Short report of FMJD Council online meeting (01.10.2020)

Present: President Janek Mäggi, Director International Relations Harry Otten, General Secretary Yuriy Chertok, Treasurer Aare Harak, Tournament Director Jacek Pawlicki, Tournament Director Youth Daniele Macali, President of European Confederation Carlo Bordini, Chairman of FMJD Section-64 Anatoly Nikitin, Representative of Russian Draughts Federation Alexey Shonin.

During the meeting the following questions were discussed:

1) Conflict with Armenian Draughts Federation

The information concerning the measures taken regarding unfair play of Armenian sportsmen at the European Youth Online Cup 2020 is presented in the corresponding documents; the decisions taken proved to be fair and reasonable. FMJD Board considers the direct personal threats that were publicly issued by the representative of Armenian Draughts Federation Nshan Alaverdyan towards Mr. Pawlicki and grandmaster Yuriy Anikeev from Ukraine unacceptable. Mr. Alaverdyan is expected to apologize for the insults and threats he made (including those posted on Facebook) for the Armenian Federation to save face as FMJD member, the member of the organization which particularly values the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship and mutual respect.

2) FMJD Technical Committee composition

The Council supported the candidature of Ms. Kristi Promet to become the next TC President because she has enough experience being a TC member for a long time and assisting the former President. As the new FMJD Technical Committee members candidatures of Ms.Xie Fang (from China) and Ms.Lubljana Turiy (USA) were supported by the Council.
FMJD board agreed that one more member, a representative from Africa, might join the TC on the decision of the committee, so that contact with the African continent could also be maintained.
Thus, the new composition of the Technical Committee will be as follows:

Ms. Kristi Promet – TC President;
Members of the TC:
1. Xie Fang (representative from Asia)
2. Johan Demasure
3. Henri Macaux
4. Lubljana Turiy (representative from America)
5. [representative from Africa]

3) Match Fixing case and suspension of Mr. Jacques Aka Kpangni

Taking into account the report of the main referee of the World Championship 2019, who provided facts of a clear match fixing case during the game between Mr. Aka and Mr. Atse, and Mr. Aka's explanation letter from 10th of July 2020, the decision has been taken to suspend Mr.Jacques Aka Kpangni from participating in official FMJD tournaments until the end of this year.

4) World Championship 2021 in Tallinn, Estonia

Given the situation created by Covid-19, there might be difficulties with conducting the World Championship 2021 in Tallinn, Estonia in March, as it has been planned so far.
Therefore the Council agreed on the following:

1) In the nearest future President Janek Mäggi will negotiate with Tallinn city government to find out whether it is possible to postpone the event for 3-4 months (until May or June etc.). President Janek Mäggi and Tournament Director Jacek Pawlicki will also discuss the possible dates for the event on the calendar.
2) If the Championship is not conducted within the first half of the year, it is likely that Tallinn city government will not have the possibility to provide support for the event in 2021;

- In the context of Covid-19, it also seems reasonable to organize the World Championship 2021 not with 40 players, but with 16 players (two match opponents, 2 Estonian places, and 12 players qualified from online qualification tournaments in January).

The final decision on organizing the World Championship 2021 is to be taken in the nearest future.

5) Dates of the next GA;

The date for the General Assembly will be chosen in accordance with the date of the World Championship 2021. Informational letters will be sent out as soon as we know the date of the championship.

6) System of online requests, confirmations and sending diplomas

Tournament Director Jacek Pawlicki made a project for the system of online requests, confirmations and sending diplomas to referees/players. The system is almost ready. It was decided that the General Secretary will continue this project with FMJD webmaster Alexander Presman.

7) World Championship blitz and rapid

The FMJD Board agreed that it is important to organize the World Championship blitz and rapid, as many players need to prove their results. The proposal about organizing Blitz and Rapid WC as an on-site tournament, with an option for some people to participate using lidraughts was discussed. This system can give top players the possibility to participate in the tournaments despite the current difficulties. But it is needed to find referees who would follow the games and record them. Their work should be paid. Tournament Director Jacek Pawlicki will make a budget proposal to respect the work of the referees.

If because of Covid-19 it is impossible to organize the World Championship blitz and rapid on-site, there is an option to announce it as an online tournament with competition fees, paid referees and prize money.

8) IDF

FMJD does not consider any direct collaboration with IDF or the inclusion of this organization into the structure of FMJD due to strong reasons. Though FMJD does not exclude the possibility of interaction with IDF within the already existing in FMJD Section 64 in the future, under certain conditions.

9) Situation in Ivory Coast Federation

Since March 2020, there has been a problem of bicephalism (the condition of having two leaders) in the Ivory Coast Draughts Federation. The FMJD has taken an official decision to recognize Mr. Bolou Tui as the President of Ivory Coast Draughts Federation, but Mr. Basile Goue Bi, its former president, is challenging FMJD by not respecting this decision. He uses the title of President of Ivory Coast Draughts Federation (FIJD) in correspondence with other federations; FMJD logo and website to announce and publish results of the tournaments. The Council finds it unacceptable! The Executive Board will have this issue under control and will use personal resources and contacts in order to settle this matter.

10) Requests for help/ support of FMJD

Because of the spread of Covid-19 some players found themselves in a difficult financial situation and they send letters to the Council members asking to provide financial

support. Mr.Otten etc. provided gratuitous financial aid to draughts players in need many times but it is impossible to help everyone. For the purposes of raising money for a particular person or some companies and organizations within draughts community, FMJD Solidarity fund was created. The players with such requests should apply to the fund.
The Council also admitted that the allocation of FMJD funds personally to someone is not what we should strive for. It is necessary to support initiatives for the development of draughts sports, and not to direct funds to someone's personal needs.

11) Section-64 questions

The Section 64 representatives inform that everything is ready for its proper functioning: a new version of Draughts Arbiter software for draughts-64 has been developed, the work has been carried out to unify the rating lists and rules taking into account Russian and Brazilian variants of draughts (to implement the concept that was accepted during the last year General Assembly the aim of which was to raise the number of countries participating in draughts-64 competitions). Also, the document for assigning titles in draughts-64 has been prepared and is ready for approval by FMJD Board.
Thus, all the documents are ready and will be sent to FMJD Board for consideration and approval.
Besides, there are still questions on unification of draughts-64 (Brazilian and Russian versions) to be addressed. Whether Draugths-64 remains a separate section within FMJD or fully integrates into its body, a separate discussion is agreed to be held during the World Championship in draughts-64 (October 4th-October 14th) in Turkey between the officials of the FMJD Section-64 and FMJD President Janek Mäggi to develop a proposal for FMJD Board concerning unification of Russian and Brazilian draughts 64.

In November, it is planned to hold a working meeting to decide upon the possibilities of organizing the World Championship 2021.