



**Minutes of the 2013 General Meeting of the  
Commonwealth Fencing Federation held in the Debussy Room,  
Intercontinental Le Grand Hotel, Paris, France  
on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013**

**The President opened the Meeting at 10:05 hours.**

**Present:**

Helen Smith	CFF President	Australia
Marie-France Du Four	CFF Vice-President	Canada (proxy for New Zealand)
Chris Hyde	CFF Vice President	Scotland*

Andrew Ius	Australia*
Roslyn Wilson	Barbados*
Brad Goldie	Canada*
Woody Lawrence	Dominica*
Peter Huggins	England
Janet Huggins	England
Caryl Oliver	England
Hilary Philbin	England
Peter Smith	England*
Mohammed Mahadi	Ghana
James McBean	Jamaica*
Rusni Abu Hassan	Malaysia*
Veena Gunput	Mauritius*
Yinka Samuel	Nigeria*
Novak Perovic	Republic of South Africa*
Mike McEwen	Scotland
Irene McEwen	Scotland
Francis Kwong	Singapore*
Kasuni Silva	Sri Lanka*
David Rees	Wales*
Peter Stewart	Wales

\* denotes Voting Member

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Peter Andersen	CFF Secretary/Treasurer	Australia
Ken Claridge	New Zealand	
Travis Stevens	Bermuda	
Kalam Juman-Yassin	Guyana	
Martha Bernstein	Jersey	
Michael Dieterich	Namibia	
J Ha	Rwanda	
Oli Ah Him	Samoa	
Meyrick Simmonds	Guernsey	

## Welcome

The President welcomed all members and interested attendees present.

## Minutes of the 2011 General Meeting

It was moved by Chris Page (Scotland) and seconded by Rusni Abu Hassan (Malaysia) that the minutes of the 2011 General Meeting be adopted – **Carried unanimously**.

## Business Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was advised that, contrary to the notation in the minutes, David King was not formally the voting member for England to that meeting.

## President's Report

The President noted that since the last meeting the CFF had seen the losses of four significant figures to Commonwealth Fencing:

- John Ramsay, CFF Technical Commission Chair, former President of England Fencing
- Arun Vij, CFF Vice President, Secretary of Fencing Association of India
- Bob Turner, President of Commonwealth Veterans Fencing, former Chairman of Welsh Fencing
- Bill Hoskyns, World and Commonwealth Champion and a dual Olympic medallist. He won a record aggregate of nine gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in both épée and sabre, although had to settle for silver in foil.

The meeting held a minute's silence in memory and honour of these individuals.

Since the last meeting, the CFF had seen 14 nations at the Junior Championships in Jersey in February 2012 and 11 nations participating in the Veterans Championships in Singapore in September 2012.

The President noted and welcomed the relatively recent members of Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Dominica, Ghana, Jamaica, Mauritius, Rwanda and Samoa. With these new members the CFF membership stands at 35 - a significant increase from the 14 members in 2002.

She noted that under the current membership categorisation of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), Fencing had been advised that it been rated as a Category 3 sport. This level does not provide the opportunity for home nations hosting the Commonwealth Games to choose sports in this category. The challenge for the CFF is therefore to continue to expand and grow participation, particularly in the CFF Championships, so that Fencing can meet the criteria for a Category 2 sport and have the opportunity to be selected for future Commonwealth Games by a host nation.

The President noted that financial support had been requested from the FIE to support athlete attendance at CFF Championships. She was awaiting a formal response.

It was moved by Brad Goldie (Canada) and seconded by Roslyn Wilson (Barbados) that the President's Report be accepted - **Carried unanimously**

## **Financial Report**

The President spoke to the circulated Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for the period January 2011 to October 2013, noting an operating surplus of \$6,984 and assets of \$8,875.

The President noted that the Treasurer would be following up with those nations that had not paid their 2011-2014 fees. It was noted that as a consequence these nations could neither vote at CFF meetings nor compete in upcoming Commonwealth Championships.

The President moved that the financial report be adopted and was seconded by James McBean (Jamaica) - **Carried unanimously**

## **2014 Commonwealth Championships**

Chris Page provided a presentation on the planning and arrangements for the 2014 Commonwealth Championships (refer attached) being held at the National Centre Inverclyde, near Largs (Glasgow), Scotland, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Chris further advised that:

- the official website for the Championships had been launched ([www.cfc2014.org](http://www.cfc2014.org)) and will be regularly updated to provide all relevant information regarding the Championships
- Kim Wilson had been appointed as the Event Manager for the Championships and could be contacted on [kim@cfc2014.org](mailto:kim@cfc2014.org)

It was noted that each nation was entitled to enter up to 5 fencers per event and that the four for the team match could be selected from these 5 for any of the team matches.

Marie-France Dufour (Chair of the Technical Commission) noted the arrangements for the levying of participating nations to fund the provision of the required number of referees.

## **2014 Commonwealth Veterans Championships**

Mike McEwen provided a presentation on planning and arrangements for the 2014 Commonwealth Veteran Championships (refer attached), noting that these Championships would be held immediately after the above Championships (16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November) and at the same venue in Largs, Scotland.

Marie-France Dufour noted that the CFF's goal is to conduct the Commonwealth Championships and the Commonwealth Veteran Championships concurrently when they are being held in the same years – but this was always subject to the capacity and arrangements of the local hosts.

## **Technical Commission Report**

Marie-France Dufour (Chair of the Technical Commission) spoke to the attached written report.

It was noted that the current members of the Commission are: Ian Hunter (Scotland), Denise Dapre (Australia), Sanjay Pradhan (India), Martha Bernstein (Jersey) and Marie-France Dufour (Canada).

It was moved by Peter Smith (England) and seconded by Chris Hyde (Scotland) that the Technical Commission Report be accepted - **Carried unanimously**.

### **Veterans Commission Report**

Marie-France Dufour spoke to the attached written report.

The President advised that the CFF had been approached by John Crouch, Secretary of the Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Association (CVFA), expressing the interest of the CVFA in winding up and having Veteran Fencing across the Commonwealth come under the auspices of the CFF Veterans Commission. The CVFA would soon consider this matter formally and, if agreed, a proposal may then be put to the next CFF Congress scheduled to be held alongside the 2014 Commonwealth Championships.

It was moved by Novak Perovic (South Africa) and seconded by Yinka Samuel (Nigeria) that the Veteran Commission Report be accepted - **Carried unanimously**

### **Reports of 2012 Commonwealth Junior Championships and 2012 Commonwealth Veteran Championships**

Marie-France Dufour spoke to the attached written reports.

It was moved by Veena Gunput (Mauritius) and seconded by Rusni Abu Hassan (Malaysia) that the Reports be accepted - **Carried unanimously**

### **2015 Commonwealth Junior Championships**

It was noted that interest had been expressed from Jersey, New Zealand and South Africa to possibly host these Championships in 2015 or 2016.

The President advised that formal bids will be required by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and, subject to the number of formal bids received, a mail ballot may then be required of member nations.

### **Introduction of Commonwealth Cadet Championships**

The President advised that it was CFF policy to leave the introduction of a Commonwealth Cadet Championships to any nation interested in hosting such a Championship either alongside a Commonwealth Junior Championships or as a stand-alone Championship.

### **Incorporation of CFF**

The President reported that a formal mechanism was required to provide legal security and protection for the Officers of the Federation.

It was suggested that the cost of this work could be funded from a special levy on the Category 1 member nations. It was noted that a formal proposal would be prepared and circulated to member nations for a mail ballot so that such work could be undertaken for the next scheduled CFF Congress.

**The President thanked all attendees and as there was no further business, the meeting closed at 12:55 hours.**