

**Minutes of meeting of the Council of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation
Thursday 11 July 1996. Kuala Lumpur**

Note

The official meeting occupied the entire day with a break for lunch. The tour of possible sites and meeting of various officials the following day is not officially minuted, but was attended by all country delegates and was considered to be an indispensable part of the meeting.

1 Apologies

England. John Ramsay (CFF Technical Commission).

2 President's Remarks

Piers welcomed all the delegates and warmly thanked Larry Gan, Leo Ann Mean and the Malaysian Fencing Federation for their superbly detailed arrangements for the meeting and for the friendly and social atmosphere they had created.

3 Arrangements for CFF Championships

The Malaysian organisers were faced with two initial problems:

The Commonwealth Games Federation had not yet resolved the problem of single-sport championships wanting to compete in the same country as the official Games, and within a few months of those games.

The FIE was in the process of considering a change of date of the World Fencing Championships from July/August to September/October.

All delegates appreciated how difficult it was to consider and book venues in the light of the above. However, the Malaysian Fencing Federation (MFF) had arranged a tour of possible sites for the following day.

All delegates agreed that if at all possible, the CFF Championship timing should be related to the World Championships timing.

Australia wanted to include Women's Sabre in the 1998 event. After discussion Keith Mann's proposal that medals would be awarded but that the event would not count towards Wilkinson Sword points was accepted. This would be the position for 1998 only; Women's Sabre would count for points and would be entirely equal with all other weapons in subsequent Championships.

There was a general feeling that there should be some kind of extra recognition given by CFF for levels of achievement displayed by fencers who did not necessarily achieve medals. All participants might receive at least a certificate confirming their participation in the Championships. A Commonwealth Ranking List might be devised. Many other ideas were advanced. Keith Mann, Piers Jones and Leo Ann Mean were authorised to form a subcommittee to investigate possibilities.

The possibility of including Veterans was raised by Keith Mann.

It was unanimously agreed to run the Championships over six days.

4 Handbook

The Technical Commission was unanimously thanked for its work in producing such an excellent document. Various textual inconsistencies and typographical errors were noted.

Clarification on what were the officially-recognised computer programs was sought.

The Handbook was enthusiastically adopted and Piers/Neil were asked to arrange to distribute the amended version to all countries early in the new year.

5 Financial and other Implications raised by implementation of Handbook

A Technical Commission would be set up at one Championship to oversee technical matters until the following Championships when a new TC would be elected (or the existing one confirmed for a further four years.)

It was accepted that no phrase in the Handbook could be construed to involve the CFF in extra expense. For example, a country unable to supply armourers, referees, etc., could ask for help from other countries, but would have to accept any financial implication.

6 Proposed changes to CFF Rules

It was unanimously agreed that: "The four-yearly Council meeting of the CFF shall be called Congress at which elections shall take place. All properly-convened meetings of Council shall, however, have equal authority."

Rule 5 should be amended to read: "Each member body should nominate its representative in writing prior to a meeting of Council or Congress. A country representative may be allowed to carry a proxy for another member country, but no representative member is permitted to hold more than one proxy vote."

7 New Scoring arrangements for Wilkinson Sword Trophy

The Technical Commission's proposals for calculating Wilkinson Sword points were accepted for implementation in 1998. Piers was asked to try to find Alex Rae's table showing how the new points system would have changed the national placings in previous championships, and forward them to delegates for information.

The following points were raised for continuing discussion, but it was not considered that they would in any way prevent the adoption of the new scheme of calculating Wilkinson Sword points.

The meeting asked for clarification of the note that points cannot be awarded in an incomplete series of the tableau. Piers would refer this to Carl Schwende and John Ramsay. Strictly speaking, the continuing Technical Commission would be asked to consider the issue (see below).

The weakest team in the Championships might not get any points at all. Could something be done about this?

Would the first three individual results be used for ranking for team events?

8 Development of Fencing in other Commonwealth Countries

It was generally felt that this was a very important topic, but that it was difficult to see a way forward. Lack of substantial funds was, as always a problem. Ideas were aired, e.g.

Commonwealth Quadrangular Matches - Australia/New Zealand/Malaysia/Singapore. 4 UK home countries (already in existence, but how about winning teams going on to compete in a further round?)

Commonwealth Zone events and Commonwealth League

Stronger Commonwealth nations to "buddy" less proficient fencing nations

Commonwealth fencing scholarships, etc.

The impracticability of some of these ideas was freely acknowledged, but it was felt that countries should be encouraged actively to discuss the issue and put forward further ideas. There were a few organisations who might provide some funding.

9 Other Competent Business

Piers and Neil would send a letter to Hong Kong thanking them for their strong support over the years, and wishing the country well in the future.

Date of Next Meeting: It was acknowledged that this might have to be at the Championships in 1998, but enough issues had been raised that a meeting during 1997 would be appreciated (perhaps September in KL during Malaysian Open Championships.) There was frequent comment on how much progress and fellowship could be established at a meeting held apart from the Championships.