



Commonwealth Fencing Federation News Bulletin: 19 January 2005

Minutes of Meeting of Congress held on the 2nd December 2004

Minutes of General Meeting held on 2 December 2004 at the office premises of FIE
President Rene Roch, 17, rue Marguerite, 17eme arrondissement Paris France.

The Meeting commenced at 1915 hours.

Present

Helen Smith	President & voting member for Australia*
Chris Stamp	Vice President – Wales
Peter Andersen	Secretary/Treasurer - Australia
John Ramsay	Chairperson of Technical Committee – England*
Stephen Symons	Canada*
Gabriella Mayer	Canada
Marie-France Dufour	Canada, CFF Technical Committee
Peter Jacobs	England, FIE Treasurer
Keith Smith	England
Iain Hunter	Scotland, CFF Technical Committee
Martin Brill	New Zealand*
Ian Sneddon	Northern Ireland
Jack Magill	Northern Ireland*
Peter Stewart	Wales
Bob Turner	Wales*
Yiannis Hadjarapis	Cyprus*

*denotes voting member

1. Opening

The President open the meeting and acknowledged the assistance and hospitality of Mr Rene Roch, President of the FIE for making his offices available to the Federation for the meeting.

A formal vote of thanks to Mr Roch was moved by John Ramsay and seconded by Iain Hunter. – **Carried** unanimously.

2. Apologies

The following apologies were noted by the President.

Felix Tan	Vice President – Singapore
Arvind Khanna	India
Pradeep Rana	India
George R van Dugteren	South Africa
Piers Jones	Honorary Vice President, immediate Past President
Neil L'Amie	Honorary Vice President, former Secretary/Treasurer

3. Welcome to Cyprus

The President welcomed Mr Yiannis Hadjarapis, President of the Cyprus Fencing Federation, who had applied prior to the meeting for membership of the CFF. Mr

Hadjiarapis thanked the President for his welcome and expressed his Federation's desire to join the CFF.

Moved by Helen Smith and seconded by Martin Brill that Cyprus' application to join be accepted – **Carried.**

Cyprus was formally welcomed to the CFF with membership fees to become applicable as from 1 January 2005.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held the Capri Plaza Hotel, Newcastle, NSW, Australia on 17 November 2002 were tabled.

Matters Arising

Item 6

Those who nominated for appointment to the Commission appointed to investigate the move for readmission to the Commonwealth Games were –
Helen Smith (ex Officio)
Iain Hunter (Scotland)
Marie-France Dufour (Canada)
Martin Brill (New Zealand)
Chris Stamp (Wales)
Jack Magill (Northern Ireland)

A Report was to be submitted by end January 2006.

Item 7

John Ramsay noted that a formal vote of thanks to Neil L'Amie & Piers Jones appeared to have been overlooked in the minutes. The previous minutes were amended.

Moved by Chris Stamp and seconded by John Ramsay that the amended Minutes be accepted as a true record – **Carried.**

5. President's Report

The President reported verbally on the progress achieved in the two years since taking over the role from Piers Jones at the Commonwealth Fencing Federation ('CFF') Congress in Newcastle in 2002. She noted the increased use of electronic media (email) in communicating with the member countries & the new website that has been set up – www.commonwealthfencing.org. This website carries many features of interest to the members of the Federation especially the history of the CFF and contacts in various member countries.

The addition of Cyprus to the CFF was noted and the interest of other nations (Malta, Brunei, Nigeria) in the CFF was seen as a positive for the Federation.

The success of the CFC 2002 was noted along with the Commonwealth Veterans Championships 2003 that were held in Sydney.

The President noted the representation in the CFF of the five Olympic zones and the representation of five of the CFF countries at the recent Olympic Games.

The President also thanked Bob Hemery, the previous Secretary/Treasurer, for his invaluable assistance during the past two years and wished him well for the future.

Moved by Marie-France Dufour and seconded by Bob Turner that the President's Report be accepted – **Carried.**

6. Treasurer's Report

The Secretary/Treasurer spoke to the Financial Reports presented for the 12 months to December 2003 and the ten months to October 2004.

At this stage the Federation was in good shape given the relatively small expense base. He advised the meeting that several countries were not financial and that notices of Fees due would be given to representatives of those nations in arrears. It was noted that all values were in \$Australian.

In relation to a question from Ms Dufour regarding the cost of the website maintenance, it was noted that an ongoing maintenance cost was yet to be negotiated with the contractor, White Gauntlet.

John Ramsay queried the cost of medals for the CFC and the President advised that the previous Secretary/Treasurer had been in contact with the Australian Commonwealth Games Association regarding the purchase/donation of medals for the 2006 Championships but that no response had yet been received.

Moved by Peter Stewart and seconded by Steve Symons that the Treasurer's Report be accepted – **Carried.**

7. Commonwealth Championships 2006 – Belfast

Ian Hunter (with the assistance of Jack Magill) gave a presentation in support of the Northern Ireland hosting the 2006 Commonwealth Fencing Championships.

A detailed financial budget was tabled and it was noted that while some of the funding had not yet been finalized the worst case scenario was that enough funds had been secured to run the championships to a very good standard. The additional funding, if obtained, would hopefully allow for assistance for athletes from struggling nations to attend the event.

To help make the event successful such items as the provision of some neutral referees and the presence of an FIE Observer had been factored into the costs.

An objective of running a successful CFC was the ultimate readmission of Fencing to the Commonwealth Games and the President was keen for a Commission to be established to facilitate this end. Marie-France Dufour volunteered to prepare a survey of all member countries to gauge their willingness to assist.

The proposed dates for the event were from 4 to 9 September 2006 with the event being held in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The possibility of running future CFC concurrent with a Commonwealth Youth Championships was discussed. It was acknowledged that such a move would be highly onerous on the organizers and may require such actions as limiting the number

of competitors; however, the joint event may be more attractive to would be sponsors. It was thought that it may not be desirable to run a junior & senior event at the same time.

It was recommended that the Commission look at the possibility of running a Commonwealth Veterans Championship in conjunction with CFC 2006.

Provided that the proposed dates for the CFC 2006 were as scheduled, it was proposed that the Congress be held on the day preceding the event – 3 September 2006 at a venue to be provided by the organizers.

8. Commonwealth Youth Championships

The President advised that the Indian Federation had asked to host a Commonwealth Youth Championships around November/December 2005.

The President asked that the Indian Federation be advised that the CFF cannot unilaterally endorse such an event without more details and that it would also be correct procedure to give other Federations the same opportunity to “bid”.

It was proposed that all Federations be asked of their interest in hosting such an event and for those interested to submit full details of the event and costing to the secretariat by end January 2005.

9. 2010 Commonwealth Games

It was agreed to call for Expressions of Interest to host and run the 2010 CFC. The deadline for receipt of submissions was agreed as 30 June 2005. It was noted that the Commonwealth Games had been awarded to Delhi in India for 2010.

10. Technical Commission

John Ramsay (Chairman of the Technical Commission) distributed copies of the new rules for the CFC – “Organising the Event” and drew attention to various changes to the Rules.

Following some discussion it was proposed by Jack Magill and seconded by Yiannis Hadjarapis that the new Rules be approved - **Carried**

The question of the eligibility of “Team” members to receive a medal in the Team Events was raised and it was proposed by Martin Brill and seconded by John Ramsay that to be eligible to receive a “Team Medal” an athlete MUST have fenced in at least one Team Match during the Championships - **Carried**

11. 2014 Commonwealth Games

Given that the CGA would be expected to announce the host country of the 2014 Commonwealth Games, it was anticipated that such an announcement would be made around February 2007. It was agreed that any Federation that was aware of its Country bidding for these Games should lobby the National Sports Federation to have Fencing included as a sport at the games.

12. Strategic Plan

The President reported on the Strategic Plan and the Federation’s progress against it. It was noted that good progress had been made. Further work will be carried out in some areas.

13. Veterans' Commission

Chris Stamp has been appointed to Chair the Commonwealth Veteran's Commission with a view to having more countries participate and to seek sponsorship and other funding for Veteran's events.

14. Closure

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 2230 hours.