

OCEANIA CHESS CONFEDERATION (OCC)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT SONAISALI RESORT NADI FIJI ISLANDS ON WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2013

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 In attendance were: Brian Jones (FIDE Oceania Zone President), Paul Spiller (New Zealand), Dr Virgilio De Asa (Fiji), Stuart Fancy (PNG), Anthony Maelasi (Solomon Islands), Gary Bekker (Australia), Dr Vineetha Wijesuriya (Australia), Allan Herbert (Chairman FIDE Development Commission, Rupert Jones (Secretary FIDE Development Commission), Hal Bond (Member FIDE Development Commission).
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Shaun Press (Treasurer), Roberto Hernandez (Palau), Leon Ryan (Guam), Hilton Bennett (Executive) and Jamie Kenmure (Australia).

2. PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The Minutes of the OCC Meeting held in North Sydney Australia on 12 January 2013 were confirmed. (Proposed: Paul Spiller Seconded: Virgilio De Asa and carried unanimously)
- 2.2 Brian Jones reported that the Solomon Islands Chess Federation had recently received a Government Grant and had paid all it outstanding fees to FIDE and OCC.
- 2.3 Paul Spiller reported that very little progress had been made with the Australian membership of OCC.

3. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

- 3.1 Brian Jones reported that Guam successfully concluded its first ever International Open tournament in February, which attracted 26 players from six Federations and was won by Polish IM Jacek Stopa. Although no players or officials from Micronesia travelled here to this Zonal in Fiji, it is expected that both Guam and Palau would send teams to the 2014 Tromso Olympiad.
- 3.2 Brian formally welcomed the FIDE Development Commission visitors to Oceania and wished them well with their meeting here in Fiji. It was noted that OCC continues to experience difficulty in communicating with certain officials of FIDE and the Asian Chess Federation; specifically as they did not return emails or provide essential financial support on a timely basis. Brian noted that the FIDE Development Commission allocation for the whole of Asia is only \$35,000 and this is clearly inadequate to develop chess in this region.

4. POLICY BOARD MATTERS

- 4.1 There were no proposed changes to the OCC Statutes and a Roll Call was deemed unnecessary.
- 4.2 Discussion on New Caledonia and French Polynesia joining OCC as Associate Members was deferred until the next meeting. Gary Bekker agreed to provide a formal proposal at that time.
- 4.3 Paul Spiller reported that the benefits of incorporation were unclear and recommended that OCC (for the time being) should continue to rely on the protection given to the Zone President within the FIDE Statutes.

5. EXECUTIVE BOARD MATTERS

- 5.1 The written report submitted by Treasurer Shaun Press was discussed. The OCC Balance Sheet, as at 31/12/2012, showed net assets of \$8,332 including \$3,003 committed to the Solomon Islands.
- 5.2 Brian Jones reported that the Solomon Islands Development project would proceed later this year (29 August to 7 September 2013). It is planned to send FA Jamie Kenmure to Honiara for 10 days to provide training and organise various tournaments and visits.

- 5.3.1 Dr Virgilio De Asa reported that the current ongoing 2013 Open and Women's Zone Championships would make a substantial loss. The amount of the loss is dependent on support from the Asian Chess Federation.
- 5.3.2 The 2013 Oceania Seniors Championships were hosted by the Canterbury Chess Club in Christchurch New Zealand over 25-28 April 2013. The new Oceania Senior Champions for 2013 are David Lovejoy (Australia) and Helen Milligan (New Zealand). Both players will represent the Zone in the World Seniors Championships in Opatija Croatia in November 2013. The meeting accepted Paul Spiller's proposal to provide \$250 support to the Canterbury Chess Club to offset losses.
- 5.3.3 As regards the 2014 Oceania Open Championship titles, it was agreed that Brian Jones would approach the Chess Association of Queensland to discuss a suitable open event in Queensland.
- 5.3.4 It was noted that we had not received dates from Paul Glissan, President of the Norths Chess Club in Sydney regarding hosting of the 2014 Oceania Seniors Championships. Paul Spiller indicated that Auckland may be interested in hosting the 2015 Oceania Seniors Championships.
- 5.3.5 The 2015 Zone Championships were also previously awarded to the Norths Chess Club in Sydney Australia. We expect to hear from Paul Glissan shortly regarding the proposed format and dates.
- 5.3.6 There were no bids for the Oceania Junior or Teams Championships.
- 5.4 New events in the 2013 Yulgilbar-Think Big Oceania Grand Prix include the Guam International Open, the Ballarat Begonia Open, the NZ Trusts Open and the New Caledonia Open. Gary Bekker presented a proposal to hold a 2013 Polynesian International in Tahiti (subject to finance) but this was deferred until the next meeting.
- 5.5 No progress with new prospective Federations in Oceania at the present time.
- 5.6 It was confirmed that no further FIDE Arbiter Seminars would be organised in the short term. Members were advised to attend the various online seminars now available in the USA and elsewhere.
- 5.7 It was confirmed that OCC had no interest in organising FIDE Trainer Seminars in Oceania at the present time.
- 5.8 Brian Jones commended Fiji, PNG and Solomon Islands for their interest in joining the FIDE Chess-in-School Project. It was also noted that 2-3 months teaching secondment visits to provinces in PNG and Solomon Islands were being discussed. FIDE may be asked to provide financial support for a pilot project in 2014.

6. NEXT MEETING

- 6.1 It was agreed to hold the next meeting in North Sydney Australia during the 2014 Oceania Seniors Championships (date to be advised).