



Minutes of the General Assembly FMJD (Second part)

Date: 10/11 March 2001

Place: Moscow (Hotel Uzkoë)

Present:

Board members

A. Dorgelo, Tournament Director 100 sq.; J. Pawlicki, Vice-President + Coordinator EDC; W. Ptytsin, Delegated President; H. Durdyev, Vice-President + Coordinator Asia, I. Chovkoplias, Vice-President, Tournament Director 64 sq.; E. Holstvoogd, Treasurer; G. Hübner, Secretary General.

Mr. Lehmann, Technical Commission 64 ; Mr. Fokkink, Technical Commission ; Mrs. Danilevichiene, Technical Commission ;

Absent with knowledge:

Mr. van Beek, Mr. Sene, Mr. Ferrero

Fifth session: Saturday 10 March 2001, morning

1. Call for representatives

	Accredited	In order of payment
<i>Federations</i>		
Azerbaijan	A. Nurullaiev	
Belgium	G. Hübner	X
Belarus	I. Paskewitch	X
Brazil	L. Marcos	X
Cameroon	M. Mboló	
Curacao	M. Simmons	
Estonia	A. Kjulwiet	(X) (promised to pay)
Latvia	G. Valneris	
Lithuania	M. Zhukowski	X
Mongolia	T. Purevdorj	
Netherlands	T. van den Hoek	X
Poland	J. Pawlicki	X
Russia	R. Klimashev	
Senegal	B. Ba	
Turkmenistan	H. Durdyev	
Ukraine	A. Yatsenko	X
Uzbekistan	A. Artikov	
Armenia	A. Margarian	
Georgia	K. Keldishvili	
Kazakhstan	Z. Usienov	
<i>Confederations</i>		
EDC	J. Lelis	
Asian Confederation	Hodja Durdyev	
Panamerican Confederation	L. Marcos	
African Confederation	O. Etogo	

2. Opening

Mr. Klimashev welcomes the participants, and states that the Russian Federation is proud to host a WC and a General Assembly both for the first time.

Mr. Pawlicki will serve as Chairman of the sessions in the absence of Mr. van Beek, who could not attend the meeting. He compliments all the members, especially ladies after women's day on the 8th of March

3. Communications of the President (read by Mr. Pawlicki)

We recently lost two important persons for draughts: Mr. Wiebe Visser, and very recently, M. Jan Bom. Mr. van Beek apologizes for his absence due to the passing over of his father-in-law Jan Bom. The Assembly ensures Mr. van Beek of everyone's sympathy in these difficult moments.

The Assembly takes place in two different locations. In Huissen, lots of people could not attend, whereas today Africa will be represented by two countries. Mr. van Beek states that increasing effort is made to lead experienced players to take official position, but urges players themselves to organize together in a group in order to have a valid interlocutor.

As everyone knows, the GA will not automatically take place at the same time as WCs because cycles have changed. This will make financing issues more sensible, but we have shown in Tallinn and Huissen that we could raise external funds to organize it, mainly because the GA is much more than a political meeting. More importance should be put on the contents of the Assemblies, especially for thematic issues such as doping, which are more important for the future of our sports than political issues. Draughts entered the GAISF: first as candidate member until October 28, 2000. Then we are provisional member. The next step is to obtain voting right, which Mr. van Beek will try to achieve at the next GA in Singapore. The main advantage is to be able to participate in large-scale sports events. Because the "big three" minds sports are now in GAISF, the Fide and the World Bridge Federation have launched the idea of constituting a joint international minds sports federation, that they would like to start at an informal level. Go might also participate, but they need first to become a GAISF member. A proposal will be submitted soon, and it is likely not to be budgetary neutral. Mr. van Beek wishes that the election takes place quickly, with the same candidates as in Huissen.

4. Elections (1/2)

Mr. van den Hoek reminds that in Huissen it was stated that in order to have voting rights, all federations should have fulfilled the debt obligations. Given that there are 20 federations represented at this GA, Mr. van den Hoek asks who has the voting rights. Mr. Pawlicki stresses that all member federations have the right to participate, but only the ones that are in good standing have the right to vote.

Mr. Klimashev asks whether the FMJD has sent reminders to all federations, which Mr. Holstvoogd confirms. Furthermore, every federation should know about its debt and is supposed to know the statutes. 6 countries have fulfilled their obligations: Belgium, Belarus, Brasil, Lithuania, Netherlands, and Poland. Mr. Pawlicki claims that, from the statutes, only these 6 have the right to vote. Estonia states that they are ready to pay their debt. In the meantime, Ukraine has also paid its debt to the treasurer.

Mr. van den Hoek adds that this is a very uncomfortable situation for such an important assembly. He fears that its decisions would not be representative. So we are very glad that the WC and the second part of the GA could take place here, and thank Mr. Klimashev for that. However, this WC has no prize-money, which is damageable; the FMJD has more than 50 federations but only few who pay their fees: there are thus many things that are to improve. It is the right time to refresh the FMJD, to look for a cure for its endemic problems. So we could either follow the agenda, for every single point: this would imply only 6 votes, whose outcome would have no credibility; or if all 20 countries vote, any outcome would be illegal in front of the statutes. So there is one way out: we should discuss all point on the agenda we are unanimous about. Any point on the agenda that would be open for dispute should be formally postponed to the next general meeting. The KNDB offers to help for organizing a new meeting in the summer (i.e. 6 months from now).

Mrs. Paskewitch states that it is very unlikely that federations would repay their debt within the next six months. All present federations should have voting rights. Mr. Klimashev could pay immediately, but does not want because he does not want to pay for the current CD, which is too amateurish. Mr. Marcos considers that even if the FMJD is amateur, we have to follow the statutes because it is the only way to become professional. Mr. van den Hoek agrees with Mr. Klimashev that FMJD should be professional, but this means that the first task is to take the regulation seriously. Mr. Simons from Curacao has the same problem as Mr. Klimashev: the Federation had concerns about paying their contribution. He believes that if it is not to have voting rights, the GA is a waste of time. This is why Mr. van den Hoek proposes to skip elections from the agenda.

Mr. Gantwarg states that in Abidjan 1996, a committee had been created to determine what kind of fees should be asked to each federation; however, this was never done. He complains that the current chaos is due to the current president's lack of action. He produces a letter signed by several participants of the WC. The problems with the WC are that FMJD never obtained enough guarantees in Riga or even for the past 5 years, and that players receive too short notice before the start, receive not enough prize-money, etc. Mr. Gantwarg and Mr. Valneris read the open letter signed by some players. They complain that the draughts sports continue degradating, and the situation demonstrates the current chaos. The players, many of them being professional,

regret the lack of professionalism. The problems are related to the President and the Director of Tournaments. As first steps, they suggest that the Tournament Director and her adjunct should resign and be replaced by businessmen who have positive experience with sponsors. They propose the names of Mr. Hildering, Pdt of Hiltex, Mr. Wiersma to enter the CD of the FMJD. The third item of this letter, read by Mr. Gantwarg considers that the prize-money is not satisfactory, because it does not correspond to the promises and the previous standards. Mr. Ba would like to claim also that participants should obtain a participation premium, and the FMJD should take it as a principle.

Mr. Tschizov considers that if countries have no voting rights for elections but their players can participate to tournaments: this is double standard. Mr. Hübner replies that statutes do not explicitly rule out the possibility for players to participate even if their federation is indebted.

Mr. Simmons explains that it is unfair to prevent some federations from voting because it changes rules in the middle of the game: it should be done for the next assembly. Mr. Klimashev claims to have the GA extraordinary with all federations having voting rights.

Mr. Durdyev believes that changing the time of the election would help Mr. van Beek. The fact that some federations don't pay is maybe the fault of the FMJD.

Mr. Yatsenko agrees with the Dutch Federations about problems faced by the FMJD. He thinks that we have to respect the statutes, and change them if they have weaknesses. Ukraine has paid its contribution and now has voting rights. Mr. Ba also considers that we must respect rules in order to let things advance. So he is against a change in statutes. Furthermore, Mr. Ba and Mr. Hübner stress that the fees are the more important ways to finance the FMJD. So, Mr. Ba backs the proposal by Mr. van den Hoek, but adds that a task force should be set up in order to review the debt of poor countries, and proposes to half a fee for developing countries which is half the one of rich countries. Mr. Etogo, on behalf of the African Confederation wishes to add upon this financial problem, that even leads some African federations to have difficulties to send players and or being recognized. So he recommends a simple write-off for the debt of these poor African countries.

Mr. Yatsenko proposes to have all the invited federations vote, with reference to the list of the invited officials released by the FMJD.

Mr. Pawlicki proposes to have the 8 voting countries vote for the Dutch proposition. Mr. Klimashev and Mrs. Paskewitch claim that all countries should be entitled to vote.

Mr. Pawlicki closes the session at 13h00.

Sixth session: Saturday 10 March 2001, afternoon

Elections (2/2)

The afternoon session starts with a discussion of the Dutch proposition. Let alone this would imply that we could try to find solutions to the financial problems of federations, but it would allow us to make a new start with a renewed culture of organizing ourselves. Mr. Pawlicki puts his mandate into this proposal: if elections are postponed, he would also like to represent his mandate for reelection.

Mr. Simmons wishes to make an alternative proposal: since the meeting is not legal, he proposes that the decisions of the meeting are transformed into an Extraordinary General Meeting that can take all decisions with all members. This possibility is ruled out by the General Secretary.

Mr. Zhukowski proposes to vote for trust to Mr. van Beek and that he would be forced to take into account the result of this vote in order to present his candidature. Mrs. Paskewitch states that she agrees with the open letter of the players expressing the problems.

Mr. Marcos proposes to give time to the Dutch Federation to find another person that could be candidate for presidency, because it is absolutely clear that the president should be Dutch. This proposal is backed by the Ukrainian federation. Mr. van den Hoek states that if the GA disapproves the mandate of the president, then the elections should be skipped and postponed until a new meeting where the President, but also other positions in the CD could be filled, in order to give degrees of freedom.

The vote takes place with 20 voting. The distrust is voted with 13 for 7 giving confidence to the president. Consequently, mandate could be given to the Dutch federation to try to find an alternative to the current CD. Mr. Pawlicki acknowledges that the whole CD gives its mandate to the GA and will continue to work until a new proposal is put forward.

The proposal by the Dutch federation is that elections are removed until the end of the summer and give mandate to the KNDB. Since it follows from the previous vote, no vote should take place at this moment. It is clear for all CD members that they are to be taken together with their president. Mr. Pawlicki stresses that it is teamwork, and its necessary refreshment should take place in summer. Problems have to be solved, not merely talked about. Mr. Klimashev insists to make clear the tasks performed by the CD in the meantime and to quickly find a good candidate for the presidency. He insists that we elect the tournament direction today for 64, as well as for 100 squares. Mr. van den Hoek strongly disagrees with this suggestion.

Mr. Yatsenko states that it is now time to engage in the work for the future, and suggests electing the members of the CD with expiring mandates. Mr. van den Hoek, again, strongly reacts against this idea. Mr. Pawlicki concludes by stating that consistency commands to postpone all elections, and closes this point.

Mr. Pawlicki presents the proposal by Mr. Durdyev to elect the Vice-Presidents and President, and stresses the consequences of this proposal. Since all positions are vacant now, a new CD composition has to be found, so Mr. van den Hoek considers that the question of today's elections is empty. If an election would take place, only the 8 countries that are in order could vote. Mr. Pawlicki proposes that a vote would take place with 20 federations. Mr. Hübner announces that the result of the election will not respect the statutes, and Mr. Pawlicki is aware of it. Mr. Pawlicki and Mr. van den Hoek state that if this outcome is positive, this would mean the end of the membership of their federation into the FMJD. Mr. Etogo announces that Africa would not participate to a vote that would contradict the statutes. Senegal would follow the Dutch position. Mr. Mbolo expresses his disappointment for what is currently happening.

The vote takes place. Mr. Etogo leaves the room. The result will not be statutory. The outcome is:

- For personal elections: Belarus, Russia, Turkmenistan, Georgia.
- Against personal elections: Belgium, Brazil, Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan.
- Abstention: Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Curacao, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Senegal.
- Absent: Estonia.

So the GA decides with a majority of 8 against 4 that no elections will take place with all present federations entitled for voting.

After the vote, Mr. Klimashev decides to leave the GA.

The Chairman closes the session at 19h20.

Seventh session: Sunday 11 March 2001, morning

5. Final approbation of finances

Mr. Holstvoogd also wishes to present a fundamental report of the change in the financial system that was not included in the documents. Proposal will be adapted and represented in August.

First, the final report for the treasury has to be discussed, with provisional accounts for the last year. Mrs. Paskewitch states that looking at the document, only 11 countries are in correct standing with respect to the FMJD, which is critical: she asks to adopt different measures as a function of the situation of each federation. Mr. Holstvoogd announces that he will write to each federation in order to know their financial situation to be able to solve their problem before August. Mr. Ptytsin states he coauthored a proposal from some Asian federations, but the Treasurer has never received it. Mr. Hübner makes clear that voting rights will not be awarded in August for countries that would not taken actions in order to regularize their financial situation with respect to the FMJD.

6. Title Nominations

The Polish Federation asks for GMIF Title to Mrs. Ewa Minkina-Schalley. Mr. Fokkink replies that this title was already decided after her barrage against Mrs. Kamyshleeva, and so all is needed is to sign the diploma, make it appear in the minutes and add her name in the Almanac. So the title is officially awarded to Mrs. Minkina-Schalley.

Mr. Klimashev proposes that the current system of waiting for a congress to award the title is unfair to the players. So he proposes to let the CD award the title and the GA would have to confirm them. Mrs. Dorgelo answers that diplomas are still awarded at the GA, and thus this would be the major change: the CD is mandated to give the title. Mr. Fokkink states that it is very dangerous to have one person count for titles on the sole basis of results obtained from internet, not directly from federations. The Annex X of the statutes already state that titles have immediate effect. The only difference is that diplomas would be given previously. This proposal is unanimously adopted.

Mr. Yatsenko proposes that the CD has full competence to award titles and it would not have to be confirmed by the GA. Mr. Lehmann criticizes the current system of titles, because we are too restrictive. Mr. Mbolo agrees with this statement.

Mrs. Savina and Borkova received diplomas for grandmasters during a tournament, but it appears they do not have the title. The same happened with Mrs. Teterina and an International Arbiter. Mr. Klimashev says that this is unfair. Mr. Hübner states that titles can only be given on the basis of a written statement by the TC. Mr. Fokkink adds that Mrs. Borkova and Mrs. Teterina have not fulfilled the requirement to be awarded the title of GMIF.

Mr. Fokkink announces that the TC wants to propose 7 titles of MI, but can only produce a manuscript document. He will provide the names, and asks the GA to trust the TC for the computations.

The names are; Raul Bubbi (Italy), Dul Erdenebileg (Mon.) [already awarded the title during the first part of the Assembly], Alexei Domtchev (Lat.), Rinat Ishimbaiev (Russia) and the three players from Cameroon playing currently in the WC, who already had a norm. None of these last three players would obtain the GMI norm, because none of them was obtained by the African Championship. Mr. Mbolo complains that the whole African Championship was underrated, and its reported results are not regular. He stresses that Cameroon is currently a very active Federation, but needs arguments to promote draughts in the country; the current tendency of limiting titles would certainly harm the game in Africa.

Mr. Pawlicki promises two things: first discuss about a change in the system; secondly, at the nearest CD meeting, we will carefully check the results of the African Championship. The problem is related to the rating system, which is full of mistakes. Mr. Fokkink clarifies that he re-performed computations on the basis of corrected ratings and the conclusions of the TC already takes these corrections into account.

Azerbaijan claims that Guseinov should have the title of MI since 1998. This will be checked.

7. Arbiters

The TC has a proposal for International Arbiter. For Mr. Hodja Durdyev, the advice of the TC is negative but Mr. Fokkink emphasizes that Mr. Durdyev has made an excellent job during the WC, so he finally advises to award the title of International Arbiter to Mr. Durdyev. Mr. Durdyev is awarded the title with unanimity.

Mr. Fokkink agrees with the proposals (for the Polish Federation) of Mr. Markowiak, Mr. Porochnicki and Mr. Pawlicki but concludes against Mr. Kotek for the nomination of FMJD Arbiters. The advice of the TC is followed at unanimity, so the first three are awarded the title.

Mr. Fokkink received the proposal from the Dutch Federation to award the title of International Arbiter to Marieke Quant (Netherlands). Due to our regulations, the TC can only give advice for the award of the title of FMJD Arbiter. The GA unanimously follows this advice.

The candidature of Mrs. Salnikova (Ukr.) to the title of FMJD Arbiter 64 also receives approval from the TC. It is also unanimously followed.

8. New affiliations

We have good perspective in the future with Ireland and Scotland.

Slovakia has applied for membership to the FMJD. We also have received official application from the Federation Congolaise du Jeu de Dames (Rép. du Congo (Brazzaville)). The GA unanimously welcomes these new federations as provisional member, and these memberships will become effective when they pay their fee.

The President decides to fulfill the point International Titles – 64 section.

Mr. Lehmann proposes a list of players for the last 3 years. He claims there were 3 WCs in the last 3 years. The CD claims some tournaments were not WC; this was extensively discussed earlier. Mr. Pawlicki wants to close the discussion by letting the decision be taken by the CD meeting, who requires the calculations that base the advice of the TC 64.

9. Proposals

Three-year cycle

The 3 years cycle has been decided already; all what remains is to put it on paper. The seats would be attributed with the following system (see proposal by Mrs. Dorgelo).

Mr. Klimashev claims that top players are against this 3 years cycle. Mrs. Dorgelo proposes that federations that disagree against the system make a counter proposition for the next assembly. She warns for continuous changes in the system that would lead to chaotic changes.

Mr. Simmons has a proposal for a professional system where the allocation of qualifying places. He will give it for discussion to the CD. Mr. Ba announces Senegal will make a proposal for a change in the cycle and will propose to allocate one additional seat to Asia. Mr. Valneris would like to know the exact status of the Challengers tournament. The CD will accept any written proposal by federations on this subject.

Mr. Pawlicki and Mr. Ptytsin wish to end this discussion. Mr. van den Hoek stresses that the former champion should have the right to participate to the challenge: this mistake has to be corrected in the project. The GA agrees.

Women WC

There is no real proposal for the WC, except for an e-mail from the Belarus stating that they would like it to be organized like for men. Mrs. Paskewitch proposes a two-years cycle, 14 players, round robin system. Qualification would be: 2 places for champion and vice-champion, 5 places for EC, 1 place for Asian Championship, 1 place for organizing country, 5 places with a qualification tournament. She proposes to have it in action after the next WC women, for the future. Mr. van den Hoek and Mrs. Dorgelo agree with the principles, but wait for a written proposal. However, Mrs. Paskewitch would like to have a decision on the change in the system (Swiss to Round-Robin) today. This principle is accepted, but no change will take place until a formal proposal is submitted.

10. Tournament calendar 100

- Challenge: Brazil could not get financing for organizing it, but Mrs. Bubbi will try to organize it in Italy
- WC Women: 16-25 August in Velp "**Bilderberg Ladies Worldcup Draughts 2001**
- WC Juniors: normally in December, but it would be in Parthenay, July 16-22. Dutch federation has serious problems with it, because it begins right after their national championship. The KNDB asks why the FMJD changes its calendar, that does not respect the scheme. The problem is that we have no proposal for organizing it in December (the minutes of Huissen show there were possible candidates: Brazil withdrew). Russia could organize it in the end of October - beginning of November. Mr. van den Hoek states that anything is better than July, but Mr. Simmons has an opposite view.
- WC Cadets: not 100% sure, Mr. van den Hoek does not know about any candidature by the KNDB. The FMJD tries to enter the World Games for the category (Moscow, December 2001) and to organize the WC cadets at the same time. If it is not integrated, the KNDB would do its best efforts to organize it in the Netherlands in December.

Mr. Pawlicki proposes that all information about calendar 100 and 64 be distributed to all federations this afternoon. He stresses that federations should prepare only written proposals for the next congress. The bureau is currently working very well, and so it will be effectively processed.

The Chairman closes the session at 12h00

15. Remarks and Questions (1/2) (off meeting)

Mr. Simmons announces that he considers this General Assembly as illegal from the beginning to the end. Mr. Klimashev considers that the GA has not addressed the important issue of the 64 section, and calls for an additional meeting in the afternoon.

Mr. Yatsenko wants the CD to find a solution for the players' prize money, which is very important. National Federations also have to care for their players. So Ukraine proposes that each federation that would propose a president for the next meeting must present his program and financial conditions. Mr. van den Hoek agrees but then all candidatures for the Vice-presidency should also respect the same conditions. The principle of describing the candidacies is valid for the whole team.

Mr. Ba also expresses his concern about the situation about professional players, because the amateur team of the FMJD has absolutely no concern about this issue. The president of the FMJD should be someone who cares about the sponsors. He also wishes that the CD has two seats for representatives of the Grand Masters league.

Eighth session: Sunday 11 March 2001, afternoon (informal meeting)

The continuation of the meeting, called by the Russian Federation, is done in the absence of the players representing their federations (Mr. Valneris and Ba) and without four members of the CD (Mr. Ptitsyn, Mr. Chovkopliias, Mr. Holstvoogd and Mrs. Dorgelo).

Mr. Simmons questions again the validity of this Assembly. Mr. Etogo wishes to remind that federations in order of payment are crucial in order to be able to exercise all rights in the GA. This point is particularly stressed in the minutes.

Mr. Klimashev would like to come back on an important item that was not discussed during the GA: Tournament calendar 64.

11. Tournament calendar 64

Mr. Klimashev explains that it is not clear up to now who designs the tournament calendar 64. There are two federations organizing these events. He knows the conditions under which the FMJD tournaments are organized; the Russian federation proposes that, until the next General Assembly, to give the possibility to the organization run by Mr. Klimashev to organize tournaments on behalf of the FMJD. Belong to these tournaments, the WC with a funding of \$20.000, and two tournaments for pupils and cadets with full hosting. In July, the WC Women. He proposes to take the Direction of Tournaments for the 64 section and, in absence of other proposals from the FMJD, to organize all competitions. Mr. Klimashev claims Mr. Chovkopliias agrees with this proposal. Mrs. Paskewitch asks about the rules that will be used for these tournaments: each round would be made up with 4 games with limited length. The Belarus Federation backs this proposal by the Russian federation. Mr. Klimashev is ready to invite CD members to these tournaments to act as observer. Mr. Yatsenko adds that, following the discussion with Mr. Chovkopliias, all tournaments budgets would be audited on their provisional accounts and be organized under the auspices of the FMJD.

An acceptable solution would be to let Mr. Chovkopliias as CD member until new elections, but he would delegate the tournament direction responsibilities to Mr. Klimashev and the 64 section would provide the responsibility of the Russian Federation to organize tournaments in the 64 section. So it remains Mr. Chovkopliias's ultimate responsibility. It also means that Mr. Klimashev's organization accepts the current FMJD rules concerning the 64 tournaments cycle. Mr. Hübner requires that Mr. Chovkopliias write a letter to the CD explaining how he wants to work with Mr. Klimashev and presenting a joint proposal on the Calendar of tournaments 64 until the next EGA.

For the 64 titles, Mr. Pawlicki proposes to have the list of Mr. Lehmann reviewed with a specialist of the matter, who will see this with Mr. Fokkink after the session.

Concerning the WC cycle, Mr. Klimashev proposes to design a proposal for the organization of future 64 cycles and the reunification of current playing rules for the next GA. It will be presented at the EGA.

Mr. Klimashev proposes to the present delegates possible dates and place for the organization of the EGA in August. The KNDB may host it during the WC Women in Velp, but Mr. Klimashev is now experienced in this matters may also host it during the WC juniors in October in Sochi, or it can also be organized in Italy simultaneously with the Challenge. However, the FMJD must be extremely correct with respect to the information transmitted to the organizer. The information to federations must also state that they must be in order financially to be able to vote. This information must be crystal clear on an appendix of the invitations (Mr. Mbolo fears that this detail on the official invitation would be problematic for the obtention of visas). Mr. Hübner acknowledges that the CD's responsibility

15. Remarks and questions (2/2)

The proposal by Mr. Simmons, from Curacao, is read and commented. He proposes to have the FMJD towards a professional organization, mostly devoted to promote professional draughts. To achieve this, FMJD should change its structure and find sponsors to organize a set of tournaments for top-players. The first one of this kind could be the International tournament organized in Curacao in June, followed by a GA whose theme would be the change of structure. This tournament can easily be organized under the auspices of the FMJD, and Mr. van den Hoek suggests that Curacao proposes to have this tournament promoted to the WC Rapids. Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Dorgelo have to be in contact for that matter.

The Chairman closes the General Assembly at 17h20.