

General Assembly 18 and 19 August 2001, Huissen, Netherlands

Extraordinary General Assembly 18 August 2001, 10.00 – 18.00 h.

Present:

Boardmembers

W. van Beek, president FMJD; J. Pawlicki, coordinator EDC; M. Ferrero, coordinator Pan American Federation; I. Shovkoplyas, tournament director 64; A. Dorgelo, tournament-director 100; E. Holstvoogd, treasurer.

Members

A. Lehmann, Technical Commission; H. Fokkink, Technical Commission; A. Presman, Assistant Tournamentdirector; L. Springer, Propaganda Commission.

Other representatives

H. Wiersma, L. de Rooij (Netherlands); J. Fridman, Israel.

Absent with knowledge

V. Ptitsyn, G. Hübner, S. Sene

1. Accreditation

Federations

Belarus
Belgium
Brazil
England
Estonia
France (mandate)
Israel
Italy
Lithuania
Mali
Mongolia
Netherlands
Poland
Russia
Czech Republic
Ukraine

Accredited (with voting rights)

A. Gantvarg
J. Demasure
L. Marcos
J. Reade
J. Mäggi
A. Dorgelo
I. Koifman
S. Iacono
E. Buzhinski
I. Sidibé
Ch. Bat-Erdene
Th. van den Hoek
L. Lysakowski
R. Klimashov
J. Novotny
A. Yatsenko

2. Opening

The president opens the session, welcoming all delegates to this important meeting for the future of the FMJD. The large number of accredited members present guarantees that a legitimate Extraordinary General Assembly can be held.

3. Communications of the President

The president elucidates two possible futures for the FMJD, in his opening address.

The first would be to continue like the Moscow Assembly, resulting in financial and administrative problems. The section 64 will continue to haunt the main sport, and the FMJD tournaments will not be attractive for sponsors. This is a fragmenting future which is not interesting.

The second future is the way to a new structure in which 100 and 64 have their own spheres of operation. The 100 sq. will remain the main internationally recognised sport. Our provisional GAISF membership could lead to full membership, with voting rights. This can mean an entry into multi-sports events, like the World Games, and more clout of draughts and checkers in the various National OC's. Eventually, recognition by the IOC as an International Sports Organisation might be feasible. The president shows that entrance into the regular Olympic Games will remain a dream, but other options might be interesting as well. Financially this is highly relevant, as we are now too dependent on incidental subsidies. The main issue here, is that this future can only be reached by unity among the members, and trust in each other's good will.

Mr. Koifman has a more negative view of the recent past. He holds the CD responsible for the Moscow debacle, and expects appropriate action. The president stresses that the CD has done everything in its power to prevent a WC without prize money, even furnishing some prizes out of personal pockets. But the CD did learn its lesson.

Mr. Marcos checks how many member federations have contacts with their NOC's: quite a few have.

Mr. Yatsenko points at the problems organising WC matches. He asks about contacts with FIDE en WBF (bridge). The president acknowledges the problems of matches and explains that regular contacts with FIDE and WBF have been established, with the help of a Dutch subsidy.

4. Minutes of Moscow meetings

The minutes of the GA in Moscow at 10/11 March 2001 are approved, with thanks to the excellent work of the general secretary, whose professional duties kept him from the present meeting.

5. Accreditation of voting rights

16 Countries with voting rights are present (see point 1). Mr. Yatsenko claims that the present statutes always present problems with voting rights. In Moscow only 7 federations had all rights. He proposes to change the statutes accordingly. The president sticks to the formulated policy of Huissen 2000 and of all the outgoing letters. The FMJD has to move into a more professional organisation, which means that payment of dues has to be done on a regular basis. International recognition will depend i.a. upon internal professionalisation.

Mr. Gantvarg and Mr. Sidibé support this: after all, an airplane ticket costs more than the yearly contribution. A sport demands sacrifices.

6. Proposal for new structure of FMJD

The Polish proposition is discussed for a new structure of the FMJD. A proposal of mr Klimashov to first hold presidential elections, is countered by mr. Pawlicki, as no proposals of agenda change have been put forward, and we have to stick to the accepted agenda.

The president explains three amendments to the proposal that have arrived since the mailing.

1. The tournament director 100 sq. will be member of the CD
2. The president of 64 sq. Russian is VP of the CD
3. The representatives of the players (one man one woman) will be member of the CD. In the absence of a regular representation of players, the world champion and the female world champion will be invited.

Mr. Lehmann asks whether the 64 sq. section Russian and Brazilian could be united, as there are few differences. Mr. Marcos is OK, so it will be one section.

The new structure is put to the vote, including the 3 amendments. It is accepted with 10 in favour and 6 blank votes. The proposed amendments announced by the General Secretary, will be introduced in the Statutes.

7. Elections of the general board positions: President, Secretary general, Treasurer

Mr. Marcos is impressed by the president's opening address. and renounces his eventual candidacy for the presidency: better to work united from Brazil.

Mr. Van den Hoek explains why the candidature of the KNDB did not nominate a new president, as proposed by the Moscow Assembly. The structure has changed, with new autonomous sections, and the presidency has received a different content. The KNDB thinks that Mr. Van Beek is the best candidate, in view of his capabilities.

Mr. Koifman questions the legitimacy of the Dutch proposal, in view of the Moscow decisions to have a different candidate. Mr. Van den Hoek suggests to adapt the term of the nomination. As the new structure has to be tested, a shorter term might be in order. The Assembly then chooses to elect for a two year term, till the GA of 2003.

Prior to the elections proper, some candidates give a policy statement. Mr. Klimashov lauds the improvement of the functioning of the FMJD, especially though the bureau chief Johan Bastiaannet. Communication is much better now and documents arrive in time.

Mr. Gantvarg is very disappointed, as the FMJD does not heed enough the player's needs. Since 1992 he sees a divided federation: some countries want to be amateurs, a few want to be professional. The differences between 64 and 100 are not acceptable, for him. There is no function as commercial director for sponsoring, for which Harm Wiersma has been proposed twice already.

The president takes the problems seriously. The CD has already engaged professionals in sponsor matters, and a position has already been created inside the CD, in the new structure. There are also contacts for this position with Harm Wiersma.

Mr. Wiersma states that he has not yet held a position in the FMJD. Good examples of sponsoring of former WC's find, he thinks, no follow up. A lot has to be changed in this respect. He sees himself as representing the interests of the top players

Mr. Novotny supports Mr. Wiersma from his experiences in the Czech Republic. Mr. Van den Hoek explains that the KNDB co-operates with Mr. Wiersma and points out that the position of mr. Wiersma has to be quite clear.

Mr. Yatsenko sees a downward trend since 1994, marginalising draughts. Be realistic about the last 7 years and the AG of Moscow has to be respected.

Mr. Pawlicki blames our internal divisiveness, and hopes that with the new structure we will have our hands free to approach our real problems.

Mr. Buzhinski proposes a commercial portfolio inside the CD. The president answers that that already has been effectuated with the new structure: it was in the proposal.

The election follows. Mr. Van Beek is re-elected as president with 12 votes in favour against

4. Mr. Hübner and Mr. Holstvoogd are re-elected by acclamation as secretary and treasurer.

As Tournament Director 100 sq, on proposal of Belarus, with full support of the Netherlands, is elected by acclamation Mr. Alexander Presman.

8. Procedure for Sectional Assemblies

The president stresses that under the new structure the various sections 64 sq. and checkers choose their own board, and have to organise a sectional assembly for that reason.

Mr. Yatsenko indicates that the NOC of Ukraine proposes him as a candidate for the 64-section. The Russian Federation proposes Mr.Klimashov, and Mr. Shovkoplyas as the third candidate has been proposed by the FMJD-board.

Mr.Klimashov explains he does not opt for the presidency of the FMJD, but does opt for the 64-section. This function carries a heavy load: it needs a clear system of competitions with a pre-arranged calendar for at least one year. One needs a close co-operation with the FMJD Board. He asks the president for an answer to the recent letter on the Oriol tournament. The president promises him a response in a month.

Mr. Shovkoplyas wants to choose the president 64 (and VP of the FMJD) now and here and not to wait for an eventual Sectional Assembly 64 sq.

Mr. Yatsenko supports the Board proposal to elect an interim president of the 64 Section, charged with organising the Assembly. The discussion supports the latter view.

The election for an interim 64 president results

In the first round: Mr. Shovkoplyas 8 votes, Mr. Yatsenko 5 votes, Mr. Klimashov 1 vote, 2 blanks.

Second round: Mr. Shovkoplyas 5 votes, Mr. Yatsenko 10 votes, 1 blank.

The president asks Mr Yatsenko to organise the Sectional Assembly as quickly as possible, preferably at or before the April tournament 64. The interim mandate will not last longer than 1 year.

9. Representation of confederations

The new structure stipulates that the continental co-ordinators no longer exist, and that the presidents of the continental confederation are part of the General Board of the FMJD. The GA welcomes the four confederation presidents as Vice President of the FMJD : Mr. Pawlicki (Europe), Mr. Etogo (Africa), Mr. Ptitsyn (Asia) and Mr. Alias (America).

10. Proposal for frequency of General Assemblies

The proposal for a yearly General Assembly 100 sq. is accepted.

11. Procedures for voting by mandate

The proposal of the Board for mandated representations is accepted : 9 in favour, 3 against, 4 blanks. Thus each present federation may represent and vote on behalf of one absent federation, if the proper procedure has been followed.

12. Procedures for nomination of candidates for election

The Board proposal to ask for a written confirmation to the FMJD by candidates of their availability for a position in the FMJD is carried: 12 votes in favour, 4 blanks.

12a. The Commercial Director for Sponsoring in the 100-section

The GA agrees to put the proposal of Mr. Buzhinski to the vote, i.e. to give the commercial director for sponsors (which is already in the new accepted structure) a full place and vote inside the 100 sq. board. The proposal is not accepted: 5 votes in favour, 7 against, 4 blanks. This means that the one holding the sponsor portfolio will be invited to join the CD meetings.

13. Overview of FMJD financial system

Postponed till the regular GA on Sunday.

14/15. New structure of financing and resulting changes in Statutes and Bye-laws

The treasurer's proposal is discussed, which deal with a new system of contributions, inscription and remittal of old debts. All in order to arrive at financial clarity and feasibility. The remittal of debts is voted upon by those 14 federations not benefiting from the measures. It is accepted with 10 in favour, 1 against and 3 blanks. The other proposals are then voted upon by all federations and are accepted with 10 in favour, 1 against and 5 blanks.

Regular General Assembly August 19, 2001, 9.00-15.00 h

Absent: Mr. Gantvarg, Belarus; Mr. Koifman, Israel; Mr. Mäggi, Estonia.

Newly present: Mr. Mebenga, Cameroon

16. Opening

The president opens with a presentation on the total finances of the FMJD. It shows that the past 4 years the income from member contribution never exceeded 1/6 th of the total revenues. Most income derives from various subsidies such as functioning subsidies for president and treasurer, FMJD-bureau, arbiter training, development of draughts material for Africa, regulation for doping). Revenues from our own proper sources have to grow in importance, both from 100 sq. and 64 sq. If we want to be taken seriously, we have to be more self supporting.

17. Proposals

Proposal for Women WC

The proposal of Mrs. Dorgelo for the WC women is discussed in general terms only. Mr. Van den Hoek thinks it is not flexible enough, when the open FMJD place is given to the EC. Mr. Presman refers to the proposal put forward by Belarus, which also has its merits. He states that the 3 automatic qualifications are OK for everybody, as well as a round robin tournament with 14 women. At issue are the remaining 11 places. Mr Yatsenko prefers qualification through the continental tournaments, like the European one. In the absence of tournaments the other confederations could propose their participants. Mr. Bat-Erdene tells that Mongolia plans an Asiatic women championship, and according to Mr. Marcos is Mr. Alias trying this for America. Mr. Mebenga stresses that for Africa this is still impossible. The confederation needs nourishment from the FMJD.

Mr. Klimashov reminds that all proposals have to be discussed with the top players as well. The president asks the present women representative, Mrs N.(une) Vardanyan, from Armenia for her opinion. She claims in principle participation of one player per country, even if a round robin tournament is then not possible. Mr. Pawlicki proposes to mandate the CD to develop a precise proposal for qualification, in time for the European Women Championship of 2002. Mr. Van den Hoek answers that the AG 2002 can be organised in August 2002, well before the women EC.

The president charges the new tournament director Mr. Presman to arrange a detailed proposition, taking into account the discussion so far.

New counting system 3-1-0

Mr. Van den Hoek explains the new system in place in the Netherlands. Advantages are: a fiercer battle, less equal arrivals, more differentiation in the results and less easy draws. Mr. Fridman is afraid this counting is not suited for Swiss systems. Mr. Buzhinski and Mr. Klimashov fear combines between players. Mr. Van den Hoek proposes that the Netherlands study the results of this system and have the FMJD decide after the Dutch evaluation, in two years. The president stresses that both round robin tournaments and swiss tournaments should be included in that evaluation.

Limitation of game length 100 and Reglementation of electronic clock

Mr. Pawlicki adduces that the new proposal only regards application of the Fischer-system, thus with electronic clocks. Mr. Klimashov states that in rapid- and blitz tournaments these should always be used, but he still does not want to impose this. Players have to get used to the new clock. Mr. Lehmann argues in favour of a transition period during which the FMJD stimulates the use of the clock.

The new regulation for the electronic clocks is approved, and the changes in the Annexes are approved as well. Following a proposal by Mr. Van den Hoek a more general proposal for 100 sq game length limitation will be the topic of the GA in two years from now.

The GA takes a farewell from Mrs. Dorgelo

23. FMJD-structure for acquisition of sponsoring

Mr. Buzhinski has asked for an earlier discussion of this point. He is disappointed about yesterday's voting for a commercial director, due – he thinks – to misunderstanding. At stake is exactly some independence from the CD, with a mandate by the AG. He should make a contract with the CD about his work and co-ordinate with the confederations. He proposes Harm Wiersma for the job.

Mr. Klimashov thinks this is not and GA matter. The Board of the FMJD can select candidates.

Mr. Yatsenko warns that the FMJD should not become dependent on sponsoring.

Mr. Novotny insists that this function should be open to cash in on provisions, as part of the remuneration, just as an employee.

The president agrees on the importance of the position: such a person has to operate freely among the various organs of the FMJD, and should retain some independence. Any proposition from the GA is welcome. Pawlicki states that the first step is to approach candidates. Mr. Mebenga insists on the necessity of the position and the need for a good contact with the confederations. Mr. Van den Hoek asks the FMJD for a contract with rights and duties to offer candidates. The president agrees and asks for potential candidates.

20/21. Problematics/Election of president commission

(Mr. De Bruijn has arrived)

Mr. De Bruijn points out that two candidates have been nominated: Mr. Yushkevich from Kharkov and Mr. Matus from Moscow. Mr. Yatsenko insists that the candidates should be proposed by their own federation. Mr. De Rooij pleads in favour of Mr. Yushkevich as a reliable and knowledgeable person with a lot of international contacts. Mr. Klimashov announces that the proposal of Mr. Matus has been done without the approval of the Russian Federation. The Assembly then decides to appoint Mr. Yushkevich, under acclamation.

22. Discussion on standard doping regulation

The president explains that being an official sport entails a doping regulation. Of course, doping use in mind sports is not a risk nor a problem. But all sports federations have to address the problem of regulation and controls. Cost may be a problem as well.

Mr. Pawlicki introduces the problem of alcohol in youth tournaments. It might be right to proscribe alcohol use during all tournaments where young players participate. Beyond the competition it is hard to proscribe, but excesses should be punished by exclusion.

Mr. Yatsenko asks whether alcohol and nicotine are on the doping list. Mr. Klimashov thinks that organisers should have a mandate to act. Parents do not want their children involved in an alcohol-rich environment.

The president agrees that our responsibility versus the youth is wider than just doping prohibition. Alcohol and nicotine are not on the short list of the Dutch NOC*NSF. Smoking is a question of self regulation in competitions. We have to see what measures to protect the youth can be added to our regulation document.

Mr. Novotny asks whether drugs are part of the list. Yes they are. Mr. Iacono indicates that Italy has already doping regulation and controls. The problem is that the whole IOC list is checked against. Mr. Fridman stresses that mind game players are older than usual athletes and any doping regulation should take that into account, especially the use of regular medicines who may have doping properties. .

The president concludes that this discussion gives enough arguments to extend the proposed regulation.

Financial proposals (re-opening)

Mr. Demasure asks for a re-opening of the finances debate. He demonstrates that the figures in the proposal make the intermediate contribution always more expensive. The president asks the GA for a mandate to reconsider the figures, and come up with a new proposal based on the same general principles (flexible contribution and flexible inscription to follow the choice in contribution) . The GA agrees.

24. Titles, referees, records and ratings

The CT proposes to appoint Mrs. Dorgelo as FMJD-referee. After receiving her written CV Mr. Van den Hoek seconds this proposition from the Dutch side and the proposal is carried. On proposal of the CT Mr. Demasure is appointed as international referee.

Mr. Fokkink gives an overview of titles. Our present rating system counts 62 GMI (51 active), 74 MI (49 active) and 61 MF (28 active). This has been recognised since Tallinn 1998 as an inverted pyramid, a wrong element in our system.

In Tallinn the GA decided, as an intermediate measure to abolish automatic titles, but just work through norms. Now the TC is divided on the allotment of automatic titles.

Mr. Van den Hoek can take no decision without a written proposal, in which the consequences of the two options are elaborated. Mr. Pawlicki asks the GA a principal decision on automatic allotment of titles. Mr. Klimashov lacks information on the Tallinn decisions but does think the situation needs change.

Mr. Lehmann highlights the disadvantages of the norm-only system 1. Titles take too much time to qualify for. 2. Small countries are at a disadvantage to obtain titles. 3. A restricted title qualification does not stimulate participation. He asks for a reassessment of the Tallinn decisions, and to allow automatic title allotments in world championships.

Mr. Novotny and Mr. Marcos would like a system making a GMI-title hard and an MF-title easy to obtain. Mr Marcos asks: why not the FIDE system? Mr. Presman stresses that our inverted pyramid is wrong, but that any measure has to procure a steady flow of titles in the meantime, as our competitive edge against other sports is at stake.

Mr. Fokkink asks for a formal vote of the GA on the principle. The meeting agrees on the principle that automatic titles must be possible. The president asks the TC for a proposal at the next CD meeting (3/4 November) that with a restricted use of automatic titles, still topples the pyramid. The point is to find a good mix with norms.

New Titles

Mrs. Elena Borisova, the world champion women 2001 64 sq. is appointed GMIF.

The president proposes the highest honorary award (after honorary president), ie. Eminent Member of Honour, to Mr. Salif Sene. Since his organisation of the WC 1984 in Dakar, he has served over 16 years in the CD. The GA agrees.

Mr. Klimashov proposes Mr. Bairamov, 10 years in function in the CD (part of that time as president) as Honorary President. The president is reticent to appoint more than one Honorary President (now Mr. Roozenburg). The meeting agrees on appointing Mr. Bairamov also as Eminent Member of Honour. The TC will advise on the proposal by Mr. Klimashov to appoint Mrs. Teterina as GMIF.

The president proposes to appoint those members of the CD taking a farewell from their Vice Presidency, Mr. Ferrero and Mr. Shovkopyas as Member of Honour. The GA agrees.

18. Tournament Calender 100

Mr. Van den Hoek claims the World Championship 2003 for the Netherlands. This is met with applause. The WC Cadets might be organised in December 2001 though the KNDB, possibly in Belgium.

Mr. Sidibé announces that there is a possibility that the Challenge Mondial will be organised in 2nd half of February 2002 in Bamako, Mali. There is an option for a sponsor for the prize money, though the president. Azerbaijan has put forward a tentative candidacy for the WC Cadets in December 2002 (Baku). It still has to be confirmed.

France is busy exploring the possibility for a Youth-Olympiad (teams) in July 2002 in Parthenay, France. Mr. Van den Hoek poses a Dutch candidacy for the WC Juniors in December 2002 in the Netherlands.

The candidacy for the WC Girls 2002 remains open

19. Tournament Calendar 64 Russian, Brazilian and Checkers

Mr. Yatsenko, as interim president 64 is responsible for all tournaments. He stresses that he will conform to all FMJD norms. The WC 64 Juniors will be held in April 2002 in Lugansk, Ukraine. It might be combined with the Sectional Assembly.

The WC 64 Brazilian will, as Mr. Marcos announces, be held in the second half of October 2002 in Brazil.

Mr. Reade announces the tournaments in England for the section checkers: At 8 September 2001 an American Pool-Checkers (6 rounds Swiss) and at 6 October 2001 Junior Checkers (max. 18 participants). In these tournaments South Africa will participate. In October 2001 a three country match will be held between Britain-Ireland-USA. The British Open will find place in July 2002.

25. Propaganda and PR

Mr. Springer indicates a division of tasks between his function as webmaster and propaganda. Mr. Presman will be the new webmaster and Mr. Springer exhorts all countries to provide information. Mr. Novotny and Mr. Iacono promise their active support.

The president explains that the propaganda function becomes more and more important. A growing number of new countries are at the gate, who need information and support, such as Congo, Algeria, Malaysia, Philippines, Spain. Mr. Mebenga will be the African representative of the Propaganda Commission.

26. Special projects

The president announces a possible new employee for the FMJD, Mr. Paul Oudshoorn. He will occupy himself with the development of draughts materials, and translation of materials into French and English, the Africa project. Mr. Novotny stresses that support for countries, from the FMJD, is extremely important, and thanks the FMJD, in the persons of Mr. Springer and Mr. Wiersma for their help to the Czech Republic.

27. Remarks and questions

Mr. De Bruijn announces that the SPI (now CPI) has appointed two problematists as International Master of Problemism, viz. Mr. Benjamin Morkus and Mr. Dick de Ruiter. Mr. Pawlicki announces that the EC 2002 will be held in the Netherlands, with 32 players in groups, and a final with 16 players in knock-down system. All preceding international tournaments can ask for accreditation as a qualifying tournament for the EC.

Mr. Sidibé asks the FMJD for support in draughts and instruction materials, course material for referees etc. This will be part of the Africa project as well as the preparation for the Challenge Mondial.

Mr. Yatsenko counts on support for the section 64, including financial arrangements with the FMJD. The treasurer will work out the details.

Mr. Fridman, as the oldest participant, states that he has participated for the first time at a GA and thanks the other participants for their unity. He hopes that all plans, such as the international recognition and the sponsor options can be realised.

The president thanks all participants for a very constructive meeting, both in the Extra Ordinary and the Regular GA, and closes the last session.