



Minutes of the General Assembly FMJD

Date: 18/19 August 2000

Place: Huissen (Dominicaans Activiteiten Centrum)

Present:

Board members

W. v. Beek, President; A. Dorgelo, Office Director + Tournament Director 100 sq.; J. Pawlicki, Vice-President + Coordinator EDC; R. Ferrero, Vice-President + Coordinator America; H. Durdyev, Vice-President + Coordinator Asia, I. Chovkopljas, Vice-President, Tournament Director 64 sq.; E. Holstvoogd, Treasurer; G. Hübner, Secretary General.

Mrs. Karmi, Assistant Tournament Director ; Mr. Leman, Technical Commission ; Mr. Springer, Propaganda Section ; Mr. de Bruijn, Problem solving section ; Mrs. Danilevichiene, Technical Commission ; Mr. Bastiaannet, Appointed Office Director

Absent with knowledge:

Mr. Sene, Mr. Ptitsyn

First session: Friday 18 August 2000, morning

Call for representatives

Federations

Belgium

Belarus

Brazil

Israel

Latvia

Lituania

Mongolia

Netherlands

Poland

Russia

Turkmenistan.

Ukraine.

Accredited

Georges Hübner

Irina Paskewitch

Riccardo Ferrero

Lily Karmi

Maxim Zukowski

Chimeddorj Bat Erdene

Theo van den Hoek

Leszek Lysakowski

Roman Klimashev

Hodja Durdyev (No voting right)

Ivan Chovkopljas

Not accredited

Janis Lelis

Edward Bouzinski

Douwe de Jong, Mr. Brink

Natascha Erewaya

Confederations

EDC

Asian Confederation

Panamerican Confederation

Jacek Pawlicki

Hodja Durdyev

Riccardo Ferrero

As Mr. Durdyev also represents the Asian Confederation, Belarus protests that Confederations should have no voting right. This issue will be discussed later.

Opening

Mr. van Beek welcomes all participants.

Communications of the President

- We commemorate our draughts friends we have lost over the past years. Most recently: Wiebe Visser, Bernard van Dongen, Mme Jaudzema from Latvia, the sister of Mr. Ptitsyn and the son of Mr. Bairamov
- Bureau FMJD. We were missing some structural arrangements for the bureau, and Mrs. Dorgelo took her time to take care of it. We are grateful for all the work she has done. Now, we have found a structural solution: we have received a subvention by the Ministry of Social Affairs to appoint a full-

time person. The next Chief of Bureau will thus be Mr. Johan Bastiaannet, whom we consider eminently able to fulfill this job. The Bureau will now be located at the home of Mr. Bastiaannet.

- We have received a grant for the production and publication of English and French draughts material for the third world, in particular Africa. We plan to include a translation of our rules and reglements. Mr. van Beek calls upon all members to collaborate with this project, because we need to set up a task force to inventorize and select appropriate material and translate it.
- We have become provisional member of the GAISF on the 16th of August. We will become official member in October. The big issue in GAISF is whether they would include mindsports. They have taken their decision, but they now have to change their entry rules to allow for mindsports. Draughts is the first sport to be accepted.

Mr. Klimashev asks why we did not organize the GA in Riga, although he believes they were ready to host it. Statutes say that GA should be organized during WC or major FMJD tournaments. He also asks how many countries are needed in order to have a valid assembly. He and Mr. Durdyev claim they have not been invited.

Mr. van Beek answers that we decided to ease Latvia's budget, and we got a subsidy from the government to finance the GA here. Later, Mr. van Beek heard from Latvia that it made its task cheaper but not always easier. So they needed some assembly to finance the WC, but it was already difficult to change the date. So Mr. van Beek proposed to Mr. Lelis that we would have this workshop continued in Riga in the form of a Special Assembly especially dedicated to referees and players. Second, the statutes mention that we do have to try to organize the GA around a major tournament, which we did: close to the Geove Cup and the Olympiads. By the way, players have been encouraged to organize themselves in a Grand Master's association, which they never did. Finally, there is no quorum needed for the GA. Maybe some invitations were received late for some countries, but for instance no African federation could be represented because of visa problems although they had received invitations in due time. Now with a full-time bureau chief, we hope this problem will be eased. Mr. Hübner confirms that the current GA is valid and respects Article 11 of the Bye-Laws.

Mr. Lelis wishes to react. He presents Latvia's opinion, which is not necessarily his own opinion: FMJD informed Latvia about changes only per fax. The intention was good but it played against the WC organization. Mr. van Beek was in Riga last year and heard that organization of GA was very important for Riga; it proved to be in fact more important than the WC. In addition, Mr. van Beek expected that draughts would be in GAISF in April: this could not be the case, although it was crucial to have recognition to get subsidy. The Federation doubts whether FMJD has enough attention to the WC and draughts in Latvia. There will be a letter of the Federation to the FMJD soon. As Director of the WC, Mr. Lelis gave documents to Mr. van Beek. If Sportscommittee and Ministry are against the WC, it will be very difficult to get sponsors for the WC. Mr. Lelis asks Mr. van Beek to make a copy of this letter and distribute it to all federations. Mr. Lelis can only propose the committees that the FMJD will organize its main GA in Riga. However, Mr. Lelis is not official from Latvia and thus cannot put this question to vote.

Mr. van Beek answers that he never got any reaction from Latvia, but only indirectly through Mr. Pawlicki, when it was too late to postpone. So Mr. van Beek proposes a special assembly in Latvia. Mr. van Beek is also surprised to hear that the GA is more important than WC, and this issue was never raised while he was in Riga.

Extraordinary General Assembly

0.1 Adaptation of the Rules: voting rights for confederations

The current situation is that Confederations have voting rights (Abidjan 1996). The proposition of EDC is that Confederations have no voting rights. Mr. van Beek states his opinion is that Confederations are important and giving a voting right is a mean of recognizing their importance. This is not a CD proposition.

Mr. Pawlicki regrets that he can never discuss with Mr. Durdyev during CD meetings. Confederations are important to coordinate activity but he does not feel the right to represent 21 countries in one vote.

Turkmenistan has not voting right, as it does not respect Article XIV of the Bye Laws

Voting takes place: 7 yes, 5 no, 1 abstention: the proposition is accepted and Confederations will not have voting rights from the end of the Extraordinary General Assembly.

If Turkmenistan does not obtain voting rights, Belarus will leave the Assembly. Mr. Holstvoogd explains that he informed all federations that were not in order what they would have to do to fulfill their obligations. He received from all but one federation the payment or the guarantee that it will be fulfilled for sure. Mr. Durdyev calls for the financial report, but the Assembly sticks to its program.

If there is a Proposition to change to agenda, it can be put to vote. If not, the Assembly will stick to its agenda. Belarus wants to start directly the Ordinary General Assembly, with the report of the President:

After the financial report, we will speak further about voting rights for Turkmenistan. Until then, Turkmenistan will retain its rights

The modified text appears in document Appendix EGA 0800.doc (Word 97)

0.2 Adaptation of the Rules: creation of a checkers section

Create a new section to promote draughts where a different 64 variant is played: the Checkers section. We have applications from England and South Africa, who are both interested in promoting the 100 squares game: England will participate to the Olympiads, while S-A has received material (boards and books) in order to play 100. The creation of this section will make it possible to have the support of people who play different variants throughout the world. It will also help getting subsidies for English-written material. It is clear that the 100 squares will remain central, but this section will help to promote draughts in general further. The current 64 variants are very close. So the proposal is to have a section 'checkers'. Technically, this involves only a textual change: only the creation of this section.

Mr. Klimashev is pleased with such news. It is important to have as many players as possible, federating different forms of the game. Having a single name for different variants is highly pleasant. He even suggests that all federations call themselves checkers federations. So he proposes that we first get to the GAISF membership, then look inside our organization. Mr. van Beek notices it is currently impossible to change the name. Mr. Leman questions why the 100 squares variant remains the main section. Mr. van Beek replies that for GAISF application it was important that one flagship game is played in all countries, which is the 100 squares variant. We can achieve a full recognition of checkers when we are in GAISF. Mr. Lelis is not pleased with the fact that 100 squares is called the "main" version. Mr. van Beek promises to look for a more acceptable phrase. Russia mentions that if we have checkers and 64 variants, what championships will be played ? Mr. van Beek proposes that this section organizes its own tournaments in coordination of the FMJD.

The text proposals read by Mr. Hübner are accepted. The modified text appears in document Appendix EGA 0800.doc (Word 97)

0.3 Adaptation of the statutes: honorary titles and English as a second legal language

Honorary Titles

The old titles "Founder member" and "Perpetual Founder member" are obsolete. The new proposal by the CD is accepted. Texts will be changed accordingly.

English as a legal language

We need a change in the text to have the possibility of having legal documents in English. The proposal is accepted.

The modified text appears in document Appendix EGA 0800.doc (Word 97)

0.4 Propositions of the Treasurer

We are moving to a new contribution system involving a change in the texts. The CD asks for a mandate to change the texts of the Bye-Laws according to the new contribution system if it is adopted by the Ordinary GA.

The President closes the Extraordinary General Assembly

Ordinary General Assembly

1.1 Approbation CD

1.1.1 Report Tallinn 1998

Belarus received the report 10 days before the meeting, but the same report was received immediately after Tallinn. It is accepted without comments.

1.1.2 Moral report of the President

No comment. Report is approved.

1.1.3 Moral report of the Secretary

No comment. Report is approved.

1.1.4 Financial report

Mr. Holstvoogd should report a list of federations at every assembly, but he could not find it in the previous ones. Mrs. Paskewitch does not understand why the report end in 1999. She also wants to know what is the status

of each federation, what is the state of the 64 section, and where is the statement of cash flows. She would like to know whether FMJD receives money from the 64 section, and by what means. The point is: sports committees would like to have reports about the money they gave to players when they go to tournaments. Mr. Chovkoplias has relevant information: he received money from different tournaments, used some of it to organize these tournaments. He has the details of the proportions used for the different kind of expenses. Everything is on paper and can be controlled. Belarus complains that all documents are labeled "FMJD" and do not mention the place of the 64 section. So the lack of information is damageable, and is acknowledged by the Assembly. Mr. van Beek replies that we give development time to the section 64 (2 years given in Abidjan, then extended by 2 additional years in Tallinn): now, this time is over, and the section should be compliant with the FMJD rules.

The FMJD agrees that all competitions should provide financial details the way Mrs. Paskewitch claims. The system for the 64 should be exactly the same as for the 100 squares: fees are paid to the FMJD, which finances the organization of tournaments. Mr. Klimashev also stresses that there are too many differences for players in 64 and 100 tournaments. He also regrets that all financial documents are not available at the GA, but he congratulates Mrs. Dorgelo for her information about tournaments over the past year.

Mr. van Beek promises all information demanded by the Belarus federation together with the minutes of the Assembly. Although he makes clear that it has been considered as sufficient by the auditing committee. However, Mr. van Beek acknowledges that this report is still incomplete.

In consequence, Mr. van Beek proposes Mrs. Paskewitch as a financial auditor for the next General Assembly. She accepts; we need to find two other auditors.

Mr. Klimashev asks whether FMJD has received any public subsidy. The answer is no in the last two years: Mr. Bastiaannet's wage will be subsidized from September 1 on.

1.1.5 Report of the Controller

Mr. de Mik is Treasurer of the KNDB. No comment on his report.

Mr. Holstvoogd suggests that a report of the auditors should be made every year instead of every two years.

1.1.6 Report of Tournament Director 100 squares (1/2)

Mr. Pawlicki received this report yesterday, which is too late. Mrs. Dorgelo apologizes. During EDC meeting, it was discussed about collaboration between EDC and Tournament Director 100 squares: it turns out that it is currently impossible; in practice, it does not exist. EDC urges the President of the FMJD to find a drastic solution. Mr. Lelis confirms that EDC is not satisfied at all with the situation. Mr. van Beek has observed the situation and promises to handle it seriously and improve communication. One big step is the full appointment of the Chief of the Bureau, who will ease Mrs. Dorgelo's work and try to solve communications problems.

Mr. Bat Erdene does not read French, but is surprised not to see some tournaments. Mrs. Dorgelo replies that not all tournaments are reported in detail in this report.

1.1.9 Approbation of the CD's action (1/2)

Mr. Klimashev has an open letter stating the Russian Federation disagrees with the CD's action. As it is in Russian, attention will be paid to it later. The last sentence says: if the FMJD does not meet all the previous claims of this letter, Russia and Belarus will step out of the FMJD and create their own world federation.

The President closes the first session of the General Assembly at 12.30.

Second session: Friday 18 August 2000, afternoon

Mr. Macaux, accredited representative of France; Mr. Haijink, Chief of Bureau KNDB; Mr. Tschertok, Mr. Fokkink and Mr. Schwarzman have joined the session.

1.1.6 Report of Tournament Director 100 squares (2/2)

Mr. Pawlicki, on behalf of EDC and the Polish Federation states that the role of the Tournament Director is to keep the rules. Mr. Macaux mentions that the selection rules for youth competitions is not strictly one player per federation, because remaining places are distributed according to the results of the previous championships. Mr. van Beek's proposition is that

- Rules must be made more explicit to federations;

- Then, a system of checking should be put into action so that we can check whether rules are respected. We must try to adhere more strictly to the rules, even if some federations have to be disappointed.

Mr. Pawlicki asks whether the current Tournament Director could be replaced. Mrs. Paskewitch shares this concern. Mr. van Beek replies that Mrs. Dorgelo is not up for reelection. Mr. Pawlicki states it is not a personal issue, but an issue of the result of the current situation. He demands a change.

Mr. van Beek will keep a very close watch, together with Mr. Pawlicki and the FMJD Office, on whether the Tournament Directors actually respect the rules.

1.1.7 Report of Tournament Director 64 squares

No comment. Report is approved

1.1.8 Reports of the Confederations

EDC's report is approved. Mr. Pawlicki is congratulated for his work.

Report of Panamerican Confederation is approved.

Report of African Confederation is approved.

Mr. Durdyev makes an oral report for the Asian Confederation. He states there are many problems, and it is not easy to organize something on this continent. The mandate began in 1996 for two years. In the last two years, there have been misunderstandings with FMJD. For instance, the organization of the last Asian Championship: Confederation did not take care of it. So he claims that something has to be done in the future.

The representative of Lithuania regrets that the same person played in two continents. Mr. van Beek answers that some countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia) can opt to play in Europe and Asia, but they may opt for only one qualification source. This is a decision that was taken in Tallinn. Mr. Macaux notices that many people have incentives not to stick to GA decisions once they are back to their countries. This signals a deep lack of professionalism, which has been around for 20 years. This is why rules change so often.

Mr. Leman, on behalf of Azerbaijan, states that from now on, Azerbaijan wishes to play in Europe only. The Assembly acknowledges this position and will seek confirmation from the relevant federations.

Mr. Klimashev is surprised of the candidature of Mr. Ptitsyn for the Asian Confederation, as he lives in Moscow. But, actually, nothing prevents Mr. Ptitsyn from being candidate for the coordinator of a confederation.

1.1.9 Approbation of the CD's action (2/2)

Since all reports are approved, the CD's action is approved

1.2 Approbation of commissions and sections

1.2.1 Report of the Propaganda Committee

No comment. Report is approved.

1.2.2 Report of the Problemist Section

The report is approved. Mr de Bruijn states that Mr. Zubov is, to his regret, no longer active. The Section wishes to have him replaced, preferably someone from Eastern Europe. The Section proposes the name of Mr. Salnikov for President, and asks Mr. Klimashev whether he would be a good candidate. Mr. Klimashev answers positively. Since all candidatures have already been discussed by the Russian Federation, his appointment is already acceptable. The issue is that he does not write in latin alphabet, which makes it very problematic. So we have to leave it open now. The Dutch federation does not wish to introduce a candidate. Mr. Macaux confirms that a too great number of Dutchmen in the FMJD should be avoided.

The Assembly has to give mandate to the CD or the bureau to find an eligible candidate, preferably from a Russophone country. Mr. Bastiaannet can fill the position ad interim.

2. Affiliations and Radiations

No radiation. We have three affiliations: South Africa, England and Dominican Republic. A round of applause welcomes them. The first two have already paid their fee. We will ask the registration fee to the Dominican Republic soon.

Mr. Leman has received a letter from Slovakia asking for affiliation. The CD will follow it up.

3. Elections

Mr. Klimashev claims there were many irregularities in the convocation and the organization of the meeting. Elections would not be valid here. Mrs. Paskewitch says Belarus will also not vote.

Mr. van den Hoek does not contest the formal legitimacy of the GA. However, he claims that it is difficult to sustain sensible decisions with only 12 countries represented and no African country. So the proposal is to move those elections to Riga that involve more than one candidate.

As many federations showed support for the Dutch proposal, and as Mr. Lelis expressed his wish to have a part of the GA in Riga, it is decided to postpone elections for which there is more than one candidature to a second part of this Assembly that will be held in Riga. So this Assembly will not be closed tomorrow, but will be adjourned to October in Riga, under condition that Mr. Lelis can house us. Mr. Tchertok ensures that Latvia can do it. Mr. Klimashev appreciates this as the best of the President's proposal today. However, we must do our best to have as many countries represented.

Mr. Macaux reacts. First, it is a pity that many federations did not know that Riga was candidate because some of them can only fund one trip to a GA. Second, he considers that the argument that only 12 countries are represented here is clumsy: the GA in Riga would not be a major improvement if less than 20 countries are represented. Also, he fears that African players would not be accredited there. So, Mr. Macaux agrees with the decision to change but fears it will be useless for the stated purposes.

Mr. Durdyev asks whether we could have new candidates. The Assembly decides that all candidacies will be accepted until September 15. The GA would provisionally take place on October 6.

The proposition to postpone the GA to Riga for elections with more than one candidate is accepted at unanimity less one abstention (France).

3.1 Election office

Mr. Pawlicki is appointed president of the bureau. He proposes Mr. de Jong and the representative of Lithuania for members of the bureau.

3.2 Election of the Treasurer

Mr. Holstvoogd is the only candidate. He is elected with unanimity. Mrs. Paskewitch asks that Mr. Holstvoogd prepare for the second part of the GA all documents that the Controllers can control before the 15th of September.

Mr. Macaux also proposes to have provisional budgets in the future. The treasurer accepts this.

3.3 Election of the General Secretary

Mr. Hübner is the only candidate. He is elected with unanimity. Mrs. Paskewitch asks him to send documents to Belarus by snail mail but also by e-mail.

3.4 to 3.7 postponed to Riga

4. General Proposals from the CD, Federations and Confederations

4.1. General Program of the CD

There are two main proposals by the CD: the change in the contribution system and the introduction of the section "Checkers"

The creation of the section "Checkers" has been accepted in the EGA.

The proposal by the Treasurer has not been correctly copied, so this point is postponed to Riga.

4.2 Affiliation GAISF/AGFIS: consequences

One of the consequences is financial: NLG 5.300 annually. The first fee that we paid did not come from the FMJD. One of the possibilities is to enter in the World Games, an institution different from the Olympic games but important. The consequence is that if we continue not to receive enough contributions, we will have problems staying in the Association.

Mrs. Paskewitch wishes that Turkmenistan were reintegrated to the A-list for Riga. Mr. Durdyev mentions that smaller federations should pay less than the full fee. Mr. Hübner, on behalf of Belgium, wonders whether yearly fees would be raised because of GAISF membership. In the financial proposal, yearly fees would be lower and participation fees would be increased, so that the sums level out and we carry less debt.

4.3 Proposals from the CD (1/3)

- New counting system (text proposal p.22 of the mail sent to federation): 2 draws < 1 victory. Goal: increase combativity of players. Mr. Macaux fears that it will not change anything, because there will be as many draws. Mr. van Beek disagrees, because it is a step in the direction we are heading to. Mr. Klimashev and Mr. Pawlicki claim that the system is not fully ready: we have to take advice of players and referees at first, and see whether it is technically workable. Mr. Lemman complains that we talked about remise many times, and it remains a very serious problem. We must talk about it with players and referees. This suggestion is accepted. The Olympiads would be the perfect place to talk about it. A questionnaire should be prepared soon. Mr. Klimashev mentions that people already play minimatches in 64 squares and it works quite well.

Mr. van den Hoek is in favor of the proposal, especially because it would diminish the number of easy draws, but would not see it in effect before January 2001. The Riga Assembly will decide whether it is time to implement it. As a player, Mrs. Paskewitch believes it is irrelevant for round-robin tournaments and unfair in Swiss system. Mr. Lysakowski confirms the latter view.

Mr. Bat Erdene would like to have it tested before. Mr. van Beek fears to do it during official tournaments. Mr. de Jong reminds that 3 years ago, Maars tournament was organized with the same rules: players were not satisfied because the best players (Sijbrands, Tschizow) made too many draws. Secondly, he has never seen empirical evidence that there would be more victories. Mrs. Paskewitch is against experiments.

The Assembly proposes to ask the opinion of players and to experiment it. Mr. Macaux commits to try to have all competitions in France organized using this system. Mr. Springer complements it by proposing that a new member country organizes a tournament with the 3-1-0 system. We will discuss it again in Riga

- The title of Eminent Member of Honor to Mr. Frank Teer (text proposal p.22 of the mail sent to federation). His is an outstanding contribution to the FMJD. Mr. Klimashev would prefer that this proposal come from a national federation. The KNDB provides entire support to it. The title is awarded to Mr. Teer by acclamation.
- Diminish the number of accelerated games (text proposal p.22 of the mail sent to federation): the CD has the feeling that two disciplines with accelerated games are enough. It is stressed that in accelerated games, the Fisher system is used. Mr. van den Hoek and Mr. de Jong would propose to have rapids between 16 and 60 minutes per game per player, in accordance with the first WC rapids, and the opinion of players. Concerning the Fisher system, time division should be such that it corresponds to a game of 60 moves. So the proposal is accepted and the appropriate number of moves in the Fisher system will be computed with a reference of 60 moves.
Mr. Klimashev also suggests that WCs in the three disciplines are not too close to each other, in order to let players adapt. For 64 this will imply two disciplines, blitz and classic.
- Limitation of the maximum length of the game. We need the opinion of the players, and no decision is to be taken before Riga. The opinion of the Assembly is welcomed here.
Mr. Klimashev thinks this task belongs to the technical commission. The members of the Assembly are asked to think about it.
- Proposals from CD meetings (Secretary General) and proposal for the blitz system: to be discussed tomorrow morning.

4.4 Proposals from Federations and Confederations (1/2)

- European Team Championship (EDC) (text proposal p.27 of the mail sent to federation): Mr. Pawlicki believes we need it but we have difficulties organizing it: so EDC proposes to do it not more often than once every two years. The proposal is detailed in the document.

- Grand Prix (EDC) (text proposal p.23 of the mail sent to federation): Idea is to give a chance to every player by providing rewards to participation as well as result. Important is also that clubs are also classified.

Added item: Olympiads

Mr. Macaux complains that the accommodation is insufficient, because GBP 50 per player does not allow for a proper living. It is unacceptable after what happened 4 years ago, when organizers of a youth tournament also required some federations to pay on their own. So FMJD proves to be incoherent. It contradicts our rules. Mrs. Paskewitch and Mr. Klimashev also think that it would be better not to have it organized at all, because conditions there are “terrible”.

Mr. van Beek replies. The previous Olympiads were 8 years ago. We had an offer from Italy 2 years ago, which was cancelled at the last moment: Money was missing. London made an offer, which looked very interesting, but the whole manifestation was endangered. Actually, we got the best we could get. Let’s judge about it after the Olympiads. The CD thinks that having the competition is important; having good conditions is secondary.

Mr. Pawlicki regrets that players who made big efforts to be in the team could only get information by the KNDB, and nearly could not go. He blames the bad communication of information.

Mr. Bat Erdene offers the FMJD a crafted flag as a gift of his federation for the organization of tournaments in Mongolia.

The session is closed at 17.30

Third session: Saturday 19 August 2000, morning

Mr. Visser, President of the CT, has joined the session (paul.visser@wxs.nl).

4.3 Proposals from the CD (2/3)

The text proposals are given in document Appendix GA 0800 - 1.doc (Word 97).

- Reserve for qualified players: this point is accepted without discussion
- Problem solving: this point is accepted without discussion
- Confirmation: Mr. Macaux and Mrs. Paskewitch judge that this point is difficult to run in practice. As it is a financial proposal, it will be included in the financial propositions presented in Riga. Mr. Durdyev proposes that we also have this kind of policy for yearly contributions, which is accepted. The whole package will be presented in Riga.
- FMJD as a court of appeal: how should FMJD behave when federations or players on internal matters seize it. Mrs. Paskewitch considers that FMJD should not have the decision power for this matters. Mr. van Beek confirms it has been the policy of the FMJD so far. We will stick to the policy that the FMJD will not intervene in any conflict unless all parties of the conflict call for the help of FMJD on this conflict. Mr. Pawlicki fears that we might then leave unfair situations unchanged, and stresses that it is often related to a lack of information. Mr. Macaux also takes the example of France four years ago, with rival federations: then, its statutes tie FMJD. But Mr. van Beek states that a good mediation involves the good will of all parties.

Item in urgence: World Championship Riga

Mr. Lelis informs that Mr. van Beek received yesterday a letter from Latvian federation, which he brought to Mr. Lelis. This letter is addressed to the General Secretary for the GA, and Mr. Lelis has a mandate to read it. It states that Latvian Federation will not organize the WC in Riga. The two reasons are: FMJD had not fulfilled GAISF membership, which precludes government support, and had not organized the GA in Riga but in Huissen. Mr. Lelis has to come back to Riga and talk with board of the Federation, because he really wishes to organize it and still thinks it is possible. This letter is damageable for sponsors.

Mr. Lelis would like FMJD’s help for this: the list of players, the list of reserves. He will provide the definite answer shortly after his return.

Mr. van Beek asks how much money the government had promised to pay. Mr. Lelis ensures no money at all. So currently they have nothing from the government. However, he has guarantees for accommodation and readily available playing room, communication facilities etc. Mr. Lelis lists everything he has secured, and is backed by Mr. Klimashev’s high opinion about Latvian’s organization skills. Mr. Lelis also wishes to organize an arbiter’s course and has taken contacts with Mr. Fokkink.

Mr. van Beek replies that the points raised by the Latvian Federation have been solved yesterday. The FMJD also announces that it will make the GA in Riga self-financing, so not adding to the burden of the organizer's budget. We will also receive next week a fax from GAISF confirming our membership, which will be directly sent to Riga.

Mrs. Paskewitch regrets the situation because she considers that the CD of the FMJD does a bad job. Mr. Macaux has the feeling that it is too easy to attack the CD when things turn wrong: however, the FMJD represents the federations. Mrs. Paskewitch reminds that the decision of allotting the WC to the Latvian Federation was contingent on it organizing the GA. Mr. Klimashev abounds in her direction. Now FMJD has to help Latvia to organize it. Mr. Macaux reminds that it was announced last October that the WC cadets would not take place: he did his best to organize it instead of criticizing. So the only way to progress is to do it together: it is crucial since the draughts movement is in a critical situation. Mr. Durdyev agrees with this view. Mrs. Karmi also stresses that it is unfair to criticize the CD for failures and not recognizing the good things it has done: we are finally in GAISF, we have a bureau, and many other good things, and this especially difficult without money. Mr. Klimashev urges the FMJD to contact the Latvian Federation to help organizing the WC. Mr. Macaux stresses it is mainly an information problem.

The consensus is that we leave Mr. Lelis some time to settle the problem and offer it all help possible. Mr. van den Hoek considers it is a natural task of the CD to structure the proposal and to propose concrete help to Mr. Lelis. The CD can already propose the self-financing of the GA, with a provisional schedule, and all help available. Maybe Mr. Lelis would like to have a representative of the FMJD going to Riga, but at the moment he could not join officials of the Federation. Mr. van Beek also offers to come to Latvia himself to support Mr. Lelis. Mr. Lelis would also like to have an official letter from the FMJD, signed by all members of the Assembly, and a letter for Mr. Klimashev to help him finding sponsors in Russia. Mr. Klimashev announces that if he does not find sponsors, he will help himself and organize the GA and the WC in Russia. He has the opportunity to find an emergency organization in Moscow and a prize-money of \$25.000 very easily.

Mr. van den Hoek would like to know whether the referee-training course would complicate organization, and to set a deadline for a final decision. Mr. Lelis replies that the referee course that lasts 3 days would help the WC as much is paid for their expenses. But, Mr. van den Hoek suggests, saved hotel rooms could be a first donation for the prize-money. Mr. Leman agrees with Mr. van den Hoek. He knew about the situation in June already, and would like not to react emotionally. Mr. Lelis needs a minimum of one week. Mr. van Beek proposes to set the deadline for the go-no go decision to the 1st of September. We must decide on what prize money is sufficient to have it organized. For Mr. Macaux, it is not a necessary condition. Mr. Lelis guarantees there will be some prize-money.

In conclusion, the GA gives all support to Mr. Lelis until the 1st of September. If the organization is able to host the GA, the FMJD commits to add the saved costs of GA to the prize-money. The same holds for the referees' course. If no solution can be found, Mr. Klimashev's help will be called upon and gratefully acknowledged. Mr. Lelis thanks Mr. Klimashev and everyone who is willing to help.

The dates of the GA in Riga will be known after discussion with the GAISF.

4.3 Proposals from the CD (3/3)

- Distinction TIT / TIH: To be discussed after advice of the CT, so in Riga. However, the CD proposes to give the Olympiads the TIT status. This proposal is accepted.
- Proposition blitz tournaments (The text proposals are given in document Appendix GA 0800 - 2.doc (Word 97)): Mr. Pawlicki and Mr. Macaux ask about the number of participants. Mrs. Dorgelo explains that the limitation to 64 is not definite; actually the system can be extended to more. Mr. Macaux wishes to have item 4 changed to "has the right to be inscribed by his/her federation". The Assembly agrees with the remark.
The knock-out system is just a possibility. The GA has to decide on a general format: it states its preference for the one presented, provided there are more than 32 participants. For a smaller number of participants, the GA asks the CT to work out the details. The principle accepted is the one of free registration.

5.1 New Titles

To the list proposed by the CT should be added two persons: Nasevitch, MI and Erdenebileg, MI. However, we miss information about Kulikauskas 1997. About Nosevitch, Mrs. Paskewitch explains that he had two GMI

norms: he should be awarded the title of GMI. Mr. Visser will check whether it is correct, and if so the title will be awarded in Riga.

5.2 New referees (1/2)

Mr. Teer is proposed to become International Arbiter, on exceptional basis, because of his impressive contribution to the current regulations of the FMJD. Mr. Macaux is not against this decision, but strongly against the principle of nominating someone against the rules. Mrs. Danilevichiene also considers that Mr. Teer has a unique understanding of the rules. Mr. van Beek concludes by stressing that we have to make an exception in this case, because we should have made him FMJD Arbiter long ago. So the title of International Arbiter is awarded to Mr. Teer by acclamation.

Mrs. Karmi calls for an examination at the end of training courses, because there might be too many International Arbiters. Furthermore, Mr. Macaux wishes to have enough refereeing of tournaments by candidates after these courses. Mr. Leman does not think that there should be seminars for FMJD arbiters, because good referees rest on experience. So seminars should only be for International Arbiters. Mr. Pawlicki stresses that the test should go along with a sufficient knowledge of different languages. He and Mr. Macaux mention that seminars are very useful for referees. Mr. Macaux also regrets that few referees do know the Swiss system sufficiently well. If necessary, he and Mr. Faugier may organize seminars for the Swiss system.

This material will be given to the CT for advice.

The Czech federation proposes Jaroslav Novotny, Lumir Gatnar and Igor Keder for FMJD Arbiters. Mr. Macaux proposes to award them the title, and then invite them in a tournament outside their country. Mr. van Beek confirms it is part of our duties. Mr. Leman considers that 25 years of Golden Prague tournaments is a sufficient to become FMJD arbiter. The Assembly awards them the title of FMJD Arbiters.

A proposal of Turkmenistan wishes to award the title of International Arbiter to Mr. Durdyev on the basis that his application came before the decision of creating the titles of FMJD Arbiter. Mr. Durdyev reports that he has a refereeing experience in London in 1999. Mrs. Danilevichiene had a negative report on Mr. Durdyev for this tournament, and does not recommend him for the title of International Arbiter. Mr. Pawlicki also explains that we should leave this case until we have assessed the financial situation of the Turkmen Federation. This would leave time to the CT to assess the application of Mr. Durdyev. Mr. Durdyev is asked to give any additional information to the CT.

Mr. Klimashev considers that Mr. Durdyev has achieved outstanding contributions and should be rewarded by this title. Mr. Macaux stresses the importance of the referee; this title is not an honor, but an authority. So we must be very cautious in delivering it.

The Assembly decides to hand in the report to the CT, wait for its advice and decide on it in Riga. In addition, Mr. Klimashev is asked to invite Mr. Durdyev in tournaments he organizes in order to assess his quality.

Mrs. Paskewitch proposes that the CT provides its advice today in order to vote. This is not possible, as Mr. Visser remarks, because the CT is not present.

The President closes the third session of the General Assembly at 12.30.

Fourth session: Saturday 19 August 2000, afternoon

5.2 New referees (2/2)

The German Draught Federation proposes Mr. Merins as an FMJD Arbiter. The proposition is accepted.

4.4 Proposals from Federations and Confederations (2/2)

- Concentration period before games (KNDB): Article III, 4.1 p.70/4 of the Appendix has never been enforced in reality, as many players do not need time for concentration before the game and those who want it can in fact not have this rule enforced: so it is proposed to suppress it. The Assembly accepts it.
- Simultaneous games: Mr. Teer proposes to forbid that the blind simultaneist writes down the moves. This is accepted.

Added Item: World Championship Qualifications

Mr. Hübner acknowledges that the minutes of Kropswolde (September 1999) mention that a player from the same source would replace any defection of a qualified player. It was also stated that the Slawno tournament

would bring two places. After the decision of Mr. Sijbrands not to participate if the tournament is in Riga, the CD decided to have the third player of the zone tournament qualified. This was a mistake: Mr. Guetmanski is now qualified, and Mr. Schalley is reserve. As Mr. Adamaszek already resigned, Mr. Schalley will participate.

The current list:

A. Schwarzman	Defending champion
A. Tschizow	Vice-champion
H. Wiersma	EC
G. Valneris	EC
A. Gantwarg	EC
E. Bouzinski	EC
A. Guetmanski	EC
R. Clerc	Challenge
Y. Koyfman	Challenge
J. Krajenbrink	Challenge
D. Erdenebileg	Asia
I. Kuperman	America
J. Koster	America
A. M. Diallo	Africa
L. Kouogueu	Africa
G. Sidibé	Africa
J.M. Ndjofang	Africa
I. Kirzner	Europe
R. Schalley	Europe
X (?)	Latvia

Mr. Georgiew is valid as a reserve player. He would replace any open place from the EC. Concerning the last minute reserve, the organizing country has in principle the right to fill in places on the spot. The organizing federation has also the right to make the number even. A list of reserves should be available as well, especially if Schwarzman or Tschizow would not participate. Mr. van den Hoek proposes to use the FMJD rating system.

Mr. Klimashev would like to have the list of qualified players earlier, but the CD states that it is in practice impossible to know the result of a tournament before it is held. In particular, we regret that the Champion of Asia could not attend the Championship of Asia. The reserve for Mr. Erdenebileg is Mr. Mitschanski.

If we have to change the rules for reserves, this will be done at Riga. Mr. van den Hoek also wishes to have a deadline for the applicability of the rules for reserves, and structure the system.

5.3 Championship cycles

Letter of Mr. Schwarzman

Mr. Schwarzman asked for a revenge match to Mr. van Beek. The reply was: there is no revenge scheduled. In the present system, if Mr. Schwarzman loses his title his Riga, he does not have right to have revenge. The CT gave a negative advice, since it would not fit in the current cycle. The decision on the cycle was made in Tallinn. The FMJD may accept any proposition if it is submitted by a federation before the meeting in Riga, i.e. before September 15.

WC Women

Last year in Yakoutia, WC Women was in Swiss system with 20 players. It is not necessary to have such a system for so few players. So Belarus proposes to allot 1 place per federation and add places with respect to the previous world championship. Another possibility is to use Continental championships for qualification. The CD also thinks that a round robin system is always better. The proposal is considered for the next WC Women, provided that the EC Women alone.

The Assembly asks Mrs. Paskewitch to write down the proposal in order to vote in Riga.

5.4 Adaptation of the rating

The FMJD has corrected the rating of Mr. Wallen from the 15th a much further position because a mistake had been committed. Mr. Wallen has threatened to sue the FMJD via his lawyer, because we would violate his rights. We consider the rating as a simple system of classification. We fall under the Dutch law, and might ask for the help of KNDB for consultancy.

5.5 Calendar

Mrs. Dorgelo distributes a list in order to get candidates for all tournaments.

Mr. Klimashev announces that the meeting of the Russian Federation will decide which one they can organize.

- Challenge: Mr. Marcos is interested in organizing the Challenge in Brazil. Mr. Ferrero has brought a letter from Mr. Marcos. The newly created Brazilian Agency has already accepted to organize WC juniors and cadets this year, and promised to do the Challenge next year. In principle this is accepted. Mrs. Paskewitch asks whether they can pay travel expenses, at least for part of it. Mr. Durdyev also asks for lodging coaches.
- WC Women 2001: KNDB proposes to organize it in Rheden, probably in August. Mr. van den Hoek would not see any problem to have it as a round robin tournament, as the KNDB is in favor of it.
- WC Rapids 2001: If there is any, it could be held in Netherlands, probably in April. Mongolia is candidate too.
- WC Juniors, Cadets, Girls 2001, 2002, 2003: Brazil offers to take these championships 4 years in a row. However, the FMJD is open to other options as well, as this is a heavy burden for traveling costs.
- WC Women Blitz 2001: Russia proposes to organize it. It is a 2 days competition.
- WC Juniors 2001 or 2002: Mongolia is also candidate for one of the two, in December.

Mrs. Dorgelo remarks that because of the activity of EDC, many European countries that organize a tournament for EDC will not do it for FMJD the same year.

Mr. van Beek suggests that Brazil organizes the WC match 2002 too, for convenience.

Mr. Leman wishes to add the Olympiads for youth 2002 on the list. Mr. van Beek suggests Brazil to organize them instead of individual championships.

There is no WC Women blitz this year, as it is not in the calendar. The WC Juniors, Cadets, Girls 2000 are in Brazil, 15-23 December.

The Assembly wishes that the Calendar for 2001 be completed and fixed for the meeting in Riga.

5.6 Recognition of records

Ton Sijbrands has played 20 blind simultaneous games. The FMJD recognizes this record with a round of applause. We have to design a diploma for him.

6. Sportive Proposals: 64 squares

6.1 New titles

Mr. van Beek proposes to wait for the advice of the CT to take a decision in Riga.

6.2 New referees

The candidates have been cleared by the direction 64, and so they are given the title of FMJD Arbiters. Mr. Klimashev would also like to provide the opinion on the candidature of Mr. Androsov from the Russian Federation. So the approval of Mr. Androsov is contingent on the 64 section following the right clearing procedure.

6.3 Championship cycle 64

The CD proposes, in short, to have the cycle identical to the one of the 100 squares. Mr. Klimashev explains that qualification tournaments for the 64 are never played in the Russian variant.

It looks like that it is a very complicated matter: a new proposal will be designed and translated in Russian for the Riga GA.

The President closes the session at 17.00

The President adjourns the Assembly. The second part will take place in Riga.