

*79th FIDE Congress  
17-25 November  
Congress Centre, Dresden, Germany*

## **Committee on Women's Chess Report**

### **Women's Committee report for a period from November 2007 to November 2008**

For the said period the work was carried out mainly to analyze the practice of participation of female chess players and chess women's teams in Chess Olympiads and world, continental and top international tournaments.

Unfortunately, the analysis showed that despite an increase of the number of women's chess tournaments, the number of women's teams at the Chess Olympiads is not increasing and still is much lower than the number of teams in the open section.

Generally, all countries have two main problems:

1. Financial problems
2. Absence of a proper level of trainers' work.
3. here we can mention some traditions and customs

As for development of women's chess, I would like to praise the activities of the Russian Chess Federation and FIDE Vice President Andrey Selivanov, who do their best in order to organize world championship and large international tournaments. But it is worth being noted that only top female players of the world can participate in these tournaments.

Mass tournaments where grassroots female players from various countries of the world can participate are not organized very often.

I would like to note that the Asian Chess Federation is playing a very active role led by its dynamic President His Royal Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa el-Nehayan as well as Vice President of FIDE Khalifa Mohammed Al-Hitmi, Chinese Chess Association, indefatigable General Secretary Ignatius Leong who have done a lot to activate chess in Asian region and all the world. And also, I would like to praise FIDE Vice President Ali Nihat Yazici and Turkish Chess Federation.

I have established a contact with the Afghanistan Chess Federation and the country's Committee on Women in the Ministry of Sports, to work with its chess women team, but unfortunately, I was refused visa on two occasions due to the lack of stability in the country and their inability to provide security for me. Here in Dresden, I have talked to the Afghanistan Federation President and we reached an agreement that we should organize training camps for Afghan female players in Turkmenistan.

As for financial issues, I received 1500 USD in March 2008, which I spent to pay for a secretary-translator. I personally cover expenses for Internet and telecommunications.

In my opinion, it is necessary to reorganize the Committees and as for the Women's Committee, it is better to have the Chairman who will also have the position of the FIDE Vice President. Because Vice Presidents mainly carry out the activities in finding sponsors and organize tournaments and the Vice President who will be at the same time the Chairman of women's committee will take care of women in chess.

Halbagt Reimova,  
Chairperson

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

### **18 November 2008, Dresden, Germany**

**Chairperson: Halbagt Reyimova (TKM)**

**Present: G. El Sahhar (EGY), S. Milivojevic (SRB), J. Mijine (ZAM), S. Muratkuliev (TKM), M. Hanif (AFG), B. Tilenbaeva (KGZ), Rohan Waithe (BAR), Beverley Howell-Mayers (BAR), B. Hoareau (SEY), B. Hein (SEY), Allan Herbert (BAR)**

The Chairperson of the Committee welcomed all the members and observers who came for the meeting for their support and help in carrying out the activities of the Women's Chess Committee.

She presented her report to the members, pointing out the main points of the work done during the period of the past two years of her being in a position of the Chairperson of this committee.

The following proposals were received during the Meeting:

Halbagt Reimova (TKM) proposed:

1. to organize the international chess women's open festival every year with the participation of only female chess players of different age, different FIDE elo of all nationalities.
2. the members of the Committee to attend the Continental Meetings during the Congress and to raise the issue of the necessity to have a group of active people inside the Continental Board who will help the Committee on Women's chess to fulfill its goals and aims.
3. to have an additional meeting of the Committee on 23 November in afternoon after the Continental meetings in order to see the feedbacks from the Continental boards in respect of the idea of having the group of active women chess players' supporters.
4. all members of the Committee to find out if there are women in their countries of federation who occupy the high position in the government/big companies whom the Committee can contact in order to get the support and financial contribution to the development of women's chess. It was agreed that in case a member finds such a woman, a member will inform the Chairperson of the Committee who in its turn on behalf of the World Chess Federation will contact the respective woman-head to ask for support.

Allan Herbert (BAR) proposed:

1. to have the plan for the next coming two years of the activities that the Committee on Women's chess will carry.
2. the Chairperson to organize the work on analyzing and investigating on the reasons many national chess federations do not send the women's team to the Olympiad. He personally thinks that one of the main reasons, apart from the financial one, is that many federations' authorities think that their female chess players are so weak that they will feel embarrassed at the Olympiads showing bad results. But in reality, the situation is sometimes different and women's team perform no worst than open teams.
3. to work out proposals in order to try to help the national federations to bring more women's teams to the Olympiads.

G. El Sahhar (EGY) proposed:

1. Since some of Arab, Asian and African countries have very weak female chess players due to the lack of the good trainers, to come up to FIDE with the proposal to organize the provision of professional chess women's coaches and trainers to the weak federations in order to increase the level of women's chess in these countries. She also mentioned that as for her own federation (Egypt), they can provide meal and accommodation for the trainers and FIDE should provide with the salary. Or another option could be worked out.
2. To recheck the list of members of the Committee and to leave only those who are really active in the work of the committee or to add the new members who will to help the Committee.

3. to include into the list of new members of the Committee two per each Continent: one from both North and South America, West and East Europe, from all parts of Asia, South and North Africa, Arab countries as well.

J.Mijine (ZAM) proposed:

1. She has informed the Committee that in Zambia there is very big company which can be contacted for the sponsorship of the International festival that was proposed to be organized by Mrs. Reyimova. She is sure that the company would be very happy to be a sponsor in this kind of international level tournament. Also she expressed an idea that this sponsor might request that the international women's event will take place in Zambia to have better promotion of their company in their own country. She submitted the contact details of this Zambian company to the Chairperson.

B. Tilenbaeva (KGZ) proposed:

1. to start organizing traditional women chess tournament for unrated players. She proposed that the first tournament could be organized in Kyrgyzstan at Issykul Lake as they have already organized the same kind of chess tournament for unrated children players.

At the end each member of the Committee supported all proposals received during the session. They all found it necessary to have an additional meeting. Also, Committee members expressed their hope that the work of the Committee will be efficient and successful.

Halbagt Reyimova  
Chairperson