

COMMONWEALTH FENCING FEDERATION

M I N U T E S of COUNCIL MEETING held at SCOTTISH SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL
EDUCATION, JORDANHILL COLLEGE, GLASGOW on MONDAY 3rd JULY, 1978.

Present:	J. Emrys Lloyd	President (in the chair)
	Miss C. J. Tolland	Scotland (Organising Country)
	J. M. Russell	Scotland
	N. St. C. L'Amie	Scotland (observer)
	M. Dunning	Isle of Man
	R. H. Turner	England
	Mrs R. Chaplin	Australia
	I. Lund	Australia (observer)
	E. L. Szakall	Australia (observer)
	W.D. Cumming	N. Ireland
	J. E. Pearson	N. Ireland (observer)
	W. Hudson	New Zealand
	R. Turner	Wales
	A. Pearce	Wales (observer)
	I. Edwards	Wales (observer)
	J. S. Andru	Canada
	Comm. F. A. Booth	Hon. Sec., England.

The President opened the Meeting at 10.45 a.m. and welcomed Commonwealth Members present. It was necessary to start the proceedings before the arrival of the Canadian representative in order to meet a deadline of 11.45 a.m. for transport to the City Chambers, Glasgow. Mr Andru (Canada) joined the meeting later.

It was reported that Mrs M. A. Glen Haig had very regretfully had to cancel her journey to Glasgow at the last minute due to industrial problems and an important Hospital Meeting in London. She had asked the President to express her disappointment and apologies. Commander Booth, Secretary, A.F.A., was asked to act as Hon. Secretary for the Council Meeting.

The President thanked Scotland for making it possible to hold the 2nd Commonwealth Fencing Federation Championships at Glasgow, in such ideal surroundings, and in particular Miss C. J. Tolland, for her untiring efforts to ensure both success of the event, and the comfort of participants.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th July, 1976, were read and approved as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

(a) As requested at the Meeting held on 1st July, 1974, the President had prepared a draft Constitution, which had been circulated and accepted with proposals for minor amendments at the Meeting in 1976. The New Rules as so amended had been circulated to Members in September, 1976. The President referred briefly to those amendments as numbered in the 1976 Minutes as follows:

- Item 4 2(c) - now included as 2 (d) in the New Rules.
- Item 8) - now included as 8 in the New Rules.
- Item 9) - now included as 8 in the New Rules.
- Item 11 - now included as 11 in the New Rules.
- Item 12 - now included as 12 in the New Rules.

The New Rules as amended were approved.

(b) It was reported that the use of proxy votes at the F.I.E. Congress (Item 6 of 1976 Minutes) and the Commonwealth Fencing Federation's proposal that the Congress should be held at the time and venue of the World Championships. (Item 7 of 1976 Minute,) had been raised by Mrs M. A. Glen Haig at the 1977 Congress.

The F.I.E. had confirmed that only one proxy may be held by any member country on behalf of another member country and that it was impracticable to hold its Congresses at the World Championships owing to the preoccupation of the F.I.E. organisation with the Championships.

The F.I.E. could not in fact accept a proposition from the Federation since it was not affiliated to the F.I.E., but arrangements could be made by Mrs Glen Haig to ensure that any proxy votes given to her by Commonwealth countries were handed to some other country attending the F.I.E. Congress and supporting Commonwealth views provided that proxy forms were signed and received in good time (e.g. the January preceding the Congress) at A.F.A. Headquarters, London.

(c) The President referred to correspondence with the South African Amateur Fencing Association (Item 9 third paragraph of 1976 Minute refers.) The S.A.A.F.U. had suggested the re-introduction of Associate Membership by the Commonwealth Fencing Federation to include other English-speaking nations (US.A., Eire, South Africa, etc.) and the use of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation as a mouthpiece for such countries dealing with the F.I.E. His reply, which was read to the Meeting, referred to the F.I.E. Statutes which allowed recognition or affiliation only of National Federations.

Some member countries' representatives then referred to their own problems regarding their Government's policies on sporting relations with South Africa and on Grant Aid and it was agreed that no change in the present policy as stated in Item 10 last paragraph of Minutes of Meeting, 1st July, 1974, should be made. (President to reply to S.A.A.F.U.)

(d) The composition of individuals and teams for this and future championships and the variation to allow five individual entries for each weapon which had been requested by Australia, and granted, for this year was considered.

After discussion, the Chairman moved that the decision taken in Montreal, i.e. that four competitors be allowed for the individual events, and three for each team plus one reserve, should stand, provided that, at the request of any country, when the venue and date of the next Commonwealth Fencing Federation Championships had become known, at least one year in advance, five per country be allowed to enter for the individual events, so long as the country organising the Championship was agreed - Carried.

3. REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The President reported briefly on activities from 1974 - 1978. The

first Commonwealth Fencing Federation Championships had been held in Ottawa in 1974, thanks to the enterprise of the Canadian Amateur Fencing Association (at the time when fencing had not been included in the programme of the Commonwealth Games of that year.) He explained that fencing still remained on the list of sports eligible for selection.

Two honours had been awarded to Commonwealth Fencers during the period under view. David MacKenzie had been elected a member of the I.O.C. in 1975, and Mary Glen Haig had been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List in 1977. He also thanked the Secretariat at A.F.A. Headquarters for their assistance in Commonwealth Fencing Federation matters.

Accounts.

The Accounts for 1972 - 1978 (copy attached to these Minutes) were presented to the Meeting. Subscriptions received during this whole period only totalled £96.75 to date but no expenditure had been incurred except for a nominal sum of £30 reimbursed to the A.F.A. for postages, telephones, and other secretarial expenses made by the A.F.A.

It was noted that the President and Hon. Secretary/Treasurer were authorised to sign cheques jointly on behalf of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation and for cheques up to £50 to be authorised to be drawn on one signature only. Subscriptions in arrears from member countries amounted to £60 - £70 in total. The Hon. Secretary/Treasurer would send a statement to the member countries concerned.

The Report and Accounts were accepted.

The Meeting adjourned at 11.45 a.m. for the Lunch given by the Lord Provost and City Council at the City Chambers and reconvened at 3.30 p.m.

Discussion on the accounts continued when the meeting re-assembled in the afternoon. It was agreed that a grant of £50 from Commonwealth Fencing Federation Funds should be made to the S.A.F.U., towards the administrative expenses of the S.A.F.U. in organising the Championship at Glasgow. It was agreed that this grant should not be taken as a precedent for the future as the Federation's Funds were not large. An increase in Subscriptions would be necessary to meet any large commitment to expenses of the host country every four years. Member countries were asked to pay subscriptions punctually which were due in advance in January each year.

4. REPORT FROM SCOTTISH AMATEUR FENCING UNION

Miss C. J. Tolland, Hon. Secretary, S.A.F.U., made a Report of the arrangements made by the Organising Committee for the Glasgow Championships. A list of participating countries, together with names of officials and fencers was issued. The need for prompt starts of each session was expressed. Hong Kong had not confirmed its participation by 1st July, 1978, and no Hong Kong team had arrived at Glasgow.

A comprehensive paper, covering administration, communication channels and other important matters was also handed to each member present.

5. FUTURE OF THE FEDERATION

In opening discussion on the future of the Federation, the President outlined the Commonwealth Games Rules regarding participating sports. The fact

that fencing was not widely practised in a number of Commonwealth Countries whereas others such as judo, boxing, weight lifting were popular, could give fencing a lower priority. One sport only not included in the Games last time could under Commonwealth Games Rules be chosen additionally for inclusion in the programme. Member countries were asked to urge their Games Councils to support the inclusion of fencing. The next choice would be made in Moscow in 1980.

Further discussion included particular problems of some member countries in obtaining representation on their Games Councils. It was evident that those present were strongly in favour of maintaining the Commonwealth Fencing Federation as an active organisation.

Consideration of the next Championships Venue was influenced by the F.I.E.'s choice of World Championships host country for that year and by the fact that preference for Government financial assistance would be for World Championships rather than Commonwealth Fencing Federation Championships. J. Andru made a tentative offer for Canada to host the Championships in 1982, if no other country wished to organise them.

The need for a very early decision on this matter was stressed by Miss Tolland as the result of Scotland's experience in organising the Glasgow Championship at short notice, particularly in obtaining the necessary finance for the purpose.

A suggestion that informal discussions between member countries present, should take place during these Championships which might produce a compromise solution was accepted.

6. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

It was agreed that the present annual subscription to the Federation of £5 should remain unchanged.

7. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Although the Federation's records as to the membership of the Isle of Man and Guernsey were not clear, it was agreed that they should be treated as members of the Federation, since they had competed in the fencing at previous Commonwealth Games. The Hon. Secretary reported that the Isle of Man had in fact paid their subscription for 1978.

8. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

The President explained that there would be little opportunity for him to attend future World Championships, Olympic Games or Commonwealth Fencing Federation Championships outside the United Kingdom. He thanked the member countries for the honour the Federation had done him by electing him as President in 1972, but considered that the office should be held by someone more likely to be able to attend these events, and that therefore he did not wish to offer himself for re-election.

He named the present Vice Presidents as follows:

Hon. Vice President D. MacKenzie
Vice President J. Andru
Vice President Mrs R. Chaplin

It was proposed that they be re-elected on bloc. This was seconded by J. Russell and carried unanimously.

The three Vice Presidents named above were then duly re-elected.

It was proposed by I. Lund, seconded by Miss C. J. Tolland that Mrs M. A. Glen Haig be elected President of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation - this was carried unanimously.

It was recorded that Mrs Glen Haig had informed Commander Booth that in the event of her being nominated she would be pleased to accept and also that if elected Commander Booth would be pleased to act as Hon Secretary / Treasurer.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Dunning (Isle of Man) proposed a vote of thanks to Miss C. J. Tolland and the Organising Committee for all their work to ensure the success of the Championship in Glasgow. This was carried with acclamation.

Miss Tolland in reply referred to the many persons who had helped her greatly in the organisation. Without them there could have been no Championships. She emphasised again the importance of planning the Championships at least three preferably four years, ahead.

The President thanked members for their attendance and co-operation at the meeting which ended at 5 p.m.

F. A. Booth,
for Hon. Secretary / Treasurer

Glasgow 6th July, 1978.

Mrs Glen Haig

July 1982