

76th FIDE CONGRESS
Dresden, Germany
17 – 24 August 2005

COMMONWEALTH CHESS ASSOCIATION (CCA) - MINUTES OF MEETING (22 August 2005)

Chairman (Acting): L Bellhouse (BAR)

Present: G. Welsh (ENG), M. Schinis (CYP), N. Short (ENG), P. Domingue (SEY), N. Divinsky (CAN), K. Msukwa (MAW), N. Freeman (BER), E. Price (RSA), S. Reuben (ENG rep AUS), K. Al Hitmi (QAT rep IND), A. Herbert (BAR), D. Buthali (BOT)

Welcome

1. Chairman welcomed members present, noting the reasonable attendance in view of 2005 not being an Olympiad year. Also welcomed was GM Nigel Short, whom the Chairman noted, has been suggesting some useful ideas. Furthermore the Chairman noted that he (Bellhouse) was the Deputy Chairman of the CCA and so was standing in for P.T Ummer Koya who has not been able to attend the Congress.

CCA Constitution:

2. After some search earlier in the year, a copy of the Commonwealth Chess Association Constitution, passed at the 1992 Congress, was found. Suggested revisions were presented to the meeting and were approved. Although the changes come into effect immediately, it was also agreed that a thorough review will be done for approval at the 2006 Congress in Turin, Italy.
3. Following concerns regarding the list of member countries as per Article 1.1 of the Constitution, the meeting resolved that the list be deleted since Article 2.1 clarifies who is eligible for membership.

Commonwealth Championship

4. Introducing this item, the Chairman quoted the resolution from the 2004 Congress wherein India was to organize the 2005 and 2006 Commonwealth Chess Championships, while South Africa was to organize the event in 2007. Members expressed concern regarding arrangements for the 2005 event, including the various changes of dates, as well as the lack of information about the conditions for the event.
5. Amid concerns that participation in the championship has been too inclusive and seem not to focus on the original objective, the meeting tasked L. Bellhouse and S. Reuben to prepare objectives and regulations for the event as well as requirements which will demonstrate commitment to host the

championship. Also to be considered is the possibility of including a junior championship, which should include the award of a FIDE title like other similar events

6. The meeting resolved that Mr. K. Al Hitmi will approach India to establish readiness to hold the Championship in October 2005. It was also agreed that in the event India was not ready, the time was too short to request another federation to organize the event this year. Meanwhile Mr. K. Al Hitmi reported India's readiness and commitment towards organizing the 2006 championship.
7. An area to work on in the future is the inclusion of chess in the Commonwealth Games. The CCA members should start first by mobilizing for the inclusion of chess in the various continental Games. A case in point for learning is the 2004 All Africa Games, which included chess.
8. With regard to the 2007 Commonwealth Championship, the South African delegate was not able to appraise the meeting on South Africa's readiness to organize the event. South Africa will give an update on the arrangement for the event by end of 2004.

Update on the CCA Chairman

9. The meeting chairman reported on the developments surrounding the court injunctions imposed on the substantive CCA Chairman (PT. Ummer Koya). With the lifting of the injunction for activities outside India, it was noted that there is no legal hindrance for the substantive chairperson to discharge his obligations as chairman. However, there was concern that the substantive chairperson has not responded to the Deputy Chairperson (L. Bellhouse)'s various correspondences and furthermore that he (PT Ummer Koya) has been virtually inactive for some time..

Motion by British Chess Federation

10. The British Chess Federation tabled a motion calling for the review of the Board of Governor positions. In particular, they proposed the amendment of the CCA Constitution to allow the creation of position of Secretary General. The meeting voted 7 members in favour, with two abstentions. Subsequently, GM Nigel Short was elected unanimously to the position.
11. On being informed that a bank account in the name of the Commonwealth Chess Association has been opened in India, the meeting resolved that all signatories to the account from now henceforth shall be null and void. Meanwhile new signatories to the account will be communication to the bank. The new signatories will be N Short, L Bellhouse and D Buthali.

12. Any Other Business

13. Members expressed concern that the BJD Assistance insurance concentrates only on FIDE and does not include events such as those of the CCA or give special dispensations to disadvantaged groups such as CACDEC countries. These concerns will be registered with FIDE.