



COMMONWEALTH FENCING FEDERATION

President's Report

Congress 2006, Belfast Northern Ireland

On looking back over the four years since 2002, the Commonwealth Fencing Federation has taken some significant steps forward in its development. After their election in 2002, the members of the Executive drew up a Strategic Plan and Draft Budget to guide the CFF activities over the quadrennium. I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made towards achievement of the goals and objectives outlined within the Plan.

The goals were identified as the following:

- 1. Obtain inclusion of Fencing in the 2010 Commonwealth Games and beyond.*
- 2. Organise Commonwealth Fencing events to the highest possible standards.*
- 3. Increase number of active Nations participating in Commonwealth Fencing.*
- 4. Professionalise the CFF Secretariat to improve servicing and development.*

Key Objectives:

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Increase subscriptions to provide adequate funding	Achieved
Seek sponsorship and generate funding	Not yet achieved
Establish a Commission to assist in development and operations of Veteran Fencing	Achieved
Upgrade and maintain CFF Website to the highest standard of interest and information	Achieved
Conduct a workshop at each World Championship to review and improve organisation	Achieved

Key Strategies:

➤ Promote re-inclusion of Fencing in the Commonwealth Games

- *Liaise with CGF for advice.*

The President and Chair of the Technical Commission met with the CEO of the CGF in 2005 in London and brought him up to date with CFF activities and goals. This was a very valuable meeting as the CGF had very limited and outdated information about Fencing. Since then, the CGF has officially sanctioned our events and agreed to fund 50% of the cost of the medals for our Championships. We were provided with useful advice about strategies the CFF would need to follow in seeking re-inclusion in the Commonwealth Games.

- *Check which Commonwealth Nations are affiliated with FIE; urge them to promote Fencing in the Commonwealth Games at their CG Association level and to seek membership of their CG Associations.*
(Sierra Leone, Barbados, Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar, Brunei, Dar Es Sallam, Mauritius, Trinidad & Tobago, St Vincents & The Grenadines, Vanuatu, Fiji, W Samoa).

The President has approached potential member countries at FIE events and encouraged them to join the CFF. She has worked with the support of the FIE in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Oceania to approach and encourage countries to affiliate with both the FIE and the CFF. As a result, membership has increased and there are a number of other countries who have expressed an interest in joining the CFF.

- *Identify Nations with an interest in bidding for future Commonwealth Games and promote them to include Fencing as one of the sports.*

The Executive is working with India to seek the inclusion of Fencing in the Commonwealth Youth Festival in 2008 and the Games in New Delhi in 2010. We have also been in communication with other countries bidding for the 2014 Games.

- *Work with FIE to identify African Nations and encourage their development.*

See comment above.

- *Work with Pan American, African, Asian and European Confederations to develop Fencing in their regions (e.g. Pan American = Caribbean).*

See comment above.

- *Encourage new CFF Member Nations to promote and support Fencing in the Commonwealth Games.*

We have requested this, but need to put a lot more effort into assisting countries to take a coordinated approach.

➤ **Organisation of Commonwealth Fencing Events**

- *Ensure the CFF Technical Committee liaises closely with the Organising Committee of future CFF events.*

- *Develop and circulate timelines and guidelines of the bidding processes.*

- *Regular updates of the CFF Technical Handbook.*

All of the above have been carried out effectively due to our very professional and hardworking Technical Commission.

The inaugural Commonwealth Fencing Championships were very successfully held in Chennai, India in January, 2006. There is little doubt that this event will become a regular feature of the CFF calendar.

- *Establish a Commission to assist in development and operations of Veteran Fencing.*

This was done and efforts made to lift the profile of veterans' fencing by including the Commonwealth Veterans Championships in the 2006 Championships, however, due to a lack of support from some veteran fencer groups, we abandoned the attempt for 2006.

- *Seek inclusion and continuity of Fencing in major events conducted by CGF e.g. Commonwealth Youth Games and by IOC e.g. Australian Youth Olympic Festival.*

We unsuccessfully sought the inclusion of Fencing into the 2000 commonwealth Youth Festival, however, Fencing may be included in the 2008 Festival in India.

➤ **Promotion**

- *Issue regular news releases to media and to relevant organisations for circulation and publication.*

We have kept the CGF and FIE informed of our activities, with an article about the CJFC appearing in the FIE *Escrime* newsletter earlier this year. However, there is a real need to increase our promotional activities within each Commonwealth country, as well as with the peak decision-making bodies.

The Organisers of our events have done a very good job of obtaining media coverage during the events.

- *Set-up, update and maintain the CFF Website.*

The website is now a very successful and useful means of communication.

- *Publish and circulate regular e-newsletters to members, prospective participants, interested organisations.*

There is a regular stream of email communication between the Executive, Commission members and members.

- *Maintain a database of members and relevant entities including FIE, CGF, participant Zones.*

Achieved.

- *Include a Promotions Subcommittee Workshop and an Information Exchange Session at each CFF AGM, Assembly and Congress.*

Not yet instituted.

➤ **Funding**

- *Prepare an annual Financial Budget.*

Achieved.

- *Submit application for funding to Australian Sports Commission or other umbrella organisation to support the CFF Secretariat now based in Australia (Note: when Secretariat was in the UK, funding was received from the British Sports Council).*

This was done, but was not successful in obtaining funding.

- *Seek agreement from members to increase subscriptions to an appropriate level.*

- *Institute research to identify appropriate sponsorship; prepare proposals which will demonstrate benefits for the sponsor and the need for sponsorship financial or material support; establish the methodology to care for, enhance and extend the sponsorship.*

Not yet achieved.

- *Identify sources of generated funding (e.g. bequests, Trusts & Foundations, donors, fundraising projects, merchandising).*

Not yet achieved.

In closing, I would like to thank all members of the Executive (Chris Stamp, Felix Tan and Peter Andersen) for their support and dedication to the work of the CFF over the past four years. I would also like to thank the Chair of the Technical Commission, John Ramsay, for his huge input into the planning, preparation and smooth running of our events and the members of his team who have supported him in a very professional manner to ensure a high standard of organisation and management during our events.

Helen Smith
CFF President
September 2006