



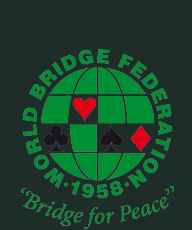
The WBF NBO Officers' Seminar  
16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

# THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

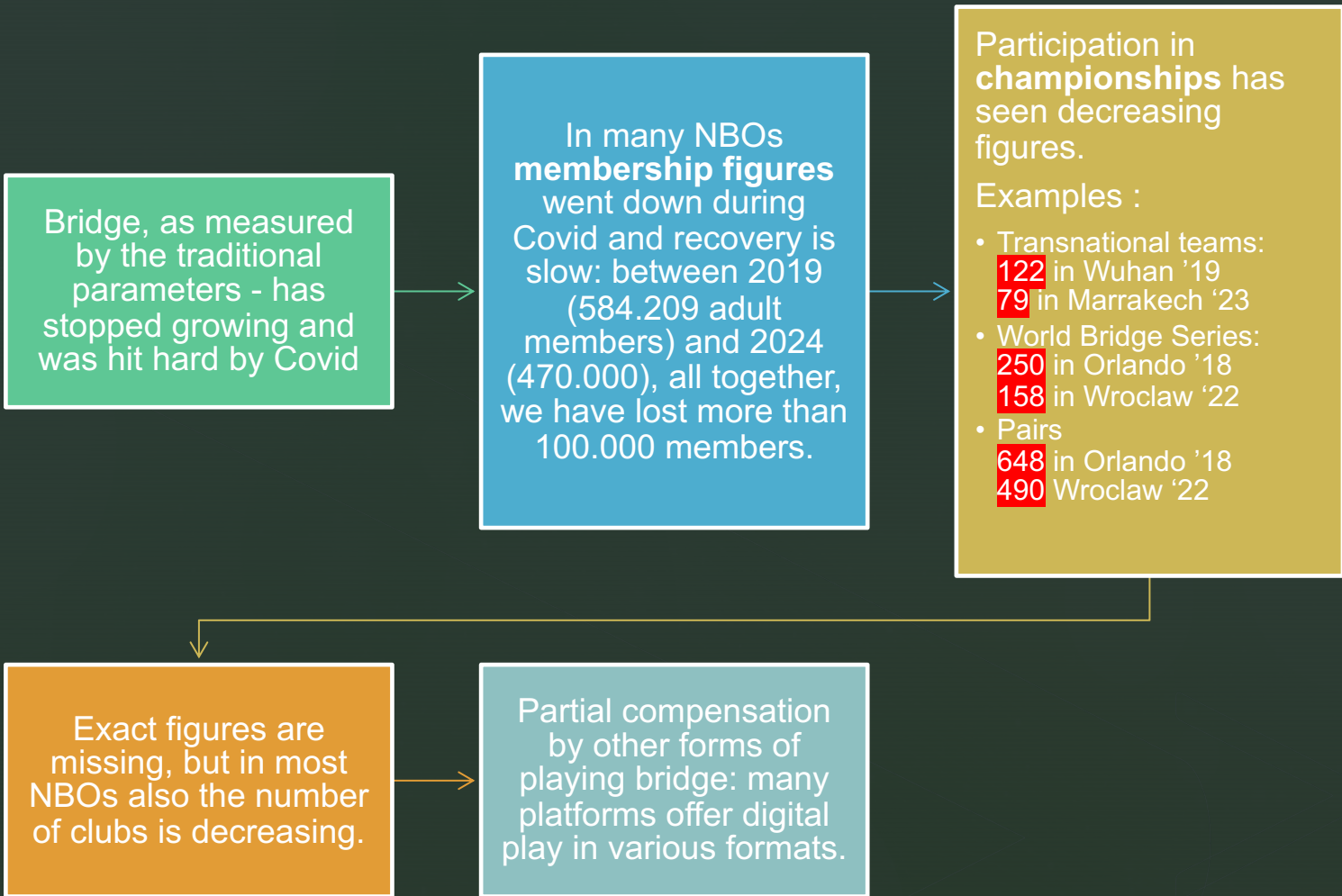
## IN A CHANGING WORLD

Marc De Pauw

WBF Treasurer



# Major trends – post covid - affecting the bridge environment





# Try to understand

- **Inflation** is back, affecting the cost of life. Participation in physical bridge international events has become very expensive (travel – hotel – meals - ...).
- Staying at **home**, playing bridge on a screen, in comfortable conditions, whenever you have the time to make yourself available vs. going to the club or another competition venue. For many people an easy choice to make.
- Virtual **robot** bridge games in line with the trend of individualisation? Avoid the inconveniences of a partnership.
- Career stress and the need to take care of your family: main obstacles for **young people** to adhere to bridge competitions. In most NBOs the average age of members is still increasing.

# A need to adapt



Organisation of the  
WBF:

-Governance

-Finances



Championships  
formats



Technology



Some ideas?





# WBF Governance

Working on a proposal to change the **WBF Statutes & ByLaws**:

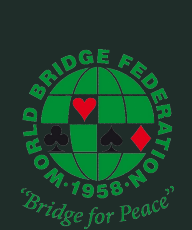
- 1) Reduce the number of Zones – today there are 8 zones (combine zones 2 & 5 ?) ?
- 2) Review the voting procedure at the Congress (multiple votes for the mid-size & larger NBOs ?)
- 3) Reduce the number of members in the Executive Council (from 23 to 16 ?)
- 4) Redefine the number of members voted in by the Congress (from 3 to 2 ?)
- 5) What about the High Level Players' role in the Council (2 members today) ?
- 6) Structure of the Executive Council – Role and composition of the Management Committee.

Proposals to be submitted to the 2024 Congress in Buenos Aires or *ad hoc* Congress.

# Finances

The WBF has a “healthy” balance sheet

	2022	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Fixed assets	14970	14862
Inventories	3851	3851
Receivables	211340	118137
Bank Delen CH portfolio	978081	1032719
Cash & Banks	1635822	1953550
Prepaid expenses	48741	47384
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>2892805</b>	<b>3170503</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Capital & Reserves	2296448	2368126
Beginning of the year	2122622	2296448
Result of the year	173826	71678
Provisions		
Youth Fund	140597	160531
P&D Fund	100077	85051
General Provision	200000	200000
Other provisions	70580	64696
Accounts payable	18653	101156
Accrued expenses/Rate differences	66450	190943
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>2892805</b>	<b>3170503</b>



# Financial Policy Guidelines

- Break even between the operational income (dues) and expenses.
- Use the bonuses on the championships to strengthen the solvability of the Federation and to fund projects.

During past years, the second directive has created a sound financial position of the WBF.

The first directive proves hard to be achieved, given the following trends and needs:

- 1) The cost of physical meetings (limited to one meeting/year, at the main championships venue, during recent years) is constantly increasing mainly because of higher costs of travel and accommodation.
- 2) Expanding the activity domains and the increasing complexity of dealing with (technological) matters creates the need for more administrative support. Expansion of the staff in our Lausanne office. Costs shared between the WBF and the EBL.
- 3) Need to invest in technological support for the championships (e.g. tablets for bidding and scoring).

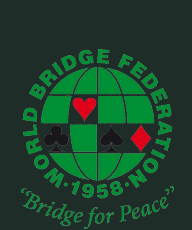
Hence a proposal to adapt the dues system.



# Financial dues to the WBF

- In the present system, the NBOs contribute to the WBF 1 US\$/”regular” member (i.e. >25 years of age). NBOs counting less than 300 members pay the minimum contribution of 300\$.
- Zone 1 NBOs pay the dues in €.
- Total dues income has gone down from 520 k€ in ‘19 to 468 k€ in ‘23.
- The 1 US\$ / member contribution has remained unchanged since the introduction in 1996 (Rhodos championships) !
- **\$1 in 1996 has the same purchasing power as \$1.92 in 2024.**
- **The idea is to propose to the Congress a moderate adjustment (1,2 \$ instead of 1 ?). The new rate would be valid from 2025 onwards. Yearly indexation (as in Zone 1) of the dues ?**
- **Because many of the “small” NBOs are out of the € and \$ zones, the local cost of paying in a foreign currency has also increased. Hence the idea to keep the minimum contribution at 300\$.**





# Championships formats

Today, the WBF organizes the following (**physical**) championships:

- The World Teams Championships: every 2 years in the odd years – Representative and Transnational (most recent edition: Marrakech '23). 2025 world championships in the Far East ? Candidates for 2027 ?
- The World Bridge Series: once every 4 years – Transnational teams & pairs (most recent edition: Wroclaw '22). Next edition in 2026. Candidates ?
- The World Bridge Games: once every 4 years (in the Olympic year) – Representative and Transnational ('24 edition in Buenos Aires). Next edition in 2028. Candidates ?
- Youth Championships: World Youth Teams & Pairs (most recent edition: Veldhoven '23) and Open Youth Transnational Teams & Pairs ('24 edition in Wroclaw). 2025 edition possibly in Italy. Candidates ?



# Main Requirements for LOCs

## \* MAIN CHAMPIONSHIPS

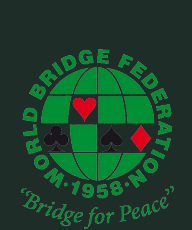
- Suitable venue (about 3500 m<sup>2</sup> of playing area) + meeting rooms & operational rooms for the duration of the championships (+days to prepare and to depart)
- Hotel rooms for officers (about 200 nights) & staff (about 700 nights)
- Limited number of local staff (mainly keyboard operators and caddies)
- Opening & Closing ceremony
- Staff party
- Various materials / gifts / briefcase / other items
- License fee (*ad hoc*)

Budget estimate (excl of cost of venue and license fee): about 250 k\$. Local sponsorship ?

## \* YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Basicly the same conditions, but much lighter in m<sup>2</sup>, ceremonies, staff, etc... No license fee, but subsidy (host city, private sponsors, ...) is welcome, both for the WBF as for the LOC.

Budget estimate (excl cost of venue): about 50k\$



# New initiatives

In February 2024, WBF has organized a WBF **Online Women Teams** competition, using the RealBridge platform.

61 teams from 31 countries.

End of 2024, the first **Online World Small Feds Games** competition is set up.

Online competitions – in various formats – are there to stay ?

Inquiry: what about “hybrid” forms of competitions (with e.g. the qualification phases online) ? For both Representative and Transnational competitions ?

Major cost saving effects, for both the WBF and the NBOs, are possible.



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**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**QUESTIONS?**

**SUGGESTIONS?**

**COMMENTS?**