



IBCA Congress
Rodos Palace Hotel, Island of Rhodes, Greece
October 15, 2023, 10:00
Minutes

Dr. Charudatta Jadhav, President, opens the Congress at 10:00 and welcomes all participants present in the meeting room and remotely on the Zoom conference. He deplores the death of Ludwig Beutelhoff, former President and Honourary President of IBCA, and of Stephen Hilton, former vice-president and board member. Their contribution to braille chess will never be forgotten. The Congress observes a minute of silence.

The reports drawn up by the nomination commission and the treasurer recommend, in accordance with article 2.6 of the Statutes, that only members up to date with their 2023 fee be authorized to take part in the vote. Natasha Dalle, treasurer and member of the nomination commission, reads a list of 38 countries.

The following countries paid their 2023 fee:

Argentina
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
Colombia
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ecuador
France
Finland
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Honduras
Hungary
India

Israel
Italy
Lithuania
Kazakhstan
North Macedonia
Mexico
Moldova
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Norway
Poland
Romania
Slovakia
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom
Ukraine
USA
Uzbekistan

Dr. Jadhav requests the Congress to grant voting rights to countries that have paid their fee less than 60 days before the date of the Congress. This proposal is unanimously approved by the Congress.

Natasha Dalle recommends the temporary exclusion of member countries that have not paid their dues for 5 years, and reads a list of 16 countries:

Countries to be temporarily excluded:

Belarus
Bolivia
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Iceland
Iran
Ireland
Latvia
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Portugal
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Switzerland
Turkmenistan

However, there is no formal vote. The temporary exclusion of these 16 countries is therefore not effective.

Olivier Deville, secretary, proceeds with the roll call from the list of 69 member countries available on the IBCA website.

The following countries are present or represented:

Argentina
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia
Denmark
Ecuador
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Honduras
India
Israel
Italy
Kazakhstan
Lithuania
Mexico
Moldova
Montenegro
Netherlands
Nicaragua
North Macedonia
Norway
Panama
Poland
Romania
Russia
Serbia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Thailand
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom
USA
Uzbekistan

45 of 69 member countries are present or represented. The quorum is reached.

The following countries sent a valid proxy, but no proxy carrier could be found:

Belarus

El Salvador
Puerto Rico

The following countries sent an invalid proxy:

Kosovo

Some players of the following countries are in the room, but these countries are not legally represented:

Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Slovakia
Slovenia

The following countries did not give any news:

Bolivia
Chile
Dominican Republic
Hungary
Iceland
Indonesia
Iran
Ireland
Latvia
Paraguay
Peru
Portugal
Switzerland
Turkmenistan
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

Natasha Dalle proceeds with the roll call of member countries authorized to vote. Of the 38 members, 34 are present or represented.

The following countries have the right to vote and are present or represented:

Argentina
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Canada
Colombia
Croatia
Denmark
Ecuador
France
Finland
Germany
Greece

Guatemala
Honduras
India
Israel
Italy
Lithuania
Kazakhstan
North Macedonia
Mexico
Moldova
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Norway
Poland
Romania
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom
Ukraine
USA
Uzbekistan

Dr. Jadhav proposes to appoint Sorin Lapadatu (Romania) as election officer, assisted by N. Nandakumar (India). The Congress approves these appointments unanimously.

Nikos Kalesis, first vice-president, reads the president's report. This report is unanimously approved by the Congress.

Dr. Jadhav underlines the commitment made by DGT to provide 100 clocks free of charge to IBCA, at the rate of 20 clocks per year, and proposes to grant the DGT company the position of associate member, without voting rights. This proposal is unanimously approved by the Congress.

Natasha Dalle, treasurer, reads the financial report. This report is unanimously approved by the Congress.

Dr. Jadhav proposes to discharge the entire board, which is unanimously approved by the Congress.

Dr. Jadhav receives Congress' applause for his 23 years of service to IBCA. He wishes good luck to both candidates, and entrusts the conduct of the Congress to Sorin Lapadatu, elections officer.

The two candidates, Sergio Harnandan (Netherlands) and Jorgen Magnusson (Sweden), briefly present their program.

Diana Tsykina (Canada) contests the fact that some countries were excluded from voting for not having fulfilled their financial obligations to IBCA. She is told that she could take legal action if she wishes to contest the election results.

Delegates are then called to vote in alphabetical order. Black and white and braille ballots are available.

The elections officer and his assistant count the ballots.

Sorin Lapadatu, elections officer, announces the result of the vote

Magnusson list: 23 votes

Harnandan list: 11 votes

Jorgen Magnusson (Sweden) is elected president of IBCA. He thanks his supporters and congratulates his opponent. Sergio Harnandan congratulates Jorgen Magnusson on his election, and wishes him good luck. The Congress applauds both candidates.

Jorgen Magnusson submits the composition of his board to the Congress. The members of the board are appointed one by one, and are unanimously approved by the Congress.

Piotr Dukaczewski (Poland), 1st Vice-President

Nikos Kalesis (Greece), 2nd Vice-President

Olivier Deville (France), Secretary General

Thorsten Mueller (Germany), Treasurer

Johannes Grib (South Africa), Continental Representative of Africa

Fernando Daza (Colombia), Continental Representative of America

James Infuesto (Philippines), Continental Representative of Asia

Vladyslav Kolpakov, (Ukraine), Continental Representative of Europe

Marilyn Bland (USA), Board Member

Harrison Nyaga (Kenya), Board Member

Nomin Erdenebat (Mongolia), Board Member

The ethics commission is to be appointed until 2025. The proposed members are:

Guy Whitehouse (United Kingdom), chairman

Michail Karamiotis (Greece)

Alexey Streltsov (Israel)

Unanimously approved by the Congress.

The electoral commission is to be appointed until 2025. The proposed members are:

Jose Maria Saponara (Argentina), chairman

Natasha Dalle (Belgium)

Sorin Lapadatu (Romania)

Unanimously approved by the Congress.

Jorgen Magnusson proposes to appoint Dr. Charudatta Jadhav Honourary President, for all his work accomplished in the service of IBCA. Proposal unanimously approved by the Congress, to applause.

New countries have expressed an interest in joining IBCA:

Kenya, Philippines, Mongolia, Czech Republic

These memberships are unanimously approved by the Congress.

Proposals have been submitted to the Congress by several member countries.

South Africa and Nicaragua propose reducing the annual fee for developing countries.

It is difficult to create multiple categories of members. Jorgen Magnusson proposes reducing the annual membership fee from 150 euros to 50 euros for all member countries from 2024. In order to offset the impact of this measure on the finances of IBCA, an individual registration fee may be asked of tournament participants. Dr. Jadhav believes that youth and women's tournaments, as well as continental championships from developing regions should be exempted from this entry fee. New member countries will benefit from a free first year. The contribution for the second year will be 25 euros, and the contribution will increase to 50 euros from the third year.

The amount of the new fee is unanimously approved by the Congress. The board will make proposals for registration fees for tournaments taking place after 2025.

Ukraine proposes to apply the measures already included in the statutes regarding medical certificates and vision control of tournament participants.

It is difficult and expensive to control the sight of all participants in a tournament. Jorgen Magnusson proposes to check the sight of 5 low vision players during each tournament. The board will work on this matter and make proposals.

IBCA America makes several proposals:

- Separate players B1 (blind) and B2-B3 (low vision)
- Create rapid individual and team tournaments
- Declare the loss of the game for visually impaired players after 4 illegal moves instead of 2 currently
- Organize IBCA worldwide tournaments in all parts of the world

IBCA cannot impose the organization of tournaments on several continents, but will do everything possible to make this happen.

About illegal moves and the organization of rapid tournaments, IBCA does not mind these measures being applied in America.

About the separation between B1 and B2-B3, the situations are very different depending on the region of the world. For instance, there are quite few B1 players in Europe. Additionally, it seems very expensive for a country to send two teams to the Olympiads, one composed of B1 players and the other of B2-B3

IBCA will observe with great interest the experiences carried out in America, and will be able to draw inspiration from them in the future.

Germany sent several proposals regarding the time control, the role of captains and the moves notation in time scramble.

The board will make proposals, in consultation with FIDE and the arbiters commission.

With no one asking to speak, President Jorgen Magnusson thanks all the participants. The Congress closes at 13:10.

Jorgen Magnusson
President

Olivier Deville
Secretary