



World Federation for Chess Composition
66th Ordinary Meeting (World Congress)
Jūrmala, Latvia
27 July-3 August 2024

MINUTES

OFFICIAL PARTICIPANTS

Marjan Kovačević	Serbia	President
Abdulla Ali Aal Barket	United Arab Emirates	1 st Vice-President
Vidmantas Satkus	Lithuania	2 nd Vice-President
Dinu-Ioan Nicula	Romania	3 rd Vice-President
Mohammad Alhallak	United Arab Emirates	Secretary
Roberto Osorio	Argentina (via Zoom)	Delegate
Joachim Hambros	Austria	Deputy
Luc Palmans	Belgium	Delegate
Milan Petras	Czech Republic	Deputy
Bjørn Enemark	Denmark	Delegate
Indrek Aunver	Estonia	Delegate
Neal Turner	Finland	Delegate
Axel Gilbert	France	Delegate
Torsten Linß	Germany	Delegate
Brian Cook	Great Britain	Delegate
Harry Fougiaxis	Greece	Delegate and Honorary President
N. Shankar Ram	India	Delegate
Yochanan Afek	Israel	Delegate
Marco Guida	Italy	Delegate
Tadashi Wakashima	Japan	Delegate
Julia Vysotska	Latvia	Delegate
Zoran Gavrilovski	North Macedonia (via Zoom)	Deputy
Mihail Croitor	Moldova	Delegate
Bilguun Sumiya	Mongolia	Delegate
Johan de Boer	Netherlands	Delegate
Piotr Górski	Poland	Delegate
Georgy Evseev	Russia (via Zoom)	Delegate
Peter Gvozdják	Slovakia	Delegate
Joaquim Crusats	Spain (via Zoom)	Delegate
Kjell Widlert	Sweden	Delegate
Thomas Maeder	Switzerland	Delegate
Valery Kopyl	Ukraine	Delegate
Hannu Harkola	Finland	Honorary member

New delegate was Joachim Hambros, a deputy for the Honorary President Klaus Wenda who took part as an observer via Zoom connection. The following 12 countries were not represented: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Spain, and USA.

Persons who contributed actively included:, Mohammad Alhallak (organization), Ryszard Królikowski, Axel Steinbrink, Luc Palmans, Vlaicu Crişan, Vidmantas Satkus, Ilja Ketris (solving events), Kjell Widlert, Harry Fougiaxis, Marjan Kovačević (composing tourneys).

1 Opening Address

The president Marjan Kovačević opened the meeting and welcomed delegates and observers. He thanked Latvian delegate Julia Vysotska and her daughters Daniela and Dominika for the wonderful conditions and hospitality in organizing the congress.

2 Tributes

The assembly stood in memory of the following problemists who passed away:

Almiro Zarur	Brazil	(07.06.1920 – 08.11.2021)
Viktor Zheltukhov	Russia	(10.04.1940 – 15.09.2023)
Jean-Pierre Carrez	France	(10.10.1949 – 20.10.2023)
Josef Maršálek	Czech Republic	(17.03.1935 – 26.10.2023)
Bernd Ellinghoven	Germany	(24.08.1953 – 13.11.2023)
Colin Sydenham	Great Britain	(13.12.1937 – 15.11.2023)
Bedrich Formánek	Slovakia	(06.06.1933 – 19.11.2023)
Gábor Koder	Hungary	(01.03.1948 – 20.11.2023)
Børge Hansen	Denmark	(19.08.1927 – 21.11.2023)
Nikolaï Belchikov	Belarus	(12.05.1947 – 15.12.2023)
Aleksandar Popovski	North Macedonia	(28.04.1932 – 28.12.2023)
Gennady Kozyura	Ukraine	(12.11.1955 – 30.12.2023)
Yuri Markovych Gordian	Ukraine	(24.03.1937 – 08.01.2024)
Christian Caminade	France	(11.03.1936 – 09.01.2024)
Stanislav Juříček	Czech Republic	(28.02.1952 – 25.01.2024)
John Beasley	Great Britain	(15.02.1940 – 03.03.2024)
Antal Harl	Hungary	(24.12.1957 – 09.03.2024)
Vladimir Kozhakin	Russia	(17.07.1957 – 16.03.2024)
Jean-Luc Seret	France	(04.09.1951 – 19.03.2024)
Sarah (Siegfried) Hornecker	Germany	(19.03.1986 – 22.03.2024)
Yakov Rossomakho	Russia	(04.11.1935 – 02.04.2024)
Vagn Erik Hansen	Denmark	(01.08.1932 – 16.04.2024)
Guy Sobrecases	France	(31.10.1965 – 20.04.2024)
Vladimir Katsnelson	Russia	(07.11.1937 – 16.05.2024)
Yuri Selyavkin	Ukraine	(19.04.1956 – 07.06.2024)
René J. Millour	France	(18.06.1943 – 18.06.2024)
Herbert Kromath	Germany	(05.03.1934 – 24.06.2024)
Eugeniusz Iwanow	Poland	(03.02.1933 – 28.06.2024)

3 Verification of Attendance and Voting Rights

30 countries were represented at the beginning of the opening session, and the meeting was declared legal.

4 Approval of the Batumi Minutes 2023

The Minutes of the 2023 meeting were approved without amendment, but with a remark made by Hannu Harkola that the Minutes should have been published much earlier.

5 Membership of the Standing Committees

WCCT: G. Evseev (online), spokesman

O. Comay, V. Dyachuk, H. Fougiaxis, P.Gvozdják, V. Kopyl, T. Maeder, K. Widlert

WCCI: M. Guida, spokesman

V. Kopyl, N. Shankar Ram, A. Selivanov, K. Widlert

Solving: M.Kolčák, spokesman

R. Ott, Vid. Satkus, A. Selivanov, A. Steinbrink, [B. Stephenson], D. Wissmann

FIDE Album: H. Fougiaxis, spokesman

P. Einat, G. Evseev, P. Gvozdják, A. Selivanov, K. Widlert

Qualifications: D.-I. Nicula, spokesman

J. de Boer, B. Enemark, H. Fougiaxis, N. Turner

Computer Matters: T. Maeder, spokesman

B. Enemark, [M. Křižovenský], M. Schlosser, [D. Turevsky], J. Vysotska, K. Widlert

Studies: S. Slumstrup Nielsen, spokesman

Y. Afek, [I. Aliev], [A. Avni], G. Costeff, [D. Gurgenedze], [H. van der Heijden], [M. Van Herck], M. Minski, [O. Pervakov], [J. Roycroft]

Codex: K. Widlert, spokesman

M. Caillaud, B.Enemark, [B. Stephenson]

Youth: M. Kovačević, spokesman

M. Caillaud, O. Comay, B. Cook, G. Costeff, V. Crişan, P. Einat, [D. Gurgenedze], [M. McDowell], D.-I.Nicula, S. Slumstrup Nielsen, A. Selivanov, J.Vysotska, T.Wakashima, K. Widlert

Absent members of committees are indicated by [brackets].

6 Notification of Proposals and Business carried forward

Discussion of the proposals and topics was allocated to the committees as follows:

Assembly:

- FIDE World Cup in Composing
- Proposals concerning the war between Israel and Hamas
- CFR offer to hold WCCC 2025 in Moscow

Solving Committee:

- Solving Committee Agenda 2024
- Online Solving Challenge for Youth 2024
- Change of temporal rule regarding rated tournaments
- Olympic solving competitions

FIDE Album Committee:

- Announcement of the FIDE Album 2022-24
- Proposal for updating FIDE Album points system

WCCI Committee:

- Announcement of the WCCI 2022-24

7 Miscellaneous

7.1 Standards of the ECSC, WCCC & WCSC

The alarming lack of the organizers interested in hosting the yearly WFCC events has opened the question of the standards of ECSC, WCCC & WCSC and how to achieve them. Julia Vysotska shared her fresh experience about many different aspects the WCCC organizers should take care of (marketing, finances, communication with hotels and embassies, running the website, engaging the judges for solving and composing, etc). She suggested the delegates should be deciding what level of organization they want. According to that, an international group of 4-5 organizers could be gathered, with some part of the expenses covered by the WFCC, not by the hosts. During the discussion it was also suggested that creating a handbook for the WFCC organizers would be very helpful. However, no decision was made.

7.2 New WFCC projects and contributions of volunteers

Abdulla Ali Aal Barket presented the contributions of UAE to the WFCC in latest period: a yearly support of 5,000 Euros; an official WFCC bank account opened in UAE after a long process; a permanent work for the WFCC social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X & YouTube); opening and running WFCC account on the Chess-Results server; supporting the first FIDE & WFCC championships for cadets and juniors in Italy and Brazil; running WFCC Zoom Meetings; opening a WFCC office in the new building of the Fujairah Chess & Culture Club, etc. Marjan Kovačević thanked Mr. Aal Barket for the outstanding contributions and described how the UAE activities in chess composition have improved the WFCC cooperation with the FIDE officers.

Dinu-loan Nicula presented the progress of the project he was leading in cooperation with the WFCC president to establish regular solving events in the context of FIDE World Championships for cadets (U8, U10 & U 12 years) and juniors (U14, U16 & U18). The first such events were

planned for November 2024 in Italy and Brazil. Mr. Nicula stressed the important support got from Chair of the FIDE Events Committee Akaki Iashvili and the FIDE Executive Director Victor Bologan. He also thanked the volunteers who gave important contributions: Ilija Serafimović prepared instructions with examples, Anirudh Daga organized free online lessons for juniors around the world, while Mohammad Alhallak created registration forms and entered all the data into the Chess-Results server.

Coordinator of the Calendar of Composing Tournaments Kenneth Solja informed about materials from more than 100 tournaments he posted between November 2023 and August 2024. He thanked Ilija Serafimović and Julia Vysotska for the initial support to the project and invited everybody to contribute more actively. Mr. Solja pointed at main issues he was facing (Annex 1), like getting PDF files instead of the links to already posted files, or getting only the announcements, and not the awards.

As the initiator and the main organizer of the Online Solving Challenge for Youth, Brian Cook was very satisfied with technical side of the series of six online competitions, each including a “Classical” and a “Blitz” round. The OSCY Team was running the competitions with a great enthusiasm and their main goal to achieve in the future is to enlarge the number of youngsters interested in solving. The full report and statistical review is in the Annex 2.

The President expressed especial gratitude to Julia Vysotska and Harry Fougiaxis for the personal support and their help in the previous period. He also thanked many volunteers who enthusiastically suggested taking over different duties for the well-being of the WFCC: Brian Cook, Ian Watson, Vlaicu Crișan, Miodrag Mladenović (OSCY); Kenneth Solja (Composing Calendar); Marcos Roland (WYCSC and promotion in Brazil); Bjørn Enemark, Harry Foigixaxis, N. Shankar Ram, Nikola Stolev (FIDE Album Points List & Errata List); Roland Ott, Axel Steinbrink (ISC Archive); Arvydas Mockus, Andy Ooms, Bohumil Moravčík (ISC 2024); Anirudh Daga (WFCC social media, free online lessons); Mohammad Alhallak (WFCC social media, Chess-Results, FIDE solving events); Gady Costeff (FIDE Centenary book).

7.3 Proposals

7.3.1 FIDE supported projects

The president Marjan Kovačević informed the delegates about the difficulties the FIDE World Cup in Composing had been facing since 2023. This FIDE Special Project, initiated by Andrey Selivanov and organized by his team since 2010, was using the FIDE yearly budget of 10,000 Euros in the period 2019-2023. The sanctions on Russia prevented smooth realization in 2023 and 2024, and Mr. Selivanov suggested WFCC to form a commission to take it over, with him as the president. WFCC Presidium and several other delegates didn't support such a proposal. The remaining options were either to give up this part of the FIDE support and to risk not having it anymore, or to ask FIDE officers if WFCC may use the planned budget for other FIDE related special projects in 2024.

The FIDE Executive Officer Victor Bologan kindly offered to reallocate the same budget to the three new FIDE supported projects in 2024: FIDE Youth Solving Events, FIDE Album, and a booklet celebrating FIDE Centenary with selected problems/endgames from the period 1924-2024. The first two projects were already on the way, and caused no additional efforts. Gady Costeff generously offered to prepare the whole material for a booklet with 100 endgames 1924-2024,

and to edit it in a very short time, while Peter Gvozdjak took over the jobs around publication and shipping. See: <https://www.wfcc.ch/one-endgame-study-in-a-thousand/>.

The delegates were asked to make proposals about the future of the FIDE World Cup, including its format, budget, and the organizing team, for an online Meeting before the end of 2024. The meeting was held on 25th October via Zoom connection, organized and executed by WFCF secretary Mohammad Alhallak, with delegates or deputies of 28 countries, among 35 participants. Out of several options for the World Cup yearly budget (in Euros: 10,000, 8,000, 6,000, 5,000, 3,000, 2,000 and zero) most votes were given to: 5,000 (7), 3,000 (7) and 2,000 (7), with four votes for 10,000 and three for no budget at all. In the 2nd round, more than half of delegates (15) supported the budget of 3,000 Euros, 8 delegates voted for 5,000 and three for the middle option of 4,000 Euros.

The decision to significantly reduce the FIDE World Cup budget in 2025, and to allocate remaining 7,000 Euros to other FIDE related projects (4,000 Euros to solving events in the context of FIDE championships for cadets and juniors, and 3,000 Euros to FIDE Album Project), opened the question of financing the demanding duties of the World Cup Director 2025. In an email exchange on the topic before the session (the exchange included 12 delegates and 10 active composers), Torsten Linss generously offered to volunteer as the WC director in 2025, and this was accepted with gratitude. Discussion on the World Cup beyond 2025 and suggestions to revive the tradition of FIDE Olympic tourneys in even years were postponed. Agenda and report from the Online Meeting were posted on the WFCF website: <https://www.wfcc.ch/wfcc-online-meeting-251024/>.

7.3.2 Proposals concerning the war between Israel and Hamas

Referring to the victims in Gaza during the war between Israel and Hamas, Bjørn Enemark proposed the WFCF should apply the same sanctions on Israel as on Russia and Belarus (see [WCCC 2024 Agenda](#)). After several discussions and presenting opposing views, the proposal was put on voting and rejected, with 4 votes in favour, 17 votes against and 7 abstentions.

7.3.3 CFR proposal to hold WCCC 2025 in Moscow

The only bid for the WCCC & WCSC 2025 came from the Chess Federation of Russia Executive Director Alexander Tkachev. Delegates expressed negative attitude toward organizing a competition in a country under sanctions. More negative reactions followed the speech of Georgy Evseev in support of the proposal, and some delegates left the meeting in a sign of a protest. The proposal was then put on voting and rejected, with no vote in favor, 25 votes against, and 3 abstentions. For the Online Meeting on 25th October 2024 Thomas Maeder made a proposal to WFCF Presidium to suspend Russia's delegate Georgy Evseev because of his statement about situation in Ukraine. The request by Mr. Maeder, the transcript of the mentioned speech of Mr. Evseev, and the statement by the Presidium on the matter were presented in the [Agenda of the Online Meeting](#). Presidium recommended Mr. Evseev to reconsider his statement and asked WCCT Committee to discuss the compatibility of Mr. Evseev as the spokesman of the committee. No measures or sanctions in such a case have been predicted by the WFCF Statutes. In a short speech, Mr. Evseev said his federation didn't allow him to make any political comments on the matter. At the same time, he decided to step down from the positions of the WCCT Committee spokesman and the FIDE Album Committee member.

Marjan Kovačević suggested that in the current situation, with four WFCF member countries involved in wars, the WFCF needs to establish an Ethics Committee that may start working on a WFCF Ethics Codex. Honorary Presidents Klaus Wenda and Harry Fougiaxis accepted to be the members of the working group, together with Narayan Shankar Ram. Later on Roberto Osorio and

Axel Gilbert joined the group, while Mr. Shankar Ram accepted the role of the committee spokesman.

8. Reports and Discussion

8.1 Studies Committee

Spokesman Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen reported there were no topics to discuss except the Finish proposal to adjust FIDE Album points for studies and to reduce it from 1.67 to 1 point as in all other sections. Committee saw no reason to change the long lasting rule at that moment. They claimed there was no inflation among study grandmasters, with only 11 living GMs, and only five new study GMs in the last 20 years. The argument put by Neal Turner, who suggested the change of points, was that computer had made composing an endgame much easier than when the 1.67 Rule was accepted. In a long discussion many opposing arguments were presented, but the overall feeling was that the topic needs to be thought over during a longer time and the voting was postponed.

8.2 Solving Committee

8.2.1 International Solving Contest (ISC) 2024

The 20th ISC took place on 21st January 2024, with 669 solvers from 46 countries. Central controller Arvydas Mockus thanked all the local controllers in 41 tournaments held in 26 countries, as well as the following: Borislav Gadjanski for his daily updates of the results on the MatPlus-website, Luc Palmans for checking Cat1 solving sheets, Andy Ooms who checked Cat2, and Bohumil Moravčík who helped a lot with the selection of the problems. President thanked Mr. Mockus for volunteering to take over this demanding duty and for realizing it in a very short time. The complete results and statistics of the [20th International Solving Contest \(20th ISC\)](#)

8.2.2 European Chess Solving Championship (ECSC) 2024

17th ECSC was held in Hagen (Germany) on 20th and 21st April 2024, with 15 teams and 71 individuals. As one of the ECSC directors, together with Luc Palmans, Axel Steinbrink was reporting to the Assembly. The Polish team was on the top once again, ahead of Serbia and Lithuania.

[Teams – final ranking](#)

Kacper Piorun became the individual champion, with a slightest advantage over Bojan Vučković, and Jakub Marciniszyn added another medal to the Polish Trophy-room.

[Individuals – final ranking](#)

The winner of the Hagen Open was Piotr Murdzia, ahead of Kacper Piorun and Kari Karhunen. Mr. Steinbrink also paid attention to one excellent result of Ms. Audrey Kueh – the 2nd place in Retro Solving.

[The winners of all solving events](#)

8.2.3 World Chess Solving Championship (WCSC) 2024

Ryszard Królikowski was the director of the 47th WCSC in Jūrmala, on 30th and 31st July 2024. His assistant Axel Steinbrink gave report on the championship that attracted 19 teams and 82 individuals. Great Britain managed to replace the dominant Polish team on the top of the podium, with the same number of points but with better time. As Mr. Steinbrink noted, the previous time the

winner was decided on tiebreak was 16 years ago, and also in Jūrmala, when Russian team was faster than the one from Germany. The same as the British team, Israel had two seniors in the team, who were most deserving for reaching the 3rd place.

Teams – final ranking

Individual competition brought a double crown to Kacper Piorun, after winning the ECSC 2024. John Nunn had only one point less and his better time had no importance in this case. Nikos Sidiropoulos made a nice surprise winning the bronze medal.

Individuals – final ranking

The same as in Hagen Open, Piotr Murdzia was better than his countryman Kacper Piorun in the Jūrmala Open. This time he was sharing the 1st-2nd place with Boris Tummes, while Mr. Piorun was in the 3rd place.

Open – final ranking

8.2.4 World Solving Cup (WSC) 2023/2024

The victories in the Open tournaments of ECSC and WCCC allowed Piotr Murdzia to overcome Eddy Van Beers (109:108) in the exciting final stage of the year-long World Solving Cup 2023/2024. The bronze medal went to Martynas Limontas who remained traditionally successful in the WSC cycles.

Final ranking

The busiest solving judge Axel Steinbrink replaced the WSC Director Roland Ott in reporting. President thanked Mr. Ott for his tireless work for the WSC, and the assembly greeted the winners of all solving competitions in 2024.

8.2.5 Other Solving Matters

Spokesman Marek Kolčák reported on several different topics discussed by the committee. The proposals on how to treat a virtual threat (in the guidelines for solving directors) and the proposals touching wildcards for ECSC & WCSC (senior team championships and wildcards for previous medallists) were left for future discussion, the same as the proposals to re-establish Olympic solving tournaments. The proposal from Dinu-Ioan Nicula to shift the tournaments with late results to the next Rating List wasn't supported by the committee. Instead, the organizers will be asked to avoid holding tournaments at the latest dates of the rating periods (Annex 3). Point 6 of the Rules for World Solving Cup was reformulated this way: **The WSC season is generally the period between two WFCC congresses. Therefore, the new WSC season usually starts after the WFCC congress, but not later than 1 September.** This rule change is intended to prevent from having to propose exceptions when congresses are scheduled at a later date (Annex 3).

Some irregularities in the ISC 2024 were registered by the committee, especially the photos of the solvers posted in social media before the competition was ended in other areas. There was a long discussion about it, but no notable impacts on the results were identified. An additional rule was accepted to forbid money prizes in ISC in order to reduce the danger of irregularities. There were 16 votes for the proposal, 9 against, and 3 abstentions.

8.3 FIDE Album Committee

Spokesman Harry Fougiaxis reported that all the material for the current Album 2019-21 were on the editorial site that Peter Gvozdják and his team had created. Indexing was in progress and there was a clear sign that the album will be available in the next Congress. It was stated, with regrets, that the FIDE Album Errata Project had got too few contributors.

The old proposal made by N. Shankar Ram and Vlaicu Crişan in 2022 to create a new fairy group G3 for help-self play problems of all kinds, was accepted after voting: 21 in favour, 2 against, 5 abstained. The percentages of selected problems will take into consideration the whole Section G. The list of judges for Album 2022-24 was finalized, and the [Announcement](#) prepared:

- Announcement: March 1, 2025
- Closing date: September 1, 2025
- Submission of entries to the judges: December 1, 2025
- Reports by the directors and results: December 1, 2026
- Submission of selected entries to the editor: February 1, 2027
- Indexing, typesetting, printing: August 1, 2028

8.4 WCCI Committee

Spokesman Marco Guida reported the preparations for WCCI 2022-24 were mostly finished in 2023, and only a few changes and additions in the list of judges and members of the Supervising Panel were added in 2024. Because of inactivity of some earlier members, the composition of the committee was reduced to five members, with an “open invitation” to Harry Fougiaxis, whose contribution has proven to be always extremely valuable. The WCCI Committee briefly discussed the future of WCCI beyond the 2022-24 cycle: is a change required (as it is the opinion of the Spokesman of the WCCI Committee), or should the “status quo” be maintained? Some initial discussion on pros and cons of various options has taken place, showing a diversity of opinions among WCCI Committee Members on the need for a change and on the viability of the various options. In front of such diversity of opinions, the decision has been therefore to place the topic on hold, ready to restart discussions as soon as time for change will be more mature. The final decisions about the future of WCCI should be made before the beginning of the relevant WCCI cycle. President praised again the work of this small but highly active committee. The full report of the committee meeting is in the Annex 4. The [WCCI 2022-24 Announcement](#) was ready to be posted as planned:

December 1st, 2024: Announcement

January 20th, 2025: Deadline for Submission of entries to the Director Narayan Shankar Ram

By February 1st, 2025: Entries and spreadsheets for the scores sent by email to the Judges

By June 1st, 2025: the latest: Judges’ marks sent to the Director

June 15th, 2025: Provisional results sent to the Supervising Panel and to the WFCC President

June 30th, 2025: Final results published on the WFCC site

8.5 WCCT Committee

As the spokesman Georgy Evseev was present only online, and the report of the committee (Annex 5) was presented by Kjell Widlert. The 12. WCCT was planned to be announced in the spring of 2025, but some essential elements were still missing: the Director, themes and judges. The committee had discussed whether countries with sanctions should be allowed to make a preliminary registration. The majority of the committee felt that there was no need for this: if and when the sanctions are lifted, a quick decision can be taken to allow those countries to take part. As the latest proposal to change the score calculation came very late, the committee couldn’t recommend any change (and therefore probably not for the 12. WCCT). The committee will return to the question next year.

8.6 Youth Committee

The meeting of the largest committee gathered 11 out of 15 members, whose work was going on throughout the year. The main topic was reviewing the [8th Youth Chess Composing Challenge](#) that attracted 37 young composers born 2001 and later, from 13 countries: Austria, Canada, France, India, Israel, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine, and USA. The results per sections: [Section A](#) (thematic #2), [Section B](#) (Endgame studies), [Section C](#) (all kinds of problems except studies). The feeling of the YCCC Team was that YCCC-8 had inspired many mature compositions on a higher overall level than previous years. It is expected that popularity and quality of YCCC should grow, since juniors from at least half of the WFCC member countries haven't joined these composing competition yet. The general YCCC-8 standings, in the competition for the five 500 Euros vouchers to take part in the WCCC 2025 (or ECSC 2025) was: 1. Ural Khasanov (Russia), 2. Ilija Serafimović (Serbia), 3. Benjamin Defromont (France), 4. Joachim Hambros (Austria), 5. Itay Richardson (Israel), 6. Dylan Schenker (USA), 7. Andrii Sergiienko (Ukraine), etc.

The committee expressed gratitude to Brian Cook and his team for the excellent organization of the OSCY 2024. Piotr Górski and Kacper Piorun announced readiness to support the FIDE youth and cadets solving championships, and Milan Petras presented preparations for the European Youth Chess Solving championship in Prague, organized by the European Chess Union.

8.7 Computer Matters Committee

Spokesman Thomas Maeder reported that there were no topics of discussion this year and the committee did not meet.

8.8 Codex Committee

There was nothing to report from the Codex committee.

8.9. Qualification Committee

Spokesman Dinu-Ioan Nicula reported as follows:

After an individual analysis made by each member and then in common, the Qualifications Committee has decided unanimously that the next titles are fulfilling the conditions to be awarded by WFCC:

Grandmaster of the FIDE for Chess Compositions: Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (DNK)

International Master of the FIDE for Chess Compositions: Karen Sumbatyan(RUS)

FIDE Master for Chess Compositions: Sergiy Didukh (UKR), Daniel Keith (FRA), Jan Sprenger (GER), Aleksandr Stavrietsky (RUS)

International Solving Master of the FIDE: Mihnea Costachi (ROU), Jakub Marciniszyn (POL)

FIDE Solving Master: Roman Brick (USA), Lev Glanzspiegel (ISR)

International Judge of the FIDE for Chess Compositions: Marcin Banaszek (GER, selfmates), Viktoras Paliulionis (LTU, helpmates)

All these titles were accepted by the assembly by acclamation.

9 Financial Report, Balance Sheet, Auditor's Report, Budget

In the name of the treasurer Abdulla Ali Aal Barket, Julia Vysotska presented to the Assembly the financial report 2023-24 (Annex 6) with the budget for 2024-25 (Annex 7) and the balance sheet of 30.06.2024 (Annex 8). Ms. Vysotska explained why the balance sheet presented much better financial situation than in the Batumi WCCC 2023. The change of bank account resulted in postponement of the FIDE regular budget and the delayed transfer of 6,000 Euros for two years allowed covering some postponed expenses. The projects of the FIDE and the Fujairah Government were presented as conditional support, and not as the WFCC income. They ask for certain expenses, and some of them will be realized with a delay of a year or two.

The auditor, Marco Guida confirmed that he had reviewed the documents and found them in order. The financial report and budget were accepted in a vote: 22 for, 2 abstentions.

10 Election of Auditors

The current auditor, Marco Guida and the reserve auditor, Johan de Boer were proposed and were accepted (no formal voting).

11 Future Meetings

The deadline for 2025 bids was extended till 5th October 2024, and the decisions were made in an [Online Meeting](#), on 25th October 2024. The only bid for ECSC 2025 came from Greece and was accepted by acclamation. The 18th ECSC was announced to be held in the University of Athens, from 25th to 27th April 2025.

During discussion about the three bids for WCCC & WCSC 2025, Hannu Harkola expressed an opinion that according to the Statutes only the bids from member countries should be taken in consideration, and not the Montenegro bid. Since there were exceptions before (Turkey ECSC 2008 and Montenegro ECSC 2014), the case was put on voting, and the bid wasn't accepted, with 15 votes against it, 8 for, and 5 abstentions.

In the competition between two remaining candidates, Estonia (Tallinn) and Romania (Alba Iulia), the latter bid got 20 votes, and the former 7, with 1 abstention. Thus, the 67th WCCC and 48th WCSC will be held in the historical venue Alba Iulia, from 5th to 12th July 2025. It will be the first ever Congress in Romania, in the year when the Romanian Chess Federation celebrates its centenary.

12 Conclusion

The President thanked the delegates and the spokesmen of committees for their work during the week. He congratulated the organizers for providing excellent facilities and wonderful conditions, which contributed to a memorable congress. Then he declared the meeting closed.

Marjan Kovačević (President)
Mohammad Alhallak (Secretary)
June 2025

ANNEX 1

Calendar of Composing Tournaments – Report

by Kenneth Solja

During WCCC in Batumi 2023 I volunteered to take over coordination of The Calendar of Composing Tournaments. The Calendar was started as an excel-file initially prepared by Ilija Serafimović, and in November 2023 it became a part of the WFCC website, thanks to Julia Vysotska, under Competitions ->Composing->Calendar.

The numbers of posted tournaments from November 2023 until August 2024 in different genres are as follows:

A - 2#	18	
B - 3#	14	
C - n#	15	
D –Studies	24	
E - h#	31	
F - s#	12	
G1 – hs#/hs= (orthodox)	1	
G2 –Fairies	18	
G3 – Allgenres	1	
H – Retros	7	
I –Informal tourneys (magazines)	48*	

*Some of the informal tourneys from 2023 were not moved from the excel-file to the website, but they were updated to the 2024 tourneys. In the Calendar there is now: 2022 1, 2023 13, 2024 34 tourneys.

The main idea of the Calendar is that everything could be found in one place.

The main issues with The Calendar are at the moment:

*The Annoucements or the Awards are sent by the organizers as pdf-files. They should be sent only as links to some existing website.

*The organizers forget to send the Awards ->The Calendar Coordinator will have to find the award from the Internet (if possible).

*The Informal tourneys awards are published in the magazines, but the link of the awards are not going to send to the Coordinator.

*The names of the judges are not given to the Calendar in the informal tourneys in the beginning of the year. (Would benice to know when sending the problems to the magazines as composer.)

I would still like, despite of all problems, to continue to make The Calendar better and bigger.
Kenneth Solja, Finland – The Calendar Coordinator

ANNEX 2

OSCY

Report for WCCC 2024

Registrations

By nationality

BRA	CZE	GBR	GER	IND	LAT	MAR	NED	NGR	POL	ROU	RUS	SRB	UKR
3	3	3	3	1	1	24	1	1	2	6	37	1	1

By year-of-birth

2001	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3	3	1	4	2	5	7	9	9	12	9	14	2	4	2	1

By age group

<9	9 - 10	11 - 12	13 – 14	15 – 16	17 – 18	19 – 20	>20
0	3	9	9	12	8	4	3

Male = 67, Female = 20

By country

BRA	CZE	GBR	GER	IND	LAT	MAR	NED	NGR	POL	ROU	RUS	SRB	UKR
3	3	3	3	1	1	24	1	1	2	6	39	1	1

Challenges

Challenge	1	2	3	4	5	6
Classical	34	23	23	20		
Blitz	34	23	23	19		

Total = 199 solves

Observations

1. Interest in the 12 to 16 year-old age group is the strongest
2. Many solvers have achieved GM/IM performance levels, some unrated
3. Rayan el Bakkar (15 y.o. from MAR) shows great promise
4. Lovelyn Agbo (19 y.o. from NGR) is developing into a strong Blitz solver
5. Thanks to Mustapha for encouraging them
6. Over 50% of solves are by RUS kids (many registered by their mother)
7. Most solvers are unrated
8. A few solvers achieve 100% scores in most Challenges
9. No-one has scored 0 points (yet) in any Challenge
10. The Kharitonovs, 14 y.o Maksim and 12 y.o Viktoriya, of RUS have scored highly in all Challenges

ANNEX 3

Change of Rule 6 of the Rules for the World Solving Cup (WSC)

current:

A season of the WSC is a period between the two WFCC congresses.

new:

The WSC season is generally the period between two WFCC congresses. Therefore, the new WSC season usually starts after the WFCC congress, but not later than 1 September.

Reason:

This rule change is intended to prevent us from having to propose exceptions when congresses are scheduled at a late date.

The Solving Committee does not support Dinu-Ioan Nicula's proposal as it does not cover possible cases arising from the deadline for the submission of results according to the rules (10 days for multiple-locations tournaments / 5 days for all other rated tournaments).

After a discussion about priorities, the members of the Solving Committee consider it more important to record all tournaments of the past quarter than to publish the new rating list on the first day of the new quarter.

However, from now on we will ask tournament organisers of solving tournaments that take place just before or at the end of a quarter to submit the results quickly.

We will also discourage organisers of multi-site tournaments from scheduling them towards the end of a quarter.

ANNEX 4

WCCI Committee Meeting – July 29th 2024, WCCC Jurmala

Participants:

Marco GUIDA – WCCI Spokesman
Narayan SHANKAR RAM – WCCI Committee Member
Kjell WIDLERT - WCCI Committee Member
Valery KOPYL- WCCI Committee Member
Harry FOUGIAXIS – FIDE Album Committee Spokesman

NOTE: remaining members of the WCCI Committee (namely Andrey Selivanov, Diyan Kostadinov, Zvonimir HERNITZ, David Gurgenidze and Viktoras Paliulionis) have received in advance both the invitation and the relevant background material for their review and comments prior to the meeting held in Jurmala.

Agenda:

1. Update on the Final List of Judges for WCCI 2022-24
2. Planning of WCCI 2022-24
3. WCCI 2022-24 Announcement
4. Composition of the WCCI Supervising Committee
5. Any Other Business

1. Update on the Final List of Judges for WCCI 2022-24

In comparison to the list already agreed upon and presented to the Presidium and to all Delegates in Batumi, only 2 changes have occurred:

- Section E– Mr. Janos Csak has withdrawn due to health issues and has been replaced by Mr. Harry Fougiaxis;
- Section F – Mr. Gennady Kozyura unfortunately deceased and has been replaced by Mr. Sergiy Borodavkin.

Additionally, Reserve Judges has been appointed for:

- Sections A (Piotr Novitsky – UKR),
- Section D (Steffen Nielsen – DNK),
- Section E (Ofer Comay – ISR)
- Section H (Andrey Frolkin – UKR).

We do not feel necessary at this stage to appoint reserve judges for the other Sections.

No objection has been received and the list (which is included in ANNEX in the text of the Announcement) is deemed to be final.

2. Planning of the WCCI 2022-24

We discussed and decided the following timing for the WCCI 2022-24:

- a. December 1st, 2024: Announcement will be published on WFCC Web Site
- b. January 20th, 2025: Deadline for Submission of entries to the Director

- c. By February 1st, 2025: Entries and spreadsheets for the scores sent by email to the Judges
- d. By June 1st, 2025 the latest: Judges' marks sent to the Director
- e. June 15th, 2025: Provisional results sent to the Supervising Panel and to the WFCC President
- f. June 30th, 2025: Final results published on the WFCC site

No objection has been received and the schedule has been approved.

3. WCCI 2022-24 Announcement

The ANNEX includes the complete text of the Announcement (including list of Judges, Schedule and composition of the Supervising Panel) that has been reviewed and approved, ready to be published on the WFCC Web Site on December 1st, 2024.

4. WCCI Supervising Committee

A complete change of the Supervising Committee is required since current members (Mr. Marek Kolčák, Mr. Živko Janevski and Mr. Harry Fougiaxis) will not be in the position to fulfil the requirements in the 2022-24 cycle: Mr. Živko Janevski is hardly reachable since long time; Mr. Harry Fougiaxis will be a judge in this cycle; Mr. Marek Kolčák is planning to compete.

New members have been therefore appointed, and they kindly accepted the Task:

- Mr. Brian Cook (GBR);
- Mr. Gady Costeff (ISR);
- Mr. Neal Turner (FIN)

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Future of WCCI beyond the 2022-24 Cycle

We have briefly discussed within the WCCI Committee about the future of WCCI beyond the current 2022-24 cycle: is a change required (as it is the opinion of the Spokesman of the WCCI Committee), or should we maintain the "status quo"? But are there the conditions (notably a widespread support by the Countries Delegates and by the Composers' Community) to seriously consider and accept a change of the status quo (format and/or rules)?

Various options to possibly change the current WCCI format have been briefly reviewed, e.g.:

- Making WCCI a "by product" of FIDE Album (notably based on a straight average of the points scored by each Composer across the full set of entries submitted to the Album).
- Merging WCCI and FIDE World Cup into a new competition, possibly with a new format and/or an higher frequency than 3-years.
- Changing the composition of the judging panel of WCCI (while maintaining the basic format of the competition) with only 3 judges, completely shared with FIDE Album Judges.

Some initial discussion on pros and cons of various options has taken place, showing a diversity of opinions among WCCI Committee Members on the need for a change and on the viability of the various options. In front of such current diversity of opinions, the decision has been therefore to place the topic on hold, ready to restart discussions as soon as time for change will be more

mature. That said, however, the Spokesman of the WCCI Committee have underlined that a final decision on the topic is needed by the next WCCC the latest, i.e. before the beginning of the next WCCI 2025-27 cycle.

5.2 WCCI Committee membership.

Current members of WCCI Committee are:

- Marco Guida
- Narayan Shankar Ram
- Kjell Widlert
- Valery Kopyl
- Andrey Selivanov
- Diyan Kostadinov
- Zvonimir Hernitz
- David Gurgenedze
- Viktoras Paliulionis

Besides the members that have participated in presence and Andrey Selivanov that gave his feedback along the process, the other members have not contributed. Additionally, Viktoras Paliulionis has recently informed the WCCI Spokesman that he withdraws from its role.

The composition of the WCCI Committee for the future has therefore changed as it follows:

- Marco Guida - Spokesman
- Narayan Shankar Ram
- Kjell Widlert
- Valery Kopyl
- Andrey Selivanov

An “open invitation” has been set to Mr. Harry Fougiaxis, whose contribution has proven to be always extremely valuable, to join our meetings and to help us with his experience and his feedback.

ANNEX 5

Report by the WCCT committee

As the spokesman Georgy Evseev was present only online, the report of the committee was presented by Kjell Widlert.

The committee had one meeting, with participants
Georgy Evseev (spokesman), over the phone
Ofer Comay
Harry Fougiaxis
Peter Gvozdják
Thomas Maeder
Kjell Widlert

1. Next WCCT

The 12. WCCT should normally be announced in the spring of 2025. Georgy Evseev had distributed a letter with a request to all WFCC members to provide the following information:

- is your country ready to provide a Director for the 12. WCCT?
- proposals of themes for the 12. WCCT
- in which sections are you ready to be a judging country?

The countries are asked to answer by **15 November, 2024**. Kjell Widlert stressed that without a Director, themes and judges, there will be no WCCT.

2. Countries with sanctions

The committee had discussed whether countries with sanctions (at present Russia and Belarus) should be allowed to make a preliminary registration for the 12. WCCT, while still being able to actually participate only if the sanctions are lifted in time for the start of the tourney. The majority of the committee felt that there was no need for this: if and when the sanctions are lifted, a quick decision can be taken to allow those countries to take part.

3. Change in score calculation

It is known that a judging country can have some advantage for their own compositions by scoring compositions lower than they really merit. It is not known whether this is more of a theoretical problem, or a problem in practice.

A few years ago, David Hodge proposed a system to compensate for artificially low scores. This system has turned out to be hard to understand. Georgy Evseev has now proposed another system of compensation, which he regards as easier to understand. As the proposal came very late, the committee did not have the possibility to study it now, so the committee cannot recommend any change at this time (and therefore probably not for the 12. WCCT). The committee will return to the question next year.

August 2024
Kjell Widlert

ANNEX 6

WORLD FEDERATION FOR CHESS COMPOSITION

Income Statement 30.06.2024	ACTUAL 30.06.2024	Budget 30.06.2023	ACTUAL 30.06.2023
	2023-24	2023-24	2022-23
Income	€ 7,000.00	€ 8,000.00	€ 0.00
- FIDE (2023 & 2024)	€ 6,000.00	€ 3,000.00	€ 0.00
- Fujairah Government (conditional), Batumi WCCC2023(*)	€ 1,000.00	€ 5,000.00	
Expenses	€ 2,541.07	€ 2,250.00	€ 1,500.07
- ISC 2023	€ 150.00	€ 150.00	€ 150.00
- WCSC 2023	€ 500.00	€ 500.00	€ 500.00
- WCCT 2020-2023	€ 0.00		€ 100.00
- WSC 2022-23	€ 300.00	€ 300.00	€ 300.00
- YCCC 2023	€ 0.00	€ 100.00	€ 0.00
- Batumi WCCC 2023(*)	€ 1,000.00		
- ECSC 2023 (**)		€ 500.00	€ 0.00
- IT (websites)	€ 417.99	€ 500.00	€ 389.52
- Swiss manager program - lifetime license	€ 150.00		
- Banking	€ 23.08	€ 100.00	€ 60.55
- Other expenses	€ 0.00	€ 100.00	€ 0.00
Income (+) / Loss (-)	€ 4,458.93	€ 5,750.00	-€ 1,500.07

(*) Conditional yearly support by Fujairah government means the support of concrete WFCC projects. The projects of each year should be agreed in the budget, with the obligation of WFCC to have Fujairah Government logo for each supported project (banner, website, booklet etc.)

See the note 3.2 to the Balance sheet:

€	5,000.00	The support received in 2023
€	(1,000.00)	The income&expense in 2023-24 - support of WCCC Batumi
€	4,000.00	Prepaid income for projects supported by Fujairah Government

The income will be shown in the next financial period, together with the associated costs.

(**) As WFCC got the support from FIDE for 2023, the organizers of ECSC 2023 may apply for the support of €500.

ANNEX 7

WORLD FEDERATION FOR CHESS COMPOSITION

The Budget 2024-2025	Budget	Budget
	2024-25	2023-24
Income	€ 11,000.00	€ 8,000.00
- FIDE yearly support	€ 3,000.00	€ 3,000.00
- FIDE Special Project	€ 7,000.00	€ 0.00
- Fujairah Government (conditional)	€ 1,000.00	€ 5,000.00
Expenses	€ 11,150.00	€ 2,250.00
- ISC 2024	€ 150.00	€ 150.00
- WCSC 2024	€ 500.00	€ 500.00
- WSC 2023-24	€ 300.00	€ 300.00
- YCCC 2024	€ 0.00	€ 100.00
- ECSC 2024 (if the organizers apply for it)	€ 500.00	€ 500.00
- Jurmala WCCC 2024	€ 1,000.00	
- Jurmala WCCC 2024(Fujairah gov.support)	€ 1,000.00	
- IT (websites)	€ 500.00	€ 500.00
- FIDE Youth Solving	€ 4,000.00	
- FIDE Booklet 100 best endgames	€ 3,000.00	
- Banking	€ 100.00	€ 100.00
- Other expenses	€ 100.00	€ 100.00
Income (+) / Loss (-)	-€ 150.00	€ 5,750.00

ANNEX 8

WORLD FEDERATION FOR CHESS COMPOSITION

Balance Sheet 30.06.2024

Assets	Notes	30.06.2024	30.06.2023	Liabilities and Equity	Notes	30.06.2024	30.06.2023
Cash		€ 22,596.40	€ 2,979.48	<i>Retained earnings 01.07.2023</i>		<i>€ 2,979.48</i>	<i>€ 4,479.55</i>
- Bank	1	€ 22,596.40	€ 2,979.48	<i>Profit (+) / Loss(-)</i>		<i>€ 4,458.93</i>	<i>-€ 1,500.07</i>
				Total Equity		€ 7,438.41	€ 2,979.48
Debtors		€ 87.89	€ 0.00	Creditors		€ 15,245.88	€ 0.00
- Prepaid expense	2	€ 87.89	€ 0.00	- FIDE Spec.project prepaid income	3.1	€ 10,000.00	
				- Fujairah Gov. projects prepaid income	3.2	€ 4,000.00	
				- Other creditors(***)	3.3	€ 1,245.88	
Total		€ 22,684.29	€ 2,979.48	Total		€ 22,684.29	€ 2,979.48

Notes:

1. Bank

The bank account for WFCC in UAE was opened on 01.11.2023, currency: AED.

The total cash received up to 30.06.2024 in EUR:

€	3,000.00	FIDE yearly support 2023
€	2,953.03	Transferred from WFCC old account, €2979.48-€26.45 banking commissions jul.23-nov.23
€	3,640.00	Fujairah Government support (€5000-€1360 loan from FCCC to expenses paid in Batumi, WCCC 2023)
€	13,000.00	FIDE yearly support 2024 (€3000) & FIDE Special project (€10000)
€	22,593.03	

Bank statement, 30.06.24

88835.5 AED

to EUR as of 30.06.24

€ **22,596.40** <https://tassidicambio.bancaditalia.it/terzevalute-wf-ui-web/converter>

temporary gain

€ 3.37

2. Debtors: prepaid expense

- Prepaid expense: wfcc.ch hosting 01.07.24-31.05.2025

3.1. Creditors: FIDE Special project prepaid income

€10000 were given by FIDE for special projects in 2024, 100 years of FIDE (replacement of FIDE Composing Cup in 2024):

€	4,000.00	Youth Solving competition 2024
€	3,000.00	Booklet / selection of 100 best endgames
€	3,000.00	Support for the next FIDE Album
€	10,000.00	

The income will be shown in the next financial period, together with the costs, when the projects in progress (the Budget).

3.2. Creditors: Fujairah Government conditional support, prepaid income

From the Financial Report 2022-23:

Conditional yearly support by Fujairah government means the support of concrete WFCC projects. The projects of each year should be agreed in the budget, with the obligation of WFCC to have Fujairah Government logo for each supported project (banner, website, booklet etc.)

€	5,000.00	The support received in 2023
€	(1,000.00)	The expense in 2023-24 - support of WCCC Batumi
€	4,000.00	Prepaid income for projects supported by Fujairah Government

The income will be shown in the next financial period, together with the costs, when the projects in progress (the Budget).

3.3. Creditors: Other Creditors

€	1,000.00	David Gurgendze for WCCC Batumi, by Fujairah Gov., €1000;
€	150.00	Swiss manager program - lifetime license paid by FCCC
€	95.88	Invoice for hosting wfcc.ch paid by FCCC
€	1,245.88	