



**World Federation for Chess Composition  
57<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting (World Congress)  
Berne, Switzerland, 23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

**MINUTES**

**OFFICIAL PARTICIPANTS**

Harry Fougiaxis	Greece	President
Hannu Harkola	Finland	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President
Georgy Evseev	Russia	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
Thomas Maeder	Switzerland	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President
Günter Büsing	Germany	Secretary
Ilham Aliev	Azerbaijan	Delegate
Luc Palmans	Belgium	Delegate
Diyan Kostadinov	Bulgaria	Delegate
Zvonimir Hertz	Croatia	Delegate
Axel Gilbert	France	Delegate
David Gurgenzidze	Georgia	Delegate
bernd ellinghoven	Germany	Delegate
John Rice	Great Britain	Delegate and Honorary President
Yochanan Afek	Israel	Delegate
Marco Bonavoglia	Italy	Delegate
Tadashi Wakashima	Japan	Delegate
Vidmantas Satkus	Lithuania	Delegate
Abdelaziz Onkoud	Morocco	Delegate
Johan de Boer	Netherlands	Delegate
Piotr Górski	Poland	Delegate
Dinu-Ioan Nicula	Romania	Delegate
Marjan Kovačević	Serbia	Delegate
Peter Gvozdják	Slovakia	Delegate
Marko Klasinc	Slovenia	Delegate
Joaquim Crusats	Spain	Delegate
Kjell Widlert	Sweden	Delegate
Valery Kopyl	Ukraine	Delegate
Mike Prcic	USA	Delegate

New delegate was Abdelaziz Onkoud representing the new member country Morocco. The following countries were not represented: Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, and Mongolia.

Persons who contributed actively included: Franziska Iseli, Roland Ott, Andreas Nievergelt, Sheridan Handloser (organisation), Axel Steinbrink, Luc Palmans, Masato Yoshii (solving events), Chris Handloser, Martin Hoffmann, Reto Aschwanden (composing tourneys), Hans Peter Rehm,

Andrey Selivanov, Marek Kolčák, Piotr Murdzia, Ofer Comay, Paz Einat, Harold van der Heijden and Dmitry Turevsky (committee or working group members and contributors).

## 1 Opening Address

The President Harry Fougiaxis opened the meeting and welcomed delegates and observers. He thanked the Swiss Association of Chess Problemists and in particular Thomas Maeder and his helpers for organizing the congress.

## 2 Tributes

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

Nikolai Bantysh	Belarus	(06.02.1938 - 30.01.2012)
Evgeny Dvizov	Belarus	(15.01.1937 - 30.11.2012)
Yehuda Lubton	Israel	(07.07.1937 - 2013)
Alex Rozovsky	Israel	(?? - 2013)
Dragoslav Marjanović	Serbia	(20.07.1947 - 07.01.2013)
Friedrich Löchner	Germany	(12.09.1915 - 18.02.2013)
Razi Damiel	Israel	(1935 - 09.08.2013)
Constantin Pochtarev	Russia	(19.10.1935 - 13.08.2013)
Gamlet Amiryan	Armenia	(11.11.1934 - 01.10.2013)
Jan Ševčík	Czech Republic	(20.05.1936 - 19.10.2013)
Manfred Zucker	Germany	(15.04.1938 - 23.10.2013)
Gideon Husserl	Israel	(16.07.1925 - 18.11.2013)
Alberto Foguelman	Argentina	(13.10.1923 - 09.12.2013)
Ivan Suvorov	Russia	(20.08.1923 - 20.12.2013)
Karlheinz Bachmann	Germany	(09.12.1938 - 07.01.2014)
Joza Tucakov	Serbia	(25.11.1929 - 07.01.2014)
Wolfgang Dittmann	Germany	(14.06.1933 - 05.02.2014)
Nikolai Dimitrov	Bulgaria	(19.10.1929 - 23.02.2014)
Vitaly Kovalenko	Russia	(23.05.1947 - 05.03.2014)
Yehezkel Hillel	Israel	(17.07.1917 - 07.03.2014)
Efrén Petite	Spain	(10.06.1926 - 13.03.2014)
Theophilus Harding Willcocks	Great Britain	(19.04.1912 - ???.04.2014)
Mečislavas Palevičius	Lithuania	(16.11.1960 - 23.04.2014)
Ľudovít Lehen	Slovakia	(03.06.1925 - 12.05.2014)
Paul Valois	Great Britain	(06.03.1946 - 12.05.2014)
Uri Avner	Israel	(13.01.1941 - 10.06.2014)
Valentin Khupchenko	Ukraine	(14.02.1935 - 16.06.2014)
Hannu Sokka	Finland	(02.03.1947 - 11.07.2014)
Štefan Blunár	Slovakia / USA	(19.12.1954 - 28.07.2014)
Hermann Weißbauer	Germany	(04.10.1920 - 02.08.2014)
Hans Molenbroek	Netherlands	(30.09.1924 - 04.08.2014)

The President particularly commemorated Uri Avner as a driving force for the WFCC and its predecessor PCCC. He was not only an outstanding composer and a strong solver, but was also the

chief organiser of three PCCC meetings in Israel and represented Israel as delegate, Vice-President, President and finally as Honorary President of the Federation.

The President also stressed the long-time contribution of Paul Valois who was Secretary of the PCCC for a period of four years and then continued as the British delegate in WFCC. He was general editor of *The Problemist* for many years and was always eager to help with the organisation of various solving contests (the ECSC 2010 in Sunningdale probably being the most important.) In fact, he passed away just a few days before the ECSC 2014 in Igaló, where he had volunteered to assist the championship director.

Further words of commemoration referred to Manfred Zucker, the tireless editor, tutor and fine composer, and to Nikolai Dimitrov who contributed actively in the formulation of the solving rules and was the director of the first World Championship in Malinska, 1977.

### **3 Verification of Attendance and Voting Rights**

23 countries were represented at the beginning of the opening session, and the meeting was declared legal. After the late arrival of three further delegates and the acceptance of a new member country, 27 countries in total attended the meeting.

### **4 Application for membership**

Abdelaziz Onkoud presented the application of Morocco for membership of the WFCC. In a vote the Assembly unanimously (23 votes in favour) accepted Morocco as a new member.

### **5 Approval of the Batumi Minutes 2013**

The Minutes of the 2013 meeting were approved without any amendment.

### **6 Membership of the Standing Committees**

#### **6.1. WCCT:** H. Fougiaxis, acting Spokesman

O. Comay, V. Dyachuk, b. ellinghoven, G. Evseev, V. Kopyl, K. Widlert

#### **6.2. WCCI:** M. Kovačević, Spokesman

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

#### **6.3. Solving:** M. Klasinc, Spokesman

M. Kolčák, P. Murdzia, L. Palmans, Vid. Satkus, A. Steinbrink, [R. Stelling], T. Wakashima

#### **6.4. FIDE Album:** H. Fougiaxis, Spokesman

G. Büsing, P. Einat, b. ellinghoven, G. Evseev, P. Gvozdják, H. Harkola, H.P. Rehm, J. Rice, A. Selivanov, K. Widlert

#### **6.5. Qualifications:** G. Evseev, Spokesman

M. Bonavoglia, [B. Enemark], H. Fougiaxis, D.-I. Nicula, L. Palmans

**6.6. Computer Matters:** D. Turevsky, Spokesman  
[B. Enemark], I. Ketris, [H. le Grand], [T. Maeder], M. Schlosser, [R. Stelling], [B. Stephenson],  
H. van der Heijden, K. Widlert

**6.7. Studies:** H. van der Heijden, Spokesman  
Y. Afek, [I. Akobia], I. Aliev, D. Gurgenzidze, [O. Pervakov], J. Roycroft, [M. Van Herck]

**6.8. Codex:** K. Widlert, Spokesman  
M. Caillaud, [Y. Vladimirov]

As there was no business for the Codex committee during this meeting, absent members [generally indicated by brackets] for this committee were not replaced. The committees for Judging and Terminology were discontinued as they had been inactive for a very long time.

## **7 Nomination of the Working Group for the Elections**

The following persons were nominated for the working group responsible to organise the elections: Günter Büsing (Germany, Secretary); John Roycroft (Great Britain) and Peter van den Heuvel (Netherlands).

## **8 Notification of Proposals and Business carried forward**

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

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| - Progress of the 10 <sup>th</sup> WCCT | WCCT committee    |
| - Proposals re. the WCCT rules          | WCCT committee    |
| - Progress of FIDE albums               | Album committee   |
| - Proposals re. WCSC / ECSC / ISC       | Solving committee |

## **9 Brief Reports on activities during 2013-14**

**9.1** Diyan Kostadinov informed the Assembly about a solving contest that was organised in Burgas in parallel with an important open tournament. There was also a separate youth section.

**9.2** Bernd Ellinghoven reported that his printing office is moving to other premises. In future he will have less space available than before. Therefore he has to decide how much of his printed stock can be maintained and how much he will discard. He mentioned that among the printed material are about 300 yet unbound FIDE Albums and he would appreciate feedback about the presumed future needs.

**9.3** Yochanan Afek mentioned that the usual activities had taken place in Israel, including monthly meetings and the annual meeting of the Israeli Chess Composition Society in Tel Aviv. He added that the final of the national solving championship was held within the framework of a new OTB chess festival in Jerusalem. It was a good opportunity to intensify the contacts between players and problemists.

**9.4** Yochanan Afek further reported about recent activities in the Netherlands. He regretted that the official solving contest during the traditional tournament in Wijk aan Zee had been discontinued due to restrictions by the sponsors. A solving tournament for studies, outside the official programme, was organized this year. He also mentioned that the challenge of solving an openly displayed composition daily had become a tradition in the Groningen Open. In the Diessen Open one problem was given for solving before each round.

**9.5** Piotr Górski informed the Assembly that a similar event had taken place in Poland where about 10% of the participants in an Open tournament took part in a solving tourney. The compositions given for solving included 4 twomovers, 3 threemovers and 2 studies. The winner was a GM player who scored 36/40 points.

**9.6** Thomas Maeder mentioned that the Swiss Chess Federation celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> jubilee this year. The national chess solving championship will take place during the jubilee congress.

**9.7** Mike Prcic informed the Assembly that a number of young composers from Russia had participated in the latest WCCI. They were young people who were motivated in composition by Vladimir Kozhakin from Magadan.

**9.8** Peter Gvozdják informed the Assembly that right after the congress the 6<sup>th</sup> International Chess Composition Festival organised by SOKŠ would take place in Marianka.

## **10 Reports and Discussion**

### **10.1 Solving Committee**

#### **10.1.1 Norms and Titles**

The Spokesman Marko Klasinc advised that the committee proposed changing the criteria for gaining norms and titles in order to compensate for an effect inherent in the rating system that had become too severe with the increasing number of solvers. At the moment many solvers obtained the necessary norms long ago, but had not reached the qualifying rating. The committee suggested reducing the qualifying rating by 50 points. The criteria for gaining norms and titles should then read as follows:

*Norms for the titles International Solving Grandmaster of the FIDE (GM), International Solving Master of the FIDE (IM), FIDE Solving Master (FM) can be gained in a tournament if at least 5 solvers with current rating of 2550 / 2450 / 2350 respectively participate in it.*

*A solver obtains a GM / IM / FM norm when he/she achieves a performance rating of at least 2650 / 2550 / 2450. The solver must be placed within the number of solvers with the qualifying rating of 2550 / 2450 / 2350 (i.e. at least sixth place when there are 6 solvers with the qualifying rating of 2550 / 2450 / 2350).*

**GM title:** A solver must gain a norm 3 times (at least once in the WCSC or ECSC) and achieve a rating of 2550. **IM title:** A solver must gain a norm twice and achieve a rating of 2450. **FM title:** A solver must gain a norm twice and achieve a rating of 2350.

In a vote, the Assembly accepted the proposal (16 in favour, 1 against, 8 abstentions).

### 10.1.2 New ISC category

The committee proposed introducing in the ISC a third category for young people up to 12 years old. After a discussion, it was suggested having a single round with 6 easy compositions (two #2, two #3, one moreover and one study) to be solved in two hours.

The Assembly accepted the proposal (25 in favour, 1 abstention).

### 10.1.3 Report on the International Solving Contest (ISC) 2014

Marko Klasinc reported to the Assembly on the 10<sup>th</sup> ISC, which took place on 26.1.2014 under the direction of Gligor and Ivan Denkovski. 36 tournaments ran in parallel in 30 countries with a total of 488 solvers (290 in category 1 and 198 in category 2). The contest was won by Piotr Murdzia (POL) ahead of Marko Filipović (CRO) and Kacper Piorun (POL) who shared the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. There were also sections for juniors, women and seniors with the following top results, juniors: 1. Kacper Piorun (POL), 2. Misratdin Iskandarov (AZE), 3. Karthikeyan Murali (IND); women: 1. Ana Kuchava (GEO), 2. Anna Bylinkina (RUS), 3. Maria Firescu-Nadejde (ROU); seniors: 1. Alain Villeneuve (FRA), 2. Marcos Roland (BRA), 3. Harri Hurme (FIN). Jeyhun Huseynzada (AZE) was the winner in category 2.

Marko Klasinc announced that the 2015 ISC would take place on 25<sup>th</sup> of January and it would be directed again by Gligor and Ivan Denkovski.

### 10.1.4 European Chess Solving Championship (ECSC)

Ryszard Królikowski was the director of the 10<sup>th</sup> ECSC 2014 in Igalo, Montenegro, on May 16-18. The President thanked the director for his work. He reported to the Assembly that 63 solvers and 15 teams participated in the championship, while the open tournament attracted 60 solvers. The top results are as follows:

Teams		Individuals	
1. Poland	237.80	1. Piotr Murdzia (POL)	86.00
2. Russia	200.60	2. Georgy Evseev (RUS)	79.00
3. Serbia	191.00	3. Marko Filipović (CRO)	74.50

The President observed that this ECSC was a strong tournament and was well organized. On the other hand, he was very much dissatisfied with the unfair and harsh criticism expressed afterwards on the Internet by a solver who had not participated in the championship.

Dinu-loan Nicola presented an offer to host the 2015 ECSC in Iasi, Romania, in late April or early May, which was accepted by the Assembly. Yochanan Afek suggested considering whether it might be possible to combine the ECSC with an over-the-board chess event as Iasi is known for its open tournaments.

### 10.1.5 World Chess Solving Championship (WCSC) 2014

The director Axel Steinbrink announced the results of the 38<sup>th</sup> WCSC, Berne:

Teams (23 in total)		Individuals (90 solvers)	
1. Poland	162.00	1. Kacper Piorun (POL)	81.00 / 332
2. Azerbaijan	150.50	2. Piotr Murdzia (POL)	81.00 / 360
3. Israel	149.00	3. Bojan Vučković (SRB)	79.50

4. Serbia	146.00 / 657	4. Michel Caillaud (FRA)	79.00
5. Ukraine	146.00 / 712	5. Oleksy Solovchuk (UKR)	78.00
6. Russia	145.50	6. Aleksandr Bulavka (BLR)	75.00
7. Lithuania	145.00	7. Eddy van Beers (BEL)	74.00
8. Germany	144.50	8. Martynas Limontas (LTU)	73.50
9. Netherlands	142.00	9. Ofer Comay (ISR)	73.00
10. Finland	141.00	10. Arno Zude (GER)	72.00

The three top solvers in the category of seniors were: 1. Tadashi Wakashima (JPN), 2. Marko Klasinc (SLO) and 3. Harri Hurme (FIN). There were not enough solvers for official results in the categories of women and juniors, but it was noted that the new world champion is still a junior.

#### **10.1.6 Frequency of WCSC and ECSC**

The proposal of Serbia for the WCSC and ECSC to be held alternately every odd and even year was not supported by the committee. The committee argued that the ECSC was established mainly to popularize solving tournaments and the proposed change would reduce the solvers' possibilities to obtain GM and IM norms.

In the ensuing discussion, several delegates indicated that the WCSC is running very well and should not be changed. Finally the President expressed his feeling that the proposal was not supported in general by the Assembly. As Marjan Kovačević agreed with the remark, no formal voting was taken.

#### **10.1.7 ECSC teams**

The proposal of Romania to have the number of team solvers in ECSC reduced from 4 to 3 was not supported by the committee. No formal voting was taken.

#### **10.1.8 Round of selfmates in WCSC/ECSC**

Luc Palmans proposed an amendment to the WCSC/ECSC rules with regard to the selfmates round. As the selfmate moreover does not usually make much difference in the ranking, he suggested changing the present rule "one s#2, one s#3 and one s#n n>3" to "one s#2 or s#3, one s#3 and one s#3 or s#n n>3". After discussion, the Assembly rejected the proposed change (8 in favour, 14 against, 3 abstentions).

#### **10.1.9 Other**

- A proposal to lower the number of the required participating solvers in the special sections of juniors, seniors and women in order to have an official competition was not supported by the committee and was not discussed in the Assembly.
- A proposal to change the maximum score for each problem in the WCSC from 5 to 6 was not supported by the committee and was not discussed in the Assembly.
- A proposal to introduce a fairy section in the WCSC was left for the future.

### **10.2 WCCT Committee**

#### **10.2.1 New Spokesman and next WCCT**

Georgy Evseev was appointed as the new Spokesman, replacing Uri Avner who passed away during the year, and he will also be the director of the next WCCT. It is intended to issue the announcement and the themes by mid-January 2015. Themes are still needed, and it is hoped that

countries will submit sufficient proposals by mid-October. Delegates should also advise which sections their countries are willing to judge. Contact email address is [10wcct@gmail.com](mailto:10wcct@gmail.com)

### **10.2.2 WCCT Judging System**

The judging system in WCCT was reviewed in view of the proposal of Slovenia *“In calculating the score of the entries of judging countries in the section(s) that the countries are judging, the highest and lowest marks will be discarded and the score will be 1.5 times the sum of the two middle marks,”* as formulated with the contribution of delegates during the discussion. A further proposal was to consider for the total score also the marks given by the judging countries under certain restrictions. The idea of the ‘self-judging’ concept was rejected by the Assembly (3 in favour, 15 against, 7 abstentions). Thereafter the Assembly accepted the proposal of Slovenia (19 in favour, 0 against, 6 abstentions).

The committee suggested changing the marking system by introducing steps of 0.2 points (instead of 0.5 as it is currently). Kjell Widlert pointed out that the reason for the proposed amendment is that the present system only allows a restricted number of possible marks which inevitably results in many entries scoring the same total. Peter Gvozdják and Bernd Ellinghoven indicated that it is important that the scale remains 0 to 4 as it is now.

In a vote, the Assembly accepted that *“The scale of marks remains 0 to 4 and the judging countries can give marks in steps of 0.2 points”* (23 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions).

### **10.3 WCCI Committee**

The Spokesman Marjan Kovačević reported that the committee suggested several improvements for future WCCIs:

- The revised judging system of WCCT, as described in 10.2.2, first paragraph above, will apply to WCCI too.
- A minimum of four problems (i.e. from 4 to 6) should be entered, not just one.
- A supervising panel should be established. Zvonimir HERNITZ was proposed to chair this panel.
- In the protest phase, only remarks about legality, soundness and substantial anticipations will be forwarded to the judges.
- As only high-quality problems should be entered, it is reasonable for a lot of them to get a high mark. Judges should be reminded accordingly.

As there were no objections against these improvements, the President considered them as accepted without formal voting.

### **10.4 FIDE Album Committee**

#### **10.4.1 Progress of Albums**

The Spokesman Harry Fougiaxis reported to the Assembly that indexing of the Album 2007-09 is proceeding swiftly. Indexers are using a website set up by the editorial team. The information that they enter will be transferred directly to the Album. The system should also help in enabling faster preparation of future albums. It is expected that the Album will be ready by next year’s meeting.

Judging in the Album 2010-12 continues as planned; three sections have already been finished, all other are on schedule. It is assumed that all results will be known by the deadline of April 2015.



#### **10.4.2 Other**

The Spokesman informed the Assembly that during the year a poll had been conducted by email among judges and directors and the clear majority preferred the present '30 entries rule' over other options, such as no limit or the use of wildcards.

bernd ellinghoven indicated that he will try to keep in stock 50 unbound copies of FIDE Albums 1989-2003 and the rest must be discarded. The President informed the Assembly that it is under consideration for WFCC to obtain about 20 bound copies. Of course many copies of the Albums covering these years are still available from other sources.

#### **10.5 Qualifications Committee**

Marco Bonavoglia was appointed as the new Spokesman, replacing Georgy Evseev who will continue as a member.

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

*International Master of the FIDE for Chess Compositions* to: Evgeni Bourd (ISR), ArieH Grinblat (ISR), Valery Kopyl (UKR), Christian Poisson (FRA), Aleksandr Sygurov (RUS), Viktor Volchek (BLR).

*FIDE Master for Chess Compositions* to: Nikolai Belukhov (BUL), Uwe Karbowiak (GER), Ferhat Karmil (TUR), Rupert Munz (GER), Felix Rossomakho (RUS).

*International Solving Grandmaster of the FIDE* to: Martynas Limontas (LTU), Anatoly Mukoseev (RUS).

*International Solving Master of the FIDE* to: Araz Almammadov (AZE), Aleksandr Feoktistov (RUS), Evgeny Fomichyov (RUS), Ramil Javadov (AZE), Michael McDowell (GBR), Dmitry Pletnyov (RUS), Vidmantas Satkus (LTU), Klemen Šivic (SLO), Hans Uitenbroek (NED), Alain Villeneuve (FRA).

*FIDE Solving Master* to: Vasil Dyachuk (UKR), Mikheil Gabeskiria (GEO), Misratdin Iskandarov (AZE), Nikos Mendrinos (GRE), Dinu-Ioan Nicula (ROU).

*International Judge of the FIDE for Chess Compositions* to: Valery Gurov (RUS, helpmates), Siegfried Hornecker (GER, studies), Thierry le Gleuher (FRA, retros), Viktor Volchek (BLR, threemovers and moremovers).

All these titles were accepted by the Assembly by acclamation.

The application of Ukraine for Evgeny Reitsen to be nominated Honorary Member of the WFCC was accepted by the Assembly in a secret vote (11 in favour, 10 against, 5 abstentions).

#### **10.6 Computer Matters Committee**

Dmitry Turevsky, who was the acting spokesman, was appointed as the new Spokesman. He reported to the Assembly as follows:

##### **10.6.1 Ankona project**

Several decisions were made and questions rose:

- As there is the will and resources (Ilja Ketriz) the project should be continued and converted into a system that would unify different services: problem database, composers database, tourney submission tool, utility for magazine editors, etc.
- The project needs better publicity. It was noted that many congress participants were not aware of Ankona. A presentation should be made and other suggestions are welcome.
- Editors of magazines should be contacted or publicly addressed so that the committee has a better picture of how they would like to benefit from the project.
- It is expected that the WFCC will continue funding the project; the committee will advise in due course the needs for running the website, possibly hiring developers, etc.

#### **10.6.2 Standard for notation of pieces**

- A document should be published that will standardise the notation of pieces under the name of WFCC ("WFCC notation")
- The notation should include fairy pieces and be based on English
- Efforts should be made so that the Popeye project adopts the new notation (it will be very close to the Popeye notation but with certain differences)

#### **10.6.3 Software applications**

The committee thanked Dmitry Turevsky for his work on the excellent tool *Py2Web*. A brief presentation was given in the congress. Details are on the page <http://www.yacpdb.org/py2web/>. The committee would also like to thank Diyan Kostadinov and his team for their work on the *ChessComposer* Android app for smartphones and tablets. More information about the current version 4.0 (as of November 2014) can be found at <http://kobulchess.com/en/news/7-2011-07-31-17-09-09/668-chesscomposer-v40.html>

### **10.7 Studies Committee**

The Spokesman Harold van der Heijden reported to the Assembly as follows:

#### **10.7.1 Study of the year 2013**

The selection of the study of the year 2013 will be done as in previous years, i.e. Iuri Akobia agreed to host the event on his website and all judges (Aliev, Costeff, Gurgenzidze, Pervakov, van der Heijden) have agreed to do the selection together. Several details were agreed upon during the committee's meeting and will be published on the website. [*Editor's note*: Iuri Akobia passed away on 5.11.2014 and Harold van der Heijden will host the event on the website of ARVES, cf. <http://www.wfcc.ch/soy2013/>].

Once more the committee emphasized that the selection of the study of the year is not a real competition. The aim is to select a study which is best suited as a promotion for our art, i.e. with clear lines and understandable by OTB players of various levels. Of course it is an honour for a composer if his study is selected, but that is of secondary importance.

#### **10.7.2 Dead position**

The Studies committee submitted a proposal to the Codex committee to exclude the practical OTB rule of the 'dead position' from endgames. A dead position is either 1) a position with insufficient material to mate, 2) an unbreakable blocked position, or 3) a position that leads by force to stalemate. A dead position immediately ends the game with a draw, and this rule is useful and practical for OTB players as they cannot lose on time. However by applying the rule to endgame

studies, certain stalemate positions would no longer exist and important thematic or artistic content would be lost. The Studies committee unanimously proposed to exclude the dead position rule from endgames in the Codex. Kjell Widlert, the Spokesman of the Codex committee, confirmed that the committee will deal with the issue next year.

### **10.7.3 Promotion of chess composition**

The committee urged delegates to promote composition in their countries by contacting organisers of important OTB chess tournaments to include events around chess composition, like daily problems for solving (“challengers”). Furthermore in case of anniversaries, like the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Baku GM tournament, efforts should be made to persuade the organisers to add a composition tourney to the festivities. With regard to endgame studies, the committee members would be willing to give advice.

### **10.7.4 New events in WFCC meetings**

The committee proposed new events to be arranged in future WFCC meetings:

- An open solving tournament with studies
- A solving show in which solvers should write down the **last** move of an endgame study. The name of the contest could be “Coupe de Grâce”. Ilham Aliev volunteered to organise such a contest in future meetings that he attends.

## **11 Financial report, balance sheet, Auditor's report, budget**

The treasurer Thomas Maeder presented to the Assembly the financial report 2013-14 and the balance sheet of 30.06.2014, as well as the budgets of 2013-14 and 2014-15 (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.

## **12 Election of Auditors**

Marco Bonavoglia and Bjørn Enemark were proposed for re-election as auditor and reserve auditor respectively and they were accepted (no formal voting).

## **13 Election of Presidium 2015-2018**

The members of the current Presidium stood for re-election. There were no further candidates. The election resulted in the confirmation of the current presidium with President: Harry Fougiaxis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Hannu Harkola, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Georgy Evseev, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President: Thomas Maeder, who will continue as Treasurer.

## **14 Future meetings**

For the meeting of 2015, invitations from Poland (Ostróda, August 1-8) and Bulgaria (Burgas, September 5-12) were presented. In a secret vote, the Assembly decided in favour of Poland’s proposal (19 votes for Ostróda, 7 for Burgas).

## **15 Any other business**

The President thanked Andrey Selivanov and Dmitry Turevsky for preparing the Chess Composition Yearbook 2013, which includes the awards of the 3<sup>rd</sup> FIDE World Cup in 8 sections.

The President stated that he was not prepared to discuss the topics raised in a letter by Oleg Efrosinin. The issues mentioned in the first section of the letter (relations to the FIDE) are a quite complicated matter which requires careful consideration and handling. The President mentioned that currently WFCC is an affiliated organisation to the FIDE and there is no intention that WFCC should apply for an international registration. Georgy Evseev confirmed that the letter was a private one and was not an official Russian proposal.

## **16 Conclusion**

The President thanked the delegates and the spokesmen of committees for their work during the week. He congratulated the Swiss organisers, headed by Thomas Maeder and Franziska Iseli, 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)  
February 2015