



Minutes of the 2011 General Meeting of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation held in the Munroe Room, Four Seasons Hotel, One Logan Square, Philadelphia, PA., United States of America on Friday 2nd December 2011

The President opened the Meeting at 1640 hours.

Present:

Helen Smith	CFF President	Australia
Marie-France Dufour	CFF Vice-President	Canada
Arun Kumar Vij	CFF Vice President	India
Peter Andersen	CFF Secretary/Treasurer	Australia

Andrew Ius	Australia*
Quamrul Islam	Bangladesh*
Daniel Yusof	Brunei*
Stephen Symons	Canada*
Manuel Belmonte	Canada
David King	England*
Peter Jacobs	Great Britain
Bovo Durgadas	India
Rusni Abu Hassan	Malaysia*
Ken Claridge	New Zealand*
Chris Hyde	Scotland*
Voting Member *	

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Bob Turner	Wales
Martha Bernstein	Jersey
Alastair Christie	Jersey
Steve Cook	Jersey
Ryan Rodriguez	Barbados
Bob Kiss	Barbados
Meyrick Simmonds	Guernsey
Novak Perovic	Republic of South Africa
Michael Dietrich	Namibia
Nicholas Fang	Singapore.

Welcome

The President welcomed all members and interested parties present.

Piers Jones

The President noted the recent passing of Piers Jones, a former President of the Federation, noting his achievements. A minute's silence was held in his memory. It was noted that his obituary would be posted on the website when it becomes available.

Minutes of the 2010 Congress

It was moved by Stephen Symons (Canada) and seconded by Andrew Ius (Australia) that the minutes of the 2010 Congress be adopted – **Carried unanimously**.

President's Report

The President noted that this year has been quiet on the activity front however, 2012 is looming as a busy year with the Commonwealth Juniors to be held in Jersey and the Veterans in Singapore in September.

She spoke of the success of the Commonwealth Championships and Veteran events that were held in Melbourne in 2010 with 16 countries represented and 213 competitors in the Championships and 120 in the Veterans. The President noted the pressure placed on the DT with the illness to John Ramsay during the event and the resourcefulness displayed by the remaining DT members, especially Marie-France Dufour, in covering the gap left by John. She paid tribute to John Ramsay's 22 years on the DT, and his commitment and contribution to the CFF. The members present acknowledged John's contribution with a rousing round of applause.

The President advised that the 2012 FIE Congress would be held in Moscow.

It was moved by Stephen Symons (Canada) and seconded by Ken Claridge (New Zealand) that the President's Report be accepted - **Carried unanimously**

Financial Report

The Treasurer spoke to the Balance Sheet and Operating Statement for the 2007-2010 quadrennial and the Operating Statement for the period January 2011 to October 2011.

The Treasurer noted that several nations had not paid any of their 2011-2014 fees, while 2 were in arrears for their 2007-10 fees. It was noted that as a consequence they could neither vote nor compete in upcoming Commonwealth Championships.

The Treasurer moved that the Reports be adopted – seconded Andrew Ius (Australia) - **Carried unanimously**

Commission for Re-entry to the Commonwealth Games

The President advised that this was an ongoing process noting the need to increase numbers of countries, especially in the Caribbean. Chris Hyde said that CG Scotland was a great supporter of fencing and was hopeful that, if Scotland were awarded the 2014 Commonwealth Championships, they would support re-entry.

Technical Commission Report

Marie-France Dufour (Chair of the Technical Commission) gave the Report, noting the new committee members and again paying tribute to the former Chair – John Ramsay. She also noted the trial formula to be used to cost Referees to the forthcoming Commonwealth Junior Fencing Championships in Jersey. Should the use of this formula be successful, it would lead to this costing method being recommended for all future Commonwealth Championships. Initial costing for Jersey indicated that the cost per athlete for referees would be in the vicinity of GBP 40 – 48.

It was moved by Stephen Symons (Canada) and seconded by Chris Hyde (Scotland) that the Technical Commission Report be accepted - **Carried unanimously**

Veterans Commission Report

The President advised that the next Veteran's Championships were scheduled for 26-29 September in Singapore and was hopeful of a good turn up.

Commonwealth Junior & Veterans Fencing Championships

It was noted that Expressions of Interest would soon be issued for the next Junior & Veteran's Championships.

The President praised Martha Bernstein of Jersey Fencing for the work put in towards next year's Junior Championships.

Commonwealth Championships - 2014

Chris Hyde (Scotland) spoke to the bid by Scotland for the 2014 Championships. He noted the good support received from Commonwealth Games Scotland and the expectation of experienced volunteers from the London Olympics.

During a video presentation he showed the venue at Largs, noting that Scottish Fencing had a great relationship with it as they often used it for camps and events. The venue had accommodation, catering and all that could be wished for. He also advised that England Fencing was willing to help with the event.

The timing of when the event could be held, given the proximity to the Commonwealth Games was raised, and Chris was to further raise this matter with the Commonwealth Games Association.

The meeting gave in principle support to Scotland's bid, subject to the available dates.

Inclusion of Cadets with Junior Championships

India had raised the question of including a Cadet Championship with the Junior Championships. This proposal had pros and cons – cost, timing, provision of referees/support staff etc.

Given some support from members, it was agreed to issue Expressions of Interest for the next Commonwealth Junior Championships giving bidders the option of:

- Bidding for a joint event
- Bidding for a single event (Junior or Cadets).

It was further noted that Cadets would be an individual only event – no teams.

Teams Events – fence off for 3rd place

India raised the practice of fencing off for 3rd place in Teams events as opposed to awarding two sets of bronze medals.

A discussion was held on this practice and if all places should be exhaustively fenced off.

A vote was held as to whether two sets of medals should be awarded for 3rd place, with the vote going 5/4 with the President's casting vote to maintain the status quo – i.e. to continue to fence off for 3rd place and award only one set of bronze medals.

A vote was called as to fencing off for ALL places – this was defeated.

The President thanked the attendees and as there was no further business, the meeting closed at 1805 hours.