

NORDIC CHESS FEDERATION



Minutes from the Nordic Chess Federation congress July 16, 2017 in Stockholm

Present:

Carl Fredrik Johansson, SWE (president)

Juha Sandelin, FIN

Morten Madsen and Geir Nesheim, NOR

Poul Jacobsen, DEN

Also present were:

Johan Sigeman (general secretary)

Håkan Jalling (board member of Swedish Chess Federation)

1. Opening

Carl Fredrik Johansson welcomed the federations to the 2017 congress and declared the congress opened. It was noted that both Iceland and the Faroe Islands were absent and that Gunnar Björnsson and Finnbjørn Vang had sent their apologies.

2. Approval of the invitation to the meeting

The invitation was approved.

3. Election of the chairman of the meeting

Carl Fredrik Johansson was elected chairman of the meeting.

4. Election of the secretary of the meeting

Johan Sigeman was elected secretary of the meeting.

5. Election of two people to check the minutes

Geir Nesheim and Poul Jacobsen were elected to check the minutes.

6. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved with two additions: 13½ (power to represent NCF) and 22½ (Nordic Championship 2019).

7. Annual report

The annual report with finances was presented. Geir Nesheim explained that there had been some problems with respect to NORDEA, therefore the report had been somewhat late and this was also the reason for the fact that the annual report was not yet audited.

8. Auditor's report

The auditor's report was not finalized.

9. Approval of the accounts and discharge of liability for the Board of Directors

The accounts were approved, and the Board of Directors were discharged from liability, contingent on an audit report confirming the validity of the accounts were presented by the auditors. The Congress expected this to happen at the latest by September 30th 2017.

10. Membership fees for the coming two years and new fiscal year

The congress decided to increase the fee from presently DKK 2 500 per calendar year and federation to DKK 5 000 per calendar year and federation. As both Iceland and the Faroe Islands were absent, the decision was made with the reservation that these two federations will be given the opportunity to confirm the decision. Especially for the Faroe Islands, the congress understand that the increase may be problematic and the congress is prepared to make an exception for this federation if needed.

11. Election of president

Gunnar Björnsson was elected president until the next congress in 2019.

12. Election of secretary general

Johan Sigeman had declared that he is not running for a tenth term. Håkan Jalling (SWE) was presented and was unanimously elected as secretary general until the next congress in 2019.

13. Election of treasurer

Geir Nesheim (Norway) was elected as treasurer until the next congress in 2019.

13½ Power to sign on behalf of NCF

It was decided that the treasurer and the president are both entitled to sign (individually) on behalf of the Nordic Chess Federation until the next congress in 2019 and to represent the NCF in relation to the bank NORDEA.

The congress decided to change the statutes of the NCF at next congress in 2019 so that there is a clause saying that the president and the treasurer are authorized to sign on behalf of NCF.

14. Election of auditors

Jogvan Joensen and Hanus Ingi Hansen were re-elected as auditors until the next congress in 2019.

15. Election of the chairman of the School Committee

Mats Johansson has declared that he want to step down as chairman but no alternative has yet been presented. Mats Johansson was elected chairman of the School Committee until the committee has been able to nominate and elect another chairman. The congress delegated to decision the committee and look forward to information on the new chairman as soon as possible.

16. Election of the chairman of the Senior Committee

Sven-Olof Andersson has declared that he want to step down as chairman but no alternative has yet been presented. Sven-Olof Andersson was elected chairman of the Senior Committee until the committee has been able to nominate and elect another chairman. The congress delegated to decision the committee and look forward to information on the new chairman as soon as possible.

17. Election of the chairman of the Women's Committee

Emilia Horn was re-elected as chairman of the Women's Committee until the next congress in 2019.

18. "Nordens Schackspelare 2015"

Magnus Carlsen and Helgi Dam Ziska had been nominated. After voting, both players were jointly awarded the title "Nordens Schackspelare 2017". Geir Nesheim were handed the medal for Carlsen and Johan Sigeman will ensure that Helgi Dam Ziska receives his medal a.s.a.p.

19. Report from the Senior Committee

The report was presented and approved.

20. Report from the Women's Committee

The report was presented and approved.

21. Report from the School Committee

The report was not yet finalized but will be distributed to the delegates as soon as it is presented to the secretary general.

22. Reports from each federation regarding recent developments etc.

NORWAY:

- The number of members is steadily increasing and is now 3 500 (Norges Sjakkforbund) and about the same number in USF (Ungdommens Sjakkforbund).
- Only 4 % of the members are women. The federation is trying to increase this number by various methods.
- The national rating system is replaced by ELO.
- Cheating has been in focus lately.
- Norway has tried to get the WC-match in 2018 to Oslo, but unfortunately this will not happen. However, there are good chances for 2020.
- Chess in schools is developing rapidly, with financial support.

DENMARK:

- National rating is still in force.
- School Chess: The qualifications to Nordic Youth Championships is now, by agreement, handed over from Dansk Skole Skak to Danish Chess Federation. Skoleskak will however still be involved in the youth team tournament.
- New economic policy with respect to the top-players. Has caused some discontent with some of the players but generally positive.
- Skakbladet – Thorbjørn Rosenlund has left the position as editor of the magazine after 39 years. Now replaced by Lars Schandorff and Jan Løfberg.
- Members: Just above 4 000 now and decreasing.
- New admin system for a few years, now including the team-series in the system also.
- Since 2004 we play the Danish championship in hotels, not schools.

FINLAND:

- Juha Sandelin informs about the election of him as new chairman of the federation and about his ambitions.
- The federation office has 4-5 employees.
- Chess is considered a sport in Finland.
- Through his contacts, Sundelin has managed to get chess into TV in Finland.

SWEDEN:

- The federation is 100 years in 2017 and yesterday evening there was a grand dinner with speeches and entertainment.
- Going well, 40 000 members, 5-6 000 adults. Juniors also in the same organization, also schools.
- There are 9-10 employees in the federation. A new position is technical manager (Lukas Wikström).
- "Schackfyran" is growing every year.
- Yes 2 chess is in progress (Enter Card, Barclay Bank). For fifth graders.
- Grand Prix series of weekend tournaments, quite popular.
- The federation is contemplating the option to apply for membership in the Swedish Sports Organization (RF).
- Håkan Jalling informed about the recently held Nordic Championship in Växjö, where he was responsible. Approximately 125 players in total. Not least the fact that the event was given the status of zonal tournament was important. Jalling told the congress about his ideas for the future of this tournament.

ICELAND:

- Will be reported separately.

FAROE ISLANDS:

- Will be reported separately.

22½ The Nordic Championship 2019

Geir Nesheim presented the Norwegian interest in hosting the 2019 Nordic Championship. The congress declared that it was positive and gave Norway an option until November 30, 2017 to present a more detailed proposal, to be subject to a decision not later than January 31, 2018. It was noted, that it is important that the status of zonal tournament is kept and therefore Norway should endeavor to make every effort in this direction.

23. Miscellaneous

It was decided to change the present website to something more modern and to move the administration of the page to the Swedish federation with effect from January 2018.

Norway proposed that the secretary general shall make steps towards setting up a committee with the purpose of investigating various possibilities of obtaining financing of the NCF. Each federation should have a spot in this committee. The goal is to have the new committee working within one year from now. The congress approved of this proposal.

Johan Sigeman reminded all federation to update its information on their representatives in each committee and in the board. This information should be sent to the secretary general.

The congress discussed the problem that there is limited activity in some of the committees. It was resolved that the board of NCF should give more directives to the committees as to what NCF want to achieve.

24. Closing

The congress thanked Johan Sigeman for serving 18 years as secretary general of NCF. NCF will, as a sign of its appreciation, in co-operation with the Norwegian federation, invite Johan Sigeman as a VIP-guest to 2018 Norway Chess in Stavanger.

In addition to this, the Norwegian Chess Federation declared that its board has decided to award Johan Sigeman the Norwegian Chess Federation's honorary medal in gold in recognition of his services for the Nordic chess community.

Johan Sigeman thanked the congress and the Norwegian Chess Federation and expressed his gratitude for the years he has been given the opportunity to serve NCF.

Carl Fredrik Johansson declared the congress closed and thanked the participants for attending.

Johan Sigeman

Approved:

Geir Nesheim

Poul Jacobsen

