

PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE FIDE FOR CHESS COMPOSITIONS (PCCC)

47th Meeting in Halkidiki, Greece, 4th-11th September 2004

MINUTES

Official Participants

John Rice	Great Britain	President
Hannu Harkola	Finland	1st Vice-President
Uri Avner	Israel	2nd Vice-President
Kjell Widlert	Sweden	3rd Vice-President
Paul Valois	Great Britain	Secretary
Helmut Zajic	Austria	Delegate
Aleksandr Mikholap	Belarus	Delegate
Ignaas Vandemeulebroucke	Belgium	Delegate
Fadil Abdurahmanović	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Delegate
Petko Petkov	Bulgaria	Delegate
Zvonimir HERNITZ	Croatia	Delegate
Michal Dragoun	Czech Republic	Delegate
Bjørn Enemark	Denmark	Delegate
Michel Caillaud	France	Delegate
David Gurgenidze	Georgia	Delegate
bernd ellinghoven	Germany	Delegate
Byron Zappas	Greece	Delegate
Zoltán Laborczi	Hungary	Delegate
Francesco Simoni	Italy	Delegate
Tadashi Wakashima	Japan	Delegate
Vidmantas Satkus	Lithuania	Delegate
Živko Janevski	Macedonia	Delegate
Piet le Grand	Netherlands	Deputy for H. le Grand
Władysław Rosolak	Poland	Delegate
Ion Murărașu	Romania	Delegate
Jakov Vladimirov	Russia	Delegate
Marjan Kovačević	Serbia & Montenegro	Delegate
Bedrich Formánek	Slovakia	Delegate and Honorary President
Marko Klasinc	Slovenia	Delegate
Thomas Maeder	Switzerland	Delegate
Evgeny Reitsen	Ukraine	Delegate
Mike Prcic	USA	Delegate

Other people who contributed actively included: Harry Fougiaxis, Kostas Prentos, Pavlos Moutecidis, Themis Argirakopoulos, Ioannis Fougiaxis and Ioannis Garoufalidis (organisation), Yochanan Afek, Juraj Brabec, Günter Büsing, Gady Costeff, Paz Einat, Hans Gruber, Marek Kolčák, Nikolai Kralin, Piotr Murdzia, Andrei Selivanov, Axel Steinbrink, Colin Sydenham (sub-committees), Brian Stephenson, Peter Bakker, Ward Stoffelen, Neal Turner (WCSC and Open Solving Tourney).

§1 Opening Address

President John Rice opened the meeting and welcomed delegates and observers to the first Congress to be held in Greece. He thanked Harry Fougiaxis and his helpers for their invitation and good organisation.

§2 Tributes

The President announced with regret the death of many persons prominent in chess composition, in particular that of the former Hungarian delegate and Honorary Member László Lindner (23.12.1916 - 21.8.2004).

The Commission stood in memory of him and of the following:

Henk Boumeester	Netherlands	1917 - 13.1.2004
Hans Burbach	Netherlands	5.11.1921 - 15.11.2003
Luciano Camara	Argentina	7.1.1916 - 3.2004
Ivan Ezdin	Russia	10.9.1933 - 14.2.2003
Eliahu Fasher	Israel	31.10.1920 - 30.3.2004
Boris Gusev	Russia	1944 - 4.6.2004
Josef Haas	Germany	28.1.1922 - 11.2003
Edgar Holladay	USA	26.10.1925 - 8.9.2003
Stanislav Ilyasov	Russia	2.7.1938 - 19.12.2002
Alois Johandl	Austria	30.6.1931 - 9.7.2004
Aleksandr Kalinin	Russia	11.11.1914 - 2004
Pantelis Martoudis	Greece	1925 - 2004
Aleksei Mironov	Belarus	1939 - 2001
Marcello Montanari	Italy	14.11.1909 - 1997
Philipp Mottet	Switzerland	1934 - 25.2.2004
Miomir Nedeljković	Serbia & Montenegro	26.7.1932 - 2004
Anders Olsson	Sweden	1.1901 - 22.1.2004
Hans-Jakob Schudel	Switzerland	28.8.1915 - 3.2.2004
Karel Sobek	Czech Republic	6.2.1908 - 25.5.2004
Walter Supp	Germany	14.8.1943 - 2004
Gennady Svyatov	Russia	d. 2004
Pieter van Dalfsen	Netherlands	19.12.1920 - 29.11.2003
Claus Wedekind	Germany	5.10.1934 - 13.7.2004
Joe Youngs	USA	25.2.1926 - 5.2004
Hector Zucal	Argentina	23.6.1920 - 4.2004

The death of Winfried Kuhn on 3.9.2004 was announced during the week.

The President also paid tribute to three former delegates on their retirement as Commission members: Newman Guttman, who had represented the USA since the inception of the PCCC in 1958, Virgil Nestorescu (Romania) and Josip Varga (Croatia). Upon the President's proposal, Newman Guttman was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Commission. He also thanked three people for their excellent work in producing publications on behalf of the Commission: Živko Janevski (award brochure for the 7th WCCT), Bernd Ellinghoven and Denis Blondel (FIDE-Album 1995-1997).

§3 Verification of Attendance and Voting Rights

31 member countries out of 39 were represented. The meeting was declared legal. The following countries were not represented: Azerbaijan, Brazil, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Moldova, Mongolia and Spain.

§4 Approval of the Moscow Minutes 2003

The President made a correction in Paragraph 10: Terminology. "Terminology of motives" should read "Terminology of motifs". There being no further comments or objections, the Minutes were approved.

§5 Membership of the Standing Subcommittees

1. **WCCT** U.Avner (Spokesman)
B.Formánek, b.ellinghoven, Ž.Janevski, E.Reitsen, J.Rice, F.Simoni, J.Vladimirov, B.Zappas
2. **WCCI** M.Klasinc (Spokesman)
D.Gurgenidze, Z.Hernitz, M.Prcic, A.Selivanov, K.Widlert
3. **WCSC** M.Klasinc (Spokesman)
U.Avner, M.Kolčák, P.Murdzia, J.Vladimirov
4. **FIDE-Album** K.Widlert (Spokesman)
U.Avner, b.ellinghoven, H.Gruber, J.Rice, A.Selivanov
5. **Qualifications** I.Vandemeulebroucke (Spokesman)
H.Harkola, A.Mikholap, I.Murâraşu, C.Sydenham
6. **Computer Matters** T.Maeder (Spokesman)
P.Einat, B.Enemark, Ž.Janevski, Z.Laborczi, B.Stephenson
7. **Studies** J.Roycroft (Spokesman)
Y.Afek, G.Costeff, D.Gurgenidze, N.Kralin
8. **Codex** G.Büsing (Spokesman)
B.Formánek, C.Sydenham, K.Widlert
9. **Judging** J.Rice (Spokesman)
U.Avner, J.Roycroft
10. **Terminology** B.Formánek (Spokesman)
J.Brabec, M.Dragoun

§6 Notification of Proposals, and Sub-Committee Business

Discussion of the proposals were allocated to the Sub-Committees or Working Parties as follows:

- 6.1 J.Rice, U.Avner (Award of titles for composing): WCCT, WCCI, Qualifications, FIDE-Album
- 6.2 U.Avner (International Solving Tourney): Working Party of P.Bakker (spokesman), A.Steinbrink, W.Stoffelen
- 6.3 J.Roycroft (Qualification for the title of International Judge): Qualifications, Judging
- 6.4 J.Rice, M.Klasinc (Changes to rules for the WCSC): WCSC
- 6.5 J.Roycroft (Use of "oracle" databases by study composers): Open meeting to be conducted by J.Roycroft, with Studies and Judging represented
- 6.6 W.Rosolak, P.Murdzia (European Solving Championship): Working Party of P.Murdzia (spokesman), M.Dragoun, M.Klasinc, M.Kolčák and M.Kovačević

The Spokesmen for the Sub-Committees then outlined the work that each expected to carry out, and a timetable for meetings was drawn up.

§7 Brief Reports by Delegates on activities during 2003-2004

Great Britain (J.Rice). Another successful residential weekend was held in April 2004 in Pitlochry. Brian Stephenson has just published *Selected Stocchi 2*. **Russia** (J.Vladimirov). Two books had been published, one a full record of the PCCC Congress in Moscow 2003, and the other, *1000 chess puzzles* by Jakov Vladimirov. **Ukraine** (E.Reitsen). The first issue of a new magazine *Vertikal* appeared, as did the 2003 Annual and a new dictionary of chess composition terms. **Italy** (F.Simoni): Prof. Oscar Bonivento published *Opera completa di Giorgio Guidelli*. **Slovakia** (B.Formánek): A meeting was held in Spišská Nová Ves, and composing matches were organised against the Ukraine and the Czech Republic. A brochure about the Fairy condition SAT was published. **France** (M.Caillaud): The meeting at Messigny took place as usual. Some new young composers have emerged thanks to the France-Echecs website. **Croatia** (Z.Hernitz): A composing match Saxony v Croatia has been organised. **Serbia and Montenegro** (M.Kovačević): The first International Open Solving Championship of Serbia and Montenegro took place in Belgrade during June. In July the 3rd European Youth Chess Problem Solving Championship was staged during the over-the-board championships, with 65 solvers. Serbia and Montenegro also regularly hold Under-14 and Under-18 solving championships. A booklet of problems by 92-year-old Živa Tomić was published. **Belgium** (I.Vandemeulebroucke): Efforts were being made to have chess recognised as a sport in Belgium. A book of Marcel Segers' compositions is in preparation. An international meeting of study composers was held. **Netherlands** (P. le Grand): Meetings were held in Nunspeet and The Hague. **Czech Republic** (M.Dragoun): 3 solving tournaments under WCSC conditions were held. Two collections were published, of helpmates by V.Buňka, and of selfmates by J.Jelínek.

§8 Sub-Committees: Reports and Discussion

1. WCCT (World Chess Composition Tourney)

7th WCCT. Director Živko Janevski was congratulated on his work and for the quick appearance of the award brochure. The new judging system had worked well, attracting less criticism than before, and will remain in place for the 8th WCCT. Uri Avner and his Sub-Committee were also congratulated on the successful arrangements for the 7th WCCT. A brochure from GM Valentin Rudenko regarding the 7th WCCT was circulated to delegates.

8th WCCT. Hans Gruber was appointed Director of the 8th WCCT. This time, judging countries would be asked to comment on all competing problems, and the marks for all problems would be circulated to the judging countries to permit reconsideration of scoring. After the award is published, all marks will be given on the PCCC website; indeed, this will be done for the 7th WCCT. Member countries were asked to indicate their willingness to judge in particular sections of the 8th WCCT. Despite several delegates supporting the idea, spokesman Uri Avner did not favour the publication of names of individual judges. A proposal to exclude the lowest mark given to each competing problem was rejected by the Sub-Committee. Uri Avner appealed for themes for the 8th WCCT, to be sent to him 2 months before the next Congress.

2. WCCI (World Championship in Composing for Individuals)

Marko Klasinc announced his retirement as spokesman of the Sub-Committee, and was thanked for his work in getting it started. However, no-one volunteered during the week to replace him.

2nd WCCI. Director Mike Prcic reported that he had received entries from about 220 composers. The aim was for judges to complete their work by 31/3/2005, and for the director's work to be done by 1/6/2005, in time to report to the next Congress. A number of suggestions for improvements were made, but these could be considered when the 3rd WCCI comes to be organised. A suggestion that joint composers be allowed to compete as a pair was considered but rejected.

3. WCSC (World Chess Solving Championship)

Director Brian Stephenson announced the results of 28th WCSC, Halkidiki.

Team: 1. Israel 162/180 pts.; 2. Great Britain 154.5; 3. Finland 153.5; 4. Poland 143.5; 5. Serbia & Montenegro 133.5; 6. Netherlands 131.5. (22 countries)

Individual: 1. John Nunn (Great Britain) 84/90 pts.; 2. Piotr Murdzia (Poland) 82.5; 3. Ram Soffer (Israel) 81.5; 4. Jorma Paavilainen (Finland) 73.5; 5. Marjan Kovačević (Serbia & Montenegro) 72.5; Noam Elkies (Israel) 70.5. (85 solvers)

The President congratulated Brian Stephenson and his team of Peter Bakker, Ward Stoffelen and Neal Turner on a very successful event. The Director in turn thanked the Greek organisers for providing excellent solving conditions, but expressed disappointment at receiving so few suitable originals from composers for use in the WCSC. The idea of holding a tourney to attract such originals was mooted.

Proposal 6.4. A proposal that the present wording in Paragraph 7.2 of the rules of the WCSC ("The use of computers or computer boards during solving is forbidden") be replaced by "The use of all electronic or technological aids which can help in solving is forbidden", was approved *nem con.* A further proposal, by Marko Klasinc, that a Fairy round be included in the WCSC, with the best 6 rounds out of 7 counting for the final result, did not receive majority support in the Sub-Committee. Marko postponed his proposal, but would like to see the idea tried out in some solving tournaments.

Marko Klasinc asked for all results of solving tournaments to be sent to him, so that he, Hannu Harkola and Marek Kolčák could use them for rating purposes. He and the President also suggested that in future the WCSC Sub-Committee be renamed the Solving Sub-Committee, so that its remit might cover other events, such as the proposed European Chess Solving Championship.

4. FIDE Album

FIDE Album 1995-1997. Spokesman Kjell Widlert welcomed the appearance of this new Album. The number of index pages had been reduced by 150, while the number of compositions had increased.

FIDE Album 1998-2000. Several sections had already been completed. The director of the Fairies section (Kjell Widlert) had been replaced by Christian Poisson, with Cedric Lytton being added as judge.

FIDE Album 2001-2003. It had been decided to split the Helpmate section (which in the previous Album had attracted 2500+ entries) into 2 parts – for H#2s and for all longer stipulations. The tacit approval of the Commission was given for this, which had necessitated the recruitment of more judges.

In reply to Jakov Vladimirov, Kjell Widlert said that he hoped to speed up the publication of Albums. The greatest part of the time was spent in the judging process. The electronic submission of entries is dependent on progress made by the Computer Matters Sub-Committee.

The problem of excessive submissions by certain composers was discussed. A stronger recommendation to limit entries would be made to composers. Questions such as the points tariff for studies, the status of the Annexe, and annual publication of the Albums were considered without any decisions being made. It was mentioned that a document containing instructions to FIDE Album directors and judges would be put on the PCCC website. The Sub-Committee reiterated that it did not approve the publication of compositions which had been selected before the appearance of the printed Album.

5. Qualifications

The title of **International Judge of the FIDE for Chess composition** was awarded to:

László Ányos	Hungary	Helpmates
Wolfgang Dittmann	Germany	Retros
Vasil Dyachuk	Ukraine	Twomovers
Nicolae Micu	Romania	Studies
Aleksandr Mikholap	Belarus	Moremovers, Selfmates
Frank Müller	Germany	Selfmates
Evgeny Reitsen	Ukraine	Helpmates
Sergei Nikolaevich Tkachenko	Ukraine	Studies
Vladimir Zheltonozhko	Russia	Twomovers

The above takes account of the Commission's approval of judging in the FIDE-Album as a valid award for title purposes.

The title of **International Solving Grandmaster of the FIDE** was awarded to:

John Nunn	Great Britain
Dolf Wissmann	Netherlands

The title of **International Solving Master of the FIDE** was awarded to:

Kostas Prentos	Greece
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The title of **FIDE Solving Master** was awarded to:

Vladimir Blokhin	Russia
Valery Krivenko	Ukraine
Colin McNab	Great Britain
Anatoly Mukoseev	Russia
Oleg Pervakov	Russia
Vladimir Podinić	Serbia & Montenegro
Kohey Yamada	Japan

In addition, the following 1st norms have been achieved in various competitions: **GM**: A.Azhusin (Russia). **IM**: M.Klasinc (Slovenia) and C.McNab (Great Britain). **FM**: V.Crişan (Romania), R.Krolkowski (Poland), A.Lebedev, A.Leontiev, V.Lipovsky (all Russia),

N.Menderinos, A.Papastavropoulos (both Greece), I.Spirić (Serbia & Montenegro), M.Vanka (Czech Republic)

Following publication of the FIDE Album 1995-1997, the title of **Grandmaster of the FIDE for Chess Composition** was awarded to:

Unto Heinonen	Finland
Jean-Marc Loustau	France
Mikhail Marandjuk	Ukraine
Waldemar Tura	Poland

The title of **International Master of the FIDE for Chess Composition** was awarded to:

Wieland Bruch	Germany
Aleksandr Kislyak	Ukraine
Zoltan Labai	Slovakia
Torsten Linß	Germany
Vyacheslav Pilchenko	Russia
Nikolai Ryabinin	Russia
Ivan Soroka	Ukraine
Marcel Tribowski	Germany

The title of **FIDE Master for Chess Composition** was awarded to:

Aleksandr Bakharev	Russia
Robert Burger	USA
Gady Costeff	Israel
Gábor Cseh (†)	Hungary
Vasil Dyachuk	Ukraine
Paz Einat	Israel
Zoran Gavrilovski	Macedonia
Henk le Grand	Netherlands
Michael Herzberg	Germany
Aharon Hirschenson	Israel
Michal Hlinka	Slovakia
Jorge Kapros	Argentina
Emil Klemaníc	Slovakia
Leonid Makaronez	Israel
Markus Manhart	Germany
Árpád Molnár	Hungary
Milivoj Nešić	Serbia & Montenegro
Sergei Nikolaevich Tkachenko	Ukraine
Alexander Zidek	Austria
Volker Zipf	Germany
Thorsten Zirkwitz	Germany

The above awards are all subject to ratification by FIDE.

The President congratulated all the successful title-winners. He thanked retiring spokesman Ignaas Vandemeulebroucke for his work on the Sub-Committee, and also as Delegate for Belgium.

6. Computer Matters

Spokesman Thomas Maeder spoke about how the Sub-Committee could help to reduce anticipations through improved access to databases. A list of which sources had already been incorporated into databases should be given on the PCCC website. They also considered the establishment of correct forms of composers' names in a directory. Thomas had himself begun to write a program to convert formats and thus help the electronic transmission of problems. A suggestion from Jakov Vladimirov that the Sub-Committee should endorse one particular solving program to ensure consistency of solutions was considered impractical.

7. Studies

Spokesman John Roycroft reported discussion of the Study of the Year project. Although he himself had found a poor response from newspaper columnists, a majority on the Sub-Committee remained keen to continue with it.

Proposal 6.5. John Roycroft reported on the special meeting convened to discuss the proposal, "That a studies tourney judge be entitled to take any action, including disqualification, if he knows or suspects that a position important for a solution was, or could have been taken or 'mined' from an 'oracle' database (or equivalent), unless such use had been declared by the composer before the closing date". A good discussion had taken place, but those present had not supported the proposal.

John Roycroft announced his retirement as Spokesman, to be succeeded by Yochanan Afek. The President praised John's enthusiastic and dedicated work over very many years on behalf of studies for the PCCC and the world of the endgame study in general.

8. Codex

Spokesman Günter Büsing reported that Igor Vereshchagin had resigned from the Sub-Committee. Resolution of two questions from Jakov Vladimirov regarding Codex Articles relating to Short Solution and Duals was ongoing. He hoped these would be resolved next year.

9. Judging

Proposal 6.3. The President reported the view of the Sub-Committee that judging in the FIDE-Album should be acceptable among the 6 awards that had to be presented when applying for the title of International Judge. This was confirmed by the full Commission, voting 28 for, 1 against, with 1 abstention.

10. Terminology

A paper by Bedrich Formánek regarding chess motifs would be sent to delegates with these Minutes (see Appendix I). The Sub-Committee was willing to help with the definition of themes for the 8th WCCT.

§9 Other Proposals: Working Parties

Proposal 6.6 (European Chess Solving Championship). Piotr Murdzia spoke on behalf of the Working Party. The ECSC was desirable as an event exclusively for solvers (as distinct from the WCSC which is only part of a problemists' week). It would give the opportunity to test solvers before selection for the WCSC, and would comprise competitions for teams, individuals, women

and solvers under 23. It would not conflict with national championships, and would take place several months before the WCSC. Poland was willing to organise the first ECSC in 2005 (discussions with possible sponsors had already taken place) and Marjan Kovačević felt sure that the second ECSC could be staged in Serbia & Montenegro in 2006. By a vote of 26 for, 0 against, with 4 abstentions, the Commission gave approval for the event. A suggestion from David Gurgenidze that the European Chess Union be involved was not thought to be a good idea.

Proposal 6.2 (International Solving Tourney). Axel Steinbrink reported on behalf of the Working Party. They proposed that a simultaneous solving event be held on Sunday, January 23, 2005, run by local controllers in various countries. The central controller, Ward Stoffelen, would select the problems for solving, and, after local marking had been completed, receive all the solution sheets. The first event would be in the nature of an experiment, with no norms or rating points involved. The Working Party would be responsible for the organisation. The Commission gave approval for the event, voting 22 for, 0 against, with 8 abstentions. Delegates were reminded that it was their responsibility to find local controllers.

Proposal 6.1 (Award of titles for composing). A proposal from the President was introduced by Uri Avner, who spoke of the need to widen the opportunities for composers to gain titles; some outstanding composers had failed to reach the GM level of 70 points despite clearly meriting the title. It was proposed to award title-points for performance in the WCCT and the WCCI, the two major composing tourneys under PCCC control. Reactions from the sub-committees were mixed, and reservations were expressed about granting title-points retrospectively (through earlier WCCTs), about easing the threshold for the GM title, and about the possibility that the same problem might qualify for points in different contexts. It was pointed out that many strong composers had not competed in the 1st WCCI. Furthermore, the WCCT could be viewed as unfair to composers in stronger countries, where it was harder for an individual composer to have a problem accepted for entry. The implications of the fact that the WCCT is a thematic tourney were also discussed. The suggestion that problems appearing in the Album Annexe might be awarded a half-point was rejected on the grounds that the Annexe is a private publication and might not appear on a regular basis. Marjan Kovačević, opposing the proposal, suggested the introduction of a new tourney for original problems to enable younger composers to gain titles more quickly, while Bernd Ellinghoven favoured combining the WCCT and the WCCI into a single event from which title-points could be gained. A vote on the motion, “Should the opportunities for gaining points towards the award of titles be expanded?”, was carried by 18 votes to 4 against, with 8 abstentions. A Working Party of Marjan Kovačević, Bernd Ellinghoven, Uri Avner, Bedrich Formánek and Helmut Zajic was formed to consider the way forward, and the President exercised his statutory right to join this party. However, the Working Party failed to achieve unanimity, though it was agreed that the WCCI, as a new competition not yet fully tested, was inappropriate as a means for the award of title-points. After further discussion, during which a number of doubts were voiced, the President stated that there seemed to be little enthusiasm for the original proposal and so withdrew it. Subsequently he made it clear that, as the Commission had approved a motion to expand the opportunities for gaining titles for composing, he expected to see this topic on the Agenda for the PCCC meeting in 2005.

§10 Future meetings of the PCCC

Invitation 2005. Following some criticism of the venue, Michal Dragoun withdrew the application to stage next year's Congress in Pardubice, Czech Republic. Harry Fougias offered to hold the event in Greece again, in Crete or elsewhere, or even in Halkidiki once more – in early September, at a similar price. The proposal to hold the Congress in Greece in 2005 was approved

by 16 votes to 2 against, with 7 abstentions. Michal Dragoun was thanked for his work in preparing the Czech application, and was encouraged to make a fresh bid, perhaps for Prague in 2007.

Invitation 2006. Piet le Grand (Netherlands) offered to hold the 2006 Congress at the Wageningen International Conference Centre, as in 2001. This would be in celebration of the Dutch Chess Problem Society's 75th Anniversary. Jakov Vladimirov (Russia) offered to host the 2006 or 2007 event at Dagomys, near Sochi. After some discussion the offer of Wageningen for 2006 was accepted by a vote of 13 for, 5 against, with 8 abstentions.

§11 Other business

Bedrich Formánek commented that it was essential to have a dedicated Russian interpreter at the 2005 Congress.

§12 Conclusion

President John Rice thanked all the delegates for their hard work, especially in the Sub-Committees, which had been very intense. He singled out the spokesmen, and also his 3 Vice-Presidents. The contribution of our Greek hosts in particular was praised. They had provided an excellent venue; it had been a wonderful week and a record number of countries had participated. The meeting was declared closed.

John Rice (President)

Paul Valois (Secretary)

October 2004