

WOM Report
Tallinn, Estonia
October 2, 2013

In attendance were:

Chairperson: Susan Polgar

Commission member: Zhu Chen

Beatriz Marinello, Igor Lobortas, Ruth Haring, Margaret Murphy, Adam Dzwonkowski, Erick Hernandez, Russell Smith, Nigel Freeman, Kema Goryaeva

WOM Secretary Martha Fierro sent her regrets, as at the last minute, she was not able to join the meeting.

The WOM chairperson Susan Polgar made a report by showing a PowerPoint presentation outlining the WOM activities over the past year.

The keys parts of the presentation were:

☒ 2012 Caissa Award

☒ “Rumbo a la Gran Maestria” project

☒ Seminars (Trainers, Arbiters, Organizers) for women

☒ Women's European Championship 2013

☒ 2013 Women's World Championship

Here are some further details, comments, and discussions regarding the above issues and more.

☒ Judit Polgar won the 2012 FIDE Caissa award - the "Oscar of Chess".

The gorgeous and valuable was cup was hand made by a craftsman in Kiev, Ukraine, and is sponsored by the Classic Jewelry House Lobortas. The company's namesake Mr. Igor Lobortas personally brought the cup and presented it to Judit on October 1.

Judit has been the highest rated female player in the world for nearly a quarter century, ever since January 1989. She is also the first and only woman player in history to enter to the magic Top 10 in the world.

When the Women's Commission of FIDE awarded Judit the Caissa award, it was not only a recognition of her achievements in 2012, but also to celebrate her outstanding career over the years, and invaluable contribution to chess, and specifically to women's chess.

The Classic Jewelry House Lobortas and Mr. Igor Lobortas himself were recognized and thanked for their generous support of the Caissa cup this year and in the past.

Mr. Lobortas made an agreement with FIDE to craft the cup to the winner of the Women's Grand Prix series. During the meeting, he presented a sample along with number of decorative designs of how that cup would look. It was agreed that the design "#7" was most liked.

An improved idea of presenting the Caissa Award in a more prestigious setting would be to host a Gala dinner (like the Oscars) biannually at Chess Olympiads. There could be additional WOM awards, such as "Most improved" or "Young Talent of the Year". Also other awards awarded by ARB, TRG, WCO and EVE (and potentially others) could be presented at that same event.

☒ “Rumbo a la Gran Maestria” project is aimed to help and give opportunities to young women

chess players in South and Central America. 16 young ladies were given online lessons by four Grandmasters over six month. That was followed by a series of tournaments with opportunities for (WIM, WGM) norms for a number of the participants from the project.

The WOM is planning on continuing with similar projects in other parts of the world, such as Africa, Asia, the Middle East and economically less advanced parts of Europe. We invite solicitations for such grants from chess federations from around the world, with motivation to help girls' chess grow in their countries/regions. We expect collaboration with those federations, with them sponsoring the local expenses of visiting trainers and by identifying local female talents.

Adam Dzwonkowski of Poland reported that there is a lot of enthusiasm in Wroclaw for girls/women' chess and some help would be welcomed. It was suggested that there could be some training/events be done for the “Visegrad-group” countries: Poland, Hungary, Check Republic and Slovakia. Perhaps, a training camp or online training, followed by a girls' / women's tournament hosted in Wroclaw.

It was also suggested that Puerto Rico could be good hub for a training program for girls in the Caribbean and in Central American countries.

☒ The WOM has organized a number of seminars: two in collaboration with the Arbiters', one

with Trainers' and one with the Events' Commission. It was discussed why more participating women have not passed the highest levels on the exams.

☒ Good news: For the first time ever, all arbiters were women at the 2013 European Women's

Championship.

☒ Hou Yifan of China defeated Anna Ushenina of the Ukraine 5,5 to 1,5 in a convincing manner

in their match in China, to regain the Women's World Champion title.

It was brought up that there should be LIVE commentary at major women's events as well, as there are at men's.

Beatriz Marinello reported that on behalf of SAC (in collaboration with United Nation Women), she is initiating a pilot project to give equal opportunities to girls (ages 5-7) through chess. Likely, that pilot will take place in four countries (Uganda, Kuwait, Chile and in the Bahamas). Beatriz has also mentioned that in a recent study it was shown, that of all chess players worldwide, about 22% are women under the age of 21 and only 6% of women over 21.

Former Women's World Champion Zhu Chen offered to be more involved in promoting chess for girls and women, specifically in the Middle East and in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province, in China. The WOM suggests appointing her as an ambassador for women's chess in those regions.

It was recommended by several, that as there are so few women involved in chess organization in general and specifically within FIDE commissions, to modify the rule (that each person can serve only on two commissions) and to allow for women to serve on more commissions.

The WOM would like to thank Mrs. Nona Gaprindashvili for her many years of contributions to women's chess. In this respect WOM has agreed to appoint her as Honorary Adviser.

The WOM has also appointed Ms. Zhu Chen as Councillor and will nominate another person to fill up the vacancy in the Commission.

Susan Polgar