



Minutes of the Development Commission Core Team Meeting Gaborone, Botswana, April 26-27, 2014

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Meetings
 - a. 2013 Development Commission Tallinn Meeting Minutes
 - b. 2014 CBC Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
3. 2013 Statistics Review
4. 2015 Development List Review
5. 2014 Budget & Funding
6. Travel Grants
 - a. 2013 World Youth Travel Grant Awardees
 - b. 2014 World Junior Travel Grant Proposal
 - c. 2014 Olympiad Travel Grant Recommendations
7. 2014 Olympiad Stipend Criteria
8. Development Commission Hand Book Review
9. Development Goals 2014 and beyond
10. Any Other Business

Present

Mr Alan Herbert (Chairperson), Mr Rupert Jones (Secretary), Mr Hal Bond and Mr Martin Huba.
Apologies for absence from Mr Steven Kisuzwe.

Also present at various points during the meeting (from the Host Federation were)

note: BCF always means Botswana Chess Federation

Mr Tshepo Sitale President (Zone 4.3 President, previous President Botswana Chess Federation & Member of Botswana NOC and Sports Council), Mr Tshenolo Maruatona (President BCF), Mr Dabilani Buthali (former President BCF & FIDE V President), Roger Tirayomodimo (V President Admin BCF), Ms Keenese N Katisenge (BCF Publicity Officer) Mr Chazha Bontsi, Mr Cinky Boikanyo (FIDE Trainer), Mosenya Ndawana, Vincent Masole (Technical Director BCF), Mothokomedi Thabano (Development BCF) & appearing very briefly Mr Mopati Jobe.

1. Welcome

A long welcome was given by Mr Herbert. He said that it was fitting that the first ever meeting of the Development Federation in Africa should be held in Botswana, a country that has been an excellent role model of chess development in the world. It was also a country which had carried more than its fair share of responsibility for delivering Chess events for the whole Continent of Africa. Mr Herbert noted that a small handful of countries seemed to carry a lot of the burden for Africa and that this was something that had to be addressed in the future by the Commission.

He said that since the Commission had been instructed to take the Development Meetings to each of the four continents that this completed the first cycle and that it was fitting that we had finally reached the country that the Commission's Secretary Rupert Jones had served in as General Secretary for 12 years.

As with each meeting the Host Federation was then allowed to introduce themselves and to talk about their achievements, failures and any issues that they saw coming ahead. Most of the first half of the day was taken up with allowing Botswana to talk and we as the Commission to listen and learn.

A bit of History

The Botswana Chess Federation joined FIDE in 1982, in time to debut in the 1982 Lucerne Olympiad. They have competed in every Olympiad since then with the exception of Saloniki 1984. The Ladies team first participated in Novi Sad 1990. They had first hosted a continental event with the African Junior in 1990 and the first hosting of the Zonal in 1995. Since then they have hosted both events several times as well as the 2nd ever African Youth Festival in 2010.

Things that came out of this long discussion was how impressive the BCF's tournament schedule is with events held throughout the year beginning in January right up to December. The National Championship has two qualifying stages before the final an all play all of 10 for the open and 8 for the Women's is played over the long Easter Weekend. Just about everything is submitted for rating. The Nationals are sponsored by Metropolitan Life to the tune of P108,000.

A new and very imaginative innovation was that individual tournament winners have been encouraged to adopt a Primary School where by they take over responsibility of training the children in the school. This is already leading to fierce competition between different players and their schools

The Federation has an excellent relationship with the press. All sponsorships include budgets for 'Press Conferences' and in return the Media gives them very good coverage especially on Botswana TV. Even our meeting was featured on BTV's main news with an interview with Mr Allan Herbert...

The 2014 National Schools was to be held at Mater Spei College and for the first time the school itself was sponsoring the event to the tune of over P40,000. The event subsequently must have come close to breaking attendance records (especially for a small Federation) with over 1300 participants.

However success also brings Problems

The Federation said that a consequence maybe of having the sport of chess established as possibly the second biggest sport in the country was that the game was being played everywhere from rural bars to people sitting under trees in every corner of the Country; remember that Botswana is geographically bigger than France!. As a result there is a huge need for equipment and this results in a lot of equipment theft. Even for the national championship finals held over Easter Weekend the Federation could barely gather enough dgt clocks for the open and Womens Finals 'all play all events'. (A point maybe which I am adding now is a reminder of what the then Minister of Sport said upon FIDE meeting him in July 2013 when he came up with the slogan of one chess set per family!)

This was especially problematic if they were to succeed in their goal (which they have begun) of training the Primary School teachers and of providing the Primary Schools with equipment.

A very big issue was the desire to produce a strong player of IM / GM standard. In terms of development Botswana is a very advanced chess playing country but still cannot get players to break the 2300 barrier in terms of playing strength. In fact their current top group of players have now been there for several years; over a decade with no one yet seriously challenging their hegemony. What is to be done about it?

An ACTION POINT from this is that the BCF should write to the Development Commission requesting FIDE DGT Pricing for Clocks and Electronic boards.

Mr Herbert reminded everyone of the FIDE deal done with DGT whereby clocks can be purchased at virtually cost price. Botswana also bought up the subject of electronic dgt boards being made available at low cost to Federations.

Botswana also asked about the provision of coaches especially for the Olympiad to developing nations, The BCF was holding out on a supposed deal with the Russian Embassy in Botswana to assist in the provision of a coach for the Olympiad. Things were moving slowly.

On the issue of coaches Mr Herbert added that the most cost effective way of using a coach was to bring them out a month before the team was due to leave and to then have a boot camp. Then you take them to the Olympiad and then have them for a post olympiad brief. To have a coach around in the 6 months or more does not work as well as you are dealing with a majority of 'amateurs' who have other priorities such as work before they can find time to attend coaching sessions.

2. Meetings

- a. 2013 Development Commission Tallinn Meeting Minutes
- b. 2014 CBC Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland

The minutes were circulated of the Tallin Meeting

b. The Core meeting saw Rupert Jones report back. The most interesting point that emerged was Nigel Freeman's idea of Federation twinning/ partnership arrangements between Development Commission levels 1 and 2 with levels 4 & 5; ie. twinning an experienced Federation with a developing Federation; say Namibia with Germany! Also the issue of Europe spending its development budget was raised especially now that it has been raised to 10%.

An action point was for Martin Huba to prepare a paper on Federation twinning.

3. Statistics Review

Martin Huba was congratulated on his paper on 'chess statistics' especially for the publicity received notably in chessbase, However the current presentation at the moment looks at the top 20 from a world viewpoint and that maybe it can be enhanced by having the statistics for say the top 20 in each continent etc; so that from a development point of view we can all see what is happening.

Action point was therefore to have a presentation of the statistics available from a 'development' point of view such as the top 20 in each continent; the top 20 in each development levels (ie 3,4 and 5)etc..

4. Development Level Criteria

That the 'Development Level' criteria was decided by the Commission at their Bermuda meeting in February 2011 (and then subsequently ratified by the presidential Board) to be based on the average of the top 10 active players by elo rating; rather than any measure based on a GDP formula. There will always be countries that will feel hard done by; who will fall on the edge of the cut off points.. For example Cuba is very rich in terms of playing strength and chess culture but very poor in terms of GDP. And in level five you have a relatively new member like Saudi Arabia; who are the polar opposite.

IMPORTANT POINT

That the 'Development List' is effective from January after the previous Olympiad. The current list IS EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2013. The next list will be revised and made effective from January 2015. The reasoning for this is that it is best set after the nearest finished Olympiad. This is because the majority of developing countries make a big effort to participate in the Olympiad..A year or so after a previous Olympiad a lot of developing country's players become inactive and are reactivated by the next Olympiad. An Olympiad also motivates 'Developing Countries' to sort out their subscriptions and pay other remaining dues so as to be eligible to participate in the Olympiad.

5. Budget and Funding

The Chairman was very pleased to announce that 'Development' had got a significant increase for 2014; up to E400,000 with the continents getting E300,000 and that Europe's distribution had gone up from 7.5% to 10%. Note that the World Youth Travel grant and the Orientation Seminar For New Federation Presidents does not come directly out of the Development Budget...

So the Budget split for 2014

Africa	-	E120,000	=	40%
Americas	-	E75,000	=	25%
Asia	-	E75,000	=	25%
Europe	-	E30,000	=	10%
total	-	E300,000		

In Addition

Development Activity Rebate	-	E15,000		
Chairmans Budget	-	E21,000		
World Youth Travel Grant	-	E23,000		
Chess in Schools	-	E4,000		
Core Committee Meetings	-	E12,000		
Administration/ Manuel/ Website				
Orientation Seminar	-	E25,000		
Total		E100,000		
Grand Total		E400,000		

The Chairman reminded the meeting that it was important for Federation's to come up with their 'proposals' and to pass them on to their Continental President. It was also essential that the budgeting for any 'idea' was not totally one way... say it is for a 'trainers seminar' then you should remember to make a contribution towards the 'costs' such as paying for the accommodation costs of the trainer.

Also the Committee was considering returning to how grants used to be given and used for 'Continental' events especially in Africa. Back in 1990, the FIDE Grant for the African Junior was used to pay for the airtickets of the nominated choice from each African Federation to the event; and it resulted in the biggest diversity of entering nations for the event. This is how Development grants are used in the Americas..

Action Point being that Development Grants for African Continental events be used to help participants travel to the event in the Hosting Country.

6. World Travel Grant

See attached list of the latest awardees for Durban, South Africa in September 2014..

What is evident is that the grant is most used by the America's and Africa with South Africa being the biggest individual country that benefits. However from the next Development List South Africa will not be able to benefit as they will move into level 2. Ways must be found to get those who are entitled to the grants to apply for them; such as those development countries in Europe and Asia.

New Proposals

Action Point: That an awardee from a continental youth championship in the Under 18 category who then finds themselves too old for the World Youth Festival then be able to use their scholarship to attend the World Junior Championships.

Action Point: That there is a proposal to extend the travel grant scholarship to cover the 'World Junior Championship' (Under 20) and that its eligibility be extended to all countries from level two to level five (due to the exceptional strength of the event).

Note that this may only sometimes link in with the first proposal where a participant might have won a 'world youth travel grant' from a continental under 18 category and then been too old for the World Youth Festival Under 18 event and would therefore use it for the World Junior Championship.

7. 2014 Olympiad Stipend Criteria

The Olympiad stipend otherwise known as 'pocket money' is largely left to the organisers of the Olympiad. Originally every Federation got an Olympiad stipend but with Olympiad costs rocketing and the number of entries double what it used to be it is the 'development committee' that makes a recommendation. We decided that it is generally Federations in development category 5 who are recommended for pocket money. Even then it is often dependent on factors such as the Federation being fully paid up in its dues etc.

see attached list for 2012 Olympiad

8. Development Commission Hand Book Review

see Mr Herberts attached paper

9. Development Goals 2014 and beyond

see Development Commission's Goals 2006 to 2010 and see if we have gone any way to achieving that in 2014. However the action points raised on the current meeting will help.

Action Points and proposals

i. ACTION POINT being that the BCF write to the Development Commission requesting DGT Clocks.

ii. An ACTION POINT was for Martin Huba to prepare a paper on Federation twinning.

iii. ACTION POINT was therefore to have a presentation of the statistics available from a 'development' point of view such as the top 20 in each continent; the top 20 in each development levels (ie 3,4 and 5)etc..

iv. ACTION POINT being that Development Grants for African Continental events be used to help participants travel to the event in the Hosting Country.

v. *ACTION POINT* being that there is a proposal for an awardee from a 'continental youth championship' in the Under 18 category who then finds themselves too old for the World Youth Festival be able to use their scholarship to attend the 'World Junior Championships'.

vi. *ACTION POINT* being that there is a proposal to extend the 'travel grant scholarship' to extend to the 'World Junior Championship' (Un 20) & that its eligibility be extended to all countries from 'Development level 2 to level 5.

Any Other Business

We returned to the Familiarisation workshop for New Federation President's at the Olympiad and it was suggested that in addition we also have a new seminar for aNew Presidents IN Athens maybe for two days where there is not all the chaos and excitement of the Olympiad going on all around. To involve David Jarrett in this...