notified immediately to the WBF Secretary.*

- *Candidates to be elected to the Executive Council by Congress shall be proposed by their NBO. The three persons elected must be from three different Zonal Conferences.*
- *The HLPC shall elect one representative of each gender, who shall be from different Zonal Conferences.*
- *The term of office of the Executive Council members shall start on the day following their election and shall cease in the subsequent electoral year at midnight on the day on which the relevant body (i.e. Zonal Conferences, HLPC and Congress) elects its representatives for the next Executive Council.*
- *Notwithstanding the foregoing, the President and the Treasurer shall assume these functions on the 1st January directly following their election to such positions and shall serve in those functions for four full calendar years; consequently, the term of the President and Treasurer as Executive Council members shall be extended by such period as is necessary (being less than 12 months in all circumstances) to allow them to serve in those functions for the four calendar years.*
- *The body that elected the Executive Council member serving as Treasurer in the electoral year shall, when making its elections to the Executive Council, specify that the term of one of the relevant persons shall start on 1 January of the following calendar year (as opposed to on the day following the election).*
- *Where a new President is elected from amongst those persons elected by the Zonal Conferences or the HLPC, the relevant body shall elect a replacement as soon as reasonably practicable following the election of such President and, in any event, before the end of the electoral year; where the Congress elects one or more candidates to the Executive Council who have already served a previous term on the Executive Council, the Congress shall also elect a fourth person as an alternate for the eventuality that one of the persons elected to the Executive Council by Congress is then elected as President by the new Executive Council. The alternate would then assume office as an Executive Council member on the day on which the President assumes office i.e. on the 1 January following his election.*

Article 32 – Functions of the Executive Council

Without limitation to its powers and obligations, the Executive Council has the following functions:

- a) to elect the President of the WBF and, on the proposal of the President, the two Vice Presidents, the Treasurer and the other officers indicated in the above art. 20 unless the competence to elect such officers is explicitly reserved for another body.*
- b) to study all proposed amendments to the Statutes before they are submitted to the Congress;*
- c) to issue rules of procedure, including the By-laws;*

- d) to uphold the spirit of the Olympic Charter and the strict observation of the WBF Regulations;*
- e) to monitor the running of the Zonal Conferences and members;*
- f) to appoint representatives to carry out functions relating to the promotion and co-ordination of bridge in a region, country or member;*
- g) to consider and, if it judges appropriate, to adopt the proposals of the committees that fall within its powers;*
- h) to prescribe an Ethics Code, Disciplinary Code and/or Code of conduct with rules of procedure and sanctions;*
- i) to issue Anti-Doping Regulations in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code;*
- j) to issue the Laws of Bridge, guidelines and rules concerning the sport of bridge, the participation in the bridge competitions and the related organisation and management;*
- k) to maintain good relations with the IOC, sports organizations, public authorities and other international organizations;*
- l) to elect, upon proposal of the President, the members of the Management Committee;*
- m) to elect the members of the Honour Committee and to award medals and recognitions;*
- n) to appoint the Auditors;*
- o) to ratify the decisions of the Management Committee and decisions taken by the President in urgent circumstances;*
- p) to remove members subject to the ratification of the Congress ;*
- q) to review any application to become a member of the WBF and issue recommendations to the Congress in this respect;*
- r) to define the international calendar in consultation with the Zonal Conferences and to grant the WBF patronage to different proposed events;*
- s) to deliberate and decide on any other matter relating to the organisation and governance of the WBF that is not explicitly reserved for another person, body or organ.*

Article 33 – Meetings, Quorum, Votes, Minutes

The Executive Council meets at least once a year. The Executive Council is convened by the President or upon the request made to the President of at least half plus one of its members. No proxy is allowed.

Half plus one of the total members of the Executive Council must be present for a vote to be validly carried out (quorum) and, unless provided otherwise in these Statutes, voting is by majority.

Each member of the Executive, including the President, shall be entitled to one vote on all matters within the Executive's jurisdiction. In the case of a tie the President or the person who presides over the meeting has the casting vote.

The minutes of the deliberations of the Executive Council are the responsibility of the Secretary and signed by the President.

Chapter 9 Management Committee

Article 35 – Composition

The Management Committee consists of the President, the two Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, up to three other members of the Executive Council (including one of the two representatives of the HLPC and one of the members elected by the Congress) elected upon proposal of the President by the Executive Council. There shall be at least one man and one woman.

The President/s Emeritus and the General Counsel are entitled to attend the meetings of the Management Committee with consultative powers but with no voting rights.

Article 36 – Powers

The Management Committee shall have and may exercise, when the Executive Council is not in session, all the powers of the Executive Council except those requiring a qualified majority.

Article 37 – Meetings

The President may convene meetings of the Management Committee, either in person or via conference call, at any time, and shall convene meetings at least twice a year, without formality and with reasonable notice. Proxies are not allowed.

The President may invite other members of the Executive Council and/or other persons to participate, without voting rights, in meetings of the Management Committee where they are involved in activities and matters to be discussed.

The minutes of the meetings of the Management Committee are the responsibility of the Secretary and signed by the President. The minutes shall be sent for information to all members of the Executive Council and a summary shall be published on the WBF Website.

Article 38 – Forfeiture

If for any reason the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer or Secretary forfeit their office, they shall be replaced by newly elected officers as soon as reasonably practical.

Chapter 10 Dispute resolution

Article 39 – Disciplinary Panels

A Disciplinary Panel of not less than five members and no more than seven is shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Council. The members of the Disciplinary Panel may not be Officers of the WBF or Zonal Conferences, or from the WBF or Zonal Conferences Executive Councils or the WBF Advisory Committee. The WBF Disciplinary Code may provide further restrictions.

Disciplinary cases will be referred to the WBF Tribunal comprised of three members of the Disciplinary Panel.

The eligibility, appointments, functions and duties of both the Disciplinary Panel and the WBF Tribunal and the applicable procedures are provided by the WBF Disciplinary Code as adopted by the Executive Council.

Violations of WBF Antidoping Code will be referred to the WBF Antidoping Hearing Tribunal as set out in the By-laws.

Art. 40 – By-laws

The Executive Council shall adopt a set of By-Laws providing inter alia for the rules of enforcement of the Statutes, the procedures and rules of conduct of the organisation and of the governing bodies and the regulation and management of the affairs of the WBF. Thereafter, the By-Laws or any part of them may be amended by the Executive Council by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all its members entitled to vote.

Any amendment shall come into force on the date of the decision of the Executive Council. The amendment shall be notified to the members of the WBF as soon as practicable. If a majority of the members addresses a written objection to the amendment to the President within 60 days from the entry into force of the amendment, the amendment shall be considered as null and void.

Art. 41 – Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to fill any election and appointment foreseen in the Statutes, By-laws and any other WBF Rules & Regulations a person has to be of majority age according to the Swiss Law and fulfill the requirement set out in the By-laws.

A President and/or a member of the Executive Council elected for his first term must not have reached his 76th birthday at the date of election. A President and/or a member of the Executive Council cannot be re-elected if at the end of his current term he has already reached his 80th birthday.

If at the end of his current term the President has served three full terms, he is no longer eligible to be re-elected.

No person who has a material source of income from playing bridge or from commercial activities related to bridge shall be elected as WBF President. The same provision is applied to the Members of the Executive Council and WBF Officers, except the HLPC members, and to the members of the Disciplinary Bodies or Auditors.

In any event no person shall be elected or appointed to, or continue to serve in respect of any position envisaged within these Statutes who:

- a) has been convicted of a crime by the ordinary justice with a binding restrictive sanction or with a binding sanction which include disqualification from holding public office for a period of one year or more;*

- b) has been convicted by the sport justice (WBF, Zonal Conferences, NBOs, IOC, WADA, International and National Sport Organisations) with a binding sanction for a period of one year or more.*

A failure to meet either of the above requirements (or a discovery of such failure) will result in the immediate automatic forfeiture of the position held.

Art. 42 – Personal determination

Membership on the Executive Council or on any of the Committees of the WBF is a personal determination and is granted on the clear understanding that such members are not elected to represent their federations but to serve the international bridge community at large.

Elected WBF Council or WBF Committee members must not accept any position or function which can be in contradiction with his / her function as an elected member or presents conflicts of interests with the WBF. However, serving on the board of a Zonal Conference, an NBO or another bridge organisation does not constitute a conflict with the interests of the WBF.

Article 43 – Candidatures and Elections

The procedure and rules for the candidatures and elections of the President, the Executive Council Members and HLPC Members are provided for in the By-Laws

Article 44 – Jurisdiction for disputes

Any dispute arising from the present Statutes, their By-laws and/or any WBF Regulation and not explicitly subject to the jurisdiction of another body according to the same shall be submitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, which will resolve the dispute definitively.

Art. 45 – Accounts and Financial Year

The financial year and the accounting system operate from the January 1st to the December 31st.

The accounts, which have been approved by the Executive Council, shall be examined and certified by the Auditors.

Article 46 – Allowance

Any office-holders' allowance shall be fixed and approved by the Executive Council.

Article 47 – Official Events

The official events of the WBF are described and set out in the By Laws.

Article 48. Transparency & Good Governance

The minutes of the meetings of the governing bodies of the WBF as well as the annual report of the Treasurer have to be published on the WBF Official Website.

Article 49 – Official Language

English is the official language of the WBF for all purposes, including for meetings, competitions, disciplinary matters and proceedings, any other activity

and for the Statutes, By-Laws, Laws, Rules and Regulations, minutes and all the official documents published by the WBF.

Article 50 – Dissolution & Liquidation

The Congress shall have the exclusive power to resolve upon the dissolution of the WBF. This decision requires a two-thirds majority of 75% of all Delegates to the Congress. If the WBF is dissolved, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on the WBF shall be fully discharged and its remaining assets, if any, shall be donated to organisations active in activities similar to bridge.

Article 51 - Supremacy of Statutes

The Statutes of the WBF are the final and paramount authority and nothing contained in any Regulations shall prevail over or otherwise operate to circumvent or lessen the force and effect of the Statutes.

Article 51 – Modifications

The Statutes can be modified only by the Congress (subject to a majority of two-thirds of the members present).

Article 52 - Interpretation

Whenever the context indicates, the masculine gender shall encompass the feminine and neuter, and the singular shall encompass the plural, or vice versa. The headings are solely for organisation, convenience and clarity. They do not define, limit or describe the scope of these statutes or the intent in any of the provisions.

5. WBF By-Laws & approval – agenda item 11

Mrs. Heth and Mr. Harris submitted to the Executive the new text of the By-Laws discussed by the Management Committee in Ostend and revised with the contribution of Mr. Wignall.

The text was examined and discussed and the By-Laws were unanimously approved by the Executive Council as follows. The Executive Council unanimously approved to submit the By-Laws to the Congress for its endorsement. After the approval of the Statutes by the Congress and accordingly the By-Laws come into effect immediately. They are then sent to all the NBOs for their endorsement who must indicate if they are not in agreement in writing within 60 days.

WBF By-Laws

Preamble

Article 1 – Preamble

According to Article 38 of the WBF Statutes, the Executive Council ("EC") shall adopt a set of By-Laws providing inter alia for the rules of enforcement of the Statutes, the procedures and rules of conduct of the organisation and of the governing bodies and the regulation and management of the affairs of the WBF.

Chapter 1

Offices & Finance

Article 2 – Offices

2.1. Headquarters

According to Article 3 of the Statutes, the official headquarters and administrative offices of the WBF are based in Lausanne, Switzerland, but by resolution of the EC, may be moved to another Swiss location; such resolution requires a majority of three quarters of the total votes.

2.2. Other Offices

The WBF may also have secondary offices at such other places as the EC may from time to time determine, or as the business of the WBF may require.

Article 3 – Finance, Books & Records

3.1. Dues and Fees.

The amount and time for payment of all dues, fees and other charges shall be as from time to time fixed and determined by the EC subject to review by the Congress.

3.2. Funds

The monies of the WBF shall be deposited in the name of the WBF in such bank or banks or trust company or trust companies as the EC shall designate and shall be drawn out only by the President, the Treasurer or by their designees authorised in writing.

3.3. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the WBF shall begin on the first day of January in each year, unless otherwise provided by the EC.

3.4. Compensation

The compensation paid to any officer, agent, consultant or employee of the WBF shall be fixed and approved by the EC.

3.5. Books and Records

The books, accounts and records of the WBF, except as may be otherwise required by law, shall be kept at its principal office or at such other place or places as the EC may from time to time appoint. The EC shall determine whether and to what extent the accounts and books of the WBF or any of them, shall be open to inspection of the members, and no member shall have the right to inspect any account or book or document of the WBF except as conferred by law or by resolution of the EC.

Chapter 2

Members

Article 4 – Membership

4.1 Organisation

Membership in the WBF is by Federations and consists of affiliated membership. A National Contract Bridge Organization (“NBO”) of any country may apply for membership in the WBF and be elected thereto by the affirmative vote of a

majority of the members of the EC present at any meeting at which a quorum is present, provided that all the needed requirements are fulfilled.

4.2 Application procedure

Each NBO wishing to affiliate with the WBF must forward to the WBF the request for admission and affiliation, undertaking, in writing, to respect the Statutes, Laws and Rules & Regulations of the WBF.

The WBF will forward to the applicant Organisation the necessary official application form and questionnaire and will inform the President of the Zonal Conference ("ZC") of the application asking for the position of the ZC in respect of the application.

These documents, duly completed, must be returned to the WBF together with the following:

- a) two copies of the Statutes of the applicant Organisation, one of which must be in English, together with an undertaking to keep the WBF informed of any changes which might be made subsequent to affiliation to the WBF;*
- b) a Certificate, signed by one of the authorities described above, authorising the application to be submitted;*
- c) a detailed report on the structure of the organisation and its activities in the field of bridge.*

Article 5 – Admission

The WBF President shall be provided with the request of affiliation, the relevant documents and the report of the Zonal President.

The President may request supplementary information and once satisfied the application is complete will list the matter for consideration at the next meeting of the EC.

Any application for admission is examined by the EC which, if necessary, will appoint one of its members to investigate the application. The investigation will be specific to the activity in the applicant country.

If satisfied that all the requirements for membership of the WBF have been met, the EC may grant membership to the applicant Federation and report to the next Congress for its ratification.

If the EC grants the membership, the Applicant, the Zonal President and all Federations will be notified.

The membership is effective upon approval of the EC.

Art, 6 – Resignation

Any affiliated member wishing to resign its membership must inform the WBF in writing.

The President will put the Resignation on the agenda for the next meeting of the EC.

The resigning NBO, the Zonal President and all Federations will be notified of the resignation by the WBF. In addition the resigning NBO will be reminded of its outstanding financial or other obligations.

In the case of possible litigation on any question (financial or otherwise) the WBF may make representations to the National Organisation which endorsed the application for admittance of the Federation, now resigning, or to any other national body under which the Federation operates.

Article 7 – Suspension

The EC is responsible for dealing with the suspension of affiliated members and, where necessary, reporting this matter to the Congress.

An affiliated member may be suspended for any of the reasons set out in the Statutes.

The suspended Federation, Zonal Conferences, all the affiliated members and the National Organisation which endorsed the application for admittance of the suspended Federation and/or any other national body under which the suspended Federation operates, will be notified in writing by the WBF

The Secretary will inform the suspended Federation of its outstanding financial or other obligations to be fulfilled.

In the case of suspension for reasons of financial default, the suspended Federation may re-instate its position by payment of any amount/s outstanding, plus a fine of 10% or such amount as may be approved by the EC.

Article 8 – Removal

The removal of a Federation for cause may be determined by the EC subject to the ratification of the next Congress.

The Federation in question will be invited by the WBF to present its defence before the EC; such representation may be presented orally or in writing.

If the EC decides removal, the Removed Federation will be notified in writing with copies sent to the Zonal President, all the affiliated members and the National Organisation that endorsed the application for admittance of the removed Federation and/or any other national body under which the removed Federation operates.

Article 9 – Re-admission

Re-admission of removed Federations can be at any time decided by the affirmative vote of two thirds of the EC on such conditions as the EC may prescribe and is subject to the ratification of the next Congress.

If a Federation has been removed for financial reasons, it must comply with the provisions for the suspended Federations before re-admission may be considered.

Such provisions shall include settlement of all outstanding financial or other questions with its own or other Zonal Conferences, other Affiliated Federations and Sport Organisations.

Article 10 – Membership rights

Affiliated Federations are entitled:

- 1. to vote at the Congress;*
- 2. to submit proposals to the Congress;*
- 3. to make nominations for office in the WBF*
- 4. where appropriate, to make nominations for positions on the elected structures of the WBF;*
- 5. to participate in the official events of the WBF*
- 6. to use the WBF logo in the format prescribed by the EC*

Article 11 – Membership Obligations

Affiliated Federations have a continuing obligation to satisfy the admission requirements that are set out within Article 7 of the Statutes.

Affiliated Federations are obliged to pay an annual fee. Subject to changes in the economic situation, the fees - which are fixed in USD - are established for four-years by the Congress.

Fees are due on January 1st in each year and must be paid before June 30th in that year. Late payments are subject to a fine of 10%.

Fees are due in their entirety for federations admitted before the 30th June in any year and for those that have resigned. If admission has occurred after June 30th, one-half of the annual fee is payable for the remaining part of that year.

Chapter 3

Zonal Conferences & Associate Members

Article 12 – Zonal Conferences

The Zonal Conferences of the WBF are:

- Zone 1, Europe*
- Zone 2, North America (including Mexico)*
- Zone 3, South America*
- Zone 4, Asia and Middle East*
- Zone 5, Central America and Caribbean*
- Zone 6, Asia Pacific*
- Zone 7, South Pacific*
- Zone 8, Africa*

Article 13 - ZC Formation

The NBOs in each Zone shall unite in a Zonal Conference. The ZC shall decide any question in which different organizations dispute the right to be the NBO for a country within the Zone. A Zone designated by the EC that does not have a ZC shall establish one as soon as practical after designation of the Zone. The NBO in the Zone with the largest membership shall have primary responsibility to establish the ZC but, in the event of no ZC within six months after designation of

the Zone, the EC may assign to another NBO within the Zone the responsibility to organize the ZC is established within such period as may be fixed by the EC. After a ZC has been established for a Zone, no NBO within its Zone may become or remain a member of the WBF unless it is also a member in good standing of the ZC.

Article 14 – Logos

Each ZC has its own Logo approved by the WBF EC

Article 15 – Communication

*The ZC shall be responsible for the notification, in writing, to the WBF of:
the address of their headquarters, all the related data and the updating of any changes or modifications
the name and related data of the President and members of the Board as soon as elected
the information concerning events, championships and any other relevant activity, in particular concerning any disciplinary action taken with regard to the integrity of sport of bridge.*

Article 16 – Zonal Representation on EC

In accordance with the Statutes the ZC are entitled to elect up to nineteen members of the WBF EC.

All such members shall be elected by the ZC in accordance with its rules and must fulfil the requirements of the WBF Statutes and By-Laws.

Each ZC shall be responsible for the notification, in writing, to the WBF of the name, address and all other relevant data of each such member, as soon as elected.

In case of vacancy, for any reasons, of the member or members during their term the ZC shall select their replacement and notify the WBF accordingly.

ZC 1, Europe and ZC 2, North America, shall each be entitled to elect five members; ZC 6, Asia Pacific, two members and each other ZC one member. Each ZC that is allocated two or more representatives shall elect at least one representative of each gender.

The EC shall have the authority, based upon such factors as it may deem relevant, to increase the entitlement of any ZC to elect an additional member to the EC, subject always to the maximum of nineteen.

The EC shall also have the authority to reduce the entitlement of any ZC and to eliminate a ZC's entitlement to any member of the EC under such conditions and based upon such factors as it may deem relevant, provided that in any such case a ZC with no members on the EC shall be entitled to an official observer, without voting rights, on the EC.

In the above case of reduction of the members, the EC shall have the authority to require the ZC to remove any member so that the ZC has only the number of members on the EC to which it is then entitled.

The member or members shall continue to serve in office for the full term of the legislature unless removed for cause by the EC or unless at any time a ZC's entitlement regarding the number of representatives is reduced.

Article 17 – Report to the WBF EC

The ZCs will report about their activity at the meetings of the EC.

Article 18 – Associated Members

The relations between the WBF and any Associated Member shall be defined in the relevant Memorandum of Understanding approved by the WBF EC by a majority of two thirds of its total members.

In any event, in accordance with Article 15 of the Statutes, only Congress shall afford the status of Associated Member.

Chapter 4

Authority

Article 19 – Reporting of Sanctions

In accordance with Article 18 of the Statutes, all disciplinary sanctions must be reported to the WBF in a timely manner by the Member NBOs and/or Zonal Conference imposing the same.

The reports shall be addressed to the WBF President who will arrange for such information to be circulated to the other Zones and Member NBOs.

Chapter 5

Organisation

Article 20 – Organisation

In accordance with Article 20 of the Statutes, the government of the WBF is vested in:

the Congress

the President

the EC

the Management Committee

The organisation of the WBF also includes:

Officers

Honorary Officers

Disciplinary Bodies

Technical Advisors

Standing and Special Committees

Special appointments

Chapter 6

The Congress

Article 21 – Generality

The Congress shall have the powers explicitly conferred upon it by Statutes and the By-laws. The Congress may also make recommendations to the EC in respect to any administrative or EC matters subject to the jurisdiction of the EC.

The Congress shall be entitled to receive reports on the affairs of the WBF and the business transacted by the EC at each of the meetings of the Congress.

Article 22 – Meetings

A regular meeting of the Congress in Ordinary Session shall be held every two years in even numbered years at the place and time of the World Bridge Championship or at a place and time otherwise decided by the EC.

An extraordinary Congress may be called in accordance with Article 22 of the Statutes.

Article 23 - Convocation

The date, the place and the agenda of the Congress is the responsibility of the EC, whilst the convocation is made by the President.

The convocation of the Congress shall be published on the WBF Website and forwarded electronically by the Secretary to all affiliated members and other persons entitled to attend, at least 60 days prior the date of the meeting.

Any affiliated member may submit in writing to the Honorary Secretary, at least thirty days before the Congress, a matter for discussion to be put on the Agenda. The EC has the right to refuse the inclusion.

If updated, the Agenda shall be delivered prior to the start of the meeting.

Article 24 - Agenda

The Agenda shall include:

Roll Call to determine the quorum

Appointment of the Scrutinising Committee

Approval of minutes of preceding meeting

Report of the President

Report of the Treasurer

Election of the members of the EC, when required

Unfinished business

New business

Adjournment

Article 25 - Accreditation

The delegates and other persons allowed to attend the Congress must register at the Accreditation Desk before the opening of the meeting and must be accredited by the Honorary Secretary.

To be accredited to the Congress, the delegates must submit:

If NBO President, an identification document

If NBO Bona Fide Member, an identification document together with an official letter from the NBO confirming his appointment

Article 26 - Proxy

If an NBO, for any reason, is unable to be represented by its own delegate it may give a proxy to another NBO accredited delegate, filling and signing the official WBF Proxy Form, to be submitted to the Accreditation Desk and to be accredited by the Honorary Secretary.

No delegate shall have more than one proxy and cannot cast more than two votes, including his own.

Article 27 - Scrutinising Committee

The Scrutinising Committee, composed of 3 members, one of them acting as chairman, shall be appointed by the Congress on the proposal of the President.

The Committee shall be comprised of delegates.

The duty of the Committee consists in the explanation to the delegates of the voting procedure, the counting of votes, the control of the regularity of the ballots and the report of the results to the President of the Congress.

Article 28 - Minutes

The minutes of the deliberations of Congress are the responsibility of the Honorary Secretary and signed by the President.

Article 29 – Candidates for election

Nominations for EC members to be elected by the Congress must be in writing or e-mail and received together with a CV of the Candidate by the Secretary at least 30 days before the date of the Congress.

The Candidates must be in good standing with the NBO of the Country of which the candidate is a citizen or a bona fide resident and must fulfill all the Statutes and By-Law requirements.

Once the deadline for nominations has ended, the candidatures will be circulated via e-mail to the affiliated NBOs and published on the WBF website.

Candidates must be physically present at the Congress at the time of the election, save in cases of force majeure.

Article 30 – Candidates from the Floor
If, and only if, there are insufficient candidates, NBOs may present further candidates subject to the following conditions:

- a) the candidates must be presented at the opening of the Congress;*
- b) the presentation must be made by the delegate of the NBO;*
- c) all the other conditions of admissibility must apply.*

Article 31 – Election
The election of the EC members takes place by secret ballot.

The three candidates with the highest number of votes shall be elected, subject to the provision within the Statutes that no more than one candidate may come from the same Zonal Conference.

In the event of a tie there are further secret ballots amongst the candidates up to the breaking of the tie.

Chapter 7

The President

Article 32 – Role and functions

The role and functions of the President are described in the Statutes and By-Laws

Article 33 – Election

Any individual fulfilling all the Statutes and By-Law requirements may be elected by the EC to the presidency of the WBF.

A majority of three quarters of the total votes shall be required for the first three ballots. Should no candidate reach the relevant majority in the first three rounds of voting, a simple majority of the total votes shall be required for the following ballots.

If there are more than two candidates and none reaches the relevant majority, after each round of voting the candidate(s) receiving the least number of votes will be eliminated until only 2 candidates remain.

Chapter 8

The Executive Council

Article 34 – Role and functions

The role and functions of the EC are described in the Statutes and By-Laws

Article 35 – Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the EC shall be held in conjunction with the Championships conducted by the WBF as notified by the President.

Notice of the date and venue for the meeting must be given by the President at least one month before except in the case of an emergency. The notice of the meeting should be accompanied by the agenda.

Article 36 – Special Meetings

If circumstances so require, special meetings may also be convened at the call of the President upon at least fifteen days' written notice setting forth the time, place and purposes of the meeting.

Any one or more members of the EC (or any Committee thereof) may participate in a special meeting of the EC (or such Committee) by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment allowing all persons

participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time; participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

Article 37 – Action without a Meeting

In lieu of a meeting, any matter within the jurisdiction of the EC, not requiring a qualified majority of votes, may be acted on, at the call of the President, by written ballot. In such case, at least one week notice setting forth the matter to be acted on shall be given to each member of the EC.

Article 38 – Presiding

The President presides over meetings of the Council. In his absence the First Vice-President shall preside. If the First Vice-President is also not available the Second Vice-President shall preside. The President may authorise one of the Vice-Presidents to preside at any particular time.

Article 39 – Minutes

The minutes of the deliberations of the EC are the responsibility of the Secretary, signed by the President or by the presiding person and by extract published on the WBF Website.

Chapter 9

The Officers

Article 40 – Vice-Presidents

Two Vice-Presidents are elected by, and from among, the members of the EC on the proposal of the President who will indicate the order of precedence; the Vice-Presidents must be from different Zones. They assist the President and can be charged with special duties.

The Vice-Presidents in order of precedence shall exercise the functions of the President during the absence or disability of the President.

Article 41 – Treasurer

The EC, on the proposal of the President, shall elect from among its members a Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all monies and securities of the WBF and shall keep regular books of accounts. He shall disburse the funds of the WBF in payments of just demands against the WBF or as may be ordered by the EC, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and will render audited accounts covering each calendar year and an interim report at each meeting of the EC and the Management Committee setting forth an accounting of all his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the WBF. He shall perform all duties incident to his office or which are properly required of him by the EC. The Treasurer shall also be Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The Treasurer is responsible, in particular:

- for the preparation and presentation at appropriate times, of the financial reports, the budgets and the financial plan; once approved, he is responsible for implementing the plans and monitoring the budgets;*
- for the financial administration of accounts in accordance with the financial rules approved by the EC and by the Management Committee.*

Article 42 – Honorary Secretary

The EC, on the proposal of the President, shall elect from among its members the Honorary Secretary and is responsible for prescribing, in addition to the specific functions prescribed by the Statutes, By-Laws and other WBF Laws, Rules & Regulations, the terms, conditions and requirements of the appointment.

Article 43 – General Counsel

The General Counsel shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the EC.

He shall be the Chief Counselling Officer of the WBF in all legal matters and is entitled to attend, without voting rights, meetings of the EC, Management Committee and Congress, and to formulate proposals and give suggestions. He shall also be the Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

The General Counsel shall not be a Zonal Representative nor a member of the EC.

Chapter 10

The Honorary Officers

Article 44 – President Emeritus

The title of the President Emeritus shall be honorary and may be awarded by the Congress to the outgoing or former WBF President. He need not be a Zonal Representative. The President Emeritus shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the EC, Management Committee and the Congress, but shall have no vote unless otherwise qualified to vote. The President Emeritus (the first awarded if more than one) shall preside over the Advisory Committee.

Article 45 – The Committee of Honour

The Committee of Honour of the WBF shall consist of those individuals elected thereto by the EC in recognition of their unselfish efforts in making a significant contribution to the enhancement and growth of bridge throughout the world. The Committee of Honour shall not exceed thirteen living members, assuring that at least one representative of each gender is included.

Nominations and elections may be held at meetings of the EC with nominations to be made by a minimum of three EC members from three different zones. Election to the Committee shall require the affirmative vote of three-quarters of those entitled to vote who shall include: voting members of the EC, and any of the Presidents Emeritus or existing members of the Committee of Honour who are present. Voting for election to the Committee of Honour shall be by secret ballot. Induction to the Committee shall occur on the occasion of an official ceremony of the particular World Championship at which time the individual shall be presented with a suitable pin designating his election to the Committee of Honour.

Chapter 11

The Committees

Article 46 – The High Level Players Commission

The technical advisor of the WBF regarding matters related to the organisation and the rules & regulations of the bridge competitions is the High Level Players Commission ("HLPC")

The HLPC consists of not less than seven and not more than nine members, representing at least four ZCs. One member shall be appointed by the WBF Youth Committee and the others are appointed by the EC on the proposal of the President; those appointed by the EC shall include at least two males and two females and must be chosen from among the WBF World Grand or Life Masters who participated in a World Championship in the previous eight years.

At its first meeting of each legislature the HLPC shall elect from among its members a Chairman.

The HLPC shall advise the President and the EC on general matters concerning sport activity and carry out such other duties as may be assigned by the President and the EC.

The HLPC shall elect two of its members, who must be of opposite genders and from different Zones to serve as members of the EC with full voting rights.

The procedure of conduct of the meeting, described for the other WBF Committees, shall apply to the meetings of the HLPC.

Article 47 – Committees

Standing Committees shall be appointed, and Special Committees may be appointed, including their respective Chairman and Secretary, by the President with the approval of the EC.

Save for cases expressly foreseen in the Statutes and By-Laws, the Committees shall consist of not less than five and no more than seven members including the chairman. The WBF President is an ex officio member of all Committees without voting rights unless otherwise qualified.

All committees shall keep regular minutes of their meetings and shall report the same to the President and then to the EC at its next meeting.

A quorum for any WBF Committee shall consist of a majority of the members of the Committee; provided appropriate notice thereof has been given, the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting, or the written approval of a majority of all the members of a Committee without a meeting, shall be sufficient for the approval of any matter within the jurisdiction of such Committee. Each such Committee shall fix its own rules of procedure and shall meet as provided by such rules or by the direction of the EC.

Notice of the meeting must be forwarded by the convener to the WBF President and a budget, if required, must be previously forwarded to the WBF Treasurer for his approval or otherwise.

Article 48 – Standing Committees

The Standing Committees of the WBF are:

48.1. Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee shall include the President/s Emeritus and members of the Committee of Honour. The Committee will make known its recommendations to the EC.

48.2. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall include the Treasurer, who shall act as Chairman. The function and duty of the Finance Committee shall be to consider and take account of the financial affairs of the WBF and to formulate the financial policies of the WBF for submission and approval by the EC.

48.3. Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee shall including members from at least four Zones. The function and duty of the Committee shall be:

- to determine all questions relating to the rights and eligibility of players or entries nominated to participate in any WBF contest: the list of players, as well as non-playing captains, coaches and other representatives in teams events, nominated by a ZC or NBO as entrants for a forthcoming contest shall be furnished to the Chairman of the Credentials Committee or other designated representative as soon as registered and in any case not later than established deadline of the registration provided by the Conditions of Contest.

- to refuse to invite (or to revoke the invitation to) any player, as well as captain or coach or other representative in teams events, to participate in any WBF contest. No reasons need to be given by the Credentials Committee for a refusal to such persons.

To be effective, any refusal or revocation must be approved with the majority of two thirds of the total members, otherwise the case has to be decided by the EC with the majority of two-thirds of the members.

All issues of eligibility to participate in world championship events, as well as in all qualification events which may be run by a Conference Zone or NBO, are governed by regulations to be enacted by the EC that may be amended from time to time.

48.4. Constitution and By-Laws Committee

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall include the General Counsel, who shall serve as Chairman, and the Secretary. The function and duty of this Committee shall be to consider and take account of all matters pertaining to the Constitution and the By-Laws of the WBF and to formulate and recommend to the EC any desirable alterations, amendments or repeals relating thereto.

48.5. Rules and Regulations Committee

The Committee shall include the Secretary and the General Counsel. The function and duty of the Committee shall be to consider and take account of all matters pertaining to the Rules and Regulations of the WBF competitions and to formulate and recommend to the EC any desirable additions, amendments or repeals relating thereto.

The Rules and Regulations established by the Committee for each contest must mandatorily include that to be eligible for participation in WBF Tournaments, each contestant, as a condition of admission, agrees to abide by the Olympic Charter as well as all applicable Rules and Regulations of the WBF governing the contest, completing and signing the WBF Commitment Form.

The WBF Commitment Form must include the respect and acceptance of all the Laws, Rules and Principle governing the WBF and its activity and notably:

- respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence, and behave accordingly in the playing areas both at and away from the bridge table;*
- refrain from using substances and procedures prohibited by the rules of the IOC, WADA and WBF;*
- respect and comply in all respects with the applicable stipulations of the IOC Medical Code as to the non-use of prohibited drugs by contestants;*
- consent to the power of the WBF through constituted authority to enforce proper behavior and to discipline an offender;*
- agree to resolve any dispute or grievance arising out of any decision of the EC and/or of a Committee or an appellate body established by the WBF, in the event such decision affects or prejudices his rights with regard to his participation and play in a WBF Tournament, through recourse to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in accordance with its Statutes and Regulations.*

In the event a team or pair refuses to play in any round or match against another team or pair, the match shall be recorded as forfeited and the offending team or pair and/or the NBO or Zone nominating such team or pair shall be subject to referral to the Disciplinary bodies.

48.6. Laws Committee

The Committee shall include members representing at least three Zones. The function and duty of this Committee shall be to consider and take account of all matters relating to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. The Committee shall make whatever changes in the laws it deems appropriate, subject to approval by the EC. The Committee shall interpret the laws; shall periodically review the laws; and at least once each decade shall make a comprehensive study and updating of the entire laws structure. The Laws Committee shall fix its own rules of procedure and shall act as provided by such rules or by direction of the EC.

48.7. Youth Committee

The function and duty of this Committee shall be to consider and take account of all matters relating to Youth Bridge and its development everywhere in the world, to take any appropriate initiative to promote and support teaching bridge in the schools, to stimulate the participation at the youth championships and events organised by the WBF, to consider important related issues and make recommendations to the EC for implementation.

The activities and the initiatives of the Youth Committee shall be subsidised by the Youth Fund instituted by the WBF. The Committee has to submit to the President and the Treasurer for their approval, on or before the 30 September, the program and the related budget for the coming year.

48.8. Medical & Prevention Commission

The Commission has the following key responsibilities:

Supervising the provision of health care and doping control services during the World Championship.

Delivering evidence-based education to athletes and their entourage.

Developing and promoting the adoption of ethical standards in sports science and medicine.

Exploring the potential of new technologies to optimise athletes' health, and preventing their potential damaging effects.

Promotion of health and mental activity among the bridge players

Article 49 – Special Committees & Individual Appointments

Special Committees and Individuals may be appointed from time to time, being invested with such powers as the EC may see fit, in particular:

49.1. Organizing Committee

For each championship and tournaments conducted by the WBF, the President shall appoint an Organising Committee. The members of the Committee shall include the President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, a member of the EC who is a member of the HLPC and the WBF Operations Director and such other persons as the President may select after consultation with the President of the NBO of the host country. Subject to the approval of the President, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Organising Committee may be designated by the NBO of the host country provided such designation is made in writing to the President at least six months before the scheduled starting date of the tournament.

Subject to approval of the President, it shall be the function and duty of the Organizing Committee to make all necessary arrangements incident to the staging of the tournament. The Organizing Committee will remain in charge until the day prior to the start of the Championship.

49.2. Championship Committee

The President will appoint a Championship Committee which will be in charge from the day before the start of the Championship until the end of it: in this Committee the Host will appoint the On-site Organizer.

The Committee shall include the WBF President, WBF Treasurer, WBF Secretary, a member of the EC representative of the HLPC, the WBF Operation Director and the Chairman of the Rules & Regulations Committee.

The Committee is the governing authority of the Championship, as per the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the WBF Rules & Regulations and will provide its managing and running.

The duty of the Committee is also to consider important related issues and make recommendations to the EC for implementation.

49.2. Reviewer

Within any bridge event organised by the WBF a player who receives a ruling from a Tournament Director may ask for the process that produced the ruling to be reviewed. A Code of Practice shall be established and published for the conduct of reviews.

The President shall appoint such number of Reviewers as are necessary and appropriate for the good running of a Championship.

Article 50 – Removal

With the approval of the EC, any member of the Committees and any individual appointment may be removed or replaced by the President.

Chapter 12

Dispute resolution

Article 51 – Quorums

Except as otherwise required by the Constitution or the By-Laws or by special rules of procedures adopted by a duly constituted body of the WBF a majority of members of any body of the WBF shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present in any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient for the approval of any matter.

Article 52 – Indemnification of Members of the EC and Officers.

The WBF shall indemnify any person made, or threatened to be made, a party to any action or proceeding, whether civil or criminal, by reason of the fact that he, or the executor or administrator of his estate, is or was a member of any EC or any officer of the WBF or served another corporation of any type or kind, domestic or foreign, or any partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, in any capacity at the request of the WBF, to the extent permitted by law. The WBF may purchase and maintain indemnity insurance to the extent permitted by law.

Article 53 – Notices & Waiver

53.1 Notices.

Whenever the provisions of the Constitution or these By-Laws require notice to be given to any member of the EC or Delegate to the Congress or Officer, they shall not be construed to mean personal notice; such notice may be given in writing and transmitted by air mail post paid or electronic mail to the address as shown on the WBF records and the time when same is transmitted shall be the time of giving such notice.

53.2 Waiver.

A waiver of any notice in writing signed by an EC member or Delegate, or Officer, whether before or after the time stated in said waiver for holding a meeting, shall be deemed equivalent to a notice required to be given to any such EC member, Delegate, or Officer.

Article 54 – Amendments

Alterations, amendments or repeal of the By-Laws may be made in accordance with Article 38 of the Statutes.

Article 55 - Interpretation

Whenever the context indicates, the masculine gender shall encompass the feminine and neuter, and the singular shall encompass the plural, or vice versa. The headings are solely for organisation, convenience and clarity. They do not define, limit or describe the scope of these statutes or the intent in any of the provisions.

6. Disciplinary Matters – agenda item 14

6.5 WBF Disciplinary Code – agenda item 14.5

Mr Harris presented a new point to be included in the Disciplinary Code under Article 8 - Appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport - as follows:

At the WBF's request, the CAS Panel or Sole Arbitrator (as the case may be) shall appoint an appropriate high-level bridge player, chosen from amongst the World Grand Masters contained within the Open and Women's Categories, as an expert to assist the Panel with respect to any bridge-related matters that are relevant to the appeal and subject to that person not being conflicted in respect of the appeal in question.

The E.C. unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:10 to be reconvened on Monday, 24th September at 14:30.