

OCEANIA CHESS CONFEDERATION (OCC)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT BALLARAT AUSTRALIA ON MONDAY 10 MARCH 2014

FIDE ELECTIONS

Immediately before the OCC Meeting, thirty minute presentations were given by Geoffrey Borg (in support of current FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov) and Nigel Short (in support of the FIDE Presidential candidate Garry Kasparov).

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 In attendance were: Brian Jones (FIDE Oceania Zone President), Paul Spiller (New Zealand), Dr Virgilio De Asa (Fiji), Shaun Press (PNG), Michael Qwanafia (Solomon Islands), Gary Bekker (Australia), Gary Wastell (Australia), Leonid Sandler (Australia) and Kerry Stead (Australia).
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Hilton Bennett (New Zealand), Michael Freeman (New Zealand), Eric Whipps (Palau), Leon Ryan (Guam) and Jamie Kenmure (Australia).

2. PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The Minutes of the OCC Meeting held in Fiji in May 2013 were confirmed. (Proposed: Paul Spiller Seconded: Virgilio De Asa and carried unanimously)
- 2.2.1 Virgilio De Asa reported that the Fiji Chess Federation had received monies from the Asian Chess Federation and had now settled all outstanding matters arising from the 2013 Zonal.
- 2.2.2 Paul Spiller reported that some progress had been made with the possible Australian membership of OCC, following discussions with Gary Wastell, Kevin Bonham and Gary Bekker. Changes to the OCC Statutes may be proposed at the next OCC meeting, following the FIDE elections in Tromso in August.

3. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS AND REPORT

- 3.1 Brian Jones reported that 2013 (his third year as Zone President) had been mixed due to lack of development funds. Nevertheless, successful events were held in Fiji, Guam and Palau as well as the re-activation of the Solomon Islands Chess Federation and the donation of chess sets to PNG.
- 3.2 It was noted that the financial situation had improved significantly in early 2014. The Asian Chess Federation was thanked for its recent allocation of \$5,000 from the Asian Development Fund. Further, FIDE CEO Geoffrey Borg was thanked for organising FIDE Trainer and FIDE Arbiter Seminars throughout the region, as well as an additional \$25,000 support to OCC.
- 3.3 Brian Jones indicated that, having served for a four year period, he would not stand for re-election as Zone President in Tromso and nominated Paul Spiller as his recommended successor.

4. POLICY BOARD MATTERS

- 4.1 The roll call confirmed four voting members: namely; Fiji, New Zealand, PNG and Solomon Islands.
- 4.2 There were no proposed changes to the OCC Statutes.
- 4.3.1 It was proposed that New Caledonia and French Polynesia be accepted as OCC Associate Members.
CARRIED 4-0 (For: Fiji, New Zealand, PNG and Solomon Islands; Against: None).
- 4.3.2 It was proposed that New Caledonia and French Polynesia be offered OCC Full Membership.
DEFEATED 0-4 (For: None; Against: Fiji, New Zealand, PNG and Solomon Islands).

5. EXECUTIVE BOARD MATTERS

- 5.1.1 Treasurer Shaun Press submitted his Financial Report. The OCC Balance Sheet, as at 31/12/2013, showed net assets of \$5,290. Our major expenditure for 2013 was the \$2,953 committed to the Solomon Islands (visit undertaken by Jamie Kenmure). Shaun recommended that 2015 fees remain unchanged and this was agreed.
- 5.1.2 Shaun confirmed that the \$5,000 Asian Chess Federation grant foreshadowed by the President (See 3.2) had now been received. Subsequently, \$3,000 of this was allocated as follows: 3 x \$500 (Ballarat travel expenses) to Fiji, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands, \$1,000 (Tournament Expenses) to Palau and \$500 (purchase of new clocks) to Guam.
- 5.1.3 The Travel Fund for the Tromso Chess Olympiad (see Olympiad website) was discussed. This money is essentially aimed at developing countries in categories 3-5 according to the FIDE Development Commission. The Travel Fund is provided only for players. Federation captains, heads of delegations, arbiters, experts and trainers are not entitled to receive a travel subsidy. All federations in Oceania, except Australia, are eligible.
- 5.2 Brian Jones reported that the Micronesian Open tournament was recently held in Koror as a ten player round-robin with the aim of providing experience for the players selected to represent Palau in the Olympiad. It was confirmed that Eric Whipps had taken over as the new President of the Palau Chess Federation. During a stopover in Guam, it was confirmed that the 2015 Micronesian Open would probably be held in Guam. Also, Leon Ryan plans to host FIDE Training and Arbiter Seminars in Guam and may visit other countries in Micronesia to discuss possible FIDE membership.
- 5.3.1 Following the 2014 Ballarat Begonia Open, the Oceania Championship titles were awarded to two Australian players - FM Christopher Wallis (Open) and WCM Vineetha Wijesuriya (Women).
- 5.3.2 The 2014 Oceania Seniors Championships were confirmed for Norths Chess Club in Sydney as a seven-round swiss event from 3-6 July 2014 with a minimum prize-fund of \$1,350.
- 5.3.3 It was noted that we were waiting on dates from Paul Glissan regarding their hosting of the 2014 Oceania Zone Championships in Sydney.
- 5.3.4 Paul Spiller confirmed that the NZCF would host the 2015 Oceania Seniors Championships in Auckland.
- 5.3.5 There were no bids for the Oceania Junior or Teams Championships. However, there was some discussion of our failure to secure FIDE titles for Oceania Zone Junior Championships and the possible organisation of future internet events.
- 5.4 The 2013 Yulgilbar-Think Big Oceania Grand Prix was won by GM Zong-Yuan Zhao (Australia). Travel grants to the 2014 Malaysian Open in KL were awarded to GM Zong-Yuan Zhao (Australia), FM Anton Smirnov (Australia), Emma Guo (Australia), Robert Smith (New Zealand) and one Guam player to be determined. For the 2014 Grand Prix there will be no cash prizes but ten 2015 travel grants worth \$1,000 each will be awarded by the OCC Executive.
- 5.5 No progress was reported with regard to new Federations in Oceania at the present time.
- 5.6 It was noted that IA Casto Abundo and FA Jamie Kenmure had run a FIDE Arbiter Seminar in the Solomon Islands in January. This had resulted in arbiter norms for Calvin Prasad (FIJ), Gloria Sukhu (FIJ), Lionel Nieng (SOL), Luke Mamae (SOL) and Dominic Eric (SOL).
- 5.7 It was noted that FT Geoffrey Borg had run a FIDE Trainer Seminars in the Solomon Islands in January, thereby creating sixteen new titled trainers! Additional seminars were planned for Palau, Guam and Fiji.
- 5.8 Brian Jones informed the meeting that the ACE offices in Riverstone had been closed. The postal address of the Zone President would remain as PO Box 370 Riverstone 2765 Australia.

6. NEXT MEETING

- 6.1 The next meeting will probably be held in Auckland New Zealand in January 2015, to be confirmed after the elections in Tromso in August 2014.