



Commonwealth Fencing Federation

MINUTE OF MEETING OF COUNCIL IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

16 July 1997 – During the World Fencing Championships

The President welcomed guest of honour, Mr. Mark Wilie, Member of the Western Cape Legislature, delegates and observers, to the Meeting.

Present

Mr. P. Jones (President CFF), Mr. N. L'Amie (Secretary & Treasurer CFF and voting delegate for Scotland), Mr. J. Ramsay (Chairman of CFF Technical Commission), Ms Helen Smith (Vice President and voting delegate for Australia), Mr. Carl Schwende (Vice President FIE), Mr. Bill Ronald (President of Australian Fencing Federation), Ms Linda McLaren (observer, Australia), Ms Marie-France Dufour (President, Canadian Fencing Federation and voting delegate for Canada), Mrs. Penny Spink (voting delegate for England), Dr. Leo Ann Mean (voting delegate for Malaysia), Dr. Stephanie Thompson (voting delegate for New Zealand), Mr. David Eccleston (member of Awards sub-committee, New Zealand), Mr. James Wong (Treasurer and voting delegate of Singapore Fencing Federation), Mr. Ewan Sellars (Secretary and voting delegate of South African Fencing Association), Dr. G. van Dugteren (President of South African Fencing Association – part time), Mr. Mike Westgate (voting delegate for Northern Ireland), Mr. Bob Turner (voting delegate for Wales).

Apologies for Absence

Mr. Rene Roch, Mr. Victor Sanchez

The President invited Mr. Wilie to speak to the meeting.

Minutes of Meeting of Council Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on 11 July 1996

These minutes had been circulated to all official correspondents during March and April. No comments or corrections had been received by Mr. L'Amie. They were approved on a motion of Dr. Leo and seconded by Helen Smith.

Report by Malaysia on arrangements for 1998 Championships in Kuala Lumpur

Dr. Leo gave a résumé of the report he had given to the working party. One sponsor was assured and a second sponsor was probable. Benefits offered by the second sponsor included an accommodation package (venue and residential within a new theme park hotel).

Dates of Championships

Dr. Leo reported that his second sponsor preferred a date of 17 – 22 August 1998. SUKOM and the Olympic Council of Malaysia had given written permission for the event to take place at this time. Most countries declared that this date was more suitable than the September date previously announced. Only Australia voiced some concerns, but stated that they were happy to accede to the wishes of the majority. Dr. Leo said that the sponsor might move the dates literally by a day or so either side, but exact dates would be established within the next two months. The meeting unanimously adopted the new dates.

Approval of final draft of CFF Rules for submission to Congress in 1998

These were adopted unanimously and without discussion. A motion to rename the Rules, "Statutes" was also adopted unanimously.

The CFF Handbook – "Organising the Championships"

This was tabled by John Ramsay who was thanked for the work done by the Technical Commission. All countries present received one copy of the Handbook.

Awards for Deserving Fencers

This scheme had already undergone development by the appointed sub-committee followed by amendment by the working party earlier in the day. Copies of the final scheme were tabled and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Two countries expressed slight resistance to the scheme on principle, but accepted the wish of the majority that it should proceed. The President was given permission to delay implementation of the scheme until 16 October 1997 to allow all delegates to study the scheme at leisure and submit final suggestions. He would then confer with the sub-committee and confirm the final version with Dr. Leo Ann Mean. It was stressed that any submissions would have to be in the Secretary's hands by 16 October. Dr. Leo had a potential sponsor and would require to be able to act after this date.

Compilation of a Championship Rule Book

A document summarising the Rules for running the actual fencing championships as distinct from the whole process of organising the event was proposed by John Ramsay. Council unanimously remitted this task to the CFF Technical Commission.

Women's Sabre

Scotland had expressed concern over the inclusion of this event. Mr. L'Amie presented Scotland's case for the second time (having done so at the working party during the day). Australia, New Zealand and Canada indicated outright opposition to Scotland's position (Canada in writing). Several countries confirmed that they had women actively training for the event.

Carl Schwende pointed out that the International Olympic Commission had indicated to the FIE that they expected all sports, the FIE included, to work towards absolute equality of opportunity for both sexes. This required the introduction of women's sabre and the FIE was already considering a formal submission to this effect. Canada, Australia and New Zealand proposed a motion that women's sabre not only be included in the medal list, but count as an equal weapon with all others in the calculations for the Wilkinson Sword Trophy.

The President asked the meeting to consider the fact that the conditions for inclusion for women's sabre had been published and circulated a year previously; could this meeting in fairness alter the calculations for the Wilkinson Sword Trophy at this stage? New Zealand pointed out that Scotland had sought to vary the conditions and so this argument was null and void. Only England registered specific agreement with the President's point; all other countries felt that an alteration was perfectly fair and competent.

The motion to count women's sabre in the award of the Wilkinson Sword Trophy in 1998 was put to a formal vote by the President and was carried by nine votes to one.

Expansion of Fencing in the Commonwealth

The working party had discussed this matter. There were no easy solutions but various continuing strategies were being pursued.

Commonwealth Veterans

Henry de Silva had spoken to the working party which had established a sub-committee to consist of a representative of Commonwealth Veterans, a member of the CFF Technical Commission and Mr. Bob Turner, representing this Council. Council unanimously accepted the establishment of this group.

Other Competent Business

The Treasurer appealed to countries who had not yet paid their membership subscriptions to do so as quickly as possible.

The President announced that the next planned meeting of Council would be during the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Kuala Lumpur in August 1998.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10 p.m.



Commonwealth Fencing Federation

Meetings of Working Parties and Council 16 July 1997 World Fencing Championships. Culemborg. Cape Town, South Africa.

Preamble

In order to accommodate the needs of delegates whose first responsibility during the day was to their teams, the following strategy was adopted:

An agenda of all items was circulated to delegates and two working parties were set up, one to meet in the morning and one in the afternoon. Representatives were invited to attend as circumstances allowed and written submissions were invited from anyone who felt he or she could not attend at all.

The deliberations of the working parties were collated and submitted to the formal meeting of Council in the evening. Voting was permitted only at the formal meeting and all delegates who had been unable to have input during the day were able to make their contribution in the evening.

In the event, the working party approach worked faultlessly and permitted the evening meeting to be completed in ninety minutes.

The CFF invited M. Roch, President FIE, M. Sanchez, Executive Director FIE, Mr. Carl Schwende, Vice President FIE and Mr. Mark Wilie, Member of the Western Cape Legislature to attend a Reception which was held at the beginning of the Council Meeting. M. Roch and M. Sanchez were detained at another meeting and sent their apologies through Mr. Schwende.

A digest of the deliberations of the working parties is appended to this paper.

MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL

Present

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Welcome by President

The President welcomed all guests of honour, delegates and observers, and invited Mr. Wilie to speak.

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