



NORDIC CHESS FEDERATION

Board meeting in Torino on June 1, 2006

Present at the meeting: Gudfridur Lilja Gretarsdottir (president), Göran Terninger, Per Ofstad, Mikko Markkula, Dag Danielsen, Tapio Tikkanen, Finnbjörn Vang, Ingvar Carlsson, Björn Ansner, Torstein Bae, Sigvard Olsson, Erik Søbberg, Lars B Hansen and Johan Sigeman (secretary general).

1. Opening

Gudfridur Lilja Gretarsdottir welcomed all present and declared the board meeting opened.

2. Approval of the invitation to the meeting

The board approved of the invitation.

3. Election of the chairman of the meeting

Gudfridur Lilja Gretarsdottir was elected chairman.

4. Election of the secretary of the meeting

Johan Sigeman was elected to write the minutes of the meeting.

5. Election of two people to check the minutes

Torstein Bae and Erik Søbberg was elected to check the minutes.

6. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

7. Report from each federation regarding the recent development

Norway

Chess is doing really well in Norway, mainly thanks to Magnus Carlsen. The media attention is very favourable. There are 7 000 members in all, whereof 4 500 are young players and 2 500 adults. Norway is trying to host the upcoming candidate match. The congress will take

place in July. Membership fees (including the magazine) are 360 NOK for adults and 180 NOK for juniors and finally 90 NOK for players under 14 years of age. The rating calculation in Norway is centralized. Hans-Olav Lahlum is newly appointed as editor of the Norwegian chess magazine and Dag Danielsen is the new secretary general.

Denmark

Denmark is losing members, having presently 5 500 adults and 2 500 young players. Dansk Skoleskak has shown a quite aggressive attitude towards DSU and there have been certain conflicts. Right now, Dansk Skoleskak wants to be an independent member of NCF. DSU uses Internet as a tool to attract new members. A survey has shown that approximately 80 per cent of the Danish adult male population knows how to play chess. The majority is not interested in playing in a club, preferring the Internet. The membership fee (including the magazine) is 360 DKK. The rating calculation in Denmark is also centralized.

Sweden

Sweden has 13 000 registered young players and 4 200 adults. There are 262 chess clubs. The support from the government is important, contributing approximately 60 per cent of the overall income (of 7 MSEK). The European Team Championships 2005 was the biggest event ever in Sweden. It was a success from a chess point of view but since it proved to be very difficult to attract sponsors, the tournament resulted in a cost of SEK 500 000 for the federation. Sweden is making plans for future big events but as yet there are no decisions made. The federation is presently working with a new policy program for chess. The board has plans to make the magazine (Tidskrift för Schack, having a new editor, Lars Grahn, the founder of "Schacknytt") a mandatory for all members but this requires an approval of the congress. The membership fee is SEK 70 for adults and SEK 10 for young players. The rating system is decentralized (the clubs are doing all calculations). On January 1, 2006, Kent Vänman became the new manager of the office in Norrköping.

Finland

The situation is basically the same as last year. Finland has 2 000 active players (7 000 in the list). The fee is EUR 60 including the magazine. The fee is 50 per cent for family members. Since 1978, the rating calculation is centralized and a new list is published every week. Finland wants to host the 2007 European Club Cup in Tampere. IGM Tomi Nybäck is the star of Finnish chess.

Faroe Islands

Chess is booming in the Faroe Islands. There has been some financial problems but they are solved now. There are 350 active members. The federation has a rating officer. The membership fee is symbolic, only DKK 20. There is no chess magazine but the federation has an active web-page. When the federation supports a player going to play abroad, the player has to comment on the games played and publish these comments. There are 2 weekly newspaper columns. Mogens Nielsen (DK) has started a very ambitious school project involving hundreds of children. Hopefully, the government will provide support for this project. The annual governmental support is presently DKK 125 000. The chess federation has merged with the bridge federation.

Iceland

Icelandic chess is doing quite well again. The support from both sponsors and the government is better than before. The media attention is also improving. The federation is focusing on school chess and is trying to rebuild this part of the organization after a collapse a few years ago. The federation is providing chess books to all children. The Ministry of Culture is contemplating making chess a mandatory subject in schools. The membership fee is EUR 30 for adults and EUR 15 for young players. The magazine Skak (8 issues/year previously but now down to 4 issues) is not mandatory. The rating officer is stepping down after many years and this may be a problem.

8. Report on ECU and FIDE

The board discussed various matters related to the ECU congress and the FIDE congress, especially focusing on the upcoming elections.

9. Report from the senior committee

Per Ofstad referred to the written report and added that he proposed that the following members of this committee should be elected:

Einar S Einarsson Iceland
Leif Svensson Sweden
Ilkka Kanku Finland
Per Ofstad Norway

The board decided to elect the above mentioned representatives and it was resolved that one representative each from the Faroe Islands and Denmark shall also be included in the senior committee. It is the responsibility of these two federations to provide one representative each and to report this to Per Ofstad and to the secretary general as soon as possible.

10. Report from the school committee

The chairman of this committee, Espen Andersen from Norway has been very busy and has not been able to provide a report to the meeting. Norway proposed that a new chairman should be elected and the board decided that Finland (Mikko Markkula) has the responsibility to find a suitable candidate as soon as possible. The next meeting of the committee will take place in Finland in February 2007.

11. Nordic Championships 2007

The secretary general reported that no bids had been presented at May 1, 2006 (the last day). There has been two potential candidates that have indicated their general interest. Göran Terninger mentioned that there is indeed an interest from Gothenburg and the people there are working on a bid that may be forwarded at the end of summer. Per Ofstad offered the support from the senior committee in case it will prove difficult to find a host for the senior championship 2007. Erik Søbberg and Lars B Hansen added that their opinion was that it is better to use already established open tournaments as Nordic Championships and not closed events.

The board decided to prolong the time limits for bids until September 1, 2006. All federations were asked to help to spread this information.

12. Zonal president

The board confirmed the decision taken on May 31, 2006 to elect Torstein Bae as the zonal president for the coming four years.

13. Miscellaneous

The board confirmed the decision at the end of 2005 to adopt new rules for the Nordic Championships. The board also decided that the web-page should be updated and modernized.

14. Closing

The president thanked all present for making valuable contributions to the discussions and declared the board meeting closed. The Swedish chess federation invited all Nordic federations to a dinner, which took place the same evening, where the discussions and exchange of ideas continued in good spirit.

As above:

Johan Sigeman

Approved:

Torstein Bae

Erik Søbberg