

DRAFT

Minutes of the Development Commission Core Group Meeting

FIDE Offices, Athens, 30-31st March 2012

Present:

Chairman: Mr. Allan Herbert (Barbados), Secretary; Mr. Rupert Jones (PNG), Mr. Hal Bond (Canada), Mr. Stephen Kisuze (Uganda), Mr. Martin Huba (Slovakia) and Mr. Nigel Freeman (FIDE Treasurer).

Meeting Started @ 11.10am with the Chairman Mr Allan Herbert welcoming everyone to the meeting & thanking them for all being able to attend.

Pre Lunch Session

Joining this session were Mr David Jarrett & Mr George Mastrokoukos from the FIDE Office.

Matters Arising

The Commission has received correspondence from the Asia Chess Confederation informing us that GM Udat Adiando will not be able to fulfil his Commission role due to being elected a senator in the Indonesian Government. The Asian CC have recommended Prospero Pichay as his successor which we have accepted.

The Chair then started by saying that the ideas we came up with in Bermuda have generally been successful and are now being implemented in FIDE. However following the Krakow meeting (see Krakow Minutes) the Executive Board accepted the minutes with one exception. Asia objected to their budget being cut to 15%. The Executive Board suggested cutting the Asian share to 20% and that the extra amount should come out of the Chairman's Budget. Mr Freeman added that it was not a done and dusted deal yet and said he objected to it coming from the Chair's Budget & added that because of his disagreement the 'final allocation' has not been approved by the **EB** yet. Mr Freeman thinks it unfair that the Chair budget take the 5% cut. Mr Freeman will go back to Presidential Board to discuss further.

It was also said that the 'Development Statistics should be published annually on the FIDE website after they have all been collected..Mr Freeman added ideally that each Commission should look at having their own website.

Mr Herbert added that the Commission is trying to make 'good development projects' instead of the old method of hastily putting something together just before an Olympiad usually along the lines of spending left over money on a few chess clocks, sets or chess literature (ie. Informators) to handout to selected development nations.. Also helps take the politics out of development.

Martin Huba is to prepare the Statistics especially on 'tournaments rated by national federations'. Hal Bond reminded us that 'rated games' per Federation is a better statistic to be used than that of 'tournaments rated.' It was noted that in 'tournaments rated by year' that there had been a significant increase in 2012 with already over 5000 rated to date.

Hal Bond reminded us that the Handbook rarely seems to be up to date.

The Chairman then said that jumping ahead we will be looking at

...the issue of the Travel Grant Awardees

...and the issue of which countries will receive pocket money @the Olympiad. We will create new criteria such as the 'Human Development Index' and 'number of rated games' as a means of separating the least developed countries from the richer ones so again taking politics out of the equation. **All countries will fit into a category / level.**

The two critical areas we will look at 'Criteria' for who is on the list for pocket money and later the issue of the review of FIDE Handbook. Mr Freeman added that he would like to see Commissions taken out of the statutes.

WORLD YOUTH GRANT

The Chair started by saying that it has been a great success. See list of those who had qualified and those that had then gone to represent their country @the World Youth Festival. More had qualified from Africa and this was easily explained by the fact that Africa has more 'developing' countries than the other continents. Note that not all were able to accept the grant due to a variety of reasons. There is a profile of each of the winners as well as their rating progress on the FIDE website.

Africa has already held its Youth Festival, December 2011 in Zambia. There is a list of those who have qualified for the grant. Asia and the Americas still to have their Continental events. **The Commission Secretary will write to Federations to notify them of those qualified for grants.**

The purpose of the grant is cover the cost of the airfare and as last years World Youth Festival was in Brazil it had been decided to increase it to \$1000 (it costs more to travel to South America than Europe). For a European World Youth the grant will be \$500.

To qualify for the grant you have to finish in the top 20 places in your 'continental youth event' & that if your category has less than 20 participants then you must finish in the top 20%. Also that there is only one qualifying place per category. However in any continental qualifying event there is no restriction on number of players from any one country. However due to size and travel issues in continents (esp Africa), in the future it might be possible to look at staging regional youth events.

The next world youth festival is in Slovenia (lots of Federations having fond memories of the 2002 Olympiad), and Europe being cheaper to fly to, expectations are of a good take up of the grant.

The Secretary is to write to the 'developing countries' in Europe to make them aware of the grant and to encourage them to enter the European Youth Festival, citing the exceptional performance of the young Cypriot player.

We estimate 24 qualifiers with 75% taking up the invitation. Mr Jarrett added this was an excellent example of how FIDE can be seen to help developing federations. Chairman added that this was a good way for FIDE to connect with its players, especially those in small nations. A young player from a developing nation has a great chance of being his national champion/ or excelling @school, then climbing the corporate/govt ladder of his small country Will have fond memories of FIDE so help create influence. Can we add photos and more profiles onto the website.

The Secretary was tasked with writing to all the qualifying Federations to find out as to who will be taking up the invitation to play. Also to write to the organisers of the Continental Youth Festival and to ask them to include the grant in their list of prizes.

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION STATISTICS

Suggested that 'statistics' should go on the FIDE website once a year (or that we create our own website).

Noted there had already been 5000 registered tournaments in 2012 (after a dip in 2010). Men's titles had seen a dip since 2006 (CM's & FM's are not applying for their titles?!) Mr Freeman suggested maybe this was due to there being more 'lower' rating tournaments being submitted where there are no titles to be had due to the low rating ceiling.

Mr Freeman added that there was an issue in the QC about how to charge for ratings.

Venezuela and Mr Blanco was quoted as an example that Federations were not submitting tournaments to be rated due to cost. How can this be so when it is not the federation that pays but the 'organisers' through the players. Also there was the issue of the rebate that comes off annual membership fees for developing countries. Was noted that this rebate was only available for level 1 countries. David Jarrett mentioned that in Olympiad years this goes towards their entry fees to the Olympiad.

It is **therefore recommended to extend the 'activity rebate' to cover level 1 and 2 countries** for tournament fees only. Level 1 will still cover title fees etc. FIDE will then credit the Federations based on their activity in the next financial year (the January invoice will give you the rebate) up to 4 tournaments annually (and that this should not include title fees) Mr Freeman thinks that this can be accommodated in his budget. This would be a major incentive to level 2 Federations to submit more tournament reports. **The Secretary is to create a circular to all developing Federations** to take effect from Jan 1st 2013. This will need to go to the General Assembly.

LUNCH TAKEN AT 13.15

Post Lunch

The meeting was joined by Mr Takis Nikolopoulos (from the Arbiters Commission) for the afternoon session.

With Takis present there was a discussion about arbiters' titles. Takis said that the licence was for life and that 'the arbiter' will pay when he/she upgrade their title. And if they are out of practice, or for those who got their titles twenty years ago there should be refresher courses. He added that there should be demonstratable benefits' to those who take their titles.

More on Statistics

Again it was commented on about the rise in the number of rated players. The Continent should be responsible for informing FIDE of the titles and for the Qualifying Commission to decide on titles.

On the issue of 'Distribution of ratings by rating groups' noted that the '2400 plus' category was static. As for the '2600 plus' on the graph you cannot see them as they are so small in relation to the rest of rated players and yet look at how much time FIDE spends on servicing that small group. How do we capitalize this area where all the players are?

The World Amateur was to be held in Thessaloniki. What would it take to make it more attractive? ie. the Americas have had problems hosting it. Maybe an idea to look at in the futur is to hold it alongside a 'world cup.' The rating cap for the World Amateur' is under 2000 & you must have no title. Finally Martin Huba was reminded to analyse the statistics and to get them onto the website.

BUDGET AND PLANNING

Mr Freeman began by announcing that he would set the 'Development Budget' for the next financial year at **\$200,000**.

So once you take the development activity rebate and core committee meeting budget out then we are looking at \$175,000.

The 'Continental Allocation' of the budget is to be;

40%	-	Africa
25%	-	The Americas
20%	-	Asia
7.5%	-	Europe
7.5%	-	The Chairman

Note: allocation for the 'world youth travel grant' is to come out of each continents budget.

Mr Herbert added 'the Chairman's Budget' will in an Olympiad year pay for an Arbiters seminar (but note that **ARISF** may be paying for this in Istanbul); as well as pay for two trainers seminars; one at the Olympiad & one at the world youth festival with the residue being for Federation visits. It was noted that there had been arbiters seminars in Algeria, Myanmar sponsored by 'Development ' & that the 'arbiters commission' had sponsored the seminars in Maputo and Madagascar.

On Asia it was 'commented' that they use up their budget first and then turn to us. It should not be the case that you leave it to the last minute before you decide to spend your budget and then decide for example to purchase chess equipment. This was not a good way to treat the budget.

Mr Freeman added that he had given Oceania a separate 'travel grant' which had come out of a separate budget and did not involve 'the Asian budget.'

At the moment there were no solid proposals outside of the Americas for 'development money. These included 5,000 for the world youth travel grant for the Americas. (needs explaining) Also a budget to send top 3 active players from developing countries to Argentina & that this would be based on rating as well as to send representatives to the Pan American women's in Panama.

In the Central American Sub Zonal 6 players have accepted the travel grant.

There was a proposal for a trainers seminar to be held in a FIDE certified academy ; looking into New York. There would also be a trainers seminar at the Pan American Youth as well as five online seminars for Arbiters.

The ECU Allocation

The amount works out at aprox \$13,125. The best way to spend (ideas only) it would be for travel grants for juniors to attend the world youth festival. Also maybe to assist 3 or 4 juniors (based on rating) to attend their continental youth championship (maximum of one from each country)

To assist 3 Federations with coaches for the Olympiad. Only FIDE certified trainers should be considered for such assistance if they are to be funded through the Commission..

Important to keep the small countries in Europe on the ECU radar. The President should continue to support the small islands Olympiad in Europe.

(I have to write to Sava to say that we are keen for a quick turn round on getting information out to European Development countries on the youth travel grant & the opportunity that this can provide).

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT STATUTES

David Jarrett is doing a complete overhaul of FIDE statutes. He has requested a deferral.

DEVELOPMENT FEDERATIONS LIST (for Pocket Money)

Countries to get pocket money should come from the old level one. However Mr Freeman argued that there were countries in level 2 who though they may have a high **HDI** figure nevetheless were very behind in their chess development, where they alwys paid for themselves to attend Olympiads etc and should therefore be added to the list. The Committee agreed to add to the list;

Aruba, Bahamas, Belize, Brit Virgin Islands, El Salvador, Gabon, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Sao Tome & Principe, Sri Lanka, Suriname, US Virgin Islands, .

To look at taking Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Zambia off the list. **Allan to finish revision** of the the list and then to publish it on the website and await reaction; if there is a country that feels that they have been treated badly then this will allow them time to argue their case.

Also what about new countries that enter the Olympaid for the first time like Swaziland?

NEW FEDERATION'S DEVELOPMENT LIST

Previously Developing Federations were split into two.

Level 1 was for Federations with 'technical and financial needs'.

Level 2 was for Federations with Technical Needs

Every country will fit into a category now ranging from category (or level) 1 to 5. This will be based on the average rating of the top 10 players. Also that the best time for finalising the list would be just before the Olympiad when most Federations have paid up their overdue subs so that they can be eligible to enter the Olympiad.

Another suggestion to look at is that players should count as being inactive on the rating list after two years and not one year. As a lot of developing players play only Olympiads then two years will cover the period from one Olympiad to another Olympiad.

At the moment countries with no rated players are (beware of countries that excluded from the list due to unpaid annual membership fees);

Belize, Bhutan, The Cameroons, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Ivory Coast, Laos, Senegal and Swaziland.

5 or less rate players brings in;

British Virgin Islands, Burundi, Cambodia, Gabon, Haiti, Mali, Mauretania, Sao Tome and Principe, Sri Lanka (is this right), Somalia, US Virgin Islands,

The new Classification that we recommend will be;

Level 1 - an elo average of 2500 and above

Level 2 - an elo average of below 2500

Level 3 - an elo average of below 2300

Level 4 - an elo average of below 2100

Level 5 - an elo average of below 1800 and unrated

This will also remove the old 'CACDEC' ideal as no one ever wanted to graduate. Going back to the Campomanes days CACDEC was very political. Now to a certain extent we have removed issues such as pocket money and development from the political sphere. Before the lists are published and put on the website they should be sent to the continental presidents

Finally to write to Vladimir in the Elista Office to find out about Federations whose figures are missing from the figures due to temporary exclusion for unpaid fees such as Bosnia. Again the July list will be relevant as it is near the Olympiad and countries will make sure that they are paid up.

TSHEPO SITALE'S PROPOSAL

see paper attached. In essence it was to create a 'training system' for officials in new federations who have just joined FIDE. He is particularly thinking in terms of Lesotho & Swaziland, and in particular how the Presidents of such Federations can be nurtured. Presidents in a small Federation are the ones who do all the work. Mr Freeman said he was once asked why FIDE did not carry out inspections in new Federations & to Federations that were not doing their job. Added that eventually the FIDE website will carry information about all chess officials; a sort of know your FIDE.. He added that the 'annual report back QUESTIONNAIRE' does not produce much information as Federations do not respond, often guess and over inflate their answers & sometimes do not even open their mail. There is also a lot of returned mail. Many Federations (& their Officials) don't even know how their players are doing in an Olympiad; & especially what to do if their players are nearing norms etc; very unfamiliar with regulations.

Suggested the idea of a seminar to orientate new Federations and when a new President comes to an Olympiad for there to be an orientation programme. Allan suggested that to have good development of Federations we need to have a good core of organisers and arbiters.

Rupert suggested looking at what the IOC and FIFA do with their training of Administrators and whether there is the possibility of any crossover work. He mentioned his good relationship with the FIFA Development Officer for Southern Africa Mr Ashford Mamelodi and that when he lived in Botswana he had become one of Botswana's two IOC Administration Course Trainers..

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion on how to help the Kenyan Federation aka the Kenya Chess Association. The Federation has had a lot of problems which has hampered the good work being done by the Uganda Chess Federation in strengthening Chess in the region. Kenya is one of the leading sports countries in Africa and it is sad that Chess in Kenya has not capitalised on that success. Nigel Freeman promised to look at his programme and see whether he can help.

Was a discussion on efforts to facilitate Tanzania joining FIDE. Stephen Kisuze reported on Chess in Tanzania, a job assigned to him in Bermuda. Said good strides have been made to date. Tanzania has taken part in 2 events in East Africa namely the Mombasa Open, Kenya, Oct 2011 & the FIDE rated Rwabushenyi Memorial Championship held Dec 2011, Kampala Uganda. Uganda Chess had also donated 5 new chess sets to the travelling Tanzanian contingent. The Commission urged the ACU President to push for their joining of FIDE. Further more there was progress with Lesotho & that Swaziland had now joined FIDE. The Commission would prioritise 1 or 2 events in Africa. Finally to ask Tshepo Sitale what he knows about chess in the Comores Islands.

The Commission discussed how we get small countries to raise up their number of rated players. It was pointed out that since the ceiling for ratings fell to 1200 it was not necessarily any easier to get players rated. We look at results of closed rated all play all events in the Bahamas & the Solomon Islands as well as one very recently held in Guam. They are certainly good models to follow as seeding event for ratings. Take the example of the Bahamas who had 5 players fide rated in 2007 but now have 15. Or Guyana no rated players in 2002 but now have 6.

The Development Commission think that all Federations must aim to have at least one tournament rated annually. This should start with their National Championship & that ideally it should be one that you have to qualify for. (more players get a rating).

Meeting Closed.