

OCEANIA CHESS CONFEDERATION MEETING 09/01/2015

MINUTES – recorded by Paul Spiller

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 In attendance were: Paul Spiller (OCC President), Brian Jones (OCC Deputy President), Shaun Press (OCC treasurer), Hilton Bennett (OCC Secretary), Michael Freeman and Bob Gibbons
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Gary Bekker, Jamie Kenmure, Calvin Prasad and Leonid Sandler.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 2.1 The Minutes of the OCC meeting held in Ballarat, Australia on 10 March, 2014 were confirmed. (Proposed: Paul Spiller Seconded: Brian Jones, carried unanimously)
- 2.2 There were no matters arising not already covered in the agenda

3. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Paul Spiller reported on a busy few months since returning from the 2014 Chess Olympiad in Tromso at the end of August and his election to the office of OCC President. The 2014 George Trundle Masters IM norm event had been held in Devonport during September/October followed by preparations for the NZ Open Championships over the New Year.

There had been on-going dialogue with Paul Glissan in Australia on matters concerning the organization of the 2015 Oceania Zonal Chess Championships at Norths Leagues Club in Sydney during early July. It was reported that Paul Glissan had been awaiting the outcome of sponsorship negotiations with Norths before finalising the details and sending out entry forms. It was also noted that Paul S had discussions with Australian president Gary Wastell over possible financial subsidies from the Australian federation. Paul S also reported that at the Asian Continental meeting in Tromso, Sheik Sultan bin Khalifa el Nehyan confirmed his continuing financial support for the Asian zone championship events.

Paul S reported on the zone 3.6 meeting in Tromso. It was attended by representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Palau, Fiji, PNG and Guam. Paul Spiller was appointed as Zone 3.6 President following on from the decision of Brian Jones to stand down from the role. It was also noted that this was to be the last official meeting to be attended by long standing Fijian Chess Federation President, Dr Virgilio De Asa, the driving force behind Fiji chess since 1979. Virgilio recommended that he be replaced by either Joselito Marcos (PNG) or Leon Ryan (Guam).

Paul S also reported on discussion with Gary Wastell in Tromso about Australia becoming more involved in OCC. The sticking point around incorporation of OCC remains an issue. Paul S reported that he had received a verbal estimate of around \$1,100 for the legal work that would be involved in this process and recommended that this be approved in the next budget.

Events planned for the next 12 months included the following:

OCC Seniors Championships – Auckland April 16 – 19
Zone 3.6 Championship – Sydney, July 4 – 10
2015 Guam Open Championship, July TBC
2015 Fiji Open Championship, December TBC

PLANNING

Proposals had been received from PALAU (Grandmaster training in preparation for the 2016 Olympiad), FIJI (assistance for junior players to attend the Sydney zonal), Gary Bekker & Jamie Kenmure (funding for an exploratory trip to NAURU).

Paul S mentioned the possibility of using the NZ Chess Badge system in Fiji even The Solomons and PNG. It was also briefly reported on the visit to New Zealand by the inventor of “MINI CHESS” Marisa Van Der Merwe. This is an educational tool used with great success in South Africa.

In conclusion, Paul S stressed that OCC needs to carefully consider how funding can best be used for chess development through meaningful projects.

4. POLICY BOARD MATTERS

- 4.1 The roll call confirmed two voting members only: New Zealand & PNG
- 4.2 There were no proposed changes to the OCC statutes
- 4.3 No new proposals for Associate Members. It was noted that there are scheduled referendums for potential new associates in French Polynesia and New Caledonia
- 4.4 No other business

5. EXECUTIVE BOARD MATTERS

- 5.1.1 OCC treasurer Shaun Press presented the financial report. It was reported that total assets are \$34,830.87 consisting of \$33,678.74 in the OCC bank account, \$554.22 in Loans Receivable and \$597.51 in Accounts Receivable.
- 5.1.2 The Loans Receivable figure is the amount the OCC paid to FIDE to cover membership fees for the Solomon Islands in 2011. The Solomon Islands Chess Federation have indicated that they hope to repay this loan.
- 5.1.3 The Accounts receivable figure consists of outstanding OCC membership [Australia \$400]
- 5.1.4 Current liabilities are \$147.51
- 5.1.5 The income figure of \$34,405.67 came from 3 major sources. The FIDE Development Grant (via the Asian Federation) to the OCC for 2014 was \$5,365.38. \$25,000 came from Global Chess for development in Oceania. \$4,040.29 was from the 2014 Olympiad Travel Fund on behalf of the PNGCF. This amount was then dispersed to the PNG players [Nb The PNGCF did not have an operational account at the time].
- 5.1.6 \$1,000 was paid in travel subsidies for delegates to attend the OCC

meeting in Ballarat in March. \$500 was paid to the Guam Chess Federation as a grant for the purchase of equipment.

- 5.1.7 The OCC made an overall profit of \$29,442.67 for the year.
- 5.1.8 The accounts for 2014 will be submitted to the auditor (Bob Gibbons). An auditor's report will be circulated subsequently.
- 5.1.9 General Comments: The 2013 accounts were audited by Bob Gibbons. 2015 OCC membership invoices will be prepared by Shaun and distributed. Fiji and The Solomon Islands are currently in arrears with OCC and FIDE. Shaun recommended that in future money be paid directly to OCC accounts (rather than via a third party) for auditing purposes. He also noted that the \$25,000 from Global Chess was because of an election year and would most likely not be paid again. The emphasis for the expenditure for this grant was for potential new federations. Brian commented that OCC should still apply for annual funding from the Asian Chess Federation as well as Global Chess.

5.2 2015 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 5.2.1 Executive Board Appointments – Paul Spiller proposed that Leon Ryan be nominated to the OCC Executive Board subject to his approval. [subsequently Leon has accepted the appointment].

5.2.2 2015 BUDGET

Proposals were tabled for developmental projects in Fiji and Nauru (proposal from Jamie Kenmure and Gary Bekker) and from NZCF for a grant for the 2014 George Trundle Masters IM norm tournament. Palau had previously also requested in Tromso help with Olympiad coaching. Guam had received some funding from Kasparov but it had been mentioned the possibility of Leon Ryan travelling to the Northern Mariana Islands to develop chess. It was proposed that Leon Ryan submit a budget to OCC for this. PNG need a development plan before funding can be allocated similarly for The Solomon Islands.

SUMMARY

The 2015 OCC expenditure will be capped at \$13,000. This will be distributed as follows:

TOURNAMENT SUPPORT - \$4,000 (including a \$2,000 grant to NZCF [George Trundle Masters] and \$1,000 to FCF to support junior entry fees and accommodation for the 2015 Sydney Zonal)

DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SUPPORT - \$1,000 as yet unallocated

NEW FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT - \$5,000. A maximum budget of \$3,000 for a development project in Nauru. \$2,000 to be allocated to development in Samoa & Northern Mariana Islands.

ADMINISTRATION COSTS - \$3,000 (inc. an allocation of \$1,100 for legal costs to incorporate OCC). Travel subsidies of \$400 each approved to Brian Jones & Shaun Press to attend the Auckland OCC meeting.

5.3 EVENTS

- 5.3.1 Oceania Zone 3.6 Championships (scheduled for July 4 – 10 in Sydney) – The Executive Board wished to convey to the organizers that all details (including entry form signed off) needed to be confirmed by the end of January. It was also important to request information on the selection of arbiters (at least one IA would be required). It was important to advise the organizers that minimum standards be met before final approval would be given.
 - 5.3.2 Oceania Seniors Championship – scheduled for April 16 – 19 in Devonport, Auckland. Organizer Paul Spiller
 - 5.3.3 Oceania Open Championship – would possibly be held as part of the 2016 Doeberl Cup in Canberra or Fiji open Championship
 - 5.3.4 Oceania Seniors Championship 2016 – no bids
 - 5.3.5 Oceania Zone 3.6 Championship 2017 – New Zealand would be due to host this by rotation possibly late January
 - 5.3.6 Oceania Junior Championship 2015 – no bids
 - 5.3.7 Oceania Teams Championship 2015 – no bids
- 5.4 OCEANIA GRAND PRIX – Brian had published results for 2014 on the Oceania website. The future of the 2015 Grand Prix is uncertain. Dato Tan Chin Nam had been unwell and Brian was awaiting a response from him. Brian proposes to run the event without any guarantees at this stage. All FIDE rated standard time control events in Oceania (not club events) would be included without any fees being charged.
- 5.5 POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS – Hilton raised the issue of “Lame Duck” federations being created. FIDE are writing a new manual for guidelines to help these types of federations to be able to support themselves in the future but it was generally agreed that the FIDE Development Commission have not done a good job in this area.
- 5.6 ARBITERS - more arbiter training courses are needed but nothing planned At the moment
- 5.7 TRAINERS – A FIDE Trainers seminar is to be conducted by FIDE Senior Trainer Grandmaster Dejan Bojkov in Auckland after the NZ Open Championship. The number of participants is around 14.
- 5.8 CHESS IN SCHOOLS – The “Mini Chess” programme was discussed. This takes an approach to Schools an educators level, the emphasis being on education rather than chess. Mini Chess is being launched in New Zealand via a pilot scheme in one or two Schools in Hamilton. It was also mentioned that the FIDE website has useful information and resources for Schools available.

5.9 MARKETING AND ADMINISTRATION

Brian will continue to maintain the OCC website. The contact details for Paul Spiller are as follows: email: spillerfamily.enterprise@xtra.co.nz
Postal address: Paul Spiller, c/o 102 Picton Street, Howick, Auckland 2014
It was also recommended that any OCC publicity be sent directly to FIDE and the Asian Chess Federation websites.

5.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In recognition of the long standing contribution to chess in Fiji and Oceania by out-going Fiji Chess Federation President, Dr Virgilio De Asa a motion of thanks was proposed by Paul Spiller and seconded by Brian Jones.
Passed unanimously.

It was brought to the attention of the meeting that the Solomon Islands and Fiji Chess Federations were currently in financial arrears with FIDE. This will potentially affect their ability to participate in the 2015 Zonal Championship as it is part of a World Championship qualification event. The idea of an Oceania Women's Chess Commission was mooted with possible involvement from Alana Chibnall (Australia). The OCC decided not to formally commit to this at present but more investigation needs to be done with a view to revisiting the idea at a later stage.

6.0 NEXT MEETING

The next OCC meeting will be held at Norths Leagues Club, Cammeray, North Sydney on Monday morning, July 6th (prior to Round 4 of the Zonal Championship).

Meeting closed at 12.10 pm