



Commonwealth Fencing Federation

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Minute of Meeting of Congress held on Friday 21 August 1998 in the Conference Room, Matsushita Sports Centre, Shah Alam, Malaysia.

Present

Piers Jones (*President*), Neil L'Amie (*Secretary and Treasurer*), John Ramsay (*Chairman of Technical Commission*).

- *Helen Smith (*Vice President and voting representative for Australia*), Bill Ronald, Linda McLaren (*Australia*)
- *Perry Stevens (*Canada*)
- *Penny Spink, Neal Mittenshaw-Hodge, Keith Smith (*England*)
- *Nigel Beadsworth (*Jersey*)
- *Larry Gan, Leong Pak Cheong (*Malaysia*), Leo Ann Mean, Chan Pak Choong (*Malaysia*)
- *Pauline Stonehouse, Pat Casey, Mike Westgate (*Northern Ireland*)
- *Keith Mann, Pam French, Stephanie Thomson (*New Zealand*)
- *Corsini King, Andrew Pavadag (*St. Vincent*)
- *Ian Hunter, Colin Grahamslaw, David Mends (*Scotland*)
- *Jerome Yeo, Loo Luan Luan, James Wong (*Singapore*)
- *Ewan Sellers (*South Africa*)
- *Gordon Kingston, Chris Stamp, Bob Turner (*Wales*)

33 persons present. 12 countries represented by voting delegates. * Indicates the voting representative.

Apologies for Absence

Bill Cumming (*Vice President*), Carl Schwende (*Canada and FIE*), Marie France Dufour (*Canada*), Michelle Boyer (*Guernsey*).

President's Remarks

The President welcomed everyone and thanked Malaysia for its hard work in hosting the Championships and referred to the number of "firsts" that these Championships had achieved – first time that South Africa has competed since 1958; first occasion of a world Women's Sabre event; first time the event has been held in Malaysia; first presentations of CFF Commonwealth Award for Significant Performance.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented a report for the period 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1997. All countries represented at the meeting had paid all subscriptions to date or had made arrangements with the Treasurer to forward any remaining balance. The financial position was stable, and he recommended that there should be no increase in affiliation fees meantime.

The Treasurer undertook to adjust a small discrepancy in the record of Malaysia's payment. Neal Mittenshaw-Hodge suggested that future accounts contain an entry for Debtors and Creditors, and the Treasurer agreed to look at this.

Minutes of Whistler Congress 1994

These were tabled and accepted on the motion of Penny Spink, seconded by Chris Stamp. There were no matters arising.

Meeting of Council Meeting in Cape Town 1997

These were tabled and accepted on the motion of James Wong, seconded by Bob Turner. The only matter arising was regarding progress of sub committee's investigation of the Veterans' relationships with the CFF. Bob Turner reported that these were on-going.

Adoption of Statutes (formerly known as Rules of the CFF)

Adoption was proposed by Penny Spink and seconded by Mike Westgate. The President detected no dissension but called for a vote. Neither President nor Secretary voted and the Statutes were adopted by a vote of 10 in favour. No votes against the motion were recorded and two countries abstained.

Adoption of Rule Book for running the Championships

John Ramsay tabled a revised Rule Book. Production of this publication arose out of a motion at the Cape Town Council Meeting in 1997. Its purpose is to regulate the running of the actual Championships as distinct from the preparations for holding the Championships, which are detailed in the Championships Handbook.

There was discussion regarding the order of events. Mr. Ramsay undertook to review this point. The Rule Book was adopted on the motion of Penny Spink and seconded by Larry Gan.

President's Discussion Paper of February 1998

The difficulty of reconciling the needs of the CFF with the regulations governing the timing of single-sport events in relation to the Commonwealth Games provoked considerable discussion. The feeling of the meeting was that good relations with the Commonwealth Games Federation should be maintained as far as possible. There was a minority feeling that the CFF's prime objective should remain the re-integration of Fencing in the actual Games. On the other hand, it was strongly felt that the timing of our own event had to be decided exclusively in the light of the needs of our sport. It was recognised that the CFF had to perform a "balancing act" and the meeting voiced its support of the strategies adopted by the President and the Secretary.

Election of Office Bearers

President. Mr Jones was proposed for re-election by Keith Mann and seconded by Penny Spink.

Vice Presidents. Helen Smith was re-elected unanimously on the motion of Penny Spink and seconded by Ian Hunter. The President read a letter from Bill Cumming, the second Vice President, indicating his wish to retire. In his absence, the President thank Bill for all his loyalty and hard work and called for nominations for the vacant post. Chris Stamp was proposed by Keith Smith and seconded by Ian Hunter. There being no other nominations, Chris Stamp was duly elected.

Date and Venue of future Meetings and Championships

It was the wish of the meeting that a CFF Championships be held in 2002. Northern Ireland offered to host these, but were aware of the political difficulties. The problem was openly discussed. Most countries hoped that it would be politically possible to hold the event in Northern Ireland, but asked (a) that a final decision be postponed for a year and (b) that a "fall-back" position be decided. In response to (a) the President agreed to hold a Council Meeting in 12 or 18 months – perhaps in Seoul at the 1999 World Championships. In response to (b) Australia most generously offered to host the event if it proved impossible to take up Northern Ireland's offer.

Other Competent Business

Amendments to the Handbook on Organising the Championships. Since a Rule Book had now been adopted, certain items more appropriate to this publication were removed from the Handbook, and John Ramsay tabled a sheet of amendments, which were unanimously accepted.

CFF Commonwealth Award for Significant Performance. Keith Smith requested that these awards be made available to officials as well as fencers in the future. The President agreed that this was highly desirable and undertook to negotiate with the Awards Committee.

Australia asked the Technical Commission to examine the structure of the competitions prior to the Finals. John Ramsay undertook to do this. Problems inherent in relaxing equipment safety standards so that less privileged countries were not debarred were also discussed. Possible solutions included a host country providing a temporary bank of loan equipment or a search for a fund that could provide a Commonwealth bank of FIE approved equipment.

Certificates for Finalists and acknowledgement of the work done by referees. Keith Smith suggested that certificates for all finalists and some kind of acknowledgement of the work of referees could be made available. The President agreed to consider the matter.



Commonwealth Fencing Federation
Commonwealth Championships '98
Shah Alam. August 1998

**THE COMMONWEALTH AWARD
for
SIGNIFICANT PERFORMANCE**

The CFF Council Meeting at Cape Town agreed that the following award shall be made to up to six deserving fencers at the Championships at Shah Alam, and at subsequent CFF Championships.

For the 1998 Championships, the Malaysian Fencing Federation has been successful in obtaining Milo to sponsor six handsome plaques. The CFF will provide certificates for the successful fencers, and will also write letters of commendation to the governing body of fencing, the Olympic or Commonwealth Association and to the government department responsible for sport in the successful fencers' countries.

Team managers and referees can make nominations in addition to Directoire Technique and Organising Committee. Although it is yet another piece of paper to read, I would ask team managers and referees to read the following information and to be prepared to make nominations. We all seek to encourage and to provide an incentive. The trophies and certificates are handsome and worth winning, and the CFF Council believes that official letters as detailed above will help to raise the profile of the sport in general, as well as helping to advance the cause of the individual fencers.

Nomination forms, for use by team managers and referees, are available from the Directoire Technique office or from the CFF Secretary, Neil L'Amie. Completed forms should be returned either to DT or to Neil.

Piers Jones

Purpose

To acknowledge and reward fencers who have contributed in an especially worthy manner to the Spirit of the Commonwealth Championships. Criteria for recommendation for this award can include some, any, or all of the following areas: sportsmanship, commitment to the sport in the Commonwealth, discipline and dedication, progress.

Eligibility

Any fencer attending the championships in the year of the award.

Format

- (a) A maximum of six awards to be made at each championship.
- (b) An award to consist of a small trophy or plaque plus a certificate plus letters of commendation (see below) issued by the Commonwealth Fencing Federation.
- (c) The certificate and letters of commendation to state the area(s) of achievement for which the award is made.
- (d) The areas of achievement are not tied to the number of awards i.e. it is possible to make the majority of awards in, say, Sportsmanship, if appropriate.

Nominations

Nominations, in not more than 100 words, can be made by any of the following:

- Team Manager (normally to a maximum of two fencers per country)
- Referees
- Directoire Technique (through its chairman)
- Organising Committee (through its chairman)

All nominations must be in the hands of the President of the CFF by noon of the final day of the champion-

ships. The awards will be made at the same time as the award of the Wilkinson Sword at the conclusion of the championships.

Awarding Committee

- President of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation (chair and casting vote if necessary)
- Representative of Organising Country
- An independent assessor appointed by the sponsor of the award (optional and depending on wishes of the sponsor)
- Up to two persons co-opted by the President,

The Awarding Committee must consist of at least three persons.

Letters of Commendation

Our aims are always to reward achievement and to give incentive to progress in the sport. A suitable sponsor in the future might allow the development of a scholarship or other scheme with financial implications. In the meantime, it was recognised that letters of commendation issued by the recognised Commonwealth body to national governing bodies/sports councils/government ministries would always reinforce recognition of achievement, and in some cases will raise the profile of the fencer to his or her potential benefit. To this end, the committee proposed that the CFF issues letters of commendation to all medallists and award winners:

- to the fencer
- to the national governing body of fencing responsible for the fencer
- to the Olympic Committee of the fencer's country
- to the sports council and/or the sports minister of the fencer's country.

If the President is unable to attend his or her duties will be undertaken by a Vice President or by a person nominated by the President.