

WFCC Zoom meeting 19.05.21 18:00 CEST

The Zoom meeting was hosted by Andrey Selivanov with Harry Fougiaxis and Julia Vysotska as co-hosts.

Attendees were:

Harry Fougiaxis Greece President
Klaus Wenda Austria Honourary President
Thomas Maeder Switzerland 1st Vice-President
Vidmantas Satkus Lithuania 2nd Vice-President
Luc Palmans Belgium 3rd Vice-President
Neal Turner Finland Secretary
Bjørn Enemark Denmark Delegate
Hannu Harkola Finland Delegate
Axel Gilbert France Delegate
David Gurgenedze Georgia Delegate
bernd ellinghoven Germany Delegate
Brian Stephenson Great Britain Delegate
Yochanan Afek Israel Delegate
Julia Vysotska Latvia Delegate
Johan de Boer Netherlands Delegate
Abdelaziz Onkoud Morocco Delegate
Dinu-Ioan Nicula Romania Delegate
Andrey Selivanov Russia Delegate
Marjan Kovačević Serbia Delegate
Peter Gvozdják Slovakia Delegate
Joaquim Crusats Spain Delegate
Kjell Widlert Sweden Delegate
Valery Kopyl Ukraine Delegate
Tadashi Wakashima Japan Delegate

and also

Andrew Buchanan Singapore
Axel Steinbrink Germany
Miodrag Mladenovic Serbia
Shankar Ram India
Seetharaman Kalyan India
Dmitri Turevski Russia

Points from the previous meeting.

It was suggested that the anomaly that the Host could not participate in Zoom voting could be sidestepped if he logged in a second time under a different user-name.

Mr Selivanov reported that there was no possibility for Russia to organise the ECSC this year, however at the next Congress they would putting in a bid for 2022.

Russian participation in world championship events.

The matter of Russia's suspension from sporting events issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency was raised.

This applies to the Olympics and any world championship sporting event for the next two years, ending December 16, 2022.

There was discussion of how this should/could/would affect Russia's participation in WFCC events. No conclusions were reached and the President declared he would seek clarification from FIDE.

WCCC 2021

As promised in the last meeting, Mr Fougiaxis had canvassed a couple of hotels in Athens, but found that the prices they were asking for conference facilities were prohibitive, so he was left with no choice but to proceed with the Rhodes offer.

The proposal is for the Rhodos Palace Hotel, Rhodes 16-23 Oct 2021.

The prices (full board): 75€ per person in double room, 110€ single room.

Also included in the price are the usual Congress events.

For those worried about the pandemic, Mr Fougiaxis emphasized that Rhodes is a well organised region with modern facilities and good services.

A vote was required, and even though there were enough delegates present, it was decided that it must be more inclusive, and that all delegates should be given the chance to have their say.

A protocol was agreed whereby the Secretary would send out an email to each delegate separately. The proposal would be laid out and the delegate asked to vote Yes or No in a return email to the Secretary.

The Secretary will then conduct a count - keeping the individual votes confidential - and return the final result to the Commission.

WCSC

On the question of Solving Director for this year's competition, Mr Luc Palmans indicated that he would be willing to take on the task.

Budget 2019-2020

Thomas Maeder presented the accounts for last year, which showed that the WFCC had received 1100€ from FIDE.

This was less than the amount that FIDE budgets for the Federation, because when applying for the grant, specific projects must be itemised and costed. Last year of course there was very little activity.

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A new application to FIDE is required before the end of June this year.

The Treasurer asks that those running projects which may require financial support in the next year to make a claim to him before June 30th.

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Committee matters

The President asked members of various committees to comment on any activity.

- Youth Committee

Mr Kovačević stated composing tourneys for youth would be organised again.

Mr Gurgenidze said that solving tourneys were being planned to take place alongside the World Cadet Championships scheduled for this year in Batumi.

- WCCI

Mr Kopyl reported that not all the judges had been found yet for the next competition, but he was confident it wouldn't be a problem.

Mr Turevsky confirmed that he had stepped down as spokesman for the WCCI committee, and that no new spokesman had been found to date.

- WCCT

Delegates were reminded that the deadline was 1.7 - a further reminder would be sent out on 1.6.

- FIDE Album

Mr Fougiaxis reported a problem regarding the 2016-18 Album.

The position of Indexer for the more-move section was still open.

As many as 10 experts have already been approached without success.

The process of indexing is set to begin in July so the situation is becoming quite urgent.

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All delegates are asked to explore the possibilities of one of their colleagues taking on the responsibility.

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The minimum requirements of the theme indexer are set out below:

1. For each of the 159 selected moremovers, he/she should write (in English) a short description of the thematic content and classify the theme(s) to the index (the index terms are already available of course). Check previous albums for details.
2. The indexer must be competent in this field as much as possible and have a good command of English.
3. The work is done online on a website designed by the album editor and his colleagues. All indexers, checkers, proof-readers, editors are working on this site. The interface is very convenient and one does not have to be a computer expert to work on it.
4. The indexing starts in July 2021 and the indexer will have all the second half of the year available to work.

WFCC web site

Ms Vysotska has been occupied in revamping the pages.

At the end of May the platform will be taken over by a new hosting company, making it necessary to upgrade the software.

The site may go down for a short time when the changeover happens.

Ms Vysotska has also been considering ways to make the site more inviting to newcomers.

One idea put forward was that of a 'Presentation page' appearing before the home page, to make the idea of problem chess more exciting.

Delegates were invited to check out the new-look site, make comments and report any errors found.

World Cup in Composing

Mr Selivanov stated that it was planning to have the results ready by 1st October.

He hoped to have the Prizegiving at the Congress, not only for this competition, but also for the previous one.

Online task force

Now that 'online' is fast becoming the norm, the President floated the idea of setting up a 'task force' whose function would be to develop procedures and protocols for conducting official business in the online environment.

This process would end in concrete proposals for changing the Statutes, to be submitted for approval at the next Congress.

The call for volunteers produced an overwhelming response with the following being the lucky chosen ones: Marjan Kovačević, Shankar Ram, Thomas Maeder, Axel Gilbert, Kjell Widlert.

Next meeting

There was some questioning about how we should carry on with these meetings.

Mr Kovačević suggested we shouldn't stop with online work until the Congress.

He also thought that there should be an official agenda drawn up and circulated before the meeting.

It was agreed the next meeting would be on Wednesday 2.6.21 18:00 CEST

Neal Turner, Helsinki 20.5.2021