



**Minutes of the 2006 Congress of the  
Commonwealth Fencing Federation  
held at Kings Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland  
at 1700 hours on Tuesday 19 September 2006**

**The Congress commenced at 1715 hours**

Present:

Helen Smith	President
Peter Andersen	Secretary/Treasurer
Anthony Dapre	Australia
Denis Dapre	Australia
Andrew Ius	Australia
Peter Osvath	Australia*
Marie-France Dufour	Canada
Jerzy Koneczalski	Canada
Stephen Symons	Canada*
John Ramsay	Chairperson of Technical Commission – England*
Karen Saunders	England
Ross Martel	Guernsey
Ian Milner	Guernsey*
Ann Corlett	Isle of Man
Rachel Turner	Isle of Man*
Henry De Silva	Isle of Man (Veterans)
Kevin Lees	Jersey
Steve Cooke	Jersey*
Farik Abdl Hamid	Malaysia*
Rusni Abu Hassan	Malaysia
Alex Sham	Malaysia
Martin Brill	New Zealand*
Jack Magill	Northern Ireland*
Robert Swanepoel	Republic of South Africa*
Mishq Galuknin	Republic of South Africa
Roy Clarke	Scotland*
Iain Hunter	Scotland
Peter Stewart	Wales
Bob Turner	Wales*

**\* denotes voting member**

The President opened the Congress at 1715 hours

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Vice Presidents Chris Stamp & Felix Tan; and Arun Vij, Secretary General of the Fencing Federation of India.

## **Minutes of the 2004 Meeting in Paris.**

It was noted that the name Iain Hunter in Item 7 (Commonwealth Championships 2006 – Belfast) was incorrect and should have been Ian Sneddon.

There being no other corrections or comments, the Minutes were adopted unanimously.

### **President's Report**

President Helen Smith reported on the happenings of the previous quadrennium. A copy of that report is annexed to these Minutes.

It was moved by Peter Osvath (Australia) and seconded by Stephen Symons (Canada) that the President's Report be adopted - **Carried unanimously.**

Following the acceptance of the President's Report there was discussion regarding:

- the location for the next Commonwealth Championships
- the possibility of re-admission of Fencing to the Commonwealth Games.

It was noted that the Commission for the Re-entry of Fencing to the Commonwealth Games would be covered later in the Meeting.

### **Financial Report**

The Treasurer spoke to the Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet of the Federation noting that all amounts were in Australian dollars. At the 31<sup>st</sup> July Federation funds stood at \$A 5,662.75 (approx GBP \$2,250). All participants at the Championships (other than India who had made separate arrangements) had paid their fees to 31 December 2006.

It was moved by John Ramsay (England) and seconded by Stephen Symons (Canada) that the Financial Reports be accepted – **Carried unanimously.**

In response to a query from John Ramsay it was noted that the cost of having the accounts audited would be in the vicinity of \$A1,000. Given the small number of transactions carried out by the CFF, the limited available funds and the relatively small sums of money involved, it was agreed that it was not necessary to introduce the requirement to have the books audited.

## **MOTIONS**

### **Affiliation Fees - New Member Countries**

In line with the FIE practice of affording special treatment to new members and in particular, emerging countries, the following proposal was put to the Meeting:

That the Affiliation Fee for new member countries be waived for the first 3 years after being admitted to the CFF and that new member countries joining the CFF not be required to provide referees or pay a referee fee in addition to entry fees when participating in CFF events for the first 4 years after joining.

It was moved by Helen Smith and seconded by Bob Turner (Wales) that the motion be adopted – **Carried** with one abstention – Canada.

## **Membership Fees – 2007/2010 Quadrennium**

After much discussion about the initial proposal regarding membership fees and the variation in membership between countries, it was proposed that the CFF Executive would assess and grade current CFF members into 3 categories and set their fees accordingly. A discount would continue to be available for countries that opt to pay their full 4 year fees in advance.

**The Category and Fee structure proposed for further investigation is as follows.**

Category 1 (11 countries)

Australia, Canada, England, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Republic of South Africa, Scotland, Singapore, Wales.

Category 2 (4 countries)

Cyprus, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey

Category 3

Barbados, Brunei, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka etc

### **Fee Structure (\$AUS)**

	Fees paid Annually	Fees paid in Advance
Category 1 countries	\$450	\$1,700
Category 2 countries	\$150	\$500
Category 3 countries	\$50	\$150

The motion was moved by Helen Smith and seconded by Peter Osvath (Australia) – **Carried** unanimously.

### **Technical Commission – Terms of Reference.**

After discussion the following amended motion was voted on.

#### **TECHNICAL COMMISSION**

1) That the following terms of reference for the Technical Commission (TC) be adopted:

The Technical Commission is the standing body of the CFF that:

- Rules on interpretation of rules.
- Recommends to the Executive and/or Congress changes in the rules for the better running of CFF Events.
- As per handbook, forms the DT at CFF Events.
- Is empowered to make emergency changes to the rules to ensure the smooth running of an event – but these changes shall only be temporary for that event, unless subsequently ratified by Congress.

Membership:

- The membership of the commission shall be not less than 4 and not greater than 6 members.

- Members of the commission must be from different CFF countries (except by co-option where the limit shall be 2 from the same country).
- Members of the commission shall be elected at congress during the Senior CFF Championships and shall take office immediately following the event.
- Members shall serve till the completion of the next Senior CFF Championships, unless re-elected.
- In the event that two candidates from one country shall be proposed then the country concerned shall decide which candidate shall go forward for election.
- In the event that fewer than 6 candidates are elected the Executive shall have the right to co-opt members provided that any one nation shall not have more than two members.

#### Proceedings:

- At the first meeting of the newly elected commission, the TC shall elect from amongst its membership: a Chair and a Deputy Chair. They shall also appoint from amongst their number a Secretary who shall keep a record of meetings.
- Resignation:
- Members can be required to resign by a unanimous vote of the Executive, or by a majority vote of the Executive following a two thirds majority in the TC.
- A member may resign by an email or letter to the CFF President, the resignation being effective from the date of sending the email or postmark on the letter.
- In the event of one or more resignations reducing the number of members to less than 4, then the CFF Executive may fill the position/s as a casual vacancy.

The motion was proposed by John Ramsay (England) and seconded by Steve Cooke (Jersey) – **Carried** unanimously.

### **Referees**

The following resolution relating to the provision of referees for CFF Events was put to the meeting.

That the Technical Commission will recruit a pool of referees willing and able to referee at CFF Events. Then for events, such as the CFF Senior Championships, the TC will select the referees and the cost of their transport and accommodation plus a per diem will be met by the Organising Committee.

To cover the cost of the above, the individual and team entry fees will be increased accordingly. The amount will be determined in advance by the CFF Executive in conjunction with the TC on each occasion, depending on the location of the event and the number of local referees in the pool. (Where possible approximately 1/3 of the referees will be provided by the host country.)

It was proposed by John Ramsay (England) and seconded by Stephen Symons (Canada) – Carried unanimously.

### **CHANGE TO STATUTES**

#### ***In the interest of increasing CFF Membership it was proposed:***

That the CFF Statutes be amended in line with the F.I.E. Statutes to allow competitors of countries that are not members of the F.I.E. to be registered for individual competitions organized by the CFF provided that

they are in possession of a F.I.E. licence. They will fence under the banner of the F.I.E. but may wear their country's letter code and logo on their fencing uniform as per the F.I.E. clothing requirements.

Subject to: CGF approval of this change (to be obtained by the President (Helen Smith) & clarification of the need to approach the Olympic Committee of countries involved) this motion was moved by Helen Smith & seconded by John Ramsay (England) – **carried unanimously**.

***In the interest of clarifying a fencer's eligibility as to which country he/she may represent:***

A proposal had been submitted with the meeting papers to clarify "eligibility" however the "home countries" spoken for by Roy Clarke (Scotland) noted that the criteria required further clarification.

Due to the complexity of the proposed changes to the eligibility rules, it was agreed to set up a working party to develop a draft proposal with a time line of the end of November 2006. Such a proposal would require CGF approval.

The working party chosen was:

- Helen Smith (President)
- Martin Brill (New Zealand)
- Steve Cooke (Jersey)
- Jack Magill (Northern Ireland)
- Roy Clarke (Scotland)
- Bob Turner (Wales).

## **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

### **PRESIDENT**

The Secretary advised that only one nomination had been received for the position of President. England had nominated Helen Smith of Australia and this nomination had been seconded by New Zealand. There being no other candidates Helen Smith was re-elected as President.

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

The Secretary advised that three nominations had been received for the two positions of Vice President. These were:

- Marie-France Dufour (Canada)
- Arun Vij (India)
- Bob Turner (Wales)

A secret ballot was held with Marie-France Dufour and Arun Vij being elected.

Thanks were expressed to Bob Turner for his willingness to stand.

### **TECHNICAL COMMISSION**

The Secretary advised that the following nominations (duly seconded) had been received for the Technical Commission.

- Helen Smith (ex officio as President)
- John Ramsay (England)
- Alex Donaldson (Australia)
- Ian Hunter (Scotland)
- Marie-France Dufour (Canada)

There being no further nominations the nominees were declared elected.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Commission for the Re-entry of Fencing to the Commonwealth Games**

This Commission carried out a survey in 2004 and the results were tabulated and presented to the Executive. The responses were strongly in favour of seeking re-entry to the Games program. The President undertook to ensure that a copy of the survey results was sent to all members.

The Commission was reconstituted as follows:

- Helen Smith (ex officio as President)
- Marie-France Dufour (Canada)
- Peter Andersen (Australia)
- Iain Hunter (Scotland)
- Arun Vij (India)

### **Commonwealth Junior Fencing Championships**

It was agreed that the CJFC should continue following the success of the inaugural event in Chennai, India. It was felt that these should be held on a 3 year cycle (reviewable) with the next event to be targeted for 2009.

A call for Expressions of Interest in hosting the event would be circulated to all countries.

### **Commonwealth Fencing Championships**

It was noted that no “official” Expressions of Interest in hosting the next scheduled CFC in 2010 had been received.

Marie-France Dufour (Canada) advised the meeting that Canada believed that it would be in a position to host the event in Ontario around August 2010 and were working to submit an official “bid”.

A call for Expressions of Interest in hosting the event would be circulated to all countries.

### **CONCLUSION**

There being no further business the President thanked the participants for their attendance, invited them on behalf of the CFF to partake of light refreshments after the meeting and closed the meeting at 1930 hours.