

84th FIDE CONGRESS 2013

Tallinn, Estonia

FIDE Development Commission Meeting, 03.10.2013

The Minutes

Meeting started @15.11

Attendance:

Chairman: Allan Herbert (BAR)

Councillors: Hal Bond (CAN)

Members: Darcy Gustavo Lima (BRA)

Observers: Hans Pees (DGT Projects), Nigel Freeman (BER), Lewis Ncube (ZAM), Lakhdar Mazouz (ALG), Tshenolo Maruatona (BOT), Gary Wastell (AUS), Jerry Nash (USA), Francisco Guadalupe (USA), Erick Hernandez (ESA), Enrique Celi (URU), Uvencio Blanco (VEN), Russell Smith (TTO), Inaganti Amarnath (IND), Robert Katende (UGA), Jan Berglund (PLW), G. Luxman Wijesuriya (SRI), Gaguik Oganessian (ARM), Shaker Al-Afoo (BRN), Taha Jassim (BRN), Emelia Ellappen (RSA), Igor Glek (GER), Fidel Gonzales (VEN), Mahdi Abdulrahim (UAE), Samir Zerdali (ALG), Jorge Vega (GUA), Colonel Mwinde Muchimba (ZAM)

Apologies

Mr Martin Huba (Slovakia & Core Committee Member)

1. Welcome

The meeting began with introductions and a thank you to the core committee members for their hard work. There was a special thank you to Fiji and Mr. Virgilio de Asa for their excellent hosting of the Core Committee meeting in Nandi in May 2013. FIDE Executive Director, Mr. Freeman, and the two continental presidents present, Mr. Mazouz and Mr. Vega, were also welcomed.

2. 2013 Development Core Committee Fiji Meeting Minutes

The Chairman, Mr. Herbert, proposed that since many of the items discussed at the Fiji Meeting are also agenda items for this meeting, review and discussion of these items be deferred to the agenda.

However, not on the agenda, but discussed at the Fiji meeting, was the Olympiad Travel Grant which will be provided by the Tromso Organizers. Mr Herbert pointed members to the section in the minutes on the discussion of the Olympiad Travel Grant so that those not present in Fiji could get an idea of the various issues discussed under this topic.

Unfortunately, we are not in a position to offer any further information, until the Committee has had discussions with the Organizers of the Tromso Olympiad who scheduled to arrive later in the week.

Mr. Lewis Ncube, FIDE Vice-President, sought clarification on what Brian Jones meant by problems in communicating with the Asian Confederation. The Chairman indicated that this is more a communication problem around the process for disbursement of Development Funds and that he

has undertaken to discuss with further with the Continental President during the Congress. A big thank you was expressed to the Asia Continental President for all the good works he does above what the Development Commission provide, much of which goes unseen.

3. 2012 Statistics Review

The 2012 Statistics were received just prior to the meeting and unfortunately Vladimir did not have the opportunity to prepare the graphs that usually accompanies the slides.

In reviewing the data the main highlight was the improvement in the number of rated tournaments being registered that this had steadily been increasing since 2006. However there had been a gradual decline in the number of titles awarded to players. Mr. Herbert mentioned that he would make enquiries into possible explanations and whether it was that titles were just getting harder to achieve or whether attractiveness to organizers to hold International Title Tournaments was on the decline.

4. 2013 - 2014 Development List

The new list, effective January 2013, was distributed to all present.

The Chairman said that now every country was in the list starting from Level 1 where you would find Russia and the USA right down to Level 5 and all the new FIDE members.

Mr. Francisco Guadalupe, Zone 2.1 President, commented that basing the Levels on the average rating of the top 10 active players on the rating list seemed an arbitrary measure and that it could produce injustices for some countries. The Chairman reminded everyone that whatever reasoning was chosen for categorizing countries there would still be countries on the boundaries that will fall on the wrong side of the categorizations. Also, when speaking to developing federations on their development priorities the one question coming back was how do we improve our players and get their ratings up. At least in this way we are using a chess measure to measure our progress.

5. 2013 Activity Rebate Criteria

Mr. Herbert talked about the Activity Rebate available to Developing Federations which is not being taken full advantage of. More work is needed to come up with strategies to encourage Federations to take advantage of the rebate. There was still many Federations not aware of the rebate.

The Chairman mentioned that with the introduction of the new Development List where every Federation now fits into a 'category' and that this will entail changes to the Financial Regulations for the calculation of the Activity Rebate.

At the Fiji Core Meeting a proposal was put forward that Level 3 countries get a 50% rebate for activity; 75% for Level 2 and 100% for Level 5. The rebate for 2012 was just under Euro 9,000.

It was again stressed that developing Federations should start to take advantage of the activity rebate.

The meeting approved the recommendation on the idea of a 50% rebate for Level 3 Federations; a 75% rebate for Level 4 and a 100% rebate for Level 5.

6. 2014 Budget and Funding

Mr. Herbert said that the 2012 Budget is getting well spent.

For 2014 Budget apart from the usual things there would be a budget put aside *for an orientation course for new presidents of national federation*. The FIDE Executive Director has agreed to take on this initiative the details of which including scheduling, whether to be held during the Olympiad or not.

From 2012 the World Youth Travel Grant will be a separate budget provided by the Treasurer.

Mr. Herbert also said that 2013 was the first year in which there was a specific budget allocation for Europe but this had not been used as yet and he will meet with the Continental President discuss ideas to get Europe to use this budget for their small developing countries.

Mr. Freeman (FIDE Treasurer) said that in all probability there would be an increase in next year's budget from the current Euro 270.000 when everything is taken into account. He could not at the moment give the final figure, especially as traditionally he has uses the Development Budget as the balancing figure. He did think that he would have a budget surplus this year, especially as there had been no more lawsuits.

Mr. Herbert mentioned that Development was moving away from the old methods of giving away chess equipment to Federations. Today for equipment donations you need to be hosting a FIDE or Continental event where the equipment needs exceeds the host Federation's available equipment.

Grants are more likely to be awarded to Developing Federations hosting of FIDE/Continental events, FIDE Trainers and Arbiter seminars and now we are also introducing organizers Seminars.

Also something that needs to be thought about for the future is the question of just how efficient is it to give a Development grant directly to the organizers of a continental event. In Africa this has certainly led to more predictability and increase in the number of events but does not seem to have improved participation levels in the events.

Maybe we need to think about the approach of the Americas Continent which provides travel grants to assist the players to come to the host venue.

Going forward a greater focus on how participation levels by Developing Federations can be raised and this in turn helps more players to get ratings. This process may be further helped by a recommendation of the Qualifications Commission who is thinking of moving to a minimum of 5 games to achieve a rating instead of the current 9 games.

7. 2013 World Youth Travel Grant Awardees

The list was presented that showed all those who have qualified for the World Youth Festival in Al-Ain. Congratulations were given to all those 'Awardees'.

Mr. Ncube came up with a very good suggestion (which the Commission will look into) *that we should allow Under-18 awardees who may be too old to subsequently then attend the World Youth Festival to be able to play in the World Under-20 Championship*.

8. Development Commission Handbook Review

The FIDE Hand Book will need amending as most of the passages in the handbook still use for example the word CACDEC and were written many years ago. Also things need to be added that will relate to topics like how to submit budget proposals for financial assistance for projects (i.e. how do you go about applying for a 'trainers seminar ' for example); eligibility for activity rebates based on the new Development List structure and how the Development List is derived and how we go about revising it.

9. **Any Other Business**

Mr. Hans Pees from DGT were introduced and it was recommended that Developing Federations talk to him about the special pricing for Developing Federations.

Finally Mr Jorge Vega talked about how the Americas had introduced regional Youth and Junior events to increase participation opportunities and help reduce travel costs. As of July 1st this year these events are now also eligible for direct granting of titles.

Finally Mr. Herbert thanked the meeting for their attendance and the Core Committee for their hard work..

The meeting closed at 18.04

Chairman Allan Herbert