

**Minutes 21st IBCA Congress Metropol Hotel Ohrid  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Start 9:30 h

**1. Welcome**

IBCA President Ludwig Beutelhoff welcomes the delegates and guests and starts the roll call.

The following delegates of the countries are present:

Argentina: Proxy to Stephen Hilton

Azerbaijan: Ershad Nasibov

Bulgaria: Ivan Yanev

Belgium: Proxy to Natasha Dalle

Croatia: not present

Denmark: not present

Germany: Thorsten Müller

Greece: Nikos Kalesis

Hungary: Robert Kopay

India: Dr Charudatta Jadhav

Italy: Claudio Casperoni

Kosovo: Tishoki Daut

Lithuania: not present

Macedonia: Koche Dimov

Moldovia: Konstantin Platon

Ukraine: Serhii Vasin

United Kingdom: Stephen Hilton

Venezuela Juan Blanco

Slovenia: Emil Muri

Spain: Francisco José Haldonado

South Africa: Melvyn Lucas

Sweden: Jörgen Magnusson

Turkey: Pinar Kesen

Montenegro: Savo Blagojevic

The Netherlands: Lucas de Jong

Poland: Josefa Spsychala

Romania: Sorin Lapadatu

Russia: Yuri Meshkov

Serbia: Sretko Avram

26 delegates are present.

**2. Condolences**

Unfortunately during the last 5 years the following chess players have passed away:

IM Colin Crouch (U.K.), Adrian Erwais (France), Rafal Gunamev (Poland), David Hodgkins (U.K.), IM Victor Konev (Ukraine), Teodor Lapadatu (Romania), Matthys Terplanche (South Africa) and Vlech Bhat (India). The assembly raises from their chairs to pay their respect to the deceased chess players.

**3. Approval of the minutes**

No remarks are made. The minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress in Chennai are unanimously approved.

**4. Reports**

**a) Report of the President**

The report extends to 5 years. A bunch of tournaments took place and the IBCA players took part in 3 FIDE Olympiads: in Istanbul 2012, Tromso 2014 and Baku 2016. The IBCA players were especially successful in Istanbul and in Tromso. Istanbul was very expensive. The organisers promised a lot, and kept few of their promises. IBCA did not get the 2 more places although they had been promised half a year ago. In Tromso it was no problem. In Tromso IBCA nominated Daniel Pulvet from Venezuela. He could not come. The IBCA players had to play without a reserve. But the team was successful.

The team championship took place in Zaragossa (Spain). It was a nice tournament and perfectly organised.

2014 there was the Individual World Championship in Paralia (Greece). It attracted many blind and visually impaired chess players and was also perfectly organised.

2015 the European Individual championship took place in Lyon (France). It was also a well organised tournament.

2016 no tournament was planned. The IBCA members, however, are keen on playing chess. Yuri Meshkov tried to organise a European team championship in Socci, but was not successful. There were too many problems with the dates. Poland stepped in and finally organised the European team championship in Warsaw. This was a new tournament. The President recommended to keep it and advises to integrate it into the IBCA calendar.

In 2013 the last Junior world championship took place in Belgrad (Serbia). In 2015 Argentina wanted to organise it in San Luis. The President says it looked very interesting. In September 2014 he met WGM Claudia Amura in Tromso and the deputy head of La Punta University of San Luis. They wanted to organise this tournament and they said it would take place in 2015 in September. From one day to the other due to the economic situation of Argentina the financial support was cut by 80 %. So IBCA was glad to hear that Montenegro wanted to step in and organise the tournament with the support of our Serbian friends. It was a nice tournament, also well organised.

The American Championship took place in Columbia. They could do it with the support of the income of the American IBCA fees.

Ludwig Beutelhoff mentioned that FIDE had established a committee for the disabled. Nikos Kalesis is the representative of IBCA and the secretary of the committee.

The President drew attention to the financial situation of IBCA. He pointed out that IBCA made a step forward. There were about 15000 Euros in the bank account.

As he had been serving on the IBCA board for 25 years, 2 months, 2 days (Applause by the delegates) he gave a short report.

He had started working for the IBCA in 1975. The IBCA World Championship in Bad Berleburg 1975 was an interesting experience for him. In the beginning he was a chess player helping with the organisation. Since 1992 he was Vice President and from 2004 he was President. He worked together with the FIDE chess rules commission. He took part in many international tournaments and IBCA Olympiads. Till 2008 he was an active player representing Germany in many international tournaments. He represented the IBCA in many FIDE Olympiads as head of delegation, and he took part in FIDE congresses and FIDE commissions always fighting for blind and partially sighted chess players.

He stressed that IBCA is looking forward to modern times now. He said Vice President Dr. Charudatta Jadhav would modernize the work of IBCA and their communication. IBCA would have to elect a new board. The new board would have to find new ways of working and communicating developing IBCA. He would always help IBCA, if necessary.

## **b) Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**Dr. Charudatta's report concentrated on Asian activities.** He pointed out that the last continental Asian championship had taken place in 2003. He said that it is very difficult to organise such a tournament in Asia due to the economic situation of the Asian countries. They

are very poor. To overcome this problem All India blind chess federation under the aegis of the Manipal Institute of Technology Diamond Jubilee Celebrations decided to organise a championship for the visually challenged where the stay was free. This tournament took place from March 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017. Thanks to the generosity of Manipal University it was possible. The tournament was very successful. 23 strong players from 4 countries took part and the tournament was FIDE-rated. All the games were telecasted on “Radio Chess for the first time. An internet radio programme for the blind was introduced and all the games were telecasted on Monroi.com and could be downloaded with Follow Chess App. Many important dignitaries were present and the tournament was reported by the mass media nationwide. All India chess federation for the blind invited 34 countries. Many responded, but were too poor, even to pay the travel cost. So it can be seen as a success that 3 countries finally arrived. Dr. Charudatta announced that IBCA would get 3 new member countries in July: Bangladesh, The Philippines and Sri Lanka. Dr Charudatta mentioned that he conducted a workshop with the representatives of these countries to promote chess for the blind. He indicated that he had started many projects and unique initiatives. All India Chess Federation for the Blind and Visually Impaired is part of the Chess in schools programme. They supply blind chess players with technical material and so they attract more juniors. He pointed out that he set up an internet radio. Everyone can download the latest information in the main stream chess there. He is working on a special program for “Follow chess” which enables blind chess players to follow chess live games. They can be downloaded on android or ios. He said that this would take IBCA much further. He stressed that a solution must be found to raise money for those countries that are too poor to attend tournaments. Internet tournaments as being organised by IBCA members could be a step in the right direction.

**c) Report of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President IM Mr. Nikos Kalesis**

IM Nikos Kalesis reported on the chess Olympiad in Baku. IBCA President Ludwig Beutelhoff was not able to represent IBCA due to health problems Nikos Kalesis was sent. He was also team captain. This time there was only a men’s team, because Lubov Zsilsova had other commitments at the Paralympics. Mr Kalesis stressed that the team consisting of Yuri Meshkov, Stanislav Barbarikin, Oliver Müller and Chris Ross was in a good spirit. There were no communication problems and there was a special guide for the IBCA team. The team ended up with the 77<sup>th</sup> place out of 141.

**d) Report of the Secretary General**

Nikos Kalesis read out Stephen Hilton’s report. The Secretary General dealt with many requests such as from Russia and Poland. He answered every email within 24 hours, attended all the board meetings and tried to be helpful.

**e) Financial report**

Treasurer Sergio Harnandan explained that many countries pay by bank transfer, especially those that belong to the euro zone. Others like to pay cash before the start of the tournaments. Nikos Kalesis read his report. It extends from 2012 to 2017 and gives a detailed overview about the incomes and expenses of these years.

**f) Report of South Africa**

Melvyn Lucas said that Clyde Leonard felt sorry not to be able to attend the Congress. Melvyn tries to promote chess in Africa and keeps in contact with some chess groups. He teaches chess to the blind and hopes to be able to send a young player to the World Junior Chess Championship in Poland.

### **g) Report of America**

The President reported on America. He pointed out that he had been there and that he is convinced of the high efforts they make to play chess. IBCA is in good contact with Daniel Morelli and the President said IBCA should wish him good luck and success with his work. He knows that they plan a tournament.

### **5. Discussion**

Oliver Müller asked about the sources of income of the IBCA.

The treasurer answered that IBCA gets money only from their member countries. There are no sponsors.

Juan Blanco thanked the organisers for the nice welcome. He said Venezuela gives a special price to totally blind chess players.

Jorgen Magnusson asked IBCA to secure the availability of digital clocks.

The President explained that there are 4 or 5 digital clocks allowed by FIDE. IBCA has got a written license from Vasse allowing IBCA to use any adequate equipment. The Spanish factory is making a new series of digital talking clocks.

Sergej Vassin from Ukraine expressed his great thanks to Ludwig Beutelhoff. He reports about national Ukrainian events. He said that Ukraine is very poor and cannot organise international events. He is of the opinion that the President must be from Europe.

He stressed that communication must improve. Therefore he demanded a forum. He was unsatisfied with the situation of blind chess players now. He asked for a medical document before the tournaments starts.

The President replied that IBCA is aware of these problems and advised the delegate of Ukraine to make proposals on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Nikos Kalesis asked Sergej Vassin, if Ukraine had organised international chess tournaments for the blind and visually impaired. The answer is no.

Then the President proposed Dr Charudatta as new president and asked him to introduce his team. Dr. Charudatta said he would candidate for IBCA president and introduced his team: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: IM Nikos Kalesis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Stephen Hilton, Secretary General Christine Beutelhoff, treasurer Natasha Dalle, representative for America Daniel Morelli, representative for Africa Melvyn Lucas, webmaster Sergio Harnandan.

Yuri Meshkov thanked the President for his good work. He said the Russian organisation do not have so much skills in organising tournaments. He stressed that the new president must come from Europe.

Jozefa Spychala thanked IBCA for all the tournaments they have organised and supported. Poland organised a tournament only for totally blind players. She also criticised the lack of communication and said all information should be available.

Jorgen Magnussons strongly supported Mr Charudatta Jadhav's candidacy for president of the IBCA. He mentioned that he has a long positive reputation for organizing chess tournaments and very importantly, to develop a digital infrastructure for visually impaired chessplayers. These skills are of outermost importance for the work of IBCA.

The President closed the first session of the Congress at 12:45 h.

### **June 25<sup>th</sup> Congress continued at 9:30 h**

The President started with the roll call. **26 delegates are present.**

### **6. Discharge of the board**

The President asked for discharge of the board. The board is uannimously discharged.

## 7. Elections

As Ludwig Beutelhoff did not stand for elections anymore, he was chosen to conduct the elections. Silia Ramires (Spain) and Kevo Kabazamalian (Bulgaria) are assistants.

Ludwig Beutelhoff proposed Dr Charudatta Jadhav as IBCA president.

Yuri Meshkov proposed Jozefa Spychala as IBCA president.

The election leader asked Mrs Spychala about her team.

Jozefa Spychala names the following persons: Dr.Charudatta as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Melvyn Lucas from South Africa, Secretary General Nikos Kalesis, Juan Blanco representative of America, treasurer Sergio Harnandan. She outlined her program: Every event should be on the IBCA website. She wanted to create a commission for the blind. This should be decided this year. Mrs Spychala wanted to seek for international sponsorship for IBCA. She wanted to organise a tournament for people who are totally blind

She wanted to create a committee of arbiters. This committee should operate as fide does.

Then Sergey Vassim spoke. He said although Dr. Charudatta is doctor of computer science, he is not ideal for the position of IBCA president. In 2009 he promised to develop IBCA.

Since 2012 the situation concerning the visually impaired chess players has not changed.

Promises were one thing, the achieved work was different. Since 2003 no Asian games took place. Only this year the Asian games were organised. There were not many countries present.

No Turkmenistan, no Kazakstan, no Azerbaijan, no China. He asked where the other countries were. On the board there were no strong chess players such as from Poland or Ukraine. They have no experience in conducting tournaments. He referred to late president Delfin Burdio. He stressed that IBCA should develop chess in South America and Africa.

Therefore Ukraine proposed Jozefa Spychala as IBCA president.

Dr. Charudatta is given the word. He pointed out that in 2015 he had requested Iran to do the Asian championship.. Iran could not organise this tournament. So All India Chess Federation organised the tournament in 2016. They got confirmation from 8 countries. Despite India Maipal University provided a free stay, only 4 countries took part. The others could not pay their air fare. Dr Charudatta had invited 38 countries and China. The situation is difficult. China did not respond.

Then he talked about Latin America. He referred to the merits of late president Delfin Burdio, who was strongly connected to O.N.C.E. O.N.C.E. used to be strong in Latin America and supplied many chess players with chess equipment. O.N.C.E. cannot do anything more for IBCA. He is of the opinion that the structures will have to be renewed. It is a big challenge. Finally he dealt with tournament application procedures. He wanted to develop a form for online applications like he did with the tournaments in Goa, and in Chennai. He pointed out that It is a big investment. IBCA will have to seek for sponsors.

Juan Blanco suggested that IBCA and IBSA should work together. IBCA should try to integrate chess into the paraolympic games. He suggested there should be prizes for the blind and visually impaired and every team should at least have one blind player.

Sponsors should be contacted and the IBCA Olympiad should be every 2 years.

Yuri Meshkov said Dr Charudatta only had common ideas. Mrs Jozefa was better. IBCA needed sponsors. Therefore the President would have to change the board. The sponsors should be part of the board.

Jörgen Magnusson made a detailed comment stressing the fact that efficient and good work is more important than the country or continent where the president comes from. Modern means of communication can easily overcome these difficulties. It is very important that the chess family should work together following the motto of FIDE: Gens una sumus.

Then the elections were held in an open procedure. Dr Charudatta Jadhav got 17 votes, Mrs Jozefa Spychala got 9 votes. Dr Charudatta is elected President IBCA. He accepted and thanked the delegates for their trust.

IM Nikos Kalesis was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President He got 23 votes, 3 abstain. He accepted and thanked the delegates for their trust.

Mr Stephen Hilton is elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. He got 17 votes, 9 abstain. He accepted and thanked the delegates for their trust

Mrs Christine Beutelhoff was elected Secretary General. She ggot 20 votes, 6 abstain. She accepted and thanked the delegates for their trust.

Mrs Natasha Dalle was elected treasurer. She got 26 votes. She accepted and thanked the delegates for their trust.

Mr Daniel Morelli was elected representative of America. He got 19 votes. 7 abstain.

Mr Melvyn Lucas was elected representative of Africa. He got 21 votes. 5 abstain. He accepted and thanked the delegates for their trust.

Sergio Harnandan was elected webmaster. He got 17 votes. 9 abstain. He accepted and thanked the delegates for their trust.

Election leader Ludwig Beutelhoff declared the elections as closed mentioning that he now has been serving IBCA for 25 years and 6 days. He received standing ovations from the delegates.

Dr. charudatta took the chair.

Jozefa Spsychala congratulated the new President.

## **8. IBCA Calender**

IBCA tournament calendar 2018 - 2021

2018 Women's Championship for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players (Poland) scheduled for the second half of August 2018

Junior Championship for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players 2018 scheduled in accordance with the Women's Championship (see above).

2018 World Team championship for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players scheduled for July 21st to August 1<sup>st</sup>. Bulgaria

2019 World Individual Championship for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players Italy

2019 European Team Championship for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players Romania

2020 Junior World Championship for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players Turkey

2020 European Individual Championship for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players Serbia

2020 Asian Individual Championship for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players Philipines

2020 American individual Championship for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players

2021 IBCA Chess Olympiad for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players Greece

## **9. IBCA Arbiters**

The following arbiters were approved by IBCA Congress:

Mathew Carr (United Kingdom)

Sasa Bozic (Serbia)

Vladan Petrovic (Serbia)

Michail Keramiotis (Greece)

Günter Fritz Obert (Germany)

Thorsten Müller (Germany)

## **10. Proposals**

### **Proposals of the Board**

a) Honorary Presidency

Dr Charudatta Jadhav proposed to award Mr Ludwig Beutelhoff honorary president of IBCA. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the delegates of the IBCA Congress. The new honorary IBCA President was awarded standing ovations. He was presented with a silver pocket watch by Stephen Hilton.

b) Arbiters commission

Nikos Kalesis explained the proposal of the board. to establish an IBCA arbiters' commission. Every IBCA arbiter would get a licence from IBCA. For every IBCA tournament it would be compulsory to have an IBCA licenced arbiter. In the future the arbiters' Commission would be responsible for the regulations. Any new regulations would have to be approved by the IBCA board first and then by the IBCA Congress. All countries would be invited to suggest proposals. The delegates agree unanimously.

c) Romania. Sorin Lapadatu referred to the problem of visually impaired players. He explained that the classification process practised with IBSA is very expensive. The commission has to arrive three days before the tournament starts. The organisers have to pay for the flight tickets and the accommodation and food of the doctors. For IBCA this would not be possible. Therefore he proposed that each team has to have at least 1 totally blind player B1. This is easy to prove. 2. He also proposes that every result of the national championships should be published on the IBCA website.

d) Romania. Sorin Lapadatu proposed that a database of all the games that were played should be created and be available on IBCA website.

e) Germany. Thorsten Mueller stressed the IBCA should keep an eye on the variety of the tournaments. That means: a team championship should be followed by an individual championship and then a team championship should follow ect.

A vivid discussion started on the question of how a team should be composed. Magnusson suggested a team should be composed of 2 totally blind players. Juan Blanco said in Venezuela there are no blind players. He recommended to teach blind children chess. In Hungary there are no blind players either. The arbiters would have problems with B4 players. Sergej Vassin supported the proposal of Romania. Jozefa Spsychala proposed a tournament for totally blind players only. Bulgaria means, if IBCA followed Romania's proposals IBCA would encourage the national organisations to find blind people to play chess. Nikos Kalesis pointed out that the matter is complicated. He proposed a commission dealing with the question of blind and visually impaired players in a team. The commission should prepare a proposal for the next Congress. The proposal is unanimously accepted.

The Congress sent the Romanian proposals and the German proposal to the newly created commission. The commission will consist of the president, Sorin Lapadatu from Romania, Jörgen Magnusson from Sweden, Sergej Vassin from Ukraine, and Nikos Kalesis from Greece.

Dr Charudatta Jadhav suggested to use the IBCA facebook site to improve communication.

## **11. Different Matters**

No requests.

End 12:30 h

*Dr. Beutelhoff*

**Christine Beutelhoff**

*Charudatta*

**Dr Charudatta Jadhav**