

Report of the Commonwealth Chess Association Meeting

Avantgarde Hotel, Antalya, Turkey, October 11, 2017

President: B. Singh (IND)

Present: G. Van den Bergh (RSA), M. Nguele Viang (CMR), A. Holowczak (ENG), A. McFarlane (SCO), R. Waithe (BAR), H. Bond (CAN)

Agenda for the Commonwealth Chess Association Meeting

1. Welcome by the Chairman, CCA, Mr. Bharat Singh
2. Minutes of the Commonwealth Chess Association Meeting 2016 held at Baku – Secretary, Mr. Luxman Wijesuriya to Report
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. The financial Report – Chairman, CCA, Mr. Bharat Singh to Report
5. The Report of Commonwealth Chess Championships 2017
6. Assigning the Commonwealth Chess Championships 2018 and 19
7. Any other matters

1. Chair Bharat Singh welcomed the participants of the meeting.
2. Chair Bharat Singh advised that Secretary Wijesuriya was unable to attend the meeting and sends his regrets. Hal Bond recorded the minutes.
3. Alex Holocek asked for an update on the award of the 2018 Commonwealth Championships because there had only been an expression of interest from Zambia per the 2016 minutes. Mr. Singh advised that the 2018 event had not yet been awarded but Malaysia and Bangladesh have since expressed interest in hosting the event as well. India is prepared to host again in 2018 if bids do not materialize. The minutes were passed.
4. The Chair presented the Financial Report. Organizers of previous events have paid the \$1000 fee. Other income includes some interest earned on the bank balance. Expenses include

banking charges and \$400 travel by the Chair. The current balance stands at roughly \$2000. The Financial report was passed.

5. The Chair presented his report of the 2017 Commonwealth Championships which were held in New Delhi, India (see annex)
6. Gunther Van Den Bergh confirmed that South Africa is prepared to host the 2019 Championships. The bid proposal and \$1000 shall be delivered presently. The event is planned for Capetown at the Grand West Casino in early July. Mr. Van Den Bergh also advised that he wishes to appoint additional Arbiters from within the Commonwealth.
7. Alex Holowczak advised the meeting that Wales was interested in the 2020 event and that planning has already begun. The target dates are around the Easter weekend. He also stated that Birmingham was potentially interested in 2022, depending on the success of Birmingham's bid on the Commonwealth Games.

Regarding the hosting obligations of the organizer, the Chair advised that a maximum of 16 players per Federation must be provided accommodation and food by the organizer. This includes Open and Girls representatives for each age group from U8 – U20 as well as one player for each of the Open and Women's main events. The age groups play a 7 round event and the main event is 9 rounds. The round times permit youth players to participate in both their age group and the main event.

Eligibility of players was also discussed. The Chair explained that players must be registered with FIDE under the flag of a Commonwealth Federation.

The Chair thanked those in attendance for their contributions and the meeting was adjourned.

Bharat Singh
Chairman Commonwealth Chess Association

COMMONWEALTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017 REPORT

The Commonwealth Chess Championship-2017 organised by Delhi Chess Association on behalf of All India Chess Federation under the aegis of Commonwealth Chess Association, World Chess Federation and Government of India Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports at The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, New Delhi from 02-10 July 2017.

A total number of 581 players from 12 Commonwealth countries (South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, England, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Seychelles and India) participated in the event, which includes 15 Grandmasters, 14 International Masters and 5 Women Grandmasters and more than 500 International rated players.

In a colourful opening ceremony, Shri. Vijay Goel, Hon'ble Sports Minister of Government of India inaugurated the event in presence of Shri. Sundar, Vice President World Chess Federation, Group Captain J Rajendra VSM, Judge Advocate General Indian Air Force, Shri. Madhup Tiwai, Joint CP Delhi Police, Shri. Bharat Singh Chauhan, Chairman Commonwealth Chess Association and Shri. AK Verma, Secretary Delhi Chess Association.

Arjuna awardee and former World Junior Champion Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta started as top seed in the Championship, played under Swiss System with 9 rounds with a time control of 90 Minutes for whole game with an increment of 30 second from move 1 in the open section while the age category event played with 7 rounds.

The entire championship saw lots of ups and downs and produced excitement till the end. At the end of ninth and final round Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta clinched the title with 7½ points out of possible 9. Grandmaster Vaibhav Suri finished as first runner up while Grandmaster Tejas Bakre secured second runner-up position. As expected India won 48 medals out of 51 at stake which include 16 Gold. Bangladesh won one Gold and Silver while Malaysia satisfied with solitary Bronze.

Women Grandmaster Swati Ghate become Women Champion while Women Grandmaster Mary Ann Gomes won silver and International Master Tania Sachdev secured bronze.

In a befitting closing ceremony Shri Om Prakash Sharma, MLA Government of Delhi graced the occasion as Chief Guest and gave away the cash awards, certificates and medals along with Group Captain J Rajendra VSM Judge Advocate General of Indian Air Force, Shri. Bharat Singh Chauhan, Chairman Commonwealth Chess Association and Shri. AK Verma, Secretary Delhi Chess Association.