

World Federation for Chess Composition 56th Ordinary Meeting (World Congress) Batumi, Georgia, 21st-28th September 2013

MINUTES

OFFICIAL PARTICIPANTS

Harry Fougiaxis	Greece	President
Hannu Harkola	Finland	1 st Vice-President
Georgy Evseev	Russia	2 nd Vice-President
Thomas Maeder	Switzerland	3 rd Vice-President
Günter Büsing	Germany	Secretary
Ilham Aliev	Azerbaijan	Delegate
Aleksandr Mikholap	Belarus	Delegate
Luc Palmans	Belgium	Delegate
Diyan Kostadinov	Bulgaria	Delegate
Marko Filipović	Croatia	Delegate
Bjørn Enemark	Denmark	Delegate
Axel Gilbert	France	Delegate
David Gurgenidze	Georgia	Delegate
bernd ellinghoven	Germany	Delegate
Paul Valois	Great Britain	Delegate
Yochanan Afek	Israel	Delegate
Marco Bonavoglia	Italy	Delegate
Tadashi Wakashima	Japan	Delegate
Vidmantas Satkus	Lithuania	Delegate
Ivan Denkovski	Macedonia	Deputy
Hans Uitenbroek	Netherlands	Deputy
Piotr Górski	Poland	Delegate
Dinu-Ioan Nicula	Romania	Delegate
Marjan Kovačević	Serbia	Delegate
Peter Gvozdják	Slovakia	Delegate
Marko Klasinc	Slovenia	Delegate
Kjell Widlert	Sweden	Delegate
Valery Kopyl	Ukraine	Delegate
Uri Avner	Israel	Hon. President

New delegates were Marko Filipović and Yochanan Afek. The following countries were not represented: Argentina, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Moldova, Mongolia, Spain and USA.

Persons who sponsored the event or contributed actively included: Mahir Mammadov (General Director of Socar Energy Georgia), Giorgi Giorgadze (President of the Georgian Chess Federation), Akaki Iashvili (General Secretary of the Georgian Chess Federation), Tato and Tornike Gurgenidze (organisation), Axel Steinbrink, Luc Palmans, Masato Yoshii and Vidmantas Satkus (solving events),

Givi Mosiashvili, Valery Gurov, Boris Shorokhov (composing tourneys), Hans Peter Rehm, Andrey Selivanov, Marek Kolčák, Piotr Murdzia, Paz Einat, Dmitry Turevsky, Oleg Pervakov, Marcel Van Herck, Iuri Akobia, Vasha Neidze and Michel Caillaud (committee or working group members and contributors).

1 Opening Address

The President Harry Fougiaxis opened the meeting and welcomed delegates and observers. He thanked David Gurgenidze, the Georgian Chess Federation and the Georgian Chess Problem Society for organising the congress.

2 Tributes

The Assembly stood in memory of the following problemists who passed away during the year:

Italy	(27.11.1914 - 01.10.2012)
Netherlands	(21.07.1939 - 20.10.2012)
Great Britain	(05.02.1933 - 31.10.2012)
Denmark	(14.04.1936 - 14.11.2012)
USA	(14.11.1960 - 23.11.2012)
Ukraine	(09.06.1940 - 26.11.2012)
Switzerland	(02.10.1919 - 28.11.2012)
Great Britain	(19.01.1939 - 03.12.2012)
Ukraine	(28.09.1921 - 14.01.2013)
Serbia	(21.04.1952 - 25.02.2013)
Russia	(17.09.1939 - 11.03.2013)
Romania	(01.07.1943 - 11.06.2013)
Austria	(??.??.19?? - 24.06.2013)
Czech Republic	(16.06.1947 - 04.07.2013)
Germany	(01.05.1938 - 16.07.2013)
Germany	(23.07.1950 - 20.08.2013)
Israel	(18.08.1950 - 03.09.2013)
Russia	(17.03.1917 - ??.??.2013)
	Netherlands Great Britain Denmark USA Ukraine Switzerland Great Britain Ukraine Serbia Russia Romania Austria Czech Republic Germany Germany Israel

3 Verification of Attendance and Voting Rights

22 countries were represented at the beginning of the opening session, and the meeting was declared legal. After the late arrival of five further delegates, 27 countries in total attended the meeting.

4 Approval of the Kobe Minutes 2012

The Minutes of the 2012 meeting were approved without any amendment.

5 Membership of the Standing Committees

1. WCCT: U. Avner, Spokesman

[V. Dyachuk], b. ellinghoven, G. Evseev, H. Fougiaxis, V. Kopyl, H.P. Rehm, K. Widlert

2. WCCI: M. Kovačević, Spokesman

D. Gurgenidze, [Z. Hernitz], D. Kostadinov, [M. Prcic], A. Selivanov, K. Widlert

3. Solving: M. Klasinc, Spokesman

U. Avner, M. Kolčák, P. Murdzia, L. Palmans, Vid. Satkus, A. Steinbrink, [R. Stelling], [Y. Vladimirov],

T. Wakashima

4. FIDE Album: H. Fougiaxis, Spokesman

U. Avner, G. Büsing, P. Einat, b. ellinghoven, G. Evseev, P. Gvozdják, H. Harkola, H.P. Rehm,

A. Selivanov, K. Widlert

5. Qualifications: G. Evseev, Spokesman

M. Bonavoglia, B. Enemark, H. Fougiaxis, D.-I. Nicula, L. Palmans, P. Valois

6. Computer Matters: T. Maeder, acting Spokesman this year on behalf of [R. Stelling]

B. Enemark, [I. Ketris], [H. le Grand], [M. Schlosser], [B. Stephenson], D. Turevsky, [H. van der Heijden], K. Widlert

7. Studies: Y. Afek, Spokesman

I. Akobia, I. Aliev, D. Gurgenidze, V. Neidze, O. Pervakov, [H. van der Heijden], M. Van Herck

8. Codex: K. Widlert, Spokesman

M. Caillaud, [Y. Vladimirov]

9. Judging: [NN] Spokesman

U. Avner

10. Terminology: [NN] Spokesman

[M. Dragoun], [I. Ketris]

As there was no business for the Codex, Judging and Terminology committees during this meeting, absent members [generally indicated by brackets] for these committees were not replaced.

6 Notification of Proposals and Business carried forward

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

- Inclusion of a retro section in future WCCTs

- Album indexes, "Die Schwalbe" proposal

- Date of future ISCs, solving norms

- New composing title for 50 album points

WCCT committee

Album committee

Solving committee

Qualifications committee

7 Brief Reports on activities during 2012-13

The President informed the Assembly that Hannu Harkola had prepared a new edition of the Handbook for Chess Composition. The PDF file is available on the WFCC website. He also informed the Assembly that in May 2013 Julia Vysotska has taken over from Hannu Harkola the work as webmaster of the site. He thanked Hannu Harkola for his work since 1999 and extended his thanks to Julia Vysotska for her great effort in making the website very attractive.

Yochanan Afek reported about the endgame study activities during the latest chess festival of Wijk an Zee. The activities, including the solving competitions, were supported by the organisers and sponsors of the festival. The Wijk an Zee event has always been a great opportunity for study enthusiasts to warm up their contact with the community of OTB players. It is therefore very much regretted that the tournament organising committee decided no such event will be held in 2014, but it is hoped that the tradition may resume in 2015.

8 Reports and Discussion

8.1 Solving Committee

The spokesman Marko Klasinc reported to the Assembly that the proposal to shift the date of the ISC from January to March was not supported by the committee, as this would result in collisions with national championships.

He announced that the 2014 ISC will take place on 26th of January and it will be directed by Gligor and Ivan Denkovski. Axel Steinbrink, the director of the previous contests, promised to provide help if needed.

The committee suggested establishing a Jury in the ISC to deal with eventual protests. The committee was also of the opinion that a sort of appeals commission should be established in the future for all solving competitions of the WFCC. No decision was taken.

The proposal to avoid shared places in ranking by introducing further differentiation rules was not supported by the committee, as it would be too complicated. The possibility to differentiate equal results (of points and time) by age in junior or senior solving events may be considered in the future.

With regard to the remarks received about the solving norms, the spokesman acknowledged that it gets difficult to achieve norms under the present system and he asked the delegates to think of possibilities making easier to fulfil them. In this context, Hans Uitenbrook pointed out that the distribution of solving titles is strange as there are more GM title holders than IMs or FMs. No specific proposal or decision was made in this respect and further detailed analysis is necessary.

8.2 Report on the International Solving Contest (ISC) 2013

Axel Steinbrink reported to the Assembly on the 9th ISC, which took place on 27.01.2013 under his direction. 27 countries participated and 35 tournaments ran in parallel, with a total of 340 solvers, 208 in category 1 and 132 in category 2. The contest was won by Kacper Piorun (POL) ahead of 2. Jorma Paavilainen (FIN) and 3. Bojan Vučković (SRB). There were also Youth, Women and Seniors sections with the following top results, Youth: 1. Kacper Piorun (POL), 2. Misratdin Iskandarov

(AZE), 3. Evgeny Viktorov (RUS); Women: 1. Anna Bylinkina (RUS), 2. Maria Firescu-Nadejde (ROU), 3. Ana Kuchava (GEO); Seniors: 1. Mordechay Chovnik (ISR), 2. Harri Hurme (FIN), 3. Stanislav Vokál (SVK). Živojin Perović (SRB) was the winner in category 2 and Aydan Huseynzada (AZE) in the female juniors. The director announced that after five years he wishes to step down from the post. The President thanked Axel Steinbrink for his hard work and dedication.

8.3 European Chess Solving Championship (ECSC)

Pavel Kameník was the director of the 9th ECSC 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania, on April 26-28. Vidmantas Satkus reported to the Assembly that 69 solvers and 17 teams participated in the championship. The same number of solvers participated in the open tourney. The top results are as follows:

Teams		Individuals	Individuals	
1. Poland	198.25	 Piotr Murdzia (POL) 	72.25	
2. Serbia	191.00	2. Eddy Van Beers (BEL)	66.50	
3. Ukraine	176.50	3. Vladimir Podinić (SRB)	65.50	

Andrey Selivanov presented on behalf of Montenegro an offer to host the 2014 ECSC in Herceg Novi (Igalo) late April or early May, which was accepted by the Assembly. Paul Valois indicated that Great Britain might be interested in hosting the ECSC in 2015.

8.4 World Chess Solving Championship (WCSC) 2013

The director Axel Steinbrink announced the results of the 37th WCSC, Batumi:

Teams (19 in total)		Individuals (84 solvers)	
1. Poland	178.50	1. Piotr Murdzia (POL)	85.75
2. Germany	162.50	2. Arno Zude (GER)	84.50
3. Serbia	159.25	3. Kacper Piorun (POL)	83.00
4. Finland	153.00	4. Alexander Miśta (POL)	82.25
5. Russia	149.25	5. Jorma Paavilainen (FIN)	80.00
6. Ukraine	145.00	6. Marjan Kovačević (SRB)	79.75
7. Lithuania	142.75	7. Bojan Vučković (SRB)	79.50 / 290
8. Belarus	142.50	8. Piotr Górski (POL)	79.50 / 358
9. Azerbaijan	142.25	9. Michael Pfannkuche (GER	78.00
10. Great Britain	142.00	10. Aleksandr Bulavka (BLR)	76.50

The three top solvers in the category of seniors were: 1. Tadashi Wakashima (JPN), 2. Marko Klasinc (SLO) and 3. Aleksandr Feoktistov (RUS).

No official results could be given in the categories of women (4 solvers) and juniors (6 solvers), as the number of participants in these categories was low.

8.5 WCCT Committee

8.5.1 Director's report on the 9th WCCT

A booklet with the results of the 2012-2013 9th WCCT was distributed. The director Harry Fougiaxis reported to the Assembly that 37 countries participated with 553 compositions by 257 composers in seven sections. He considered the new judging system as quite successful for it

handled extreme discrepancies among the judgments efficiently and gave an opportunity to more composers scoring points for their countries, thus avoiding the frustrating zero-point results of the less successful countries that occurred in previous WCCTs. The final ranking is as follows: 1. Russia (130.75), 2. Ukraine (120.50), 3. Israel (107.50), 4. Serbia (100.00), 5.-6. Belarus and Macedonia (both 97.25), 7. Germany (89.75), 8. Italy (88.50), 9. Finland (85.75), 10. Slovakia (85.50) and 27 further countries. The director emphasized that Germany's comments in section F (selfmates) in the printed booklet appeared due to an unfortunate misunderstanding between the team leader and the director and they must be disregarded. The correct comments can be found in the PDF file that can be downloaded from the WFCC website.

It was suggested to make available to the public all compositions, not included in the booklet, in diagrams with names and full solutions. The director confirmed that he will prepare a PDF file including all these compositions except for those which were disqualified on thematic or technical grounds. He also pointed out that such a work was not in the director's scope according to the rules and a clarification would be helpful in future WCCTs.

Marko Klasinc observed that shared places occur quite frequently with the new system. In order to avoid it in future WCCTs, he suggested increasing the scale of points. The director pointed out that the shared places are not an issue per se, as now the points count and not the places. However he agreed that it can give an unpleasant impression and he proposed the WCCT committee to consider the matter.

Yochanan Afek emphasized the very surprising 11th place of India and congratulated the team on such an encouraging success. He further expressed his discomfort with the compositions that were assigned to places even if they did not contribute points to the country's total score, because it was not clear whether these compositions can be sent as originals to magazines. The director clarified that the initial plan according to the rules was that the third-placed entries of a country would not be included in the award at all. However in those cases where the second-placed and the third-placed entries of a country scored the same points, it is impossible to distinguish which entry should be included and therefore all entries had to be assigned to places. He stressed that the WCCT entries are not eligible for publication as originals elsewhere, except of course the entries that are shown in the results tables of the booklet with zero points.

8.5.2 Spokesman's report

The spokesman Uri Avner indicated that potential changes in the WCCT rules are under discussion, but the committee has not prepared a proposal yet. The latest amendments, i.e. discarding the highest and lowest scores and the abolishment of the "plus" and "minus" marks, led to many shared places which should preferably be avoided in the future.

With regard to the proposal of introducing a retros/proofgames section in the WCCT, the opinions of the committee members were divided; consequently the matter should be discussed in and decided by the Assembly.

In the ensuing discussion, Piotr Górski indicated that 37 countries participated in the 9th WCCT and retro compositions from only 14 countries were selected in the latest FIDE Album. bernd ellinghoven doubted that this was an argument against introducing a retro section as the situation in the studies section is quite similar. Marko Klasinc said that retros belong to the fundamental

genres of chess composition and should therefore be included in the WCCT too. He further observed that nowadays more composers are active in this field than ever before. Marjan Kovačević suggested a modification to the French proposal: "A new section for retros will be introduced in the next WCCT. In calculating the total score of a country, only the scores of maximum 7 out of the 8 sections (those where each country performed better) will be taken into account."

In a **vote**, the Assembly accepted the amended proposal (21 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention).

8.6 WCCI Committee

As the director of the 2010-12 WCCI Mike Prcic was not present, the spokesman of the committee, Marjan Kovačević, was asked to report to the Assembly. He said that the new system of judging worked well and it had been easier to find judges than before. He also pointed out that the results were available much quicker, only one year after the end of the cycle.

Nevertheless it became obvious that some details should be improved, in particular with regard to the procedure followed when a judge is a participant too. Remedies to this issue are already under consideration (for example, a sixth substitute judge in each section who will evaluate the compositions of judges who are participating themselves in this section), but no concrete proposal was ready. Another difficulty arose because of some very strict judgments. The issue could be overcome in the future by giving some specific guidelines to the judges (for example, asking them to make use of the whole scale of marks or requesting a certain minimum percentage of high marks). He further suggested that the already established supervising panel should probably be allowed to intervene in cases of substantial deviations in the scores, for example in cases with deviations of more than 1.5 points. Finally he added that the idea of having the PDF files with all participants' compositions available to the public on the Internet was supported by the committee and it will be submitted as a proposal for the next WCCI.

Then the President read the names of the most successful composers in each section of the 2010-12 World Championship in Composing for Individuals:

A) Twomovers: 1. Marjan Kovačević, 2. Vasil Dyachuk, 3. Valery Shanshin

B) Threemovers: 1. Aleksandr Feoktistov, 2.Mikhail Marandyuk, 3.Aleksandr Kuzovkov C) Moremovers: 1. Mikhail Marandyuk, 2. Aleksandr Kuzovkov, 3. Aleksandr Feoktistov

D) Studies: 1. Sergiy Didukh, 2. Richard Becker, 3. Oleg Pervakov

E) Helpmates: 1. Michal Dragoun, 2. Aleksandr Semenenko, 3. Viktor Chepizhny

F) Selfmates: 1. Andrey Selivanov, 2. Torsten Linß, 3. Diyan Kostadinov

G) Fairies: 1. Petko Petkov, 2. Vlaicu Crişan, 3. Peter Gvozdják

H) Retros: 1. Dmitry Baibikov, 2. Nikolai Belukhov, 3. Nicolas Dupont

The full results are available on the WFCC website and can be downloaded in PDF format. The President said that having a printed booklet with the results was not intended.

8.7 FIDE Album Committee

The spokesman Harry Fougiaxis reported to the Assembly about the status of the various albums. Under the new editorship of Peter Gvozdják, the 2004-06 Album was published in April 2013. All material for the 2007-09 Album is with the editor (except for the studies section where he will

soon get a PGN file) and the indexes will be prepared from November onwards. The entries for the 2010-12 Album are with the judges, who have in the meantime been informed about the compositions already qualifying from the WCCI.

It is the intention of the new editor to shorten the album preparation phase (after selection of the problems by the judges) of previously about three years to about two years. The use of only one language (English) and an optimization of the indexes (which is still under consideration and discussion) may assist in achieving this tighter schedule.

The spokesman tried to summarise the discussions held in the committee sessions regarding the album theme-indexes. The option to have a theme-index common for all sections was considered by most, but not all, of the members as a very difficult task. The option to have a part of the theme-indexes on the Internet only would hardly have an effect on the price, so no real benefit is expected. The committee suggested keeping the current layout of the theme-indexes: there will be short thematic descriptions together with the solutions, structured theme-indexes with less unimportant details in each section and an overall list of theme definitions.

The limit of submitted entries introduced in the 2010-12 Album worked well without any major issues. The committee considered useful introducing an exception mechanism in the future. Various options were discussed in the committee sessions and a proposal will be presented in due course.

The spokesman informed the Assembly that in one section a composer denied the submission of joint compositions by his co-authors. The committee was of the opinion that all co-authors have equal rights and therefore a composer is entitled to submit a joint composition even if his co-author does not agree. No formal voting was necessary, as the Assembly seemed to have the same opinion.

Concerning the German proposal of admitting the originals of the October and December 2012 "Die Schwalbe" issues for the period 2010-12 although these issues were published late, the spokesman reported that the committee considered the previous decision of the Presidium not to accept these compositions as too strict, although formally according to the Codex. The committee proposed that the originals of the October 2012 and December 2012 "Die Schwalbe" issues, which appeared in February-March 2013, are allowed to participate in the 2010-12 Album. Furthermore, compositions published in a source dated 2012 are allowed to participate in the 2010-12 Album even if this source appeared later than on December 31st 2012 (but no later than the submission deadline of June 1st 2013). No formal voting took place, as the proposal seemed to enjoy the general approval of the Assembly.

8.8 Qualifications Committee

The spokesman Georgy Evseev reported to the Assembly that the committee did not support the proposal of Israel to establish a new composing title for 50 album points. He acknowledged that the gap between the 25 points needed for the IM title and the 70 points for the GM title may be considered large. However similar proposals presented earlier did not get any substantial support. Yochanan Afek said that from 1990 to 2006 not a single Russian study composer obtained the GM title; a situation which he considered as not normal. Marco Bonavoglia remarked that even if the

proposal is accepted, the GM title would not be reached easier than now. Only a new title would be introduced which had no analogy in other chess organisations.

In a **vote**, the Assembly rejected the proposal of introducing a new composing title for 50 album points (1 in favour, 15 against, 5 abstentions).

Composers who do not wish their album points to be shown in public and are not interested in titles must inform in written the qualifications committee. The committee will continue calculating their points in the spreadsheet, yet the relevant data will be hidden.

With regard to the queries of Austria and Poland to posthumously award titles to composers who got the required points but died before receiving the title, the committee proposed to postpone these individual requests and consider all composers who might be affected likewise. A list shall be prepared until next year's meeting and a decision shall then be taken for all such cases (only for GM and IM titles).

The committee proposed the award of composing, solving and judging titles as follows:

Grandmaster of the FIDE for Chess Compositions to: Aleksandr Azhusin (RUS), Anatoly Styopochkin (RUS).

International Master of the FIDE for Chess Compositions to: Iuri Akobia (GEO), Dmitry Baibikov (ISR), Emil Klemanič (SVK), Abdelaziz Onkoud (MAR), Valery Semenenko (UKR), Boris Shorokhov (RUS), Gerard Smits (NED).

FIDE Master for Chess Compositions to: Vlaicu Crişan (ROU), Nicolas Dupont (FRA), Marco Guida (ITA), Mikola Kolesnik (UKR), Diyan Kostadinov (BUL), Thomas Maeder (SUI), Zlatko Mihajloski (MKD), Boško Milošeski (MKD), C.G.S. Narayanan (IND), Daniel Novomeský (SVK), Grigory Popov (RUS), Kostas Prentos (GRE), František Sabol (CZE), Ricardo Vieira (BRA).

International Solving Master of the FIDE to: Alexander Miśta (POL), Oleksy Solovchuk (UKR).

International Judge of the FIDE for Chess Compositions to: Mikhail Gershinsky (UKR, h#), Michael Grushko (ISR, fairies), Marco Guida (ITA, #2), Valery Kopyl (UKR, extension to h#), Gennady Kozyura (UKR, s#), Martin Minski (GER, eg), Boris Shorokhov (RUS, h#), Vadim Vinokurov (RUS, h#).

FIDE Solving Judge: Ryszard Królikowski (POL).

All these titles were accepted by the Assembly by acclamation.

8.9 Computer Matters Committee

The acting spokesman Thomas Maeder reported to the Assembly that the committee had an ad hoc meeting without an agenda. The following points were discussed:

a) The committee discussed about certain ways to have "dynamic" diagrams on a site. There are still some difficulties with the presentation of fairy pieces.

- b) The committee would encourage more people to contribute to the News section of the WFCC site.
- c) The committee wondered whether comments should be allowed in the posts on the WFCC site.

The President mentioned that comments are disabled on purpose, as the WFCC site is not supposed to be a forum or a blog. At the moment there are several other sites, where all aspects of chess composition can be discussed.

8.10 Studies Committee

The spokesman Yochanan Afek reported to the Assembly that the Study of the Year 2012 will be selected soon. Every composer is invited to participate with one of his studies. The entries will be displayed on Iuri Akobia's website http://akobiachess.gol.ge/. Five judges will evaluate the entries and select the winning study [Ed. which is by Yochanan Afek, 2nd Prize J. Timman 60 JT 2012.]

9 Financial report, balance sheet, Auditor's report, budget

The treasurer Thomas Maeder presented to the Assembly the financial report and the balance sheet of 30.06.2013, as well as the budgets of 2012-13 and 2013-14 (cf. **Annex 1**).

The auditor Marco Bonavoglia confirmed that he had reviewed the documents and found them in order. The financial report, the balance sheet and the budget were accepted by the Assembly.

10 Election of Auditors

Marco Bonavoglia and Bjørn Enemark were proposed for re-election as auditor and reserve auditor respectively and they were accepted unanimously.

11 Future meetings

For the meeting of 2014, invitations from Russia (Sochi), Poland (Serock) and Switzerland (Bern) were presented. Sochi received the lowest number of votes in the first round and was dropped out; in the second round the Assembly decided in favour of Switzerland, August 2014 (15 votes for Bern, 12 for Serock).

12 Any other business

The President congratulated three magazines on the occasion of their anniversaries and said it is good to see that paper magazines are still strong:

- "feenschach" for having published its issue No. 200
- "idee & form" for 30 years of publication, and
- "Uralsky Problemist" for 20 years of publication.

13 Conclusion

The President thanked the delegates and the spokesmen of committees for their work during the week. He congratulated the Georgian organisers, headed by David Gurgenidze, for providing excellent facilities and wonderful conditions, which contributed to a very successful congress. Then he declared the meeting closed.

Harry Fougiaxis (President) Günter Büsing (Secretary) January 2014