

PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE FIDE FOR CHESS COMPOSITION (PCCC)

50th Meeting in Rhodes, Greece, 13th – 20th October 2007

MINUTES

Official Participants

Uri Avner	Israel	President
Hannu Harkola	Finland	1st Vice-President
Marko Klasinc	Slovenia	2nd Vice-President
Kjell Widlert	Sweden	3rd Vice-President
Günter Büsing	Germany	Secretary
Luc Palmans	Belgium	Delegate
Fadil Abdurahmanović	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Delegate
Roberto Stelling	Brazil	Delegate
Michal Dragoun	Czech Republic	Delegate
Bjørn Enemark	Denmark	Delegate
Indrek Aunver	Estonia	Delegate
Michel Caillaud	France	Delegate
David Gurgeni	Georgia	Delegate
bernd ellinghoven	Germany	Delegate
Paul Valois	Great Britain	Delegate
Harry Fougiaxis	Greece	Delegate
Zoltán Laborczi	Hungary	Delegate
Marco Bonavoglia	Italy	Deputy for Francesco Simoni
Tadashi Wakashima	Japan	Delegate
Ilja Ketrīs	Latvia	Delegate
Vidmantas Satkus	Lithuania	Delegate
Henk le Grand	Netherlands	Delegate
Tadeusz Lehmann	Poland	Delegate
Dinu-Ioan Nicula	Romania	Delegate
Andrei Selivanov	Russia	Delegate
Marjan Kovačević	Serbia	Delegate
Bedrich Formánek	Slovakia	Delegate and Honorary President
Thomas Maeder	Switzerland	Delegate
Yevgen Reytsen	Ukraine	Delegate
Mike Prcic	USA	Delegate
John Rice	Great Britain	Honorary President
Viktor Chepizhny	Russia	Honorary Member
Jakov Vladimirov	Russia	Honorary Member

New delegates are Roberto Stelling (Brazil) and Paul Valois (Great Britain, replacing John Rice). Jakov Vladimirov was appointed as new Honorary Member during the meeting.

Other people who contributed actively included: Harry Fougiaxis, Kostas Prentos, Emmanuel Manolas, Nikos Kalesis, Dimitris Kefalas (organisation), Olesya Aleynikova (interpreter), Brian Stephenson, Ward Stoffelen, Peter Bakker, Neal Turner, Axel Steinbrink and Igor Vereshchagin (Open Solving and WCSC), and Ofer Comay, Gady Costeff, Paz Einat, Piet le Grand, Marek Kolčák, Nikolay Kralin, Piotr Murdzia, Oleg Pervakov, Hans Peter Rehm, John Roycroft, Colin Sydenham and Jakov Vladimirov (Subcommittee members and contributors).

1. Opening Address

President Uri Avner opened the meeting and welcomed delegates and observers. He thanked Harry Fougiaxis and the Greek Problem friends for organising the Congress at short notice after the withdrawal of Bulgaria. Greece accommodated the Congress previously in 2004 and 2005.

The President reminded the Commission that this was its 50th meeting and informed it about a jubilee article devoted to the history of the PCCC by Honorary President Klaus Wenda. This article was included in the distributed congress papers, and excerpts from it were read by Kjell Widlert. The President thanked Klaus Wenda for his words and combined this with good wishes for the recovery of the Austrian delegate Helmut Zajic who could not attend the meeting owing to health problems.

2. Tributes

President Uri Avner announced with regret the death of many persons prominent in chess composition. The Commission stood in memory of the following persons:

Wenelin Alaikov	Bulgaria	18.02.1933-13.02.2007
Nikolai Dmitriyevich Argunov	Russia	05.01.1935-2006
Reino Heiskanen	Finland	26.03.1931-18.09.2007
Hans Henneberger	Switzerland	16.12.1916-31.08.2006
Günther Jahn	Germany	22.04.1928-24.04.2007
Aurél M. Kárpati	Hungary/USA	24.08.1916-22.12.2006
Hugo Knuppert	Denmark	11.06.1920-28.04.1007
Vladimir Kos	Czech Republic	20.06.1928-02.07.2007
Miroslav Krejci	Czech Republic	25.03.1934-05.06.2006
Gombusurengin Lhagvasuren	Mongolia	19.01.1948-20.09.2006
Giorgio Mirri	Italy	30.08.1917-10.05.2007
Tauno Nylund	Finland	28.09.1940-12.12.2006
Cyril Opalek	Slovakia	05.07.1926-29.05.2007
Kusma Alexandrovich Osul	Russia	?-12.02.2007
Nicolae Pripoae	Romania	15.01.1939-2007
Efim Ruchlis	Israel	09.04.1925-05.02.2006
Marcel Segers	Belgium	14.04.1913-13.10.2006
Gennadiy Shinkarenko	Ukraine	10.07.1978-23.05.2007
Rudolf Teschner	Germany	16.12.1922-23.07.2006
Jean-Michel Trillon	France	21.08.1929-01.03.2007
Wolfgang Unzicker	Germany	26.06.1925-20.04.2006
Radu Voia	Romania	04.10.1922-2006

3. Verification of Attendance and Voting Rights

At the beginning of the sessions, 27 member countries out of 39 were represented. The meeting was declared legal. During the first session, delegates from two further member countries arrived. The following countries were not represented: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia and Spain.

4. Approval of the Wageningen Minutes 2006

The Minutes of the 2006 meeting were approved with an amendment in line 1 of section 8.10 “Terminology” where the word “competitions” was corrected to “compositions”.

5. Membership of the Standing Subcommittees

1. *WCCT* U.Avner Spokesman
B.Formánek, b.ellinghoven, [H.Gruber], [Ž.Janevski], Y.Reytsen, J.Rice,
[F.Simoni,] J.Vladimirov, [B.Zappas]
2. *WCCI* [P.Petkov] Spokesman
D.Gurgenidze, [Z.Hernitz], M.Prcic, A.Selivanov, K.Widlert
3. *Solving* M.Klasinc Spokesman
U.Avner, M.Kolčák, P.Murdzia, J.Vladimirov, T.Wakashima
4. *FIDE Album* K.Widlert Spokesman
U.Avner, b.ellinghoven, [H.Gruber], J.Rice, J.Vladimirov, P. Einat (new), M.
Caillaud (new), H. P. Rehm (as deputy for Hans Gruber)
5. *Qualifications* H.Harkola Spokesman
B.Enemark, L.Palmans, [A.Mikholap], D.-I.Nicula, C.Sydenham, [K.Wenda]
6. *Computer Matters* T.Maeder Spokesman
O. Comay (replacing P. Einat) B.Enemark, [Ž.Janevski], I.Ketris, Z.Laborczi, H. le
Grand, B.Stephenson
7. *Studies* J. Roycroft [Y.Afek] Spokesman
G.Costeff, D.Gurgenidze, N.Kralin, O.Pervakov, [H. van der Heijden]
8. *Codex* [H.Gruber] 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, I.Ketris

[Members of Subcommittees who were not present at the Congress are indicated in brackets.]

6. Notification of Proposals, and Business carried forward

Discussion of the proposals was allocated to the Subcommittees as follows:

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| (1) Gurgenidze -- EG judgment FIDE-Album 2001-03 | Album, Studies |
| (2) Fairies judgment FIDE-Album 2001-03 (Widlert, Avner, Zajic) | Album |
| (3) Belgium – solving norm for E. van Beers | Qualification, Solving |
| (4) FIDE Album selection system (Kovačević, Feather, Prcic,
Avner & Einat, Widlert & Kovačević) | Album |
| (5) Honorary titles (Vollenweider, Chimedtseren)
Honorary title (Vladimirov) | Qualification
Commission |
| (6) Kovačević – solving competition rules and recognition | Solving |
| (7) International FIDE judge (Garofalo, Huber) | Qualification |
| (8) Composing titles (Loustau & Aschwanden, Hornecker,
Summary of previous year's suggestions) | Qualification |
| (9) Maeder – submission of problems in electronic form | Computer |
| (10) Ukraine about “International day of chess composition” | Commission |
| (11) Multi-focal issues (Kovačević, Didukh & Aliev) | All subcommittees |

7. Brief Reports by Delegates on activities during 2005-2006

Brazil (R. Stelling) After the death of Prof. C. Belliboni (1991) and of Felix Sonnenfeld (1993) chess composition activities in Brazil were on a very low level, with only two active composers in the last few years. Recently, new activities started with the intention to motivate new solvers and composers, and some solving compositions have been organised.

Ukraine (Y. Reytsen) Two problem collections have been published, partly in English language, the *Schmatnaja kompozizija Ukrainij Albom 2001-2003* and the third volume of the *Anthology of Helpmates*.

Netherlands (H. le Grand) It was regretted that not only the number of members in the problem chess association decreases but also the number of people who are willing to work for the problem community. As a consequence of this development, only four issues of *Probleemblad* can be published annually since 2007.

Georgia (D. Gurgenzidze) At the World Junior Championship which took place in Batumi, Georgia, October 2006, there was organized a very successful solving event in which 84 young solvers took part. Three cups were awarded to the winners in the sections "under 10", "under 14" and "under 18", and a special cup for girls. The next championship of this kind will be organized in Antalya, Turkey, in November 2007 and it is hoped that the solving event can then be repeated.

Great Britain (P. Valois) The British Chess Problem Society meets regularly in London, and also held a residential weekend in Torquay in April. The result of the Mike Bent memorial tournament was published in the September issue of *The Problemist*. Brian Stephenson's database *Meson* meanwhile contains about 75,000 problems and is available online (<http://www.bstephen.me.uk/>).

Romania (D.-I. Nicula) Two new supplements to *Buletin Problemistic* have been published, one dedicated to the 75th anniversary of V. Petrovic and the other one with Romanian 19th century problems. Further Romanian activities concentrated on solving tourneys for juniors.

Czechia (M. Dragoun) Czechia also increased its efforts to recruit young solvers and succeeded in getting some financial support for junior solvers. A new album *Best Czech problems* covering the period 2001-03 was published.

Denmark (B. Enemark) The Danish Chess Problem Society celebrated its 75th anniversary and published a booklet on that occasion. Unfortunately, *Thema Danicum* had to cease publication. Better news comes of the problem collection of J. P. Toft which Jan Mortensen's widow has given to the Royal Danish library which will take care of it. The collection appears to be larger than previously estimated and may contain up to 500,000 problems. Somebody has been found who is interested in scanning at least part of the collection and to put it on the internet.

Hungary (Z. Laborczi) Some composing tourneys and the Hungarian solving championship have been organized. Attila Benedek prepared a booklet entitled *That's all... (Ennyi...)* containing a selection of his problems.

Israel (U. Avner) The Israel Chess Composition Federation celebrated the 70th birthday of the Aloni-twins in a private ceremony. The President reported to the Commission that some similar celebrations have previously taken place at anniversaries of prominent problemists and he recommended that other associations might consider organizing similar events in their countries.

Germany (b. ellinghoven) The FIDE-Album 1998-2000 is just off the press and available. The first 20 copies have been brought to the Congress and the Album can be ordered. Another publication, *Scacchia ludus*, also printed by Bernd Elinghoven and relating to chess history, is open to subscription and will be published soon.

PCCC (H. Harkola) Hannu Harkola has produced a *Handbook of Chess Composition* based on the *Problem Chess Lists* first published in 1989, with further editions in 1993 and 1998. It is available in PDF-format from the PCCC-website. John Roycroft suggested including the Study Tourney Guidelines and Klaus Wenda's historical notes in later editions of the *Handbook*.

8. Subcommittees: Reports and Discussion

8.1. WCCT (*World Chess Composition Tournament*) (Spokesman Uri Avner)

8th WCCT. Director Hans Gruber was not present but had sent a written report to the President according to which the 8th WCCT is on schedule as planned and is presently in the phase of reply to protests.

The President thanked Hans Gruber for his very good work which was so efficient that the Subcommittee didn't have any urgent matters to discuss during this congress.

9th WCCT. As the 8th WCCT will presumably be finished by next year's meeting, M. Klasinc asked whether some planning for the 9th WCCT had already been done. J. Rice suggested a break of some years after the 8th WCCT because magazines suffer from a reduced supply of originals when a WCCT is running. H. le Grand agreed and reminded the Commission that a major basis of chess composition are the magazines which must be protected. The discussion on this topic was postponed until next year.

8.2. WCCI (World Championship in Composing for Individuals)

There were no activities of the Subcommittee this year. A letter was received from Z. Hernitz who informed the Commission that the present WCCI is running as expected and that the entries will soon be sent to the judges.

8.3. Solving (Spokesman Marko Klasinc)

Change of the rules for gaining norms: Overlooked last year was the exclusion of one old rule which is not necessary any more since the performance rating is now the measure for gaining norms. The rule is: "The solver must be placed within the number of solvers with qualifying rating *not counting his own rating* (i.e. at least sixth place when there are six solvers with rating min. 2600/2500/2400, *but at least fifth place if he is one of them*)." The rule is discriminatory for solvers who already have qualifying rating. The proposal to exclude: "*not counting his own rating*" and "*but at least fifth place if he is one of them*" was unanimously accepted by the Commission.

The official rating list will in future be published every three months (as for OTB players). The last sentence from the *Rules for rating calculation* was replaced by: *An updated rating list is published four times a year (on 1st January, 1st April, 1st July and 1st October)*. (28 in favour, 1 abstention)

Official recognition for the winners of PCCC solving tournaments. The Commission accepted the Subcommittees following proposals (18 in favour, 6 abstentions):

The winners of the WCSC and ECSC should receive diplomas, cups and medals (first three teams and individuals).

The winners of the WCCC Open and ISC should receive diplomas (and, but not compulsorily, cups and/or medals).

The WCCC organizers should provide these, except for the ECSC.

Stimulation for the fourth solver: The proposal to change the teams to four solvers and take the 2 best of 4 for the team result was not supported by the Subcommittee for several reasons. It would cause bigger differences between stronger and weaker teams on the one hand, but on the other hand differences between the best teams would be smaller and more tied results would be a consequence of this change. The proposal was rejected by the Commission (4 in favour, 9 against, 12 abstentions).

Tourney inflation: A proposal to organize WCSC and ECSC alternately every two years in turn was not supported by the Subcommittee since a large number of solvers and teams participated in the last three years at both championships. The ECSC gives more chances for juniors to take part since up to six solvers may compete from one country.

Selection of problems for solving tournaments: Several solvers complained that the selection of problems was not satisfactory in the last years, and the opinion was expressed that the inflation of tournaments caused it. The Subcommittee was of opinion that responsible Directors should be a guarantee of well conducted tournaments. The necessary rules are already included in the WCSC/ECSC Rules, in particular paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2. The Subcommittee made some recommendations concerning the selection of problems for PCCC tournaments: No problem from FIDE Albums should be used; if possible no prizewinners, especially first prize winners, should be used; more than one problem from one source (especially in the same round) should not be used; modifications of published problems are welcome (to make a problem clearer or less recognizable) but the basic content of a problem should be maintained; studies should be tested by a computer chess program and by at least one good chess player and/or strong

neutral endgame solver; whether a problem has already been used at other solving tournaments should be checked.

Possible (mis)use of modern technological devices during solving (mobile phones with cameras, wireless microphones and receivers, pocket computers used in the toilet, etc.). The Subcommittee was of the opinion that solvers are honest persons and that it had never been noticed that any solver had tried to use any such device. But organisers should be aware that such misuse might be possible in future and Directors should pay attention to it. On a practical level the subcommittee made some proposals (Mobile phones should be totally forbidden in the solving room (not just switched off); the use of the toilet should not be allowed, or only during the longest endgame round; for the same reason the Open should be split into two rounds of six problems, as at the ISC).

Harmonization of WCSC and ECSC Rules regarding the judging process: The main idea of a proposal presented by Poland to the Subcommittee is that the WCSC including the prizegiving ceremony should be finished at the end of the second day. Many participants come only for solving and they have to wait two more days for the prizegiving ceremony. Contrary to WCSC, everything is finished by the second day at the ECSC and there is no reason why this could not also be possible at the WCSC as the number of solvers is very similar at the two competitions. Possibilities to shorten the procedure were discussed but no decision was taken this year in view of further ideas (inter alia, solving at the end of the week) which might impinge upon this proposal.

FIDE Solving Judge: The conditions for obtaining the title have been established: A candidate shall have conducted at least 6 rated tournaments (among them at least 3 for norms) in a good way (selection of problems, efficient and correct marking etc.). For application of the title, all relevant documents should be provided with the exception of very old tournaments. Only delegates may send proposals. The Solving Subcommittee shall study the proposals and prepare opinions for the Qualification Subcommittee. A first list of nominations will be prepared in time for next year's meeting.

World Chess Solving Championship. Director Brian Stephenson announced the results of the 31st WCSC, Rhodes:

Team: 1. Great Britain 163 pts. 2. Russia 158.5 pts. 3. Germany 158 pts. 4. Israel 155.5 pts. 5. Poland 153.5 pts. 6. Serbia 143.5 pts. 7. Ukraine 141.5 pts. 8. Finland 139.5 pts. 9. Netherlands 137 pts. 10. Slovakia 129pts.

Individual: 1. John Nunn (Great Britain) 89 pts. 2. Georgy Evseev (Russia) 83.5 pts. 3. Piotr Murdzia (Poland) 83 pts. 4. Ofer Comay (Israel) 82 pts. 5. Arno Zude (Germany) 75 pts 6. Boris Tummes (Germany) 73 pts. 7. Andrey Seliwanov (Russia) 72 pts. 8. Michael Pfannkuche (Germany) also 72 pts. but 1 minute longer, 9. Volodimir Pogorelov 71.5 pts. 10. Noam Elkies (Israel) 71 pts.

Brian Stephenson thanked his helpers Neal Turner, Ward Stoffelen, Peter Bakker, Igor Vereshchagin and Axel Steinbrink for their work.

International Solving Contest. Director Axel Steinbrink reported on the 3rd ISC, which took place on 21st January 2007. There were 261 competitors (from 26 countries). The preliminary results were published on the internet within two weeks and it proved possible to publish the final results at the end of March. Unfortunately, as no confirmation of the results of the Ukrainian tourney was received by mail, its result could not be verified and considered for the final result which included 197 solvers in the first category and 42 solvers from 14 countries in the category for less experienced solvers. The winner was Bojan Vučković (Serbia, 54 points out of 60), ahead of John Nunn (Great Britain, 52) and Alexey Lebedev (Russia, 51). Mr Steinbrink was thanked for his work. The next ISC will be held on 27th January 2008, and the director will again be Axel Steinbrink (Germany).

European Chess Solving Championship. Michal Dragoun, the Director of the 2nd ECSC in Warsaw on 11th-12th November 2006, informed the Commission about the results of this event. Individual: Teams: 1. Serbia 2. Russia 3. Poland Individual: 1. Piotr Murdzia (Poland) 2. Jonathan Mestel (Great Britain) 3. Dolf Wissmann (Netherlands); ; Juniors: 1. Miroslav Voráček (Czechia) 2. Andrey Petrov (Russia) 3. Jacek Stopa (Poland).

The 3rd ECSC, directed by Ward Stoffelen, was held on 14th -15th July 2007 at Pardubice, Czech Republic. Teams from 17 countries and 84 solvers took part. The winning team was Serbia, 2. Russia and 3. Poland,

individual winner was Bojan Vučković (Serbia), with runners-up 2. Andrey Selivanov (Russia) and 3. Piotr Murdzia (Poland). A junior competition with 10 solvers from 8 countries was won by Jacek Stopa (Poland), 2. Yury Malyshkin (Russia), 3. Roman Evstihneev (Ukraine).
4th ECSC: So far, there are no offers to organize this event. The President encouraged candidates to contact him. Preferably, the intention to organize the ECSC 2008 should be expressed by the end of 2007.

8.4. FIDE Album (Spokesman Kjell Widlert)

FIDE Album 1998-2000. Publication of this Album has just taken place. The Album could be ordered during the congress and would be shipped immediately after the printer, Bernd Ellinghoven, was back home from this congress.

FIDE Album 2001-2003. Judging of this Album is in process. So far, 6 sections have been finished. In four sections, difficulties arose because mail was lost in one section and there was great discrepancy between judgments and little tendency towards harmonization of the results in three others. The lost mail problem has been settled in a satisfactory manner and the respective section is finished, and it appears that the difficulties in one other section can also soon be dealt with in an acceptable way. The Subcommittee regretted the disagreements which had occurred in the fairies section and proposed to the Commission to accept the results as presented by the director (accepted: 26 in favour, 1 abstention).

FIDE Album 2004-2006. The Album tourney was announced early in 2007 and entries can be sent to the directors up to 31st December 2007. Instructions and guidelines for directors and judges are under revision and will be published on the PCCC website. From the various proposals relating to the selection method for future FIDE-Albums the Subcommittee proposed for the Album 2004-2006 the following part of the proposal submitted by Avner and Einat (accepted, 20 in favour, 4 against, 3 abstentions):

- a) disregard the entries which received a total of 4 points or less from the three judges, and
- b) if less than 14% of the rest score at least 8 points, then the entries with 7.5 points should also go into the Album.

Selection proposals: Various proposals relating to the selection method for future FIDE-Albums were discussed by the Subcommittee. Some of these proposals were considered as unsuitable, others are very interesting, some may even be combined. As the matter is very complex and still under discussion in the Subcommittee, it was too early to present a proposal to the Commission. The Subcommittee will continue its discussion during the year and has the firm intention to make a proposal by next year's meeting.

8.5. Qualifications (Spokesman Hannu Harkola)

The title of *Honorary Master of Chess Composition* was awarded unanimously to Odette Vollenweider (Switzerland) and, with one vote against and three abstentions, to Sonomun Chimedtsere (Mongolia).

The title of *International Judge for Chess Composition* was awarded unanimously to Antonio Garofalo (sections 2#, 3#, h#) and Eric Huber (fairies).

The Subcommittee had considered the results of the FIDE-Album 2001-03, as far as currently finished, and proposed the award of the following chess composition titles.

The title of *Grandmaster for Chess Composition* was awarded unanimously to:

- Alexandr Feoktistov (Russia)
- Yves Cheylan (France)
- Marjan Kovačević (Serbia)
- Miodrag Mladenović (Serbia)
- Valery Shanshin (Kyrgyzstan)
- Valery Shavyrin (Russia)
- Anatoly Slesarenko (Russia)

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

Alexandr Azhusin (Russia)
Nils Adrian Bakke (Norway)
Valerij Gurov (Russia)
Christopher Jones (Great Britain)
Jorge Kapros (Argentina)
Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia)
Hartmut Laue (Germany)
Manfred Rittirsch (Germany)
Andrey Selivanov (Russia)
Sergey Smotrov (Kazakhstan)
Anatoly Stepochkin (RUS)
Thorsten Zirkwitz (Germany)

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

Anatolij Karamanits (Ukraine)
Ralf Krätschmer (Germany)
Vasyl Markovtsij (Ukraine)
Dan Meinking (USA)
Alexandr Pankratjev (Russia)
Nikola Stolev (Macedonia)
Ruslan Surkov (Russia)
Dieter Werner (Germany/Switzerland)
Martin Wessels (Germany)
Rolf Wiehagen (Germany)
Vukota Nikoletić (+) (Serbia)

For titles and norms for solvers, it was the first time that the newly adopted system based on performance rating was applied. Results of different national tourneys, of the ISC and of the solving competitions in Rhodes have been taken into account.

The title of *International Grandmaster for Solving* was unanimously awarded to:

Alexandr Azhusin (Russia)

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

Vlaicu Crişan (Romania)
Kari Karhunen (Finland)
Colin McNab (Great Britain)
Anatoly Mukoseev (Russia)
Bojan Vučković (Serbia)

The title of *FIDE Solving Master* was unanimously awarded to:

Alexandr Bulavka (Belarus)
Josef Kupper (Switzerland)
Vidmantas Satkus (Lithuania)
Miloslav Vanka (Czechia)
Miroslav Voraček (Czechia)

In addition, the following 1st norms have been achieved: **GM**: Vladimir Podinić (Serbia), Andrey Selivanov (Russia, 2nd norm), Bojan Vučković (Serbia, two norms), Eddy van Beers (Belgium). **IM**: L'ubomir Širán (Slovakia), Alexandr Leontiev (Russia), Paz Einat (Israel), Alain Villeneuve (France), Alexandr Feoktistov (Russia, two norms), Alexandr Bulavka (Belarus).

FM: Oto Mihalčo (Slovakia, 2 norms), Dino-Ioan Nicula (Romania), Roberto Stelling (Brazil), Piotr Gorski (Poland), Nikos Mendrinou (Greece, 2 norms), Paz Einat (Israel), Mikhail Gaberskiria (Georgia), Andrey Petrov (Russia, two norms).

Extension of opportunities for composers to gain titles: The Subcommittee had considered the proposal presented by Loustau and Aschwanden and concluded that, with regard to the various proposals concerning the album selection system which are still under discussion, it would not be practicable to introduce such a system now. With regard to proposals which aim at broadening the basis for obtaining titles by including events other than the FIDE Album alone, the Subcommittee observed that in the present system the winning composition of a WCCT section automatically gets into the album, i.e. the author also gains a title point for it. The Subcommittee indicated that it might be envisaged to include the first three places of WCCT in future albums but had at present no clear proposal on this matter. The Subcommittee did not support proposals which would reduce the point requirements for titles.

8.6. Computer Matters (Spokesman Thomas Maeder)

The Subcommittee supported the proposal by Thomas Maeder which comprised two points:

- a) that the current status of the XML Standard format developed by a small task force (definition and documentation available online; <http://problem-xml.sourceforge.net/>) be declared the provisional standard format for electronically exchanging chess compositions;
- b) that participants in competitions organised by the PCCC (WCCT, WCCI, Album, ...) be allowed to submit their entries in this format.

There was one characteristic of the proposed Standard format that caused some discussion: conforming documents are not easily human-readable, and therefore software (viewers, editors, converters, ...) is required for dealing with them. This is a consequence of the set of features supported by the format. It was also discussed how the providers of existing software are best persuaded to add support for the Standard format to their programs. After all, neither the Sub-committee nor the Commission as a whole has the power to require software providers to implement a particular feature. It was agreed that by allowing (and later encouraging or requiring) problemists to use the Standard format for participating in competitions organised by the PCCC, software providers have an incentive to support their clients in this task. Time will tell whether this incentive is strong enough.

The Commission accepted the proposal (separate votes; part a): 21 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions; part b) 20 in favour, 6 abstentions)

8.7. Studies (Spokesman John Roycroft)

The Subcommittee had selected the *Study of the Year* for the year 2006. It went to Yury Bazlov, 1st HM, Bent Memorial Tourney, 2006. Delegates were encouraged to publicize this study as widely as possible.

8.8 Codex (Spokesman Colin Sydenham)

As last year's spokesman Hans Gruber was not present, Colin Sydenham replaced him this time and reported to the Commission. As no discussion on the proposals presented at last year's meeting had taken place, the Subcommittee proposed to vote thereon without further amendment. In the vote, those amendments were accepted (25 in favour, 1 abstention). As it was then discovered that the definition of unsoundness for studies was too severe, Article 13 (3) was again amended (unanimously accepted, 27 votes). The accepted amendments now are as follows:

Article 2: Add to the Footnote 3: "Nor does the compilation or publication of a computer generated database constitute the publication of one or more chess compositions".

Article 9: Paragraph (1): Delete "(1) Subject to Paragraph (2)"

Article 9: Delete whole of Paragraph (2).

Article 10: Paragraph (1): Delete "(1) Subject to Paragraph (2)".

Article 10: Paragraph (1): After "(...) the stipulation" add new Footnote 14A: "In non-helpplay compositions alternative black moves are not normally considered duals but may be seen as artistic defects".

Article 10: Delete whole of Paragraph (2).

Article 11: Delete: ", whether by means of a cook or a dual".

Article 11: After "(...) than required" add new Footnote 14B: "A non-helpplay composition does not have a short solution if there is at least one line of play which needs the stipulated number of moves".

Article 13: Paragraph (1): Replace "Paragraph (2)" by "Paragraphs (2) and (3)".

Article 13: Add new paragraph (3): "Studies are unsound if there is a method of fulfilling the stipulation which is different from the author's solution, and may also be rendered unsound by serious duals in the main line, but even in the main line many kinds of duals are normally tolerated."

Article 13: Paragraph (3): After "serious" add new footnote 16a: "The seriousness of a dual is a matter for the judge."

8.9. Judging (Spokesman John Rice)

The Subcommittee had discussed how to deal with the judging of studies which might have been derived from a computer-generated database and made the following proposal to the Commission (accepted: 22 in favour, 4 abstentions):

"Judges of studies in PCCC activities such as FIDE Album, WCCT and WCCI are requested to place, rank or give points to studies presented to them as if the studies had been composed in the traditional manner before the advent of the computer into compositional chess. This request will be kept under regular review." It should be emphasized that this decision is confined to PCCC activities and does not refer to the judging of studies in any other tourneys around the world.

8.10. Terminology (Spokesman Bedrich Formánek)

The Subcommittee had agreed on definitions in the field of "neo-strategic school" (see annex to these minutes). The spokesman expressed the Subcommittee's feeling that it had not much support in the Commission. He invited delegates to take part in the discussions and join the Subcommittee.

9. Future meetings of the PCCC

Invitation 2008. The Russian Chess Federation presented its proposal to hold the 51st PCCC Meeting in Ekaterinburg on July 5-12, 2008. The Latvian Chess Federation invited the PCCC to hold its congress in Jūrmala, near Riga, at the Hotel Jūrmala Spa, in the first week of September, or possibly the last week of August. Delegate Ilja Ketris said that there were cheaper hotels nearby. Uri Avner proposed as a venue the Metropolitan Hotel in Tel-Aviv, in September or October. A secret vote went in favour of staging the 2008 Congress in Latvia (Latvia 16 votes, Russia 9, Israel 2).

10. Other business

FIDE-PCCC relations: Andrey Selivanov informed the Commission about a draft document produced during August by FIDE and outlining plans for the restructuring of the FIDE Commissions. The change of PCCC status implied by this document caused great concern among the delegates and was considered as a threat against its existence in the present form. Honorary President John Rice reminded the Commission about Klaus Wenda's words written for the 50th anniversary of the PCCC which emphasize both the effective work and the democratic structure of PCCC, and he expressed his strongest opposition to the plan as far as it affected the PCCC. He also protested against the method of communicating the plan (an unexpected statement from a PCCC delegate). Andrey Selivanov suggested that the President should contact FIDE in order to maintain PCCC's relative independence. Several delegates indicated that a possible

separation of the PCCC from FIDE would not be at all desirable. The President summarised the discussion and stated that all delegates supported J. Rice's words. He expressed his conviction that PCCC is strong enough to ensure its status within FIDE. The President would write a letter to FIDE, seeking assurance that the work of the Commission would be allowed to continue uninterrupted and that no change of status that might put this constructive work at risk would take place.

Funding of PCCC: The President addressed the problem that the PCCC presently has no funding for its various activities and wondered how this situation could be improved. Andrey Selivanov suggested that PCCC should have its own budget and apply for funds from FIDE. Both the President and his predecessor confirmed that such attempts had failed in the past. Some alternative ideas were mentioned (membership fees, contribution from congress participants, etc.) but no decision was taken.

World Junior Chess Championship. Andrey Selivanov reported that at the World Junior Championship in Antalya, Turkey, November 2007 there would be a solving event organized by David Gurgidze, similar to the one at Batumi, 2006. The Commission supported this activity.

International Day of Chess Composition. Andrey Selivanov reminded the Commission that Valentin Rudenko had suggested that this should be observed on every 4th January. He said that many international organisations have their international day, and such a date should unite all chess composers. After some discussion in the Commission, the President announced the establishment of the *International Day of Chess Composition* on January 4th. The President recommended the celebration of this day in every country with an appropriate activity.

Structural observations: Marjan Kovačević had a feeling that the problem community was somehow divided. He was afraid that problem chess was in danger because of inefficient organization. He specifically mentioned the organization of congresses, printing of the FIDE Album and gaining norms. To improve the situation, he suggested intensifying communication between Congresses and complained that not enough official information had been distributed during the year. He was unsatisfied that the discussion of his proposals, written in 2005, was postponed for a third year in a row. His conclusion was that "we have become a large family – that is a good development but also our problem". No discussion of these points took place, as the final session came to an end.

11. Conclusions

President Uri Avner thanked the delegates and the members and spokesmen of sub-committees for their work during the week. He thanked the Greek organisers, headed by Harry Fougias, for providing excellent facilities and surroundings which contributed to a successful congress, and then declared the meeting closed.

Uri Avner (President)

Günter Büsing (Secretary)

November 2007

Terminology: NEO-STRATEGIC SCHOOL
(Basic and some selected terms)

Neo-strategic school

School of chess composition dealing with changes between phases: change of variations, change of move-functions, change of defensive motifs (effects) etc.

Neo-strategy

Relationship between different phases

Change

Difference from one phase to another

Mechanism of a change

Relationship between the positive, negative or other motifs (effects) of two or more phases

Principle of change

A thematic element found in one phase must not recur unaltered in another phase.

Principle of equivalency of phases

All thematic phases in a neo-strategic composition are equivalent, i.e. from the neo-strategic point of view their sequence is irrelevant. If thematic element A in phase K is changed to B in phase L, then at the same time thematic element B in phase L must be changed to A in phase K.

Principle of unity of phases

All phases of a neo-strategic composition combine to form an entity; therefore the neo-strategic content of that composition should be considered as the totality of the phases. All units having a function within the neo-strategic content of a composition are economical, regardless of whether they have a use in all phases.

Phase

Term denoting the set, try or post-key play; the total of thematic elements (moves, units, squares, effects, mechanisms etc.) present in the initial position of a chess composition before the first move is played, or after it (including this move).

Set phase

The total of set variations; the total of thematic elements (moves, units, squares, motifs (effects), mechanisms etc.) present in the initial position of a chess composition before the key.

Try phase

The total of variations introduced by a try.

Post-key phase

The total of variations following the key.

Twin phase

Phase of a twin composition.

Neo-strategic content of try/key

The total of negative and positive motifs (effects) of try/key in two-phase compositions.

Negative motif (effect) of the try/key

Motif (effect) of the try or key making the recurrence of the set play impossible in the phase that it introduces.

Positive motif (effect) of the try/key

Motif (effect) of the try or key making new play possible in the phase that it introduces.

Neo-strategic composition

Composition presenting a neo-strategic theme.

Neo-strategic theme

A compositional theme based on neo-strategy.

Pre-key content

The total of variations existing in a composition before a try or key is played.

Prepared variation

A black move in the initial position of a composition followed by a white reply meeting the stipulation.

Prepared mate

A mate in a prepared variation.

“White to play”

A composition with variations meeting the stipulation after any black move from the initial position.

Waiting key

The key in a “white to play” composition preserving all prepared variations unchanged.

Preserved variation

Post-key variation with unchanged white reply as compared with a prepared variation in a “white to play” composition.

Added variation

Variation after a black move not existing within the prepared variations of a “white to play” composition.

Set variation (set play)

Prepared variation not existing in other phases.

Try

First move of a try phase.

Try phase

The total of variations introduced by a try.

Try variation (try play)

A variation introduced by a try not existing in other phases. (Sequence of moves not solving a composition but connected with post-key or other phase by the form of neo-strategic theme.)

Post-key content = post-key phase

The total of variations introduced by the key.

Post-key variation

A variation introduced by the key in a composition containing set and/or try phases.

Unchanged variation = repeated variation

A variation in the post-key phase that is equivalent to a prepared variation.

Change of variations after try

Change of variations introduced by a try.

Change of variations with a try

Change of variations, when try phase is equivalent with set phase.

Twin change of variations

Change of variations arising from a twinning mechanism.

(version 30th October 2007)