



## **ATTENDANCE**

**Represented by** - 144 Members / 3 Associate Members

### **AFRICA** (35 Members / 1 Associate Member)

Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Congo Brazzaville, DR Congo (Kinshasa), Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Associate Member** Senegal

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### **ASIA** (33 Members)

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

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### **EUROPE** (41 Members)

Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine.

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### **OCEANIA** (10 Members / 1 Associate Members)

Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga.

**Associate Members** New Caledonia

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### **PAN AMERICA** (25 Members / 1 Associate Members)

Argentina, Aruba, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela.

**Associate Member** Martinique

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#### **PRESIDENT**

Poul-Erik Høyer

#### **DEPUTY PRESIDENT**

Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul

#### **VICE PRESIDENTS**

Michel Bau  
Geraldine Brown  
Jassem Kanso  
Paul Kurzo  
João Matos  
Vishu Tolan

**MINUTES of the 81<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Saturday 18 July 2020 - 1900 Kuala Lumpur Time**  
**Held virtually / webcast from the Scandic Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark**



**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Battushig Batbold, David Cabello, Robbert de Kock, Teong Kiat Lim, Emma Mason, Moosa Nashid, Yoke Weng Ng, Nora Perry, Nigel Skelt, Wayne Somers, Peter Tarcala, Etienne Thobois, Kinji Zeniya, Chipso Zumburani, Marc Zwiebler.

**SCRUTINEERS**

Spring Tan, Derek Batchelor, Sharon Chan

**BWF STAFF**

Thomas Lund – Secretary General	Venu Mahalingam
Stuart Borrie	Pia Mackenzie
Thomas Delaye-Fortin	Rodrigo Pacheco-Carrillo
Jaffer Ebrahim	Darren Parks
Lloyd Green	Dianne Pierre
Ahmad Hafidz	Syahmi Sabron
Andy Hines-Randle	John Shearer
Rachel Jayaratnam	Sharon Springer
Erica Khoo	Thevagi Suppiah
Wa Cheng Koh	Tracy Tan
Zii Yii Lee	Rachel Wee
Owen Leed	Patricia Wong
Selena Lim	Ian Wright

**CC REPRESENTATIVES**

- **Badminton Confederation Africa** - Sahir Edoe and Simon Mugabi
- **Badminton Asia** - Chee Boon Saw, Mee Yee Fong, Mela Sabina, Saira Banu, Thanabalan Arikrishnan, Weng Seng Chooi, Yuriati Mohd Yatim
- **Badminton Europe** - Brian Agerbak, Jimmy Andersen, Jacob Oehlenschlaeger, Andreja Turk, Tania Teoh
- **Badminton Oceania** - Julie Carrel, Lynne Nixey
- **Badminton Pan Am Confederation** - German Valdez, Juan Pablo Alvarado, Mario Carrera, Ricardo Salamanca

**Apologies**

**Council Members** - Sergey Shakhrya, Tang Jiu Hong,

**Hon. Life Vice Presidents** – Sir Craig Reedie, Mme Lu Shengrong, Jeffrey Robson, Charoen Wattanasin, Dr. Kang Young Joong, Justian Suhandinata.

**Observers** - 21 observers attended the meeting.

**Register of Participants** – Refer to Attendance List in the Annexure



## **1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

### **1.1 President's Remarks**

Poul-Erik Høyer welcomed delegates to the 81<sup>st</sup> BWF Annual General Meeting and the first ever virtual AGM.

He expressed his appreciation to the membership from across the globe with different time zones where it was midnight for some countries and as early as five in the morning for others and thanked everyone for their participation in the virtual AGM.

He said that the Virtual AGM allowed the BWF to complete its governance requirements to host the AGM every year before 31 July adding that the focus on good governance was essential.

The BWF did very well in the area of good governance compared to all other international sports federations but there was a need to continuously improve governance practice over time.

Poul-Erik Høyer added that some of the Council proposals on the agenda aimed to do just that and he placed his trust in the membership to support the Council in the proposals that would be put forward in the meeting.

The voting process was the final step of the Virtual AGM Integrated Process since the agenda was circulated to the membership on 3 April 2020.

A series of interactive meetings and discussions were conducted online and a significant amount of information and reports from the year 2019 were provided to the membership.

Poul-Erik Høyer thanked the Members for their opinions, discussions and interventions.

He concluded his opening remarks by saying that there were thirteen (13) proposals that the membership would be voting on in the Virtual AGM and he requested Thomas Lund to explain the procedures for the meeting.

#### **1.1a Procedures of the Virtual AGM**

- Thomas Lund provided a run-down of the process of the Virtual AGM Integrated Process from the circulation of the AGM agenda on 3 April to the webinar on how to participate in the Virtual AGM on 15 July.
- To ensure that the Members were given the best possible chance to prepare for the Virtual AGM, the Chairs Reports were published on the website on 12 June and four (4) videos explaining the Council proposals in English, French and Spanish were created and published on 19 June.
- This was followed by the hosting of six (6) online consultation sessions with nearly fourteen (14) hours of discussions, interventions questions and answers with participation from 115 Members.



A total of 53 questions / answers from the Members were published on the BWF website.

- Thomas Lund said that there were thirteen (13) proposals on the agenda to be voted on through an open ballot process.

However, there were some requests from Members to have the voting conducted by secret ballot.

The BWF Constitution states that the Chair of the meeting has the authority to declare a secret ballot when necessary and the President has decided to have proposals number 5 to 13 to be conducted by secret ballot.

- Thomas Lund explained the process for the casting of votes and that the results of each proposal would be displayed on screen:
  - Number of votes cast FOR and the equivalent % of votes cast
  - Number of votes cast AGAINST and the equivalent % of votes cast
- The results would be calculated on basis of 'Votes Cast' as required by Clause 7.3 of the BWF Constitution.
  - Simple majority (more than 50% of votes cast)
  - Two-thirds majority (67% or more of votes cast)
  - Abstentions are not counted.
- The Voting Delegates would have a one-minute voting time-frame and during this time, they could change their vote by clicking the CANCEL button and make the change.
- When the one-minute time-frame is over, the POLL would be closed and this would be shown on the devices. The votes could not be changed after the POLL was closed.
- Thomas Lund further explained that delegates could ask questions in writing. The questions must be relevant to the agenda item discussed at the time. The questions and interventions would be monitored and would be notified to the Members at the appropriate time on the agenda.

- 1.1b.** Poul-Erik Høyer said he had received a letter from BWF Deputy President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul with a message for the Members.

He requested Thomas Lund to read out the letter which stated;

*"As we all are aware of, the COVID-19 has severe impact upon every one of us. Things will not go back to normal as it used to be. We do not even know what the future holds for us. We have to pursue our lives with "new normal" lifestyle.*

*Therefore, during this unprecedented time, solidarity, the value of our community, our need to be connected are what we need most.*



*I urge all BWF members to realise that no matter how different we are, we are better together. The world needs togetherness. Like never before, we need to be "stronger together", which is the latest motto of the International Olympic Committee as we mark the "Tokyo 2020: One year to go".*

*Please help each other figure out a solution and find new tangible and practical ways that can be done together during this pandemic crisis.*

*We have to gather ourselves as soon as possible to compete with other sports to gain people's interest in badminton. The meeting we have today is one way to help achieve that. I wish the BWF AGM meeting today would turn out to be another success."*

Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul - Deputy President

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## **1.2 Roll Call - BWF Constitution (Clause 15.3)**

Thomas Lund reported that for the purposed of the quorum, the BWF currently had 174 Members in Good Standing and one third of that was 58 Members.

The number of Members that had logged into the meeting at this time was 129 Members. Therefore, a quorum had been achieved.

Thomas Lund added that Myanmar had requested for manual voting due to complications with internet connectivity and the vote from Myanmar was received before the meeting and this would be included in the final results of the voting.

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## **1.3 Appointment of Scrutineers**

Poul-Erik Høyer said that during a normal face to face AGM, the panel of scrutineers would be introduced and confirmed at the start of the meeting. For the purpose of the Virtual AGM, a team of three scrutineers had been identified and he requested Thomas Lund to explain the role of the scrutineers.

Thomas Lund explained that under normal circumstances, the work of the scrutineers was done during the meeting. At a virtual AGM, the work was done before the meeting and that was to check in the Lumi Global Voting System database the;

1. Names of Members with Delegates
2. Voting Strength for each Member
3. Names of each Voting Delegate
4. Names of each Second Delegate

The proposed panel of Scrutineers were;

1. Derek Batchelor - (ENG) – former Chair of Badminton England



2. Tan Spring – (SGP) – a partner in a Singapore Law Firm Withers Khattar Wong
3. Sharon Chan – (MAS) – BWF Senior Finance Manager

The panel of scrutineers had provided a signed declaration that they had checked and confirmed that the data in the final report from the Lumi Global Voting System was the same as the data provided by the BWF to Lumi Global for the BWF Virtual AGM 2020.

The master list of the registered Members for the AGM, the Voting Strength of each, and the Voting Delegates and Second Delegates of each Member were confirmed to be in order.

Thomas Lund gave an updated roll call of 130 Members that were logged in and present in the meeting.

***Proposal – To ratify the scrutineers as proposed.***

The Voting Delegates were asked to vote to approved the proposed panel of scrutineers.

The proposal was to be approved by a *Simple Majority* – more than 50% of votes cast.

- The Poll was opened and the Voting Delegates had one minute to cast their votes.

Following the voting period, the results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 242 votes "For" the proposal and this represented 96.65% of total Votes Cast.
- 11 votes "Against" the proposal and this represented 4.35% of the total Votes Cast.

***The scrutineers were ratified by the AGM.***

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## **2. DECISION TO HOLD A DECISION-MAKING VIRTUAL AGM**

Poul-Erik Høyer said that there were three parts to this agenda item;

### **2.1 Report on the impact of COVID-19 on global badminton.**

Thomas Lund hoped that all Members were staying safe and keeping well during this unprecedented situation. He said that lockdowns and travel restrictions had a major impact on the badminton world with players not being able to play.

He added that a total of eighty international tournaments were cancelled between March to September 2020 and the World Ranking had been frozen since March.

Not spared was the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics which had to be postponed until 2021.



Thomas Lund said that the health, safety and well-being of all athletes, entourage, officials and the greater badminton community continued to be the number one priority of the BWF who had been monitoring the situation following expert advice and national situations.

He added that guidelines were being prepared to resume international badminton as soon as it was safe to do so in a well-planned way, working closely with local host and the national health authorities.

The guidelines would be shared with the members when they were ready.

Poul-Erik Høyer remarked that it was evident that the Covid-19 pandemic had been a very difficult time for all.

He said that some countries had started badminton activities in a safe way and he hoped that the BWF would be able to resume international badminton soon under a safe environment.

## **2.2 Background to the Council decision to hold a virtual BWF AGM 2020 on 18 July 2020, rather than a physical meeting in Aarhus.**

Thomas Lund explained that the Covid-19 crisis had a major impact on the world and after two postponements, the BWF Council concluded that a face to face meeting was unlikely. Therefore, the proposal for a Virtual AGM was considered.

Clause 15 of the BWF Constitution required the BWF to have an AGM by 31 July each year and it was something that the BWF had to uphold.

Hence, an integrated plan with the step by step process towards a Virtual AGM was made and a proposal was presented to the membership.

A total of 178 Members had responded to the proposal to host a virtual AGM in 2020 and 172 Members voted in favor and 6 Members voted against.

The BWF Council decided at its meeting on 25 May to proceed with the Virtual AGM and this was communicated to the Members on 27 May.

The Members were guided through a series of videos and online conferences which provided them with an opportunity to discuss, share views and ask questions.

## **2.3 *Proposal* – To ratify the decision by Council to hold the virtual AGM.**

Thomas Lund gave an updated roll call of 134 Members being present in the meeting at that time.

- The proposal would require *Two-Thirds Majority* – 67% or more of votes cast.



- The Poll was opened and the Voting Delegates had one minute to cast their votes.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 207 votes "For" the proposal and this represented 84.49% of total Votes Cast.
- 38 votes "Against" the proposal and this represented 15.51% of the total Votes Cast.

***The decision by Council to hold the virtual AGM was ratified.***

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### 3. MINUTES

#### **3.1 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 23 May 2019 (Annexure A) in Nanning.**

- Thomas Lund said the minutes of the 2019 AGM were circulated to the membership on 10 July 2019. Following feedback received, some small amendments were made to the accuracy of the minutes and the updated version was then circulated with the AGM agenda on 3 April 2020. It was also published on the BWF website. No further feedback was received.

***Proposal - To approve the minutes of the last AGM.***

- The proposal was to be approved by a Simple Majority – more than 50% of votes cast.
- The Poll was opened and the Voting Delegates had 1 minute to cast their votes.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 247 votes "For" the proposal and this represented 98.02% of total Votes Cast.
- 5 votes "Against" the proposal and this represented 1.98% of the total Votes Cast.

***The minutes were approved.***

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#### **4. COUNCIL REPORT**

##### **4.1 To receive the Report of Council and its Committees, and other reports for the year ending 31 December 2019 (Annual Report 2019).**

- Poul-Erik Høyer said that the annual report for year 2019 was published on 3 April 2020 together with the Audited Financial Statements for year ending 31 December 2019 and a video of highlights for 2019.

In view of the virtual AGM, a total of twelve (12) Chairs reports were prepared and posted on the BWF website which summarised the activities of the BWF in 2019.

The Chairs reports were taken as presented and Poul-Erik Høyer continued with the adoption of the Audited Financial Statements.

He requested Thomas Lund to present Agenda Item 4.2 - the proposal to adopt the Audited Financial Statements and 4.3 – to receive the Budget 2020 and the provisional budget for 2021.

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##### **4.2 To adopt the Financial Statements, duly audited, for the year ending 31 December 2019 (Annexure B).**

Before addressing Item 4.2, Thomas Lund answered a question from the floor related to the last three proposals and whether they had passed. This was clarified and Thomas Lund stated that the first three proposals where voting had taken place, had passed with clear majorities.

Thomas Lund also answered a second question related to the 174 Members in Good Standing which was the figure used to calculate one third of the membership for the purposes of establishing a quorum.

He went on to say that not all of the 174 Members were in the meeting, and at the time there were 134 Members on the online system in the meeting, representing 264 votes.

He reminded the meeting that majorities were calculated on the basis of how many votes were cast. He said that not all Voting Delegates voted for each proposal – they may abstain – and that abstentions were not counted when calculating those who voted "For or Against" a proposal.

Thomas Lund said that the Audited Financial Accounts for year ending 31 December 2019 were circulated on 3 April 2020.

He added that overall, it was a very good year for the BWF and for badminton.

The Chair of the Finance Committee had presented the accounts in a video to add to the written information in the Audited Financial Statements 2019 and Annual Report 2019.

The Secretariat had received some questions and the answers to these, were published on the BWF website.

- Thomas Lund provided an updated roll call of 136 Members on the system with a total of 266 votes.



**Proposal** – *To adopt the Audited Financial Statements for year ending 31 December 2019.*

- The Poll was opened and the Voting Delegates had one minute to cast their votes.

The proposal required a Simple Majority – more than 50% of votes cast to be approved.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 245 votes “For” the proposal and this represented 97.22% of total votes cast.
- 7 votes “Against” the proposal and this represented 2.78% of the total votes cast.

***The Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2019 were adopted.***

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#### **4.3 To receive the 2020 budget and the provisional budget for 2021**

- Thomas Lund said the following questions were posed by Members in the meeting, related to this agenda item and Thomas Lund provided the following answers;

- *Q: When would the membership development grants be implemented?*

There were different types of grants for different purposes and development level. These included grants for Coach Education courses, Shuttle Time Schools Badminton, Athletes Pathway programmes. The BWF was financing substantial sports programmes through the Continental Confederation development grants projects.

- *Q: Why was the total number of votes much higher than the number of Member Associations represented?*

Each Member Association had different voting strength ranging from 1 vote to 5 votes. Therefore, the total number of votes were significantly higher than the number of Members registered for the meeting.

- *Q: Will the budget for 2020 be adjusted in view of the Covid-19 situation?*

The 2020 budget was approved in 2019 before the Covid-19 situation. The BWF was monitoring the situation closely and when the full impact of the Covid-19 was known, the budget would be adjusted.



## **5. COUNCIL PROPOSALS**

Poul-Erik Høyer said that good governance was extremely important and the BWF had proven to be a leader in this area.

Three weeks back, the BWF were rated in the top group of 31 International Sports Federation on the Olympic Programme.

The BWF was in the top group with five other IFs - International Tennis Federation, World Rugby, International Cycling Federation, FIFA and International Equestrian Federation.

This was the result of eight years of work to continuously improve the BWF governance practices.

He added that there were five Council proposals to be voted on and these were all related to good governance and to improve the governance system of the BWF.

He expressed his hope that the membership would support these proposals, to take the BWF and the sport to a higher level of responsibility, accountability and integrity.

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### **5.1 To approve the proposed amendment to clause 15.20 of the BWF constitution – Voting Strength (See Annexure D full text)**

- Thomas Lund explained that the first proposal was to amend clause 15.20 of the BWF constitution.

#### **Rationale:**

*The Sudirman Cup became a closed tournament in 2021 which meant a maximum of 16 teams qualified. Previously this was an open tournament and therefore a relevant tournament to measure "international competition participation".*

*There was no eligibility criteria and Members could enter teams if they wished (2019 = 31 teams competed / 2017 = 27 teams / 2015 = 35 teams / 2013 = 30 teams / 2011 = 33 teams / 2009 = 30 teams).*

*With the rule change coming into effect in 2021 where this is a qualification tournament of 16 teams (like the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals which was not part of this criteria for voting strength), the Sudirman Cup should no longer be an event that was counted in the next Assessment Period (1 October 2020 – 30 September 2024) under this criteria of 'participation in international tournaments'.*

Clause 15.20 of the BWF Constitution states:

*15.20. A Member in Good Standing shall be entitled to a minimum of one (1) vote and a maximum of five (5) votes as confirmed by Council in accordance with the following criteria applied over the Assessment Period.*

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1 vote	Membership to the Federation
1 additional vote	More than 10,000 registered players in each of the four years of the Assessment Period.
1 additional vote	Participation in <del>7</del> 6 out of these <del>12</del> 10 events during the Assessment Period: <del>Sudirman Cup (2 events)</del> , Individual Continental Championships (a maximum of 2 events), World Championships (3 events), Olympic Games (1 event), World Junior Team Championships (4 events)
1 additional vote	Having one player or more in the top 40 world ranking in any of the five (5) disciplines as per the world ranking list for the qualification for the most recent Olympic Games held.
1 additional vote	Hosting at least one (1) of these events in three (3) out of the four (4) years of the Assessment Period: Super Series, Grand Prix, International Challenge or the equivalent World Tour events.

*15.20.1 The number of votes a Member is entitled to is fixed for a four (4) year period starting after the end of the Assessment Period.*

**Proposal** – *To amend clause 15.20 of the BWF Constitution as proposed.*

- The proposal required Two-Thirds Majority – with 67% or more of Votes Cast to be approved.
- The Poll was opened and the Members had one minute to cast their votes by secret ballot.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 216 votes “For” the proposal and this represented 83.4% of total votes cast.
- 43 votes “Against” the proposal and this represented 16.6% of the total votes cast.

***The proposed amendments to Clause 15.20 of the BWF Constitution on Voting Strength were approved.***



## **5.2 Para Badminton Athletes' Commission Chair for Council / Term of the President / Election Protocol**

Poul-Erik Høyer said that this proposal was to amend the constitution to allow the Chair of the Para Badminton Athletes' Commission to become a Council member.

Before dealing with this proposal, Thomas Lund answered a question on the total number of votes in the meeting.

He confirmed that there was a total of 267 votes from the Members that were logged in and present in the meeting. He reminded the meeting that not every delegate may vote for every proposal – and that abstentions were not counted but majorities were calculated on the basis of votes cast.

Thomas Lund explained that the first proposal was to add a new clause 17.1.4 – and related clauses to allow the Chair of the Para Badminton Athletes' Commission to be a Council member.

### **Rationale**

*This was proposed from the floor at the 2018 BWF AGM as an idea for the future. Council currently has an athletes' representative – the Chair of the Athletes' Commission, however the Para Badminton Athletes Commission represented a different community of athletes – a smaller population with similar aspirations (to qualify for the Paralympic Games), but different issues and challenges to the badminton athlete population. Since athletes were at the centre of our work (Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024) and badminton is an inclusive sport, Council supported this community of athletes having an equivalent voice on the world governing body level to ensure their input was heard in decision making.*

**5.2(a) - Proposal** - *To approve a new clause 17.1.4 which states that the Chair of the Para Badminton Athletes' Commission shall be a member of Council (and related clauses as a consequence of this change).*

**BWF Constitution** – new Clause 17.4 - (See **Annexure D** for full context)

17.1 An AGM shall elect a Council which shall have administrative powers to carry on the work of the Federation between AGMs. The Council shall consist of:

17.1.1 The eight (8) officers (Clause 18);

17.1.2 Eighteen (18) ~~other~~ **ordinary Council** members;

17.1.3 The Chair of the Athletes Commission; and

**17.1.4 The Chair of the Para Badminton Athletes' Commission.**

- Thomas Lund reminded the meeting that the proposal required a Two-Thirds Majority – more than 67% of votes cast, to be approved.



- The Poll was opened and the Members had 1 minute to cast their votes by secret ballot.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 228 Votes For the proposal and this represented 89.06% of total votes cast.
- 28 Votes Against the proposal and this represented 10.94% of the total votes cast.

***The proposed to include new Clause 17.1.4 to the BWF constitution was approved.***

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**5.2 (b) Proposal** - *To approve new wording to the last paragraph of clause 18.11 which limits the number of terms for the position of President to four terms and for this to take effect from the 2021 elections with the calculation of the term limits starting from the 2021 election.*

**18.11** *Officers and Council Members are eligible for re-election, save for the President, who shall be limited to four (4) terms.*

- Thomas Lund explained that the proposal was to introduce term limits for the role of the president.

#### **Rationale**

*There was a trend in sport governance towards limiting terms for the position of President to ensure any one individual did not hold this position through multiple terms which prevented new leadership to be elected and refresh the organisation with new skills, knowledge and new leadership every so often.*

*Up until 2009, the BWF constitution had two terms for the role of President. This proposal reinstated this principle, with more terms - the rationale for which was that any new President needed time in the role and to implement their vision to strengthen and develop the badminton community. The additional period also allows a President to build their international experience within the Olympic and Paralympic movements over a few terms, and be in a better position to be considered as a candidate for election to be an IOC member and represent our sport in that forum.*

- Poul-Erik Høyer said that when this topic was raised during the video conference calls, some Members had asked for the rationale for the application to come into effect from the 2021 elections – rather than in 2013 when he was first elected BWF President.

He expressed that as the sitting President, he did not have the intention to sit for another 4 terms until 2037 assuming that he would be re-elected by the Members.



He gave his commitment that he would like the rules to be applicable to him although these rules were set up not to have a retrospective effect.

With this, he asked the Members to approve this proposal.

- To questions from Members, Thomas Lund reiterated that votes changed due to changes in the number of Members logged in when polling was open and results were based on votes cast.

He added that the decision on secret ballot was made by the President at the start of the meeting.

- The proposal required Two-Thirds Majority – more than 67% of votes cast to be approved.

***Proposal*** – *To approve amendments to the BWF constitution as proposed, which define term limits for the position of President.*

- The Poll to approve the new wording to Clause 18.11 on the inclusion of term limit for the President was opened and the Members had one minute to cast their votes.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 183 Votes For the proposal and this represented 72.62% of total votes cast.
- 69 Votes Against the proposal and this represented 27.38% of the total votes cast.

***The proposed new wording to Clause 18.11 of the BWF constitution was approved.***

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**5.3 (c) Proposal** - To include new clauses 18.8.1 and 18.8.2 to make it clear that elections are by secret ballot and if there is only one candidate, this is by acclamation.

**New clauses 18.8.1 and 18.8.2:**

*18.8 When voting for the representatives, it is the duty of each delegate to vote for as many candidates as there are vacant seats. Voting slips containing more or fewer names than the exact number of vacant seats will be invalid.*

*18.8.1 Voting for elections shall be carried out by secret ballot.*

*18.8.2 Where there is only one candidate for a position, such candidate shall be elected by acclamation, without the need for a vote to take place.*

- Thomas Lund said that the proposal was to add two new clauses into the constitution – 1) on secret ballots for elections and 2) election by acclamation.



These reflected what the BWF had already been doing for many years – but these additions made sure that the BWF continued to follow these procedures around elections conducted by secret ballot and when there was only one candidate, then the election was conducted by acclamation.

**Proposal** – *To approve amendments to the constitution as proposed – secret ballots for elections and election by acclamation if there is only one candidate.*

- The proposal required Two-Thirds Majority – more than 67% of votes cast to be approved.
- The Poll was opened and the Members had one minute to cast their votes by secret ballot.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 202 votes “For” the proposal and this represented 81.78% of total votes cast.
- 45 votes “Against” the proposal and this represented 18.22% of the total votes cast.

***The proposal for the inclusion of new clauses 18.8.1 and 18.8.2 to the BWF constitution were approved.***

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### **5.3 Judicial Provisions**

- Thomas Lund said that the proposal was to amend clauses in the constitution as the legal framework for the Judicial Provisions which was approved by BWF Council in February 2020.

He added that it was important to the BWF in terms of good governance to be transparent and to serve with fairness under solid judicial structure.

The main changes to the legal framework of a Judicial System were:

1. To rename the external hearing panel.
2. To remove the doping hearing panel within BWF to a new division within the CAS Anti-Doping system as they have immense expertise and independent.
3. Remove the BWF Appeals Panel and replaced by the Independent Hearing Panel (IHP) as the ultimate hearing body within the BWF. It will be a much simpler system where sports related cases would be dealt with by the Sports Disciplinary Panel and the Independent Hearing Panel which would consist of totally independent persons with expertise in legal expertise to deal with integrity and governance cases.

**Proposal** – *To approve amendments to the BWF constitution to come into line with the amended Judicial Procedures approved by Council and which come into effect the day after the AGM if approved: and*



- *To delegate the Council to appoint the inaugural members of the Independent Hearing Panel with immediate effect, with such appointments being subject to confirmation by the 2021 AGM, with the inaugural term being valid until the 2022 AGM; and*
  - *To delegate the Council to appoint the President and the Deputy President of the inaugural Independent Hearing Panel (IHP) with such appointment being subject to confirmation by the 2021 AGM, with the inaugural term being valid until the 2022 AGM.*
- Question from Gonzalo Mario Castillo Guzman of Peru – *"when will this new framework be enforced and when will the panel be named?"*
    - Thomas Lund explained that the proposal included a delegation to the BWF Council to name the inaugural members of the IHP and the new framework would take effect the day after the AGM if approved.
  - The proposal required Two-Thirds Majority – more than 67% of votes cast to be approved.
  - The Poll was opened and the Members had one minute to cast their votes by secret ballot.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 188 votes "For" the proposal and this represented 74.9% of total votes cast.
- 63 votes "Against" the proposal and this represented 25.1% of the total votes cast.

***The proposed amendments to the constitution related to (1) Judicial Provisions (2) the delegation to the Council to appoint the inaugural members of the Independent Hearing Panel and (3) the delegation to Council to appoint the President and Deputy President of the inaugural Independent Hearing Panel was approved.***

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#### **5.4 Council Geographical and Gender Representation – new *Appendix I* of the BWF constitution.**

- Question from Muhammad Muhammd of Kuwait on Proposal 7 – *"regarding the term limits for the President – does it mean that the President would stay for only 4 years?"*
  - Thomas Lund explained that the 4-year term referred to 4 terms of 4 years taking the total to 16 years.



He added that the President had expressed that he did not intend to stay for more than 4 terms which meant that he would serve for only another 8 years if he was re-elected by the members.

- Question from Gonzalo Mario Castillo Guzman of Peru – *"I consider that the vote for Proposal 8 should have been split into 2 – one for the secret vote and one for the vote by acclamation."*
  - Thomas Lund explained that this would not be done and the members had already voted on it.
- Proceeding with the agenda, Thomas Lund explained that the proposal was to add a new Appendix I to the constitution to set up a framework for geographical and gender representation.

### **Rationale**

*The objective was to put in place election procedures to ensure geographical and gender representation of Council Members.*

*In relation to geographical representation, the objective was to allocate seats to Council members coming from regions that represent the world badminton community, based on voting strengths, practice and historical factors.*

*The gender representation had been put into place with the objective of having at least 30% of each gender represented on the BWF Council, something that had become a standard governance requirement in sport and corporate organizations.*

*Together, the geographical and gender representation rules provided a framework for carrying out the elections, in order for both objectives to be fulfilled.*

*He added that detailed information was provided in the order paper and he thanked the membership for all the good questions and interventions expressed during the Video conference calls.*

**Proposal** - *To approve amendments to the BWF constitution to ensure geographical and gender representation.*

It was further explained that the proposal provided for two additional Council position and the requirements applicable to 27 out of the 30 Council positions. Not included were the Vice-President for Para-badminton, Athletes Commission Chair and Para Badminton Athletes Commission Chair.



**BWF Constitution**

- The new proposed **Appendix I** (Council Geographical and Gender Representation) of the constitution (**Appendix D**) provides the detail.
- The below provides the relevant clauses in the body of the constitution and the explanation for the proposed changes.

Clauses	Rationale / Explanation
<p><b>PART 4. COUNCIL</b></p> <p>17. COUNCIL STRUCTURE</p> <p>17.1. An AGM shall elect a Council which shall have administrative powers to carry on the work of the Federation between AGMs. The Council shall consist of:</p> <p>17.1.1. The eight (8) officers (Clause 18);</p> <p>17.1.2. <del>Eighteen (18)</del> <b>Twenty (20)</b> other members; and</p> <p>17.1.3. The Chair of the Athletes Commission.</p>	<p>The new <b>Appendix I</b> of the constitution has a calculation that requires an additional two members of Council to ensure the minimum requirements for geographical / gender representation by continental region described in <b>Appendix I</b> of the constitution are achieved.</p>
<p>18.1 The President, the Deputy President, <del>one (1)</del> <b>the</b> Vice President Para Badminton and <del>eighteen (18)</del> <b>the twenty (20)</b> other Council members are elected for a four (4) year term by the Federation AGM in the year after the Summer Olympic Games.</p>	<p>This clause has been amended to come into line with <b>Appendix I</b> to achieve the representation outcome of Council – both geographical and gender.</p>
<p><b>Representation requirements for Council positions</b></p> <p><b>18.10 Representation requirements shall apply as detailed in Appendix I (Council Geographical and Gender Representation).</b></p>	<p>A new clause on representation requirements that refers to <b>Appendix I</b> for the details of the representation.</p>
<p><b>Conditions and Terms of Appointment</b></p> <p>18.11 The President, <b>the</b> Deputy President, the five (5) Vice Presidents (Continental), <del>one</del> <b>the</b> <del>(1)</del> Vice President Para-Badminton and the <del>eighteen (18)</del> <b>twenty (20) ordinary</b> Council Members shall assume office immediately upon the conclusion of the AGM at which they are elected.</p>	<p>The new <b>Appendix I</b> of the constitution has a calculation that requires an additional two members of Council to ensure the minimum requirements for geographical / gender representation by continental region described in <b>Appendix I</b> of the constitution are achieved.</p>



**Proposal** - *To approve amendments to the BWF constitution to ensure geographical and gender representation.*

- The proposal required Two-Thirds Majority – more than 67% of votes cast to be approved.
- The Poll was opened and the Members had one minute to cast their votes by secret ballot.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 200 votes "For" the proposal and this represented 78.13% of total votes cast.
- 56 votes "Against" the proposal and this represented 21.88% of the total votes cast.

***The proposed amendments to the BWF constitution to ensure geographical and gender representation (Appendix I) was approved.***

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#### **5.5 Vetting of Officials** – new **Appendix II** of the BWF constitution.

- Poul-Erik Høyer said that this proposal was intended to bring a new governance and oversight objective to put in place a vetting process for elected officials of the BWF Council, and for external and independent panel members.
- Thomas Lund explained that the proposal was in three parts – the first part was to approve the changes, and the second and third parts were to establish the inaugural panel.

#### **Rationale**

*The BWF was a very different organisation to when it was 10 years ago with a significant annual turnover, increased staff count, significant global corporate partners who were investing in the sport and a community who demanded the highest levels of good governance practice of the organisation.*

*The expected standards of contemporary sport governance were high. The BWF was an International Federation in the Olympic and Paralympic movements and the expectation was that governing boards were made up of elected representatives who embraced and embodied high standards of good governance.*

*These amendments provided minimum criteria and a process of vetting candidates for election to the Council.*



Thomas Lund added that vetting of candidates for election and panel members reduces the reputational risks of the BWF, the badminton community and badminton as a sport.

Election candidates would be required to sign a declaration with identical objective criteria applicable for all officials.

Vetting would be done by an independent and experienced vetting panel and all BWF officials must satisfy the nine objective criteria.

**Proposal** - *To approve amendments to the BWF constitution which brings in minimum eligibility for candidates and elected officials of the BWF; and*

- *To delegate the Council to declare prospective members of the inaugural Vetting Panel to be Eligible, on a recommendation of the BWF Secretary General in accordance with the BWF Statutes and his duties to the Federation; and*
- *To delegate the Council to appoint members of the inaugural Vetting Panel on the recommendation of the Secretary General, in accordance with the BWF Statutes and his duties to the Federation. Such appointment being subject to confirmation by the 2021 AGM and whose inaugural term shall be valid until the 2022 AGM.*

### **BWF Constitution**

- The new and proposed **Appendix II (Vetting of Officials)** of the constitution (**Annexure D**) provides the detail for the proposal.
- The below are the relevant clauses in the body of the constitution.

Clauses	Rationale / Explanation
17.2 To be a candidate, and to remain on the Council, an individual must be deemed to be Eligible, as defined in <b>Appendix II</b> (Vetting of Officials).	This clause introduces <b>Appendix II</b> Vetting of Officials which contains the detail for 17.2 – what the eligibility criteria is and the process of vetting.
<del>18.4 Staff members of Continental Confederations cannot serve as Council members or Officers.</del>	Clause 18.4 has been moved to the new <b>Appendix II</b> of the constitution.

- Thomas Lund noted that a number of questions were raised by Members during the video conferences;
  1. *Why 2-years imprisonment for any infractions and not one year.*



*Answer* - There were differences in judicial systems and this could be reviewed in future as governance standards are always evolving.

2. *On bankruptcy* – Thomas explained that it was in reference to undischarged bankruptcy and only in a personal capacity and not related to bankruptcy of the organization that had connections with the elected Council.
3. *Transition of the Vetting Panel and on how to apply this to the inaugural members?*

Thomas Lund explained that this would take place before the 2021 elections and when the procedures were set up.

He added that vetting was something that the IOC was very concerned about IFs encouraged IFs to adopt it.

Vetting had become a standard in international community and should be adopted by the NOCs and regional bodies in future.

- The proposal required Two-Thirds Majority – more than 67% of votes cast to be approved.
- The Poll was opened and the Members had one minute to cast their votes.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 195 votes “For” the proposal and this represented 75.88% of total votes cast.
- 62 votes “Against” the proposal and this represented 24.12% of the total votes cast.

***The proposal to approve amendments to the BWF constitution to (1)include minimum eligibility for candidates and elected officials of the BWF (2) to delegate the Council to declare prospective members of the inaugural Vetting Panel to be Eligible and (3) to delegate the Council to appoint members of the inaugural Vetting Panel on the recommendation of the Secretary was approved by the AGM.***

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## **6. SUBSCRIPTION**

To consider Council’s proposal that the unit of subscription for the year 2021 should be maintained at US\$200 per unit (unchanged).

- The proposal required Simple Majority – more than 50% of votes cast to be approved.

***Proposal*** – to set the unit of subscription for 2021 as US\$200.

- The Poll was opened and the Members had one minute to cast their votes by secret ballot.



The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 239 votes "For" the proposal and this represented 96.37% of total votes cast.
- 9 votes "Against" the proposal and this represented 3.63% of the total votes cast.

***The proposal was approved by the AGM.***

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## **7. AUDITORS**

Council proposed that the services of BDO PLT be maintained.

- Question Gonzalo Mario Castillo Guzman of Peru

*"Please indicate how long we have had BDO as auditors? For good governance, it was not recommended to keep the same external auditors for too long, and it was always good to have change. How many more years will BDO be involved?"*

Thomas Lund said that the BWF had engaged the services of BDO PLT for the last four years since 2016 and it was proposed to retain their services as auditors for 2020.

The BWF agreed that it was not good practice to maintain the same services for too long and the Council would take this into considerations for the future.

***Proposal*** – *To Maintain the services of BDO PLT as the BWF auditors for 2020.*

- The proposal required Simple Majority – more than 50% of votes cast to be approved.
- The Poll was opened and the Members had one minute to cast their votes by secret ballot.

The results of the polling were announced and the number of votes received were as follows:

- 223 votes "For" the proposal and this represented 89.20% of total votes cast.
- 27 votes "Against" the proposal and this represented 10.80% of the total votes cast.

***The proposal was approved by the AGM.***

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## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Thomas Lund said the following questions and interventions were posted by delegates and he would answer these;

1. From Adrian Christy of England.

Given that players with aspirations to participate in the Paris 2024 Paralympics will need to be reclassified before the race to Paris starts in January 2023, when is the BWF planning to address the evolution of Para-Badminton classification and, more particularly, with the issues surround:

- Revision of the minimum impairment criteria regulations;
- The clarity and transparency of the on and off court classification process;
- Video recording of classification; and
- Intentional misrepresentation detection, including a follow up and sanction policy?

Clearly time is not on our side as any revised classification criteria need to be established and approved by mid-2021 which really means that a BWF Classification Working Group (with an appropriate budget) needs to be established now to ensure that players / coaches/ classifiers /Member Associations have clarity going forwards.

- Thomas Lund responded that classification had always been a priority of the IPC to ensure there is guidance for sports and common standards. There were a range of areas that will have to be reviewed to ensure that these are in-line with the IPC classification policy. Due to the severe impact of the Covid-19 situation, the IPC had informed the BWF that this priority had to be reprioritised in order to focus on more urgent issues during Covid-19 situation.

Thomas added that more details would be provided to the membership in separate communication.

2. From Gonzalo Mario Castillo Guzman – Peru.

When can the members send proposals for amendments to the Constitution for them to be voted on in 2021?

- Thomas Lund explained that the deadline for submission of proposals and/or amendments to the Constitution would be communicated to the membership by 31 October. As the BWF usually falls in the month of May, the deadline would be around late February.

3. From Martin Kranitz – Germany.

Could you please give us a short update about the tournament situation / world tour situation and what are the BWF's current possible plans?

**MINUTES of the 81<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Saturday 18 July 2020 - 1900 Kuala Lumpur Time**  
**Held virtually / webcast from the Scandic Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark**



- Thomas Lund responded that the Covid-19 situation had impacted many parts of the world and there was still uncertainty on the situation. As a general comment, the BWF was looking into restarting tournaments around September. He added that more information would be provided to the membership in due course.

4. From Nichole Case – Jamaica.

Will the newly approved Council member positions be mandated to be female in order to try and achieve the gender quota for females on the Council?

- Thomas Lund clarified that the two extra Council positions for the 2021 elections would be part of the quota for geographical and gender representations and would contribute to the minimum gender balance as approved by the delegates in this meeting.

5. From Generoso Castillo – Dominican Republic.

We are waiting for the grants to Air Badminton Tournaments. Regarding the development Grant, this was commitment that we made with our staff. Finally, for our sport, when will the BWF take again in account the international BWF academies to develop talents worldwide.

- Thomas Lund responded that the Development Department had conducted a membership survey and many responses had been received. It was a commitment of the BWF to ensure a targeted approach to come out with appropriate grants for the appropriate activities and situations of individual members. He added that more information will be communicated to the membership when the details are ready.

6. From Adrian Christy – England.

Is there a real possibility that the international calendar will be suspended for 2020?

- Thomas Lund responded that he hoped not but due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 situation made it difficult to predict.

7. From Kenny Goh – Malaysia

Will the BWF give monetary assistance to host countries?



- Thomas Lund responded that the BWF was closely monitoring the situation for the HSBC World Tour to resume and would look into the best possible way to assist the host countries.

8. From Nichole Case – Jamaica

Have funds been approved to assist developing countries with sustaining the sport during the Covid-19 pandemic?

The answer provided below addressed both questions

9. From Mastora Arezo – Afghanistan

Will BWF help the National Federations and its players affected by the pandemic?

- In answering both these questions, Thomas Lund remarked that the situations are different in different countries and the BWF would provide guidance and best practices on how to open up tournaments in the national context under the guidelines of the different governments. BWF has provided some guidance on what some national sports bodies are advising and this is published on the BWF website.

He urged Members to write to the BWF on the specific situations that they were facing.

10. From Adrian Christy – England

For our own budgeting, will the BWF commit to ensure that the bonus payments are paid to World Tour hosts regardless of how many events are staged between now and the end of the year? This is important money to all MAs / hosts.

- Thomas Lund said that the BWF was aware of the global impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and he gave a commitment that the general approach will not change.

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## **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next Annual General Meeting was proposed to be held in May 2021 in conjunction with the TOTAL BWF Sudirman Cup 2021 in Suzhou, China.

The exact date will be announced to the membership, not later than 31 October 2020.

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In closing, Poul-Erik Høyer thanked the BWF Council, the staff for their hard work and the entire BWF Membership for its cooperation in making the BWF Virtual AGM possible and noted the historical significance of the event.

He congratulated the Membership for passing the landmark vote to approve the constitutional changes to improve the BWF governance practice.

He wished the Members well and hoped that they stay safe and looking forward to meet them at the next AGM.

The 81<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 21:20 (KL time).

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**Poul-Erik Høyer**  
**President**

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**Date**