

## **Ordinary I.B.C.A. Congress Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 Crete (Greece)**

### **Minutes**

**Time: 10:00 h – 15:00 h**

#### **1. Welcome and registration of delegates**

At 10:10 h the President of the I.B.C.A. Ludwig Beutelhoff welcomes the delegates of the nations and starts the enrolment by announcing the countries. 27 delegates are present, Italy proxy to Germany. Not present are: Spain and Kazakhstan. On the board there are at present: Dr. Alfred Gromme (Vice President), Teresa Debowska (General Secretary), Charudatta Jadhav (representative of Asia), and Ludwig Beutelhoff (President).

#### **2. Commemoration Delfin Burdio Garcia**

Ludwig Beutelhoff reports that the FIDE-Congress 2006 commemorated the death of Delfin Burdio Garcia, who died in July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005. This is a great honour, because there are only 6 or seven people remembered. The commemoration follows in silence.

#### **3. Report of the President.**

Ludwig Beutelhoff speaks about the difficulties that had arisen by Delfin Burdio's sudden death. Due to the holidays in Spain he could not do anything till September, but then the office in Alicante had ceased to exist. Nuria, the secretary had not been paid any more, and he got only very few information from her by email. The money that had been envisaged, had not been transferred either. Beutelhoff had no access to the Spanish bank account and was told that it had ceased to exist. By Gerry Welsh he had been informed about the FIDE Congress and he went to Dresden in August 2005. The President mentioned the difficulties to register in Turin, as the password was still in Alicante and he could not get hold of it. Thanks to the help of the German chess federation he managed to persuade FIDE that he was President now. So the registration could be done in the end and men's and a women's team could play in the chess Olympiad. Beutelhoff went to Turin and attended the FIDE Congress there.

A report was given on the preceding tournaments. He thanks especially the organisers of the Hellenic Sports Association for Disabilities and Mr Charudatta Jadhav from India. The tournament of the ten best players could not be realised, because of money difficulties. He was confronted with many problems, such as addresses and the password of the website. So the website could not be updated. India has started to construct a new website. The President will give further information about that in future.

#### **4. Financial Report**

As there was no access to the Spanish bank account, the President points out that he had to start with zero. The President gives a detailed report on the years 2005 – 2007.

He explains that the I.B.C.A. has no office and is managed from his private home on a voluntary basis. At the moment there is a plus of about 7 000 Euros, but a great deal of the money will be needed for the FIDE chess Olympiad at Dresden.

Ludwig Beutelhoff explains that 12 participants are free, in Dresden IBCA got 14 places. The I.B.C.A. delegation will consist of 19 people, so the I.B.C.A. will have to pay for 5 people.

#### **5. Discussion**

Ludwig Beutelhoff mentions the future tasks of I.B.C.A. Apart from updating the I.B.C.A. - website, the constitution needs being revised.

Chess material for the blind becomes a major problem as the chess material and mechanical chess clocks are not available in Western Europe any more. A new producer of chess clocks will have to be found. Electronic clocks with the Fischer modus are available from the

O.N.C.E. But at a high price of 230 Euros. As a lot of tournaments require the fisher modus now it seems advisable to supply the players with them. The O.N.C.E. will start a new series, as soon there will be enough subscribers. The President appeals to the organisations and players of the different countries to subscribe. The I.B.C.A. will collect the orders and negotiate with the O.N.C.E. hoping to get a good price.

Ludwig Beutelhoff informs about the FIDE Olympiad in Dresden. IBCA registered two teams: A men's and women's team. To promote blind chess there will be a performance for sighted chess players having the possibility of using dark glasses at Dresden. Thus sighted chess players will be able to experience different stages of blindness and hopefully develop an understanding for blind chess players.

Then The delegate from Denmark recommends sending out bills in the future so that the nations can pay by bank account.

Thereafter The delegate from Denmark wants to know if members of the I.B.C.A. can order chess clocks from O.N.C.E. at the price of 230 Euros. The President replies that he does not know if this is possible and appeals to any country that can help should do so.

Then Ludwig Beutelhoff refers to an announcement on the internet changing the language of the moves in chess. He assures the member countries that the suggestion does not come from I.B.C.A.

Charudatta suggests an electronic entry for registration for future tournaments.

The Slovak delegate complains about English as the only language in congress.

The President makes clear that he mentioned the item in the beginning of the congress and that there was no objection against his proposal to hold the congress in English only.

Translating in more languages is very time consuming. If the congress wanted to change this professional translators had to be paid and headsets had to be worn. He brought up the question of the usage of the language in the captains' meeting and it had been agreed on. Only Hungary said they could not understand him that is why he gave a brief translation of the most important items in German which the Hungarians were content with.

## **6. Elections**

Freddy Gromme, who will not stand for election as vice President any more, is in charge of the elections. The whole I.B.C.A. executive board has to be elected: President, 1<sup>st</sup> vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice President, general secretary, treasurer, and complimentary members. As the President himself should represent I.B.C.A. in the FIDE, no FIDE officer will be needed. The congress approves by acclamation. A postal chess officer is not necessary any more due to the internet. The congress agrees by acclamation.

Ludwig Beutelhoff is the only candidate for the I.B.C.A. presidency. He says that 16 years ago Delfin Burdio had been elected President. Since then he (Ludwig Beutelhoff) has been on the board as 1<sup>st</sup> vice President. He is 61 years old and stands for election.

Ludwig Beutelhoff is suggested by F. Gromme. In a short speech Freddy Gromme mentions the merits of Ludwig Beutelhoff for I.B.C.A. The time after Burdio's death had been a difficult one for I.B.C.A. and Ludwig Beutelhoff has managed to keep it going despite no information from Spain. The I.B.C.A. tournaments went well so far, thanks to the organisation and to the lively connections of the countries and to the support by Ludwig Beutelhoff.

Freddy Gromme thanked him for his tremendous amount of work he has done for I.B.C.A.

As there is no further candidate Ludwig Beutelhoff is unanimously elected by acclamation.

Ludwig Beutelhoff accepts and thanks the members of the congress for their confidence.

Then he is in charge for the rest of the elections.

The executive board of the I.B.C.A. is elected unanimously and consist of the following persons:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Charudatta Jadhav (India)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Teresa Debowska (Poland)

General secretary Steven Hilton (Great Britain)

Treasurer: Nikos Kalesis (Greece)

Complimentary members for the board:

Clyde Leonard, South Africa (representative for Africa)

Nelson Carrera, Venezuela (representative for America).

The delegate from Denmark is unanimously accepted as auditor for the following 4 years.

All the members accept.

### **7. Nomination of new I.B.C.A. arbiters**

The following arbiters are nominated as I.B.C.A. arbiters:

Bernhard Holzer (Switzerland)

Gerry Graham (Ireland)

Nikos Kalesis (Greece)

Dimitris Kefalas (Greece)

Elisios Falaces (chief arbiter, Crete (Greece)

29 IBCA arbiters are on the list now.

### **8. Chess calendar (2009-2012)**

The congress fixes the chess calendar for the forthcoming 4 years.

- ⌚ The Junior Championship is presented by Patrick Gansmark and will take place near Stockholm, Sweden. (19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009). At the same time there will be a chess festival with sighted grand masters. Blind and visually impaired juniors who are born in 1989 or later are cordially invited to take part.
- ⌚ Individual women world championship near Posang, Poland (August 17<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 2009). All chess enthusiastic women are cordially invited to take part.
- ⌚ World cup for teams 2009. There are two bids, one from Azerbaijan, and one from Turkey.

Mrs Yilmaz: wants to organise the world cup or any other tournament. She points out that Turkey has a lot of experience and she mentions previous tournaments.

Gennady Gellman from Azerbaijan says that several grandmasters come from Azerbaijan. The President suggests a break. The two bidding countries should try to decide among themselves. If no decision can be reached, then there will be a vote.

### **14:05 h the congress is continued.**

Gennady Gellman promises that the Azerbaijan organisers will pay full board for all the participants and guides. Under these circumstances the congress gives the world cup to Azerbaijan.

- ⌚ World Cup for Teams 2009 (Azerbaijan)
- ⌚ 2010 Individual World championship (Serbia)
- ⌚ The date for the Asian Championship could not be fixed.
- ⌚ The same applies for the American Championship
- ⌚ 2011: European Individual Championship (Turkey)
- ⌚ 2012 Chess Olympiad (India)

The President will get in touch with FIDE and with the national chess associations and he will check the conditions. If there are any difficulties which might endanger the performance of any of the I.B.C.A. events Greece will be ready to stand in. ensured that all the events will take place.

Olympiad 2012: Charu suggests Mumbai or Delhi for the Olympiad. The congress confirms the proposal.

The President encourages every country to talk about their problems with him.  
Lapadatu wants to know if a date for the tournament of the ten best players has been fixed.  
The President answers that it is too expensive to be held in one country.

### **9. Chharudatta's report on global chess**

Charu speaks of a global chess library (daisy chess) online system. In the near future about 50 books will be available. He thinks of a central internet library. Anybody can have access to this library.

He also speaks of the coaching of the students (9 – 16). India will start in January 1010.

Lui van Duuren suggests that online training and classroom training could be added.

Steve Hilton thinks it useful, but it had be discussed with the national federations first.

### **10. Sergej Vassins report**

S. Vassin reads out his thoughts about separate tournaments on totally blind and visually impaired chess players in the same place. In team competitions there should be the quota of totally blind persons.

Freddy Gromme points out that the definition for a “totally blind” chess player is difficult to handle. Sergej Vassin suggests that every player should decide for himself, if he plays by touch or by sight. The President reminds the assembly that in 1980 in the Netherlands there had been a medical control. Thereafter it has been dropped due to inefficiency.

Steve Hilton adds that sight controls are impractical as the laws vary from country to country. This view is supported by Denmark. Nikos Kalesis stresses that the social aspect should not be forgotten. The blind and the partially blind help each other. Separate tournaments would be more expensive. The President suggests the internet as a possible platform on different I.B.C.A. matters.

### **11. Different matters**

Lui van Duuren raises the matter of chess clocks and says that he knows a firm that is ready to produce electronic chess clocks. However, 25 000 Euros are necessary. Thereafter the clock will be available. The same firm would produce chess boards: 30 Euros. People who are interested should contact Lui van Duuren.

Charu points out that chess 64 is available free of charge now.

The President asks for a committee to revise the constitution and the tournament rules.

The President announces the appearance of a new talking chess book by Hans Cohn.

The Ludwig Beutelhoff thanks all the delegates for their cooperation and support they have shown so far.

Ludwig Beutelhoff  
(I.B.C.A. President)

Christine Beutelhoff  
(minutes)