

Report of the FMJD President

The last General Assembly was held in Wageningen on the occasion of the World Cup tournament there. It ended in turmoil with too many people not respecting the conditions for a decent meeting. We will have to do better in the upcoming GA in Izmir.

During the past two years two more SportAccord World Mind Games were organized in Beijing. It is uncertain whether they will continue in the future because the SportAccord Convention in April in Sochi ended in turmoil. Mr. Vizer in his welcome speech attacked the IOC and subsequently a number of International Federations withdrew or suspended their membership of SportAccord. For Mr. Vizer this was the reason to withdraw and it now looks like SportAccord will change completely.

It is for sure there will be no SportAccord elite event in 2015 and the chances for 2016 look dim. However, the Chinese Mind Sports Association together with IMSA announced a new elite event to be held in the Shanghai province in January 2016. It looks like that for draughts prizes will be higher than those for the SportAccord World Mind Games. Invitations of the event will be done based on the results in the World Championship of 2013 and the ranking in the world cup. In addition to that players will be invited based on rating and I as President will have the right to appoint three male and three female players. The players will be chosen primarily for international draughts.

The chances also seem to be quite good that there will be World Mind Sports Games again in 2016 like we had in Beijing in 2008 and Lille in 2012. These games will be medal events without prize money but likely with financial help for travel and lodging for quite a large number of players. More information can be expected soon.

In October 2013 the World Championship for Women was played in Ulan Bator in Mongolia and in May 2015 Wuhan in China hosted the World Championship for Women. In between the match for the World Title Women was played between Zoja Golubeva and Tamara Tansykkuzhina. Zoja won.

In the past period we needed to change the system of World Cups. We have not been able to find sponsors for major World Cup tournaments guaranteeing the requested minimum prize money of €30,000. We now have a new system with tournaments contributing to World Cup points based on the available prize money. These tournaments will have to register themselves as World Cup tournaments. Further information and World Cup rankings can be found on www.fmjd.org

In the coming year the website of FMJD will be changed. We will adopt a more modern look&feel and we will also improve the routing on the website.

Time consuming were the numerous protests by Mr. Analoti Gantwarg. During the GA in 2013 his demands were already rejected but he felt he would have better chances with the Ethics Commission. In a number of cases the Ethics Commission placed itself above the highest body in FMJD, the GA and for the Executive Board that is unacceptable. However, in the summer of 2014 the Ethics Commission agreed with a number of Mr. Gantwarg's claims and Mr. Gantwarg demanded approximately €12,000 from FMJD. As the President was in the hospital at that time for major open-heart surgery, he could not

react within the period of three weeks that was perceived as the maximum time to react and Mr. Gantwarg went to court in the Netherlands. The court rejected the demands. The decision by the Ethics Commission was not dated nor signed. The members did not have enough time to react and also other formalities were not obeyed.

All of the above makes it necessary to redefine and clarify the tasks and the powers of the Ethics Commission. Proposals to that purpose have been made.

Based on the decision of the court, the judgment of the Ethics Commission about earlier complaints of Mr. Gantwarg is not valid either and therefore will not be subject of discussion in the General Assembly.

The relation with the section Russian Draughts on 64 squares has been a source of major concern over the past two years. It is becoming a question whether the independence demanded by Russian Draughts does not supersede the ideal of FMJD being one family with its rights and especially also its obligations. It is for sure that the continuous threats of Mr. Langin towards FMJD do not help building relations.

Having stated the above it is important to mention that the members of the Board present in Tallinn for the Board Meeting in July had a positive meeting with the new President of FSR, Anatoli Nikitin. Nikitin wants to improve relations with FMJD and give more attention to International Draughts in Russia. Based on this we have restored our relationship with FSR.

It is very good to see that the new section of Turkish draughts has been very active over the past two years. A major tournament has already been organized in Turkey and the World Championships Blitz and Rapid take place in Izmir preceding the General Assembly of FMJD.

In August an important meeting was held in Bangkok. The members of SportAccord that are not recognized by the IOC gathered there under the leadership of Stephan Fox. I went there to represent FMJD and the World Go Federation. We enjoyed great hospitality and I had the opportunity to speak at length with Mr. Wassmer, the representative of IOC. Based on our conversations I believe that the chances are quite good that FMJD can be recognized by IOC as early as 2016. But for this to happen we need new Statutes as the old ones are a mix of the original ones from 1947 and all kind of sometimes contradictory adjustments. I sincerely hope that we can pass these new Statutes this time without the turmoil of Lille 2012.

For the years to come we expect FMJD to grow with more members in Africa and Asia. Good contacts have been laid already. After the World Championship in Emmen in November 2015 we can work towards the 2017 World Championship in Tallinn where every federation that will have organized a national championship in 2016 can send at least one player. We are consulting with various people, including the players representative Mr. Wiersma, what kind of system we can best play then.

The best thing in my view that can happen in the period until the next General Assembly is IOC recognition. It will be a major step forward and I will be happy to step down in 2017 with that recognition in the pocket.

Harry Otten
President FMJD