



## **REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS Annual General Meeting 15 NOVEMBER 2018 (NICOSIA)**

First I would like to thank all of you for coming here to listen to what has been achieved by the Federation this year and also to help with various issues that concern us. The Board of Directors today, November 15, is as follows:

President: Aleka Astreou  
Secretary: Rena Livera  
Treasurer: Errikos Leonidou  
Member: Frosso Tillyri  
Member: Panos Panayides  
Member: Marios Kassapis  
Member: Rona Baroudi  
Member: Suzanne Melas

The Committee as it is today, was formed after the resolution that was passed at the last General Meeting of 201, which resulted in the withdrawal of George Georgiades from the committee. Philippos Frangos had already resigned from the committee. The resolution concerned the players of the National Team who were banned from being both members of the National team and the Board of the Federation.

As indicated by the Constitution, the Board of Directors meets at least once a month.

Minutes are sent monthly to all Clubs for full disclosure.

We are always trying to follow CSO guidelines for better functioning of the Federation and for greater transparency. That is why we have suggested that the Clubs should update their Constitutions according to the new Law on Clubs and join the CSO.

Three Clubs have followed our suggestion. These are the Nicosia, Larnaca and St. Andreas Clubs. Together with Limassol, which had already joined CSO, we now have 4 Full Members.

Since the government has extended the new Law on Clubs for one more year, the Federation has decided to give the other two Clubs a chance to join the CSO by July 2019. During the first half of 2019, there will be a Constitutional meeting to make amendments to the constitution. We are open to any suggestions you might have.

Because the CSO insists that the Federation must find its own resources and should not expect to be subsidised indefinitely, the Federation has suggested to member clubs that players pay a small amount (50 Cents) for every game they play. With this income, the Federation could fulfil certain goals such as training teachers, training tournament directors, organising bridge courses for children and will also be able to provide help to its member clubs. There was a negative reaction from attendees who asked for a Business Plan. George Georgiades prepared it and it has been forwarded to all the Clubs. I hope that it will be reviewed and followed up on by the next Committee.

We are very grateful to George Georgiades for his help.

Our Festival this year was held in Limassol at the Elias Beach Hotel. Participation by foreign and Cypriot players was quite good. We felt that our guests left happy and that the Festival was a great success. The 2019 Festival will be held in Limassol, at the seaside hotel Royal Apollonia between the 5th of April and the 9th. We hope it will be even better than last year. The operation of the Casino in Limassol should be an added attraction.

The Bridge Festivals organised in the Occupied North, have had a negative impact on us. As you know, members of our Federation are not allowed by the CSO to take part.

The Federation has also organised this year's usual annual competitions. Pairs, Teams and an Individual. The new Committee should reflect on the low participation in these games. More effort is needed to convince players to take part.

Our National Team took part in the European Small Federations Games in Budapest. Unfortunately, the results were not what were expected. This issue should be looked into by the new Committee.

This year, we requested players interested in taking part in the trials for the selection of the 2018 National Team to apply to the Federation.

Christina Syrakopoulou undertook the training and also advised us on the most suitable pairs for the National Team.

I have to stress that she did not undertake to give lessons.

There was interest from four pairs, in essence two teams (Philippos Frangos-Frosso Tillyris, George Georgiades-George Kolettis, Terpsa Ioannou-Lynne Morrison, Suzanne Melas-Costas Ioannou).

The two teams competed and the winning team was that of Philippos Frangos, Frosso Tillyris, George Georgiades and George Kolettis. The winning team had to choose a third pair. At the time the pair Terpsa Ioannou – Lynne Morrison withdrew voluntarily. Following the recommendation of the National Team coach Christina Syrakopoulou, and the Board of Directors, the pair Suzanne Melas – Costas Ioannou also withdrew.

The 2018 National Team consisted, therefore, of Philippos Frangos-Frosso Tillyris, George Georgiades-George Kolettis.

Due to the fact that the CSO budget did not allow us to participate in both the European 12- day event and the Small Federations Games and in the absence of a suitable third pair, the Board decided that the team would take part in the Small Federation Games in Budapest only.

The adult education courses continue this year with great success.

We continue with our efforts to introduce Bridge to public schools.

The many efforts of Errikos Leonidou and Carol Anderson to approach private schools have resulted in teaching Bridge to 9-12 year olds at the Junior School in Nicosia. The Limassol Junior Grammar School, following a meeting with the headmaster, Rona Baroudi, Rena Lordos and Philippos Frangos, has given us permission to teach 11-12 year olds, but in spite of flyers and posters provided to the school, there has been no interest from the students as yet.

The Federation has also organised a three-day seminar by the Greek Bridge teacher and coach Christina Syrakopoulou which will take place from the 30th of November 2018 until the 2nd of December 2018, at the Nicosia club.

We are still short of qualified Tournament Directors.

The Larnaca Club has undertaken to organise a tournament directors' seminar to be held in January 2019 with the Federation's partial financial support.

Congratulations to the President of Larnaca club, Kathryn Andreas, for this initiative.

This year, our Federation took part in the Seminar of all the European Federations, organised every two years by the European Bridge League. The Seminar was held in Belfast, Ireland.

Our Federation was represented by President Aleka Astreou and Secretary Rena Livera.

The meeting was very constructive regarding the teaching of the game, Bridge rules, and the promotion of Bridge for women. Rona Baroudi, was appointed by a board decision as the representative of women's Bridge in Cyprus.

Following this year's election of the new European Bridge League Board, an honorary invitation was sent by the new President of the Small Federations Peter Belcak to Rena Livera, to participate as a member of the Committee of the Small Federations.

This is a great honour for our Federation and personally for Rena and is a reward for the hard work she has been put into our Federation over the years. We congratulate her on this election.

This is a very brief update of what has been achieved over the last 12 months. I feel we could have done more, but the departure of members of the Board last year, made our work extremely difficult. We have achieved a lot with great effort, devoting many hours from our personal time. I would like to thank all the members of our Board for the work they have done.

On behalf of all the members of the Board of Directors I would also like to thank all the Member Clubs for the understanding and cooperation they have shown.

Thank you to all those who have helped us for the smoother running of the Federation, especially George Georgiades and Philippos Frangos, who although excluded from the Board, they have helped the Federation whenever requested to do so and have devoted their free time to the Federation.

I wish the new Board of Directors of the Federation a very successful term.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Aleka Astreou  
President.....

