

COMMONWEALTH FENCING FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING IN THE SALLE DES REUNIONS AT THE PALAZZO DELLO SPORT GENOA, 16th April 1992.

Present	Mr. Piers Jones	President
	Mr. David Mok	Australia Representing Mrs B. Chan
	Mr. Carl Schwende	Canada
	Mr. Jess Smith	England Representing Mrs P. Spink
	Mrs. Elizabeth Wright	Scotland Representing Dr. D. Mends
	Mr. Mark Nelson-Griffiths	Wales Representing Mr R. Turner
	Mr. Neil L'Amie	Hon. Sec./Tres.

The President welcomed those present and thanked them for making themselves available during such a busy time. He hoped in the near future to produce a Newsletter designed to keep member countries in closer touch. The main business of the present meeting was preliminary to the next C.C.F. Championships.

1. APOLGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Prof. Ronnie I. Theseira of Malaysia and Mr. David Grant-Taylor of New Zealand.

2. THE HOLDING OF THE NEXT C.F.F. CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CANADA Mr. Schwende pointed out that the holding of the Championships in Canada was dependent on the year being 1994. The holding of these championships in Canada was welcomed and Item 3 of the agenda was decided upon as 1994.

Mr Schwende reported that an Ottawa club had shown interest in running the Championships but could not afford the whole cost. An approach had been made to the Canadian Sports Council for funding and he was awaiting a reply.

The timing of the Championships was discussed and, if at all possible, they should take place 1 or 2 weeks prior to the World Championships in Greece.

3. DATE OF THE NEXT CHAMPIONSHIPS cf. Item 2. Decision: 1994. Wales and the Hon. Treasurer suggested that there might be possible financial and administrative advantage in having the Championships on other than Commonwealth Games Years. On the whole, however, it was thought that subsidies were more forthcoming in C.G. years.

4. INCREASE OF SUBSCRIPTIONS The treasurer made a plea for the subscription to be increased to £10 sterling per annum in order to defray mounting costs of a projected increase in the level of communication. The plea was granted. It was suggested that each country should be billed annually.

The President pointed out the the previous President may have been able to absorb travel expences because of her other duties and responsibilities. This was not so with the present incumbents nor likely with their successors. Finance for travel should therefore be a concideration.

It was agreed that countries with few fencers should not be forced to pay the increase and that all fees due before 1992 should be written off.

At this point Mr. Smith had to leave the meeting to attend to his Team duties.

5. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS.

i. Wales tabled a paper on "Eligibility/Qualification for Representative Teams". It seemed that some Welsh fencers had participated in the past by virtue of Welsh grand-parentage. Although English rules for the Home International Matches allowed this qualification, the CFF regulations were based on the Commonwealth Games regulations and thus only Welsh parentage should be allowed to count for CFF Championships.

The first decision taken by the Council was to affirm that all previous results, medals won, etc. were completely valid. Retrospective action was not appropriate.

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Discussion moved on to whether it was appropriate to relax the Eligibility rules so that fencers could represent their country by virtue of grand-parentage. The general feeling was that anything that promoted participation, particularly by smaller countries, should be encouraged. Small nations often had difficulty in mustering a team and this might help them.

The feeling of the meeting was that Eligibility by grand-parentage should be allowed unless there was considerable opposition from other countries not represented at the meeting.

ii. The President introduced his thoughts on the possibility of enlarging the number of countries who could fencing in the Championships. South Africa was an obvious "associate" country and he had had brief discussions with representatives of that country. Hong Kong, after 1997 would be another country "lost" to the CFF unless other arrangements could be made.

All countries present were enthusiastic about the possibility of associating other countries. The inconsistency in having *Commonwealth* Championships with countries who were not part of the Commonwealth would require much further thought and discussion. The President was asked to continue his researches.

6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING It was suggested that the next meeting should be in Buffalo, between the 8th and 19th July 1993, on the occasion of the World Student Games. A full, formal meeting would be held, as usual, during the CFF Championships.

Neil StC. L'Amie
Secretary/Treasurer