

74th FIDE Congress
Continental Meeting Americas
1 November 2003
Kallithea, Halkidiki, Greece

Report

Chairman: Mr Jorge Vega, Continental President, (MEX)

Present: Gerardo Anaya (CUB), Yasodanada K Areti (BAR), Ramon Nicholas Barrera (ARG), Lindsay Bellhouse (BAR), Oswaldo Ceballos (COL), Geovanny Cesar (DOM), Gilson L. Chrestani (BRA), Nigel Freeman (BER), Silvino Garcia (CUB), Allan Herbert (BAR), William Kelleher (USA), Timothy Redman (USA), Alberto Santos (ECU), Maurice Smith (CAN), Robert Tanner (USA), Auke Tren (SUR). Mr Jorge Vega also held a proxy for Paraguay.

The meeting was convened at 15:15 by President Vega.

1. Report of the President.

It was noted that Continental General Secretary WIM Beatriz Marinello was unable to be in attendance due to pressing matters requiring her attention with the US Chess Federation. She sends her apologies. At the request of the President, Mr Robert Tanner (USA) assumed the duties of taking the minutes.

President Jorge Vega presented a report covering some of his activities on behalf of the continent over the past year as well as the status of various FIDE activities that impact us. Specifically he discussed the various Zonal tournaments and various Pan Americans events including the Continental Championship which seeds players into the world championship cycle and sundry youth events. He also discussed the difficulties of CACDEC in the past year. Finally he recognized Allan Herbert and WIM Beatriz Marinello and others for their support over the past year. A full copy of the report is found below.

2. Report of the Treasurer and Ensuing Discussion

It was announced that full financial report will be sent by e-mail as soon as we can merge information from our Swiss and American accounts. Allan Herbert, the Continental Treasurer, reported that as of Bled 2002 all continental finances were administered by the FIDE Treasurer. An item for review has been how to implement a plan to transfer our finances to more of an EU (European Union) system starting January 1st, 2004. Alan met with the FIDE Treasurer and the CACDEC Chairman. At that time it was decided to create a new account in Lucerne in the name of the continent. Ideally it is felt to be better to have the account located in the Americas, however research for an acceptable bank in the Americas that uses US Dollars did not meet with success in time for the Continental Championships. A major problem with many of the

banks was that they do not offer US Dollar checkbooks. Promises of bank transfers are not acceptable.

The FIDE bankers in Lucerne offer what we need so that was set up. Signatories to the account are:

- FIDE Treasurer
- Continental President
- Continental Treasurer

All check require two signatures.

In the May meeting with the FIDE Treasurer we indicated that we would be gearing up for a full financial takeover in 2004. The only point of contention between the three parties is the concept of “arrears.” The FIDE Treasurer sees the Continental Boards as completely separate entities of FIDE. We see them as an integral part of FIDE. Therefore, if a federation owes continent monies then it is also owed to FIDE and vice-versa. A question to be answered is whether FIDE will accept our instructions to withdraw countries in arrears. What we do NOT want is a situation where it is possible to have arrears in only one “part” of FIDE. We are still trying to determine what will happen in January 2004 with countries in arrears.

It was indicated that the following events have fees which inure to the revenues of the continent.

- Pan-Am Championship
- Pan-Am Women’s Champs
- Pan-Am Junior Champs
- Pan-Am Junior Girl’s Champs
- Pan-Am Team Champs
- Pan-Am Rapid Champs
- Pan-Am Under 20 Team Champs
- Pan-Am Youth Champs
- Pan-Am Open Champs
- Central American U20 Champs
- Central Am. Girl’s U20 Champs
- Pan-Am University Team Champs
- Pan-Am Amateur Champs
- Zonals

All other fees, including for individual events, belong to FIDE.

In the following discussions a number of observations, questions and suggestions were raised. Among them were:

- Silvano Garcia: Many CACDEC nations have to funds to organize these events. Should there be a remission of fees to those countries?
- Nigel Freeman: It is requested that the Continental Board Treasurer come to Mallorca 2004 with information and proposals to take effect on 2005.
- Gilson Chrestiani: Suggested that Continental fees be based on US\$, but put a ceiling and floor to the fees based upon the status of the US\$.

- Maurice Smith: Canada rarely gets involved in Pan-Ams, but things appear to be getting better financially which may allow for some changes. Canada is in the Canadian OC, but funds are allocated only to those events most likely to bring Olympic medals. There are dynamic individuals, such as Peter MacDonald, who are seeking and obtaining support. They very much expect to host a Pan Am games in the near future. Alan Herbert observed that the Canadian Olympic Committee experience is common, but that if you're seen at enough NOC meetings you become accepted.

3. Discussion of Upcoming Events

1. 2004 Pan American Youth will be held in the last week of May through the first week of June. The event will be in Cartagena City. It was pointed out that this will create scheduling difficulties for many school children.
2. Ecuador is bidding to host *Sub-Zonal 2.3.5* in Guayaquil City in August; *Men's and Women's Pan-Am Champs* in September in the same city, and 2005 year *Zonal 2.3 for Men and Women* in either Guayaquil City or Manta.
3. The **2005 Pan-Am Youth** is to be held in USA, but it is recognized that USCF is having internal organizational issues at the present and we will request confirmation.
4. *2004 U14, U12, U10 Boy's and Girl's Champs* to be held in USA in October or November. Dates need to be verified with USCF President Beatriz Marinello.
5. *2004 Pan American Junior* is to be in Paraguay. Date not announced.
6. *2003 Pan American Team* will start on 13 December 2003 in Rio de Janeiro
7. *2005 Central American U20 Champs* for boys and girls will be held in Barbados 13-21 August 2005

It is requested that we promote the Mar del Plata bid to host an Olympiad at the Executive Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by President Vega at 17:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert B. Tanner (USA),
Acting Secretary

America's Report

First of all I want to thank all the organizing federations for the fine job done and also to thank all Continental Board members for the help given in fulfilling my work. During the period passed since the Bled Assembly till today our basic event calendar was fulfilled: The Colombia Chess Federation organized the Panamerican Youth Festival, participating 160 players without problems and the Brazil Chess Federation organized the Panamerican Juniors / Girls. The Venezuela Chess Federation organized the Central America and Caribbean Juniors / Girls Championship.

Concerning the qualifying World Chess Championships Cycle The Venezuela Chess Federation organize a very nice Continental event and Zones Championships were organized by the Canada, USA, Barbados, Brazil and Chile Chess Federations, so the Ladies Cycle was fully accomplished.

The absolute Continental faced some last moment organizative problems due to the change of the tournament hall and in consequence of the playing schedule. In my opinion this happened due to there were no America's Board representative in the preliminary discussions because in that time there were running discussions between FIDE and the organizers concerning the aborted Kasparov – Ponomariov match in Buenos Aires and some misunderstandings between both events were not clarified.

Only the hard work done by Mr. Nicolas Barrera (Argentina federation President) and his staff saved the situation.

The Zone tournaments were organized by the Canada, USA, Equador Brazil and Paraguay.

I assisted to the first quarter P.B. meeting held in Bucharest but unfortunately could not assist to the second meeting organized in Abuja mostly due to the short notice summon and the dates coincidence with our Absolute Continental Championships.

America held its Continental Board meeting in Pachuca, Mexico, last April.

During this time I have visited Costa Rica, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela and Equador.

Speaking about the development, the situation can not be darker as the one we are facing. In the May CACDEC meeting we were approved SFr 26000 for different projects, but the allocation was conditioned to FIDE economic situation. Till this moment no funds were received.

On account of this, all seminars and developing projects have to be cancelled, the only seminar given was the Merida one, under America's own funds. This situation must not remain forever, and I strongly think that it is necessary to establish priorities in FiDE budget concerning the main tasks FIDE has the World Championships, the administrative expenses and the development. If it should be necessary to cut down expenses, these reductions have to be shared by the three branches and not only buy the development one. As FIDE will improve its finances with the funds coming from the World Championships and Grand Prixes I think that it should be necessary to cover the 2003 year approved allocations plus the requests. That might be proposed for 2004 year. On this matter I am proposing to open two training centers, as other continents already have, besides other technical needs we will have for next year.

The promotion of Chess among the youth has been one of our tasks: I am pleased to inform that a Youth Championship for Boys / Girls, U-18 to U-10 was organized by the Costa Rica Chess Federation for Central America federations, participating 160 boys and girls. The USCF will organize a U-14, U-12 and U-10 event next year, participating Canada, the USA and Mexico. This kind of events are to be encouraged and also promoted in South America as well as in other Caribbean shored federations.

It is also necessary to speak about the set backs we had this year: due to an internal economic situation the Mexican Chess Federation will not organize the Panamericana Rapid. I personally visited some potential sponsors trying to save the event without success. The Dominican Republic Federation cancelled the Panamerican Team, fortunately the Brazil federation will organize it, starting December the 13th this year.

Regarding the 2004 year Calendar, the Panamerican Youth Festival shall be organized by the Colombia federation in Cartagena de Indias, the Panamerican Juniors / Girls shall be organized by the Paraguay Federation and the Men Subzone 2.3.5 shall be organized by the Equador Federation. Also there is an option granted to the Venezuela Federation to organize the Panamerican Ladies, all these venues granted by the Bled Continental Assembly. We have received several other options / bid requests for the remaining events to be discussed in our meeting.

Last but not least, all of us have to think in America's financial future: if we shall remain under FIDE aegis or if we shall work in an independent way as E.C.U. is. Our treasurer will speak about this matter. Finally, I want to thank H.E. Kirzan Ilyumzhinov, FIDE President, for the support given to our Continental Championships, to remember those already gone which contributed in the united continent we now are, to thank again the Continental Board members, specially Eng. Allan Herbert and WIM Beatriz Marinello for the help given to my person, and also to thank the federations, officials and technicians involved in our events or daily work.

Mexico City, October the 25th, 2003.

Jorge Vega
Continental President for America