



## NORDIC CHESS FEDERATION

Nordic Chess Federation  
Board Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> of November 19.00-21.00 2008 in Dresden

Present:

Erik Søbjerger, Denmark, president  
Mikko Markkula, Finland  
Torstein Bae, Norway  
Lars Bech Hansen, Denmark  
Ida Lahlum, Norway  
Per Ofstad, Norway  
Finnbjørn Vang, Faroe Island  
Ari Ziegler, Sweden

- § 1            Opening of the Meeting  
              Erik Søbjerger opened the meeting.
- § 2            Approval of the invitation to the meeting  
              The delegates confirmed that the meeting was announced in due time.
- § 3            Election of the chairman of the meeting  
              Erik Søbjerger was elected to be the chairman of the meeting.
- § 4            Election of the secretary of the meeting  
              Ari Ziegler was elected to be the secretary of the meeting.
- § 5            Election of two persons to check the minutes of the meeting  
              Mikko Markkula, Finland and Torstein Bae, Norway were elected to check the minutes of the meeting.
- § 6            Approval of the agenda.  
              The proposed agenda was approved.  
              Two subjects were proposed to be discussed in § 14 Miscellaneous:  
              14a) Arbiter seminars  
              14b) Nordic rating
- § 7            Report from each federation regarding recent developments etc.

Mikko Markkula, Finland:

Generally the development in Finnish chess is not very much positive. Our numbers decline. During 1997-2007 we have lost 40% of our members.

We try to find ways to get back. But today people play on internet. The number of tournaments is declining. We are worried about the future.

Also our international scores are not so successful.  
We now have an office in Helsinki. We are now developing the homepage.  
Tuomo Halmeenmäki is new chairman now.

The General Secretary Esko Nuutilainen, also Chief editor of Suomen Shakki, retired at the end of May. He was working full-time, he is now replaced by two persons working part-time, Jorma Paavilainen as the General Secretary (Executive Director) and Marko Tauriainen as the Chief editor.  
Some delays in communications can be expected until the two have found good working relations.

The number of licensed members are 1300.  
Totally there might be 2500-3000 members in all clubs in Finland.

Norway:  
Ida Lahlum

We are working hard with the Olympic bid in Tromsø 2014.  
We are running a project regarding chess in school. The ambition is to get chess as an obligatory subject in school. We do it in cooperation with the youth chess federation and Tromsø board. Torstein has written a report about chess in school which has been handed over to the ministry of education when we had a meeting with him. He was very positive and the project is continuing.  
Torstein is going to send the report to the other Nordic countries.  
We are interested in cooperating with other Nordic countries about this.

Chess is getting more media coverage than ever thanks to Magnus Carlsen. He is a regular guest in talk shows and so on. He is a very well known person in Norway. We have 6500 members. 2500 is adults.

Denmark  
Erik Søbjerg

We are trying to cooperate with Dansk Skole Skak. But it is always stressed that we are two independent organisations.  
DSU have started a youth project. For the first time we had youth championships in Denmark in the FIDE age groups. We used normal time control. Dansk Skole Skak has a school championship but their tournament is with rapid chess. In this way the two organisations complement each other.

One problem as we see it is that Dansk Skole Skak does not see it as an aim to get the kids to continue playing chess. They have 2000 members and it can be that 1900 are changed every year.  
We do not recommend other federations to have two separate organisations.

The general development is not so positive. Our main project is chess on internet. Some parts are not working yet. We will make some final tests. All in all we are one year late. The technique is now OK. We have to start again to attract players to our server. The idea with the project is to catch all the chess players in Denmark. We have spent half of our savings on this. We would like

the other Nordic Countries to be part of this project. We would like to go further with the project, but can't do it ourselves financially. Any sort of cooperation is welcome.

Financially we are OK. We are going to raise the membership fee by 100 DKK. We are losing around 300 members per year many years now, maybe little bit less this year. We have 5000 members now.

The workload on the executive board is too high. It is difficult to get persons to work in DSU. We have no office.

Sweden:

Things are going in the right direction. We have 5000 adults and 12000 kids. 7000 of the kids are changed every year due to our main project which is called *Schack4an*. In this project we invest around 1.3 million SEK every year. Money comes back in two different ways. About 600 000 comes from the government. And then some money will come directly to the districts. We are now trying to find out exactly how much money that comes back to chess.

But this is also a long term investigation. Chess is better appreciated in society thanks to this project. We are going to hire a sponsor hunter for *Schack4an*. Our first goal is to limit our expenses for *Schack4an* to one million SEK.

We will convert *Tidskrift för Schack* to a member magazine. We are also working hard on making an electronic registration for all members.

Färoe Islands

Financially we are OK.

The youth program is running like we want.

The calendar is working perfectly well.

We have chess in school.

I have a full time job going around is schools.

The money comes from the government. Teachers salary???

We only have to deliver reports every year. Everybody is positive.

We have girls for the first time.

We have no office. We have to compensate people financially for doing job.

We have around 300-400 kids.

§ 7

Report on ECU and FIDE and discussions re. joint interests etc.

Finnbjørn Vang expressed concern regarding a new rule that will be suggested in the general assembly. It is regarding annex 7: It says that you have to be a full member to be a member of ECU to enter FIDE. We don't want that. We need support. Erik Søbjerg said that he understood the suggestion as only applying for new federations. All delegates confirmed that they would help Faroe Islands in this matter if problems would occur in the General Assembly.

Markkula informed about future IA regulations.

He urged the nations to apply now for IA titles to avoid obligatory courses.

Markkula also informed that there will be many changes in the title-regulations.

He urged the nations to be observant. (Example: If the arbiter in a title tournament does not have an arbiter title in FIDE, the norms are not valid.)

§ 9 Report from the Senior committee:  
Per Ofstad reports:  
We will arrange the next senior + woman championship in Fredrikstad in September. (This is organised every second year.) There will be two separate tournaments.  
The senior committee uses only e-mail. It seems to work. This was the first time Norway did not have the most number of players in the Senior World Championship. Denmark had more participants than Norway this time which is positive. 35 participants came from the Nordic countries, a good score.

In the Nordic Zone we have one free place for men + woman in the senior World Championship. Torstein urges the nations to find one single woman that are + 50. (the organiser pays accommodation + food.) Travel + starting fee is paid by the participant.

§ 10 Report from the School committee.  
We have no report. Ari Ziegler said that he had the impression that the school committee seems to be working very well. It seems to be working. The meeting sends an appeal to the school committee to send a written report about current state.

§ 11 Report from the woman committee  
So far the woman committee has not started to work. Torstein Bae urges all nations that have not yet nominated a person to the woman committee to do so. Per Ofstad urged the woman committee to start working. It will be good for woman chess.

§ 12 Nordic Championships 2009 (discussion about this year's problem and the future situation)  
The meeting touched the history, but it focused on the future. The general opinion was that the chairman Erik Søbberg has performed his duties without remarks.

Opinions that was uttered:

If it is a part of an open tournament it is maybe not so good.

If it is organised in the same country many years in a row it is also not so good.

Markkula wants to have a rotating system like before, and then he added rhetorically; if we still are going to organise this, why do we have this?

Maybe we should include the Baltic Countries? The NCF championships could then be cheaper to organise. Torstein thinks it is a good idea.

After this the meeting started to discuss the general purpose of the NCF. Maybe we need a more independent structure? Right now the president of the NCF is also president of the national federation, which can practically mean that NCF-issues will have low priority. Maybe we should have a constant president who sits for a long time? We have confidence in each other. One point of view was that the general secretary has in practice done all work. The meeting decided to form a committee that will make a proposition on the future construction of

NCF. The committee will perform the proposition no later than may 31<sup>st</sup> 2009. It will consist of following members:

Mikko Markkula  
Torstein Bae  
Ziegler Ari

§ 13 Ideas for a Nordic Chess seminar

First question: is it realistic?

Erik Søbberg expressed the opinion that we can work together, we have some common goals. Let's find out in which areas we can cooperate.

Finnbjørn Vang proposed that we can perhaps reconstruct the homepage and at the same time create a discussion forum.

The meeting decided that we will organise a seminar in Helsingør. It will be arranged during the first weekend during the Politiken cup (18-27<sup>th</sup> of July)

§ 14 Miscellaneous

14a) Arbiter seminars  
14b) Nordic rating

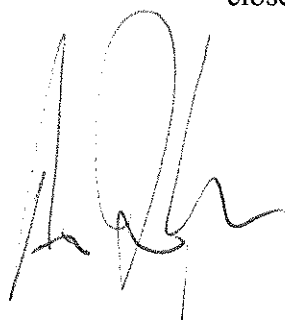
14a) Markkula said that it can be an idea to include the Baltic countries in arbiter seminars. We can save costs if we have the seminars in the Baltic countries. Markkula have the authority to give lectures. Markkula will find out if they are interested in this kind of cooperation and inform us.

14b) Nordic rating

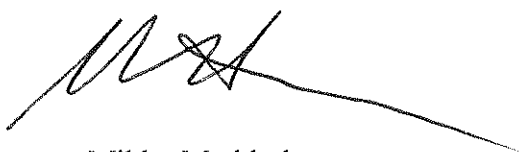
Sometimes organisers experience practical problems when the players from different Nordic countries with different rating systems will compete. The meeting decided that Markkula will start with collecting information about all Nordic rating systems. The rating officers will send it to Markkula. The ambition is to create an official converting system.

§ 15 Closing

The chairman thanked everybody for a fruitful atmosphere and meeting and closed the meeting.



Ari Ziegler, Secretary



Mikko Markkula



Torstein Bae