

Minutes of Meeting of the Small Nations Chess Association (SNACA)

Present for the meeting at Hotel Sol Antillas on the 27th October 2004:

Margaret Murphy, Michael Sibain, Geoffrey Borg, Marios Schinis, Joan Obdegon, Guy Hazarabedian and Colin Goman

Ms Margaret Murphy opened the meeting and said that there were some important issues that needed to be discussed during this meeting. Some work had been done but if everybody felt that there was a place for SNACA then more members had to contribute ideas and energy to its success.

Mr Geoffrey D Borg said that for everyone's benefit, SNACA was established in Bled in 2002. Despite an initial spurt of enthusiasm, it had not got going due to a general lack of communication and financial issues. All small nations were normally prioritising their own Federation duties and then the Continental responsibilities so this could be appreciated. On the other hand, the organisation would not survive if every small nation did not contribute towards its early growth.

The Board was pleased to report that Mr Khalifa Al Hitmi, Continental President for Asia had generously offered to donate \$2,000 to SNACA. The Board recommended that the first 1000 CHF is paid to FIDE for the affiliation fee which has been due for some time and that the remainder is used to purchase software for Federations or alternatively used for the production of an Administrator's or trainers manual for the Association members.

The Board also publicly thank Mr Khalifa Al Hitmi for his kind donation.

Mr Marios Schinis said that it may be useful to look also at maybe using the money for trainers and have each Federation cover the accommodation cost plus expenses. Over time the Federation would also have to work to cover the trainer's salary.

Mr Michael Sibain said that it would be useful to contact Chessbase to see what software could be offered at special prices to the SNACA members.

He also said that maybe there could be someone travelling to promote chess in schools to Federations that do not have this program.

Mr Guy Hazarabedian from Monaco said that their country has held a small nations team tournament a number of times in the past. Other small nations should be working to reciprocate or inviting small nations players to tournaments in their country. He also brought up a point regarding some rumours that were going round about some attempts to squeeze out existing FIDE members by insisting that they have full recognition with IOC or United Nations.



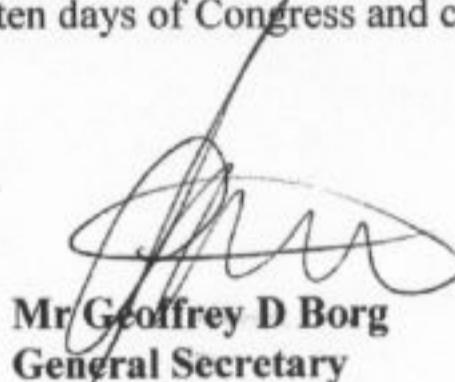
Mr Marios Schinis said that the matter had been brought up in the ECU meeting in the morning, indirectly, since the motion to excluded IBCA and IPCA had been discussed there. The implications were that also countries like Wales or Scotland would be affected and consequently the rumour that a number of participating Federations would be forced out of the Olympiad was difficult to accept. FIDE had a long tradition of membership with all these Federations and this should override any other considerations.

Mr Geoffrey D Borg said that the first obligation was to pay FIDE the 1000 CHF first. Any further request for funds from CACDEC or the Development Commission could only be based on a performance improvement of the technical levels of all the member Federations.

The German delegation was asked about the cost of covering accommodation and board for the SNACA delegates in Dresden, and the request was under consideration by the Dresden Olympiad bidders.

Estonia were offering to cover the travel expenses of SNACA members from Frankfurt to Talinn as well as the lodging cost of SNACA delegates for the ten days of Congress and committee meetings.


Ms Margaret Murphy
President


Mr Geoffrey D Borg
General Secretary