

## **Sectional Assembly 100 Squares Section of the FMJD**

**12 October 2002, Hotel Mercure, Amsterdam, 9.30 – 19.00 h.**

Present:

### *Boardmembers*

W. v. Beek, President; A. Presman, Tournament Director 100 sq.; E. Holstvoogd, Treasurer; G. Hübner, Secretary General; H. Wiersma, Repr. FMJD sponsor bureau; T. Tansykkuzhina, Representative of players; J. Pawlicki, Vice-President Europe; R. Alias, Vice-President America; T. Tansykkuzhina, Repr. female players; A. Tchizhov, Representative of players.

### *Members*

H. Fokkink, Repr. Technical Commission; L. Springer, Repr. Propaganda Committee; J. Bastiaannet, Office Director FMJD; P. Oudshoorn, Asst. Tournament Director 100 sq + Editor in chief, LMD.

### *Invited*

Mrs. Maaij, Repr. City of Amsterdam; and a representative of Top-sportscommittee Amsterdam

### *Absent with knowledge*

D.O. Etogo, Vice-President African Confederation; the newly elected Vice-President of the Asian Confederation

## **1. Accreditation**

### *Federations*

	<i>Accredited (* = with voting rights)</i>
Armenia	Mr. Margaryan*
Belgium	J. Demasure*, R. Devroe
Brazil	L. Marcos*
Curaçao	R. Alias
France	H. Macaux*
Latvia	G. Valneris*
Mali	Th. van den Hoek (by mandate)
Netherlands	Th. van den Hoek* (replaced by Mr. De Rooij for the afternoon)
Poland	L. Lysakowski*
Russia	Y. Tchertok*
Senegal	N. Samb
Ukraine	A. Yatsenko*
USA	V. Larin (American Int'l Checkers Federation) – auditor

## **2. Opening and communications**

### *Opening*

Mrs. Maaij is delighted to open the General Assembly of the 100 Squares section of the FMJD. She outlines that at the top level, but also at the youth level, the city of Amsterdam has shown its dynamism. She announces that the City plans to organize very important sports events in the next few years. These events have a strong social impact.

She welcomes all participants to the City of Amsterdam itself but also its facilities (Arena etc.).

Mr. Springer wishes to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mr. Van Beek as President of the FMJD. The past years have been rather hectic, but now the FMJD is on a right path towards very important developments in the next future.

#### *Communications of the President*

Mr. Van Beek states that he is pleased to chair this Assembly that was created after the 2001 GA in Huissen with a real task of doing real business to promote draughts.

In June, the 64 Section had its first GA headed by Mr. Yatsenko; Mr. van Beek is pleased. In August, Mr. Beek and Springer also went to Las Vegas for the GA of the Checkers Section and were pleased to observe that all lights were on green.

The FMJD has applied for a voting membership to GAISF and is currently working on settling the file for recognition by the IOC. He expects at least one year before recognition is granted. Things seem to be going right however. In the meantime, chess and bridge were denied access to the Olympic Games. Their strategy was to try this anyway although it was clearly a little bit premature.

For the IOC, it is important to have a wide coverage and this is why lots of effort was put on organizing the checkers section.

### **3. Accreditation and voting rights**

The call for accreditation is performed. The list appears on the first page.

### **4. New affiliations**

The newly established Russian International Draughts Federation (RIDF) has applied for membership to the 100 squares Section.

The creation of this new Federation could gather all leading players of the international game version, including the world champions men and women.

The RIDF experienced some delay because of the extreme administrative complexity of the Russian country and in the process of official recognition (unlike the current member RDF). It now actually uses professional tools for its activities. A.o., it also proved to be effective in organizing competitions (the Challenge) and in publishing the 'Shashki Mir' magazine. The RIDF has no marked interest in the 64 version of the game and does not see problems in recognizing any other national Russian federation on that aspect. Mr. Tchertok states that there is an agreement among players of 100 squares to support RIDF, even though RDF sent youth players to competitions (i.e. St-Petersburg) that were accepted by EDC on an extraordinary basis. Mr. van Beek accepted in April an interim 1-year period for this situation. Mr. van Beek also states that Mr. Klimashev, president of RDF, acknowledged the existence and legitimacy of RIDF for the 100 squares section.

The CD had provisionally accepted RIDF subject upon ratification by the Sectional GA. Mr. van den Hoek let alone acknowledges the membership of this new federation, but also wishes to know whether it would be the sole representative of Russia in the 100 squares section.

Following questions by Mr. Demasure and Mr. Macaux, the national legitimacy of RIDF is explained. The Russian Minister of Sports actually urges for the creation of a confederation encompassing the two federations. Mr. Wiersma also calls for a meeting of the responsables of

these federations, in presence of the players, before the women WC match (Dec 16). Actually, Mr. Tschizjov made public that he, as well as many others, is not a member of RDF anymore. Mr. Yatsenko, as President of the 64 Squares Section, states that the current FMJD statutes only accepts one federation per country. He claims that Mr. Klimashev is attempting to convince the ministry of sports that the FMJD acts illegally, and the recognition of RIDF would probably be considered as another illegal act. The ministry is willing to stick to this principle of one single federation per sport. So, he suggests to be very cautious in this decision, by allowing provisional rights to the RIDF for organizing and participating to tournaments and, at the same time, suspending the membership of RDF.

The GA welcomes RIDF as provisional member. FMJD has a preference for single federations representing its country, but the new organization of Sections has opened up the possibility to have several federations for different types of games (i.e. Russia, USA). Until the May GA, RIDF is the sole recognized federation by the 100 Squares section and the membership of RDF is suspended for this particular section. The President will write a letter to the Federations and to the Minister of sports of Russia accordingly.

In relation to that, Mr. Pawlicki asks for sanctions for all federations that use the FMJD image, logo or other material while they are not entitled to use it for their own organizations. Mr. Pawlicki proposes to change the statutes in order to deal with organizations or persons, not only federations. The CD will gather for this particular issue design a proposal for the GA of the FMJD.

In relation to this proposal of change in statutes, the voting system should also be revised. The CD proposes that each country would receive 6 votes at the FMJD GA, so that the presence of 1 single federation at the FMJD level enables to have 6 votes; 2 federations in different sections would receive 3 votes; 3 federations would receive 2 votes each.

The CD will make a proposal related to this for May 2002

#### **4b (1/2) Discussion of problem raised by the Belarus Federation**

The FMJD received a fax from the Belarus federation. It complains that FMJD and EDC allowed players (Mr. Vatoetin and Baljakin) to play in official tournaments without being designated and even being denied by their national federation, contradicting the statutes.

Mr. Pawlicki already wanted to solve the problem in the EDC congress in Vilnius. He claims that organizers of tournaments usually have reserved places or are open: if the selected player is denied by his federation, should the player still play? Mr. Pawlicki's answer is positive. Mr. van den Hoek and Mr. Macaux wish to distinguish the case of players representing their federation and playing for their own title. The discussed cases of Mr. Vatoetin and Baljakin belong to the latter situation, so the decision taken was legitimate. It would not have been so for players representing their federation.

Mr. Tschizjov raises the issue of expatriated players, whose rights should not be denied for this reason. This applies to a lot of people.

The exception made for these cases should be addressed more generally by the FMJD in order to distinguish between cases when federations designate players and others. Since only federations are members of FMJD, these players should be given an independent flag. Mr. Yatsenko claims that the statutes have to be changed accordingly.

In addition, the FMJD should make sure that players that individually register to a tournament should not represent their federation if it is not in financial order. This point should be discussed at the GA as well.

The FMJD has to be extremely careful to infringe on the rights of a particular federation. Any measure to include a player to a competition without the backing of its federation should be considered with care and take as an exception. Mr. Hübner claims that, although this type of situation must be handled very carefully, the Statutes should allow for the CD to take its responsibilities, knowing that FMJD should preserve human rights on top of the ones of the federations. The decision should then be carefully weighted and would be subject to a confirmation in front of the GA.

The CD will design a proposal to design a procedure to treat exceptions, creating a body of arbitrage for these matters.

Mr. Pawlicki asks for a decision for the further participation of Mr. Vatoetin to the EC. Mr. Presman suggests that the FMJD acknowledges that there has been infringement of human rights in this situation, and so enables Mr. Vatoetin and Baljakin to play further on that ground.

The President closes the morning session at 12h35

### **Commemoration**

A minute of silence is observed in memory of Mr. Douwes, Problemist, and Mr. Veltman.

Mr. Larin joined the GA on behalf of the AICF. He will be auditor for the federation.

### **5. Discussion of the minutes of the GA Huissen**

No discussion.

### **6. Executive Board: vacancies**

In addition to Mr. Hübner and Presman retiring, Mr. Ptitsyn recently informed that he had finished his term and wishes to pass the presidency to a new person. His successor will be known by the next GA. The Assembly thanks Mr. Ptitsyn for his extensive work and hopes the FMJD will honor his contributions properly.

Mr. Bat-Erdene is excused; he wishes he could join for informing the Assembly about the Asian Confederation.

Mr. Hübner has expressed his will to resign, for personal and professional reasons. On behalf of the Belgian Federation, Mr. Demasure wishes to propose a new provisional candidate, Mr. Rik Devroe, to replace him on an interim basis until a formal election takes place at the GA. There is no other candidate. He personally presents himself and shows his understanding of several languages (French, Dutch – mother tongue – and English).

Mr. Devroe's candidacy is accepted at unanimity with a round of applause. Mr. Hübner will continue to serve the FMJD for the preparation to the IOC recognition. He is thanked by the assembly by a round of applause.

Mr. Presman is obliged to resign as well. No written candidacy has been proposed by any federation. The CD could not find any successor either.

The CD considers that a solution could be found by having several people in charge for the different aspects of the direction of tournaments.

Mr. Macaux has offered to help. He recognizes the problems for the organization of tournaments for youngsters. Mr. Macaux offers his help for this portfolio. Mr. Wiersma then proposes that the position is divided in two Assistant Tournament Directors and this 'youth' portfolio would be given to Mr. Macaux until confirmation in the GA.

Mr. Larin introduces the possibility that Mr. Alexander Kats, Prof. At St-John's University, would take over the position. Mr. Larin will inform him to determine whether he would be interested. Mr. Tschizjov knows him as well and appreciates him. He would like to know whether he would be committed.

Concerning the forthcoming matches, the Section cannot wait until May to fill in the position for the organizing of these events. The representatives of the players ask for appointing a commissar. Mr. Wiersma mentions that he needs to know the particular players' requirements and time constraints. So, he would like to have these matters clarified. Mr. Tchertok has all relevant information to provide to Mr. Wiersma.

In principle, Mr. Wiersma agrees to be the Commissar; he will get information after the meeting.

Mr. Presman mentions that the vacancy is still open for other tournaments, including the WC.

#### **4b (2/2) Discussion of problem raised by the Belarus Federation**

The GA votes on whether any player who is qualified to the EC would be allowed to play if all attempts for a reconciliation with their national federation fails (the player must prove that he tried). Mr. Fokkink and Mr. Springer are the assessors. Result: 7 yes – 1 no – 1 abstention. The GA acknowledges the result of the vote.

### **7. Aims and goals of the section**

Mr. Hübner presents a three-page document for the constitutive statutes of the Section.

Observations:

- Article V: the Section meets every two years, in alternance with the FMJD GA.
- Article IV: suppress 'at least twice with full attendance' is a relic from the past. The Statutes of the FMJD should also me modified in the same spirit.

The constitutive statutes are approved subject to these changes.

### **8. Tournament schedule – overview and discussion**

The CD agrees that it might be wise to change the WC cycle, mainly because the Challenge proves to be extremely hard to organize. The Challenge should thus be upgraded, in one way or another, to a WC. It can be either with a large number of players (swiss system or not) –

then it would still be a 4-year cycle – or with the 20 players round-robin tournament – leading to a 2-year cycle. These formulae are open to discussion, as well as any other suggestion.

No one in this GA is in favor of preserving the Challenge.

Mr. Demasure finds it very important that all countries in order financially have the right to seed one player to the WC.

Mr. Tschizjov states that the WC can be organized in two stages, one which is an open personal as well as a team championship (like the championship of Russia), and the final which is round-robin. EDC also experienced the same system for the EC Women. It proved to be a great success.

Mr. Wiersma states that in principle, actors in draughts should long for synergy and provide a positive picture in order to get proper sponsorship. He thus calls for a more team-oriented, event-related approach.

Mr Wiersma's system is more integrated, in order to sell a product. His schedule is, for instance, the following:

	Men	Women	Juniors	Cadets/girls
2003	Zwartsluis	Rapids	Swiss	Rapids
2004	Match (with 4)	Classic tourn.	Rapids	Swiss
2005	Classic tourn.	Match	Swiss	Match**
2006	Match – Rapids*	Rapids*	Rapids*	Rapids*

\* big event

\*\* or something else

In response to the question raised by Mr. Tschizjov, the GA states that there is in principle no right for the loser of the WC match to have a 'match-revanche'.

Mr. Oudshoorn mentions that tournaments should be designed to please the sponsors; like in a knock-out system (cfr soccer). The problem is that it may contradict the feelings and interests of players.

The CD has to design a proposal for planning the next cycle. The GA asks for a task force composed of Mr. Tschizjov, Pawlicki, Oudshoorn and Wiersma to deal with this issue. All members accept the mission. In addition, following the suggestion of Mr. Wiersma, any outside person who would be helpful for this matter will be invited as expert. This task force is asked to understand the position of smaller federations, whose access to the WC should still be possible. This task force is not obliged to provide a unique proposal to the GA; it can propose to have a choice.

## 9. Tournament calendar

### *Good news*

- WC in 1-22 May (Zwartsluis) with 20 players. Everything is in order.
- Estonia is willing to organize youth Olympiads, 22-29 July.
- EC juniors will take place in Minsk right after this tournament (start 1<sup>st</sup> August)
- A Dutch club (Hijken) has proposed to host the WC girls 2003. The KNDB backs this proposal.

- Azerbaïdjan has proposed to host the WC cadets, although they failed to organize the WC 2002. The reason is probably that there might have been a positive change in this federation. Mr. Tschizjov and Valneris will scout on behalf of the FMJD.

*Bad news*

- However, there is a problem for the WC 2002 juniors: everything is OK (21-29 December) except for the quantity of participants (FMJD announced 3 per country, but organizers wish to limit this number). The FMJD has to stick to its promises. The situation is not clear for the KNDB either.
- No candidate has expressed the intention to organize WC cadets and girls for 2002. The GA accepts that it is organized in e.g. February 2003 under the label 2002.
- EC qualifies for the WC, with a very open formula. The EDC is not fully clear how this tournament would be qualificative for the WC. Mr. Presman reminds that the rules are now clear

*Qualifying system:*

1	World champion (Tschizjov)	11	Europe
2	Challenger (Georgiev)	12	Africa
3	Challenge (Getmanski)	13	Africa
4	Challenge (Schwartzmann)	14	Africa
5	Challenge (Milchin)	15	Africa
6	Europe	16	Asia (Erdenebileg)
7	Europe	17	America (Weytsman)
8	Europe	18	America (Andall)
9	Europe	19	Organizer
10	Europe	20	Sponsor place

Mr. Macaux mentions that representation is very biased, since already 5 participants belong to the same country. He suggests to have no more than 3 players from each country (other than defending champion).

Mr. Pawlicki fears that the formula for the EC makes it difficult to select player ranked #9, but this place may become qualificative.

Details are worked out between Mr. Pawlicki, Presman and Macaux during the break: .

Mr. Presman proposes to have 4 places assigned to the EC, up to the 8<sup>th</sup> ranked, and 2 places for the other players qualified to the final of EC and for countries that are not yet represented. The principle is accepted, and the details are to be worked out by the EDC.

*Proposal by Latvian federation*

Drawing lots as a barrage, like in the Challenge, is not a proper way to select players. The GA acknowledges this, and decides that there could be no drawing lots for any barrage whatsoever.

For Swiss system tournaments, Mr. Presman proposes to use the coefficient in order to rank the players. Mr. Macaux stresses then that the right use of the pairing system has to be ensured.

For other types of tournaments, Mr. Tschizjov recalls a proposal made to the CD by Mr. Wiersma on qualifying rounds, a kind of 'pre-barrage'. For the organizers, it also very important to have the ranking soon enough. On the other hand, the possibility to have a

'sudden death' system at the barrages could also be used. Mr. Hübner proposes that the FMJD uses a list of possible systems in which the organizers could choose. The GA gives the CD a mandate to design a list of possible classification systems available to organizers of official FMJD tournaments.

## 15. FMJD Hymn

Based on the 'Marche des Rois' of Bizet, in the Arlesienne Suite, Mr. Yushkevitch proposes an arrangement that can be used as FMJD hymn. The GA adopts this hymn.

## 11. Finance

The GA needs to give discharge for the accounts of 2001, on the basis of the auditors' report. The work of Mr. Holstvoogd as a Treasurer is saluted by a round of applause.

## 13. Problem Composition: issues and update

Mr. Yuskevitch had an extensive correspondence with the FMJD Office:

- CPI Statutes and reglementations:
  - o No comment on recommendations and format of competitions
  - o Concerning Statutes, the GA informs the CPI that it has the intention of changing its Article 45 in the Bye-Laws by: "The ~~Executive Board~~ General Assembly ~~appoints the chairman of each Committee~~ and elects its the members of each Committee from the candidates put forward by the national federations from the candidates unless a national federation opposes a veto for one of its members." (old text is crossed, to be modified)

The other issues are left to be settled by the CD or the FMJD GA when relevant. The titles proposed by the CPI are confirmed and the diplomae are issued.

## 12. New title system

### *New Title system*

In order to rebuilt a valid title system, the TC made a proposal for the titles for the 64 and the 100 squares section. The main changes are:

- No national norms will be collected except at the finals of the championship;
- The titles will be awarded gradually. So, it is necessary to become MF before becoming MI;
- There is no rating requirement for becoming MF
- National championships provide MF norms to the champion scoring at least 70%
- The time limit is deleted, with a backwardation until 1986.
- The system is to be applied for the 100 Squares and the 64 squares version.
- The TIH name is replaced by the TI wording

This proposal is also accepted by the representatives of the 64 Section (Mr. Yatsenko, President and Mr. Marcos, Vice-President).

Mr. Hübner asks for a rewriting of point 4. of the proposal in order to take into account the principle of saving norms as described in the minutes of the CD of February 2002. Mr. Fokkink is asked to include this proposal in an amended document.

Since this remains an FMJD matter, this point (with the amendment asked by Mr. Hübner)

#### *New Titles*

The TC recommends to award the following titles:

**GMI:** Jean-Marc Ndjofang (Cam.)

**GMI :** Sergej Nosevich (Belorus)

**MI :** Murodullo Amrilloev (Rus.)

**MI:** Jeroen van den Akker (Neth.)

**MI:** Vladislav Bedinovs (Lat.)

**MF:** Vladislav Bedinovs (Lat.)

**MF:** Gavril Kolesov (Rus.)

The CD will report to the GA about these titles.

#### *New counting system and referee titles*

Idea of the propositions introduced by the TC:

- Have a framework to know what tournaments are eligible;
- Make sure that the job of the referee is properly done and that the title of International Referee to top-quality arbiters.

For the first proposal (eligible tournaments for ratings) is amended in the following way:

1. For each game with a time limit, there has to be at least 2 hours per player
2. When Fisher system is used, a minimum of 1 hour and 50 minutes is allotted for the first 50 moves
3. For each game without time limit, a minimum of 2 hours and 30 minutes for the first 75 moves

This amendment is accepted by the GA.

As a remark, the organization of Rapid tournaments should be included in the homologation system for computing ratings.

The second proposal introduces that a FMJD referee has to lead at least one national championship, while the International Referee should lead at least two national championships.

This proposal is accepted by the GA.

The third proposal is new. It provides a way to control for the job of referees and sanction the referees who would not fulfil the tasks they have been appointed for.

## **16. Presentation of the Rules and regulations**

The documents are available to the representatives.

## **10. Sponsor activities**

Mr. Wiersma asks for spending less time on proposals with a technical contents; a better use of time can be done at the GA. Only the results should be presented and argued upon at the GA.

The FMJD must work on goals. Mr. Wiersma would like to be allowed to form a task form with a very practical scope. So:

- Until December, Mr. Wiersma will find people who are interested to work in this team; it has to be approved by the CD (18<sup>th</sup> of January).
- For the next meetings of the CD and the FMJD, this team will prepare a report for the sponsor policy.

## **17. Varia**

- Letter of Belarus Federation: it ends with several suggestions, that Mr. Presman reminds to the GA. Mr. van Beek will write to the writers of this letter that they are invited to present their case to the GA. In order to constitute the commission they are calling, they have to gather the proofs of what they claim.
- The Polish federation recalls that all Polish youngsters have to play the championships during Christmas, which is not very easy for this. The Federation asks FMJD to do its best in order to avoid playing during on December 24-25.
- American Confederation: some federations ask whether there is any possibility of liquidating debts, and some also ask what the contributions fees they pay are used for. The FMJD is asked to give them a clearer answer on what they get. Mr. Holstvoogd replies that the new contribution system is fairer to their situation. The CD will make sure that they understand exactly what services are offered by the FMJD. Mr. Macaux suggests that the Treasurer could present a provisional budget for the forthcoming year to the GA. Anyway, Mr. Alias demands to have a better communication between the FMJD Bureau and the federations.
- Mr. Wiersma asks what the web-site will become. Mr. Presman will continue to take care of the webmastering
- Mr. Demasure and Mr. van Beek wish to thank Mr. Presman, on behalf of the FMJD and the federations, for his work and all his good sense but also for all the things he taught to FMJD members. He is congratulated with a round of applause.

## **18. Closing and dinner**

The President closes the Sectional Assembly at 19h05