



**Minutes of the 2014 Congress of the  
Commonwealth Fencing Federation  
held in the Irvine Suite,  
Menzies Hotel, Irvine, Scotland  
on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**The President opened the Congress at 14:00 hours.**

**Present:**

Helen Smith	CFF President	Australia
Marie-France Dufour	CFF Vice-President	Canada
Andrew Ius	Australia*	
Denise Dapre	Australia / CFF Technical Commission	
David Baker	Australia	
John Crouch	England	
Beth Davidson	England	
Marie Liston	England	
Peter Smith	England*	
Paul Gregory	Guernsey	
Shilpi Bhatia	India*	
Robin Dupre	Jersey*	
Steve Clarke	New Zealand	
Victoria Lamb	New Zealand*	
Patrick Collings	Republic of South Africa*	
Sonia McGregor	Republic of South Africa	
Roy Clarke	Scotland*	
Ian Hunter	Scotland	
Eugene Chua	Singapore*	
Kasuni Silva	Sri Lanka*	
David Rees	Wales*	
Peter Stewart	Wales	

\* denotes Voting Member

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Peter Andersen	CFF Secretary/Treasurer	Australia
Chris Hyde	CFF Vice President/Scotland	
Martha Bernstein	Jersey	
Ken Claridge	New Zealand	
Mike McEwen	Scotland	
Novak Perovic	Republic of South Africa	
Julianna Seow	Singapore	

**Welcome**

The President welcomed all members and interested attendees present, noting that this Congress was the quadrennial elective Congress.

## **Minutes of the 2013 General Meeting**

*It was moved* by Kasuni Silva (Sri Lanka) and seconded by Peter Smith (England) that the minutes of the 2013 General Meeting be adopted (with correction from 'Chris Page' to 'Chris Hyde' at top of page 2) – **Carried unanimously**.

## **President's Report**

The President provided a verbal report noting that over the current quadrennial:

- various Championships had been held: Seniors & Veterans in Melbourne in 2010; Juniors in Jersey in 2012; Veterans in Singapore in 2012
- meetings had been held in 2010 in Melbourne (Congress), in 2011 in Philadelphia, in 2012 in Singapore (informal) and in Paris in 2013
- new members are: Cameroon, Samoa, Belize, Bahamas, Bermuda, Dominica, Ghana, Jamaica, Mauritius, Rwanda
- progress against all goals of the current strategic plan have been achieved except for that of seeking re-entry to the Commonwealth Games. The Strategic Plan would need to be revisited & updated in the next 12-18 months
- the CFF had made a submission to the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) in 2010 seeking a change of category to become eligible for inclusion on the Commonwealth Games program. The submission was not successful at the time, but the CFF could show improvement in all areas of perceived 'weakness' & will be seeking to reapply when the next opportunity arises, possibly in the next few months.

*It was moved* by Victoria Lamb (New Zealand) and seconded by Roy Clarke (Scotland) that the President's Report be accepted - **Carried unanimously**

## **Financial Report**

The President spoke to the circulated Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for the period January 2014 to September 2014, noting an operating surplus of \$4,439 and assets of \$8,151.

*It was moved* by the President and seconded by Peter Smith (England) that the financial report be adopted - **Carried unanimously**

The President spoke to the circulated proposal for increased affiliation fees for the 2015-18 quadrennial.

*It was moved* by Paul Gregory (Guernsey) and seconded by Victoria Lamb (New Zealand) that the proposed fee schedule for 2015-2018 be adopted - **Carried unanimously**

The President introduced the proposal to progress the establishment of the CFF as a legal entity – currently proposed as an incorporated association within Australia, given that the current CFF bureau is located in Australia.

*It was noted* that an important matter for the CFF to initially consider is the best option for the future legal status of the CFF (irrespective of the nationality of the Presidency) and that this

should be requested to be addressed in the proposed engagement of legal advice as proposed by the CFF Secretary/Treasurer.

*It was moved* by the President and seconded by Paul Gregory (Guernsey) that the CFF engage the recommended solicitor, Colin Love, to investigate and report on the most appropriate future legal status of the CFF - **Carried unanimously**.

It was moved by Roy Clarke (Scotland) and seconded by David Rees (Wales) that the proposed schedule for the CFF Incorporation Levy be adopted – **Carried unanimously**.

### **Technical Commission Report**

Marie-France Dufour (Chair of the Technical Commission) noted that there having been no Championships held since the last meeting in 2013, where reports on both the latest Veteran and Junior Championships were submitted, no formal written report is being presented at this time. However the Commission has been busy preparing for the current Commonwealth Open and Veteran Championships to be held in the coming days.

*It was moved* by Patrick Collings (South Africa) and seconded by Kasuni Silva (Sri Lanka) that the Technical Commission Report be accepted - **Carried unanimously**.

### **Veterans Commission Report**

Marie-France Dufour noted the positive outcomes from ongoing discussions between the CFF and Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Association (CVFA) regarding the establishment of a formal Veteran Commission following the approach last year by the CVFA to wind up the CVFA and have Veteran Fencing across the Commonwealth come under the auspices of the CFF Veterans Commission.

John Crouch (CVFA Secretary) advised the meeting that a motion was before the next CVFA meeting scheduled for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November to wind up CVFA and it was expected that this motion would be passed based on earlier indications by CVFA members.

*It was moved* by Robin Dupre (Jersey) and seconded by Peter Smith (England) that the Veteran Commission Report be accepted - **Carried unanimously**

### **Election of CFF Officers**

The President vacated the Chair and invited the Vice President to chair the next session of the meeting.

#### **CFF President:**

The Vice President advised that the only nomination received for CFF President was from Australia nominating Helen Smith. The nomination was seconded by Kasuni Silva (Sri Lanka).

Being the only nomination received, the Vice President declared the nominee duly elected.

The Vice President returned the Chair to the newly elected President.

### **CFF Vice Presidents:**

The President advised the meeting that only 2 nominations had been received for the 2 Vice President positions. They were:

- Marie-France – nominated by New Zealand and seconded by David Rees (Wales)
- Mike Hyde nominated by Scotland and seconded by Patrick Collings (RSA).

Being the only nominations received, the President declared the nominees duly elected.

### **Election of CFF Commissions**

The President advised that the CFF currently had three Commissions being - the Technical Commission, the Veterans Commission and the Commission for Re-entry into the Commonwealth Games.

The call for nominations for these Commissions had been circulated along with the Notice of Meeting.

### **CFF Technical Commission**

The President advised the meeting that 4 nominations had been received for the up to 5 positions on the Technical Commission. The received nominations were:

- Marie-France – nominated by New Zealand and seconded by Peter Smith (England)
- Denise Dapre – nominated by Australia and seconded by Robin Dupre (Jersey)
- Mike Thornton – nominated by Scotland and seconded by Kasuni Silva (Sri Lanka)
- Steve Clarke – nominated by New Zealand and seconded by Patrick Collings (RSA).

Being the only nominations received, the President declared the nominees duly elected.

The President noted that there was 1 more vacant position and therefore invited nominations from the floor.

From the floor:

- Sonia McGregor was nominated by Patrick Collings (RSA) and seconded by Roy Clarke (Scotland).

There being no further nominations, the President declared the nominee elected.

### **CFF Veterans Commission**

The President advised the meeting that only 2 nominations had been received for the Veterans Commission. The received nominations were:

- Marie France Dufour – nominated by Australia and seconded by David Rees (Wales)
- John Crouch – nominated by England and seconded by Paul Gregory (Guernsey).

Being the only nominations received, the President declared the nominees duly elected.

The President noted that it was possible to have up to either 3 or 5 positions for the Veterans Commission and therefore invited nominations from the floor. From the floor:

- Felix Tan was nominated by Singapore and seconded by Kasuni Silva (Sri Lanka)
- Ian Hunter was nominated by New Zealand and seconded by Peter Smith (England)

- Patrick Collings nominated by New Zealand and seconded by Andrew Ius (Australia).

Being the only nominations received, the President declared the nominees duly elected.

### **CFF Commission for Re-entry to Commonwealth Games**

The President advised that following consultation with individuals and national federations she proposed the following nominees to provide for Commonwealth Zonal representation:

- Brad Goldie from Canada
- Veena Gunput from Mauritius
- James McBean from Jamaica
- Hilary Philbin from England
- Juliana Seow from Singapore.

Being the only nominations received, the President declared the nominees duly elected.

*It was noted* that this CFF Commission also consider the co-option of Dhan Gomez from Sri Lanka as he is the Vice President of the Sri Lankan Olympic Committee.

### **Motions**

#### **Item 1**

*That the CFF Statutes as adopted on 31-08-08 be amended as follows:*

- *In Statute 9, change the figure '10' to '11' such that the Article reads:  
9 The affairs of the Federation shall be managed by a Council which will consist of the officers and the representative members (note that Statute 11 governs procedures in the period between Council meetings).*
- *Delete the paragraphs under the heading 'INTERIM' at the end of the document.*

Moved: Helen Smith, CFF President

Seconded: David Rees (Wales)

**Carried**

#### **Item 2**

*That Article 4 be amended to read: “Competitors from Commonwealth Countries who are not affiliated with the FIE or are not associate members of countries affiliated with the FIE must also hold a valid FIE licence. These will be permitted to fence, once having acquired their FIE licence through their NOC, under the banner of the Commonwealth nation they represent and wear their country's letter code and logo on their fencing uniform.”*

Moved: Marie France Dufour, CFF Vice President

Seconded: Shilpi Bhatia (India)

**Carried**

#### **Item 3**

*That Article 11 be amended for grammatical changes to amend the clause “which they feel requires to be taken during the period of one meeting of Council and another” to read: “which they feel require to be taken during the period between Council meetings”.*

Moved: Marie France Dufour, CFF Vice President

Seconded: Robin Dupre (Jersey)

**Carried**

#### **Item 4**

*That Article 10 be amended to read:*

*“A meeting of Council may be called by the President at any time. The President is required to call a meeting of Council if petitioned to do so by three or more Member Bodies. The President shall fix a date and place of a Council meeting, or arrange for the meeting to take place electronically, as he or she considers practicable in the best interests of the Federation.”*

Moved: Marie France Dufour, CFF Vice President    Seconded: Patrick Collings (RSA)

**Carried**

#### **Item 5**

*That, due to the imminent amalgamation of the Commonwealth Veteran Fencing Association into the recently formed CFF Veterans Commission the Terms of Reference for the CFF Veterans Commission be:*

- 1. To be the advisory body of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation in regard to veteran fencing matters.*
- 2. To assist the CFF to develop veteran fencing in member nations.*
- 3. To support the organisation of Veteran Championships every two years, with the aim of alternate Championships being co-ordinated with the Senior Championships.*
- 4. To organise a CFF Veterans Commission meeting at each Championship and to communicate any outcomes of the meeting to the CFF.*

Moved: Marie France Dufour, CFF Vice President    Seconded: Victoria Lamb (New Zealand)

**Carried**

#### **Item 6**

The meeting noted the proposal from the CFF Veterans Commission for an amendment to the CVFA Handbook for Veterans Championships regarding the rounds of seeding pools.

*It was agreed* that the CFF adopt the principle that for CFF Veteran Championships, where the schedule, program, resources and time allow, the CFF Veteran Championships be conducted with two rounds of seeding pools.

*It was further agreed* that the CFF Veterans Commission should explore options for the possible scenarios where different numbers may create scheduling issues for future CFF Commonwealth Veteran Championships.

### **General Business**

#### **Item 1: CFF Competition Handbook**

*It was agreed* to adopt for the next Championships the two recent FIE Rules regarding:

- requirement of double mask straps; and
- the date for the determination of eligibility for the relevant age categories.

*It was noted* that the CFF Veterans Commission would review the age categories for future CFF Commonwealth Veteran Championships.

### **Item 2: 2015 Junior & Cadet Championships**

Patrick Collings (RSA) provided an overview of the preparations for the Championships noting that the venue would be the University of Cape Town and that the competitions would need to be held from 11 to 17 July due to the University semester holidays.

### **Item 3: 2016 Veteran Championships**

New Zealand confirmed that they intended to host these Championships and were considering options for a possible venue. Further specific information would be forthcoming.

### **Item 4: 2018 Commonwealth Championship**

Australia advised that they were exploring the possibility of hosting the Commonwealth Championships and Commonwealth Veteran Championships in 2018 but would welcome any interest from any other CFF member nation.

### **Item 5: Formal Thanks**

On behalf of the CFF, the President formally thanked:

- CFF Secretary-Treasurer, the Vice Presidents and the Commission members for their work and contributions throughout 2010-2014; and
- Scottish Fencing for its outstanding work in preparation for high quality presentation and hosting of the 2014 Commonwealth Championships

**The President thanked all attendees and as there was no further business, the meeting closed at 18:05 hours.**