



**MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Zoom
Thursday, 26th November at 1:30**

In Attendance

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus
Mr Al Levy, 1st Vice President
Mr Patrick Choy, 2nd Vice President
Mr Marc De Pauw, Treasurer
Mr Jan Kamras, Hon. Secretary
Mr Ben Thompson, Member
Mr Marcelo Caracci, Member
Mr Giorgio Duboin, Member
Mr Nader Hanna, Member
Mr Eric Laurant, Member
Mr Gilad Ofir, Member
Mr Kirubakara Moorthy, Member
Mrs Kari-Anne Opsal, Member
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member
Mr Douglas (Kip) Rotchell, Member
Mrs Suzi Subeck, Member
Mr Adam Wildavsky, Member
Ms Wang Yannan, Member
Mrs Helen Kruger, Member
Mr Fernando Lema, Member
Mrs Janice Seamon-Molson, Member
Ms Lilian Sun, Interpreter

Also, in Attendance

Mr David Harris, General Counsel
Ms Arianna Testa, Secretary to the Executive Council

By invitation of the President

Mr Philippe Cronier, Chairman of the HLPC
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Honor Committee Member
Mrs Georgia Heth, Honor Committee Member
Mr George Retek, Honor Committee Member
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Honor Committee Member

Excused

Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, Member
Mr John Wignall, Honor Committee Member
Mr Bobby Wolff, Honor Committee Member

The President called the meeting to order at 13:30.

1. Agenda item 5 – Treasurer’s Report

The President asked Mr De Pauw to comment the report previously shared with the members.

The Treasurer updated the Council about the headquarter in Lausanne.

The office in Milan will be dismissed at the end of the year and the President will move to Pavia with a considerable reduction of the fixed costs.

The Council thanked the Treasurer.

2. Agenda item 11 – International Events & Relations with International Organisations

Mr De Pauw informed the Council that the IMSA event has been organized online and therefore we will wait for 2021 to get the chance to organize a live event again. The reports about the relations with international organization circulated before the meeting, the President summarized the contribution of the Canton de Vaud and the IOC that are supporting financially the WBF in these tough months. and not being any comments, the President moved to the next item.

3. Agenda item 12 – Antidoping Rules

The new WADA Code has been approved by the Management Committee and published on the WBF website, it will be in effect starting from the first of January 2021. WBF obtained, thanks to the medical commission, the exemption from the out of competitions tests. Bridge is now considered a team sport and not an individual sport as it used to be. The President remarked and thanked for their job, Professor Simonelli, the ITA (International Testing Agency) represented by Dr Matteo Vallini and Mr Davide Delfini from GAISF

4. Agenda item 14 – Affording to ACBL the status of WBF Associate Member, ex art. 15 WBF Statutes

The President introduced the item saying that the Management Committee approved the request of ACBL to become associated member and since is a decision that has

to be made by the Congress, the Management Committee strongly suggests the Council to support this motion that will lead to the signature of a *Memorandum of understanding* between ACBL and WBF.

The President raised the issue still unsolved about the Canadian Federation and after several clarifications, it was concluded to arrange a meeting with the President of Zone 2, the President of the Canadian Bridge Federation to define the actual situation and to find an agreement.

At 15:00 Mr Zia Mamhood joined the meeting and Mr José Damiani welcomed him on behalf of the Council, congratulating Mr Mamhood for having been elected in the Honor Committee, that plays, as Mr Damiani remarked, also the role of Advisory Committee.

Mr Mamhood thanked the Council and shared with the members his considerations about the actual situation, suggesting that the WBF must lead the way in these difficult times.

At 15:10 Mr Mamhood leaves the meeting.

The President asked the Executive Council to approve the recommendation of the Management Committee to submit to the Congress the proposal to afford the status of associated Federation to the ACBL.

The Executive Council unanimously approved.

5. Agenda item 15 – Juridical Matter

The General Counsel reported about the Zimmermann's case about his questioning the rule of the Eligibility Code that has been changed during the Management Committee meeting in San Francisco (December 2019).

The General Counsel reported also about the German Doctors' case. Mr Kamras asked if there is a chance to find a settlement, the General Counsel answered that in order to find an agreement, both parties should convey but unfortunately it is not the case since the German Doctors are not willing to find a settlement.

Some members asked for clarification about both cases and finally the Executive Council thanked the General Counsel.

Before closing the item, the President made a statement saying that personally, he will never accept any settlements with these people that year after year they keep trying to impose themselves over the rules.

At 15:30 Mr Thompson leaves the meeting.

6. Agenda item 16 – 2021 World Championships

Both Championships of 2020 were supposed to take place in Salsomaggiore and they've been postponed in 2021, still in Salsomaggiore. In the next few weeks the municipality of Salsomaggiore should confirm the dates that will be subject, in any

case, to the pandemic evolution. Before the end of February the Council should take a final decision. The Youth event will run under the same criteria (age, gender) of the event that was cancelled in 2020. The main championship has become the World Bridge Teams Championships.

Mr Levy suggests leaving open the possibility to organize an Online World Championship in case the pandemic and the restrictions won't let the event happen as planned. Mr Wildavsky agreed with Mr Levy about the online event and to have a go or no-go date to for the NBOs to organize the trials.

7. Agenda item 17 – Youth Matter

Mr Ofir reported the data of the Online World Teams Youth Championships in the last two years. Last year the Cup became a League and the young players are waiting to hear how the League will continue.

The President and the Executive Council congratulated warmly Mr Gilad for the organization of this successful event.

Mr Fernando Lema presented his report to the Council.

Ms Wang presented her report to the Council.

The President and the Executive Council congratulated Mr Lema and Ms Wang for their terrific job.

At 17:00 Mr Ofir leaves the meeting.

8. Agenda item 18 – Bridge Online

Mr Levy reported about the Championship hosted by FunBridge.

Mr Damiani suggested that these events should be advertised more. Mr Damiani also reported about the Bridge International Championship (BIC) and the World Online Championship (WOC), having been the reports shared in advance.

The President and the Executive Council congratulated Mr Damiani.

9. Agenda item 19 – Future Meetings

Management Committee Meetings will continue via Zoom. The Executive Council meetings will be arranged according to the pandemic situation.

10. Agenda item 20 – Zonal Presidents' Reports

The various Zonal reports circulated before the meeting, the representatives of the Zones summarized their report, highlighting the most important points.

Mr Kamras sent the report from Zone 1 and he commented informing the Council about the Transnational event that EBL is organizing in Bulgaria on February 2021.

Mrs Subeck reported about the successful Championships that USBF organized during the pandemic.

Mr Caracci presented a short presentation about the activities carried out in Zone 3.

Mr Rotchell provided a comment on his report about Zone 5.

Mrs Sophonpanich shared the Report from Zone 6 before the meeting and Mr Choy informed the Council that Zone 6 is planning to organize their Trials in June/July 2021 in Hong Kong. If the traveling restrictions will prevent the players to move, then the NBOs will provide the Trials in their locations with strict security protocols.

The report from Zone 7 is postponed in the third session.

Mr Pascal and Mrs Kruger commented the report from Zone 8

The President thanked all the attendees and wished a Happy Thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:30 to be reconvened on Thursday, 27th November at 13:30.

All the reports are attached to and form integral part of these minutes.