

Federation of European Shogi Associations (FESA)

Minutes of the General Assembly at Aug. 16 2019 at Bratislava, Slovakia
in Hotel Sorea Regia at 20:00

Chairman: Frank Rövekamp, minutes taken by Mariusz Stanaszek

Participants:

Full members:

Daniel Többens (Germany)
Thomas Pfaffel (Austria)
Mariusz Stanaszek (Poland)
Andrei Lysenka (Belarus)
Filip Marek (Czech Republic)
Lukas Vyletel (Slovakia)
Michael Höhne (the Netherlands)
Philippe Le Roux (France)
Manuel Simon (Spain)

Observing associations:

Asle Olufsen (Norway)
Sergei Belov (Russia)

Aspirant observer:

Mykola Yashchur (Ukraine Association of Shogi)

Board:

Frank Rövekamp (Chairman), Mariusz Stanaszek (Secretary)
Absent: Fabien Osmont (Treasurer)

Aspirant for ESC 2021

Asadkhon Rakhimov, Voytech Hrabal (Czech Republic)

Countries absent:

Sweden, Denmark, Belgium (members), Finland, Italy, Hungary, Portugal, Ukraine
(Ukrainian Shogi Federation) (observing associations)

Agenda

1. Welcome and confirmation of quorum
2. Report by the FESA Executive Board for the 2018/19 period
3. Report by the Auditors
4. Election of the Executive Board
5. FESA membership applications
6. Budget for the 2019/20 period
7. ESC/WOSC matters
8. FESA website: Design, timeline, budget
9. FESA development
10. Any other business

1. Welcome and confirmation of quorum

Frank Rövekamp welcomes all participants and opens the meeting at 20:00 introducing the agenda and confirming that the quorum of 30% of the members is well met. In total nine voting members are present.

2. Report by the FESA Executive Board for the 2018/19 period

Chairman Frank Rövekamp reports for the past period. He confirmed the JSA commitment to sponsor FESA with 100.000 Yen per year and to dispatch at least one professional player to one of the European main events per year. He further reports about a meeting with the American Shogi Association about a potential European-American team event, which could first take place in 2021. This will be further elaborated with the members separately.

As for finance of FESA the main points are as follows:

- Sponsorship of JSA for 2019 will be transferred around August 20 after the closing of the 2018/19 accounting period.
- Sponsorship from JSA for ESC/WOSC in 2017, which was rejected by the organizers of the ESC in Kiev, will remain at the disposal of FESA for future events.
- Organizers of the ESC/WOSC 2018 in Berlin returned 256 €, which were erroneously overpaid by FESA.

3. Report by the Auditors

Asle Olufsen delivers the report of the auditors and states that the financial report correctly reflects the financial conduct of FESA during the reporting period and that the treasurer fulfilled his function in a fully appropriate way. No irregularities within FESA have come to the attention of the auditors.

4. Election of the Executive Board

Due to end of term of the Executive Board the GA elects a new Board. Thomas Pfaffel proposes to reelect the current Board - Frank Rövekamp (Chairman), Mariusz Stanaszek (Secretary), and Fabien Osmont (Treasurer).

Frank Rövekamp and Mariusz Stanaszek confirm their agreement. Fabien Osmont had indicated already by previous mail to the members his agreement to stand for reelection. No other candidates were proposed. Frank Rövekamp and Mariusz Stanaszek leave the room and Thomas Pfaffel conducts the election procedure. The new (old) Executive Board is elected unanimously with 8 votes.

5. FESA membership applications

Sergei Belov explains the Russian application to become a full member of FESA. The Russian Shogi Federation is a registered non-profit organization and strives to assemble players from the whole country. Main centers are in Moscow, Sankt Petersburg, Vladivostok

and Kazan. Sergei Belov states that former differences between the chapters of Moscow and St. Petersburg have been completely resolved. The Russian Shogi Federation under its current chairman Alexander Kalenov strives to join FESA as an active full member. Voting proceeds and the GA decides unanimously – 9 votes – to accept the Russian Shogi Federation as full member of FESA.

In this connection the GA clarifies that newly accepted members only assume their voting right in the meeting following their acceptance into FESA.

Frank Rövekamp introduces the situation in Ukraine. There are two shogi organizations, the Ukrainian Shogi Federation, which is already observer member and the Ukraine Association of Shogi, which applies to become a FESA observer member as well.

There is conflict between both organizations which can currently not be resolved. This is an internal Ukrainian issue however, which is not a matter to be discussed at FESA level. FESA is committed to promote shogi, however, and to create opportunities for as many serious players as possible to play shogi and to participate in shogi events. Two observing members from one country can therefore not be ruled out. Only one organization can however obtain full membership at the end. Voytech Hrabal suggests that FESA should accept the association as full member, which represents the clear majority of serious shogi players in the respective country. This topic is left however for discussion at future GA meetings. Voting proceeds and the GA decides unanimously – 9 votes – to accept the Ukraine Association of Shogi as observer member of FESA.

Manuel Simon speaks about the situation in Spain. He states that he is not in the position to fully explain the current status of the shogi organization in the country. There are several shogi associations in Spain. The relationship between them needs to be clarified and Manuel Simon will facilitate this process and inform the FESA board accordingly. He sees the declaration of Efreem Rubio however, that Spain would revoke its full membership of FESA, as a private opinion not to be shared by other representatives of Spanish shogi. Efreem Rubio lives abroad and apparently has not much contact anymore with the associations in Spain. Spain will proceed with its full membership payment.

6. Budget for the 2019/20 period

a. Budget items and amounts

Income from membership fee is budgeted at 490 € and JSA sponsorship at 750 € (100.000 Yen, € - amount subject to change in line with exchange rate fluctuations).

Running cost are mainly support for the ESC and YESC (amounting to JSA sponsorship), local support (350 €) and miscellaneous like bank fees and internet hosting (70 €).

The investment capacity of FESA stands at about 2,500 €.

No significant payments are expected for the new FESA website for the time being.

b. Fee payment commitment

Member countries are asked again to pay their dues on time and avoid delays. The GA decides that voting rights will be suspended for countries which have not paid their dues until the end of November.

7. ESC/WOSC matters

a. Status of the ESC/WOSC 2020 in Minsk

Andrei Lysenka reports about preparations for the ESC/WOSC in Minsk. It will be held from 2nd to 5th of July 2020. The venue is set and the tournament website will be online in September. The schedule includes ESC, WOSC, team and blitz tournaments.

b. Proposals for the ESC/WOSC 2021

The representatives from Czech introduce their proposal to hold the ESC/WOSC 2021 in Prague. One key point is the suggested increase in basic fees (40 € for the main tournament) in order to finance a venue at an attractive location in the city (e.g. Hotel Belvedere). The discussion will be continued via the FESA internet group. Other countries may still apply as well, potentially based on other fee proposals and/or local sponsor support. A final decision on the 2021 ESC/WOSC is targeted for October.

c. Proposals for the Youth ESC 2020, 2021

Daniel Többsen introduces the German Shogi Association proposal to hold the YESC 2020 in Mannheim. The suggested date (July 10-12) is too close to the ESC/WOSC however and needs to be changed. Sergei Belov introduces the Russian proposal to hold the YESC 2021 in Moscow

The GA decided to commission Germany and Russia to hold the YESC in 2020 and 2021. Both countries should discuss among them about the order and timing in good faith. Germany will first clarify the possibilities to change to an appropriate date in 2020.

d. ESC and YESC budget and sponsoring

The GA confirms that for the time being the yearly sponsoring amount for JSA should be equally split between the ECS and YESC.

8. FESA website: Design, timeline, budget

Michael Hoehne has introduced the draft of a new FESA website for use with computers, smartphones and tablets. He gives further operating details and shares his ideas about future handling of data and information input. He furthermore states that the website design will come with no costs as the project team is working “pro bono”. Only operating cost will ensue after the implementation of the new website.

An intensive discussion follows and various opinions about the design details are exchanged. It was agreed upon that basic matters like the design of FESA logo are out of scope of the website project. It was furthermore pointed out that any solution for the website should be based on accessible resources and well documented in order to safeguard future operations and development independent from the current project team.

In order to assure a proper process the following has been decided by the GA at the end:

- The project team consisting of Michael Hoehne, Thomas Pfaffel and Andreas Neumaier will continue to work out the details of the new website.
- A steering committee consisting of Andrei Lysenka, Voytech Hrabal, Mariusz Stanaszek and Lukas Vyletel will give input to the project in terms of basic functions and major design issues.

- At the end the project team and steering committee will present a joint proposal to the GA for final decision. After tests and simulation the website is envisioned to start in the second half of 2020.

The GA thanks the team around Michael Hoehne for their valuable work on this project.

9. FESA development

a. Brief review of current statutes (constitution, rules & regulations)

Currently no issues have come up with regard to the FESA constitution or the body of rules & regulations. Review of these documents may continue through mail correspondence and then considered at the next GA.

b. Sharing of work in projects and administrative processes

For better coordination of activities and sharing of tasks Frank Rövekamp proposes to appoint a set of administrators for certain functions in a similar way as the rating administrator.

Despite its still limited size FESA is a complex organization involving a range of countries with different languages involving IT tasks, rule setting, event organization, finance, legal matters etc. For the time being two new posts are proposed:

- 1) Language administrator: The common language within FESA is English, but official documents need to be translated into French. Here the language administrator will be in charge to relieve the burden, which is currently borne by the treasurer. Furthermore it might become necessary or useful in the future to translate or summarize various pieces of information from the member country organizations into English or French. Finally important information in Japanese language from JSA or other sources maybe usefully shared within the FESA community and vice versa.
Frank Rövekamp proposes Sebastien Faber for this task, who is a native French speaker and fluent in English, German and Japanese among others. The GA appoints Sebastien Faber as language administrator with 8 votes and 1 abstention.
- 2) Communication system administrator: The “*fesashogi*” domain is used for official FESA-mails. Internal FESA communication is done by Google groups or other means. These tools need to be maintained and regularly updated. Furthermore the current and even more so the future website serve as an important forum of information, which also needs regular maintenance.
Frank Rövekamp proposes Thomas Pfaffel for this task, who is technically well qualified for this and as a member of the website project team well familiar with all related issues. The GA appoints Thomas Pfaffel as communication system administrator with 9 votes.

The GA finally appoints the absent Carl Johan Nilsson as rating administrator with 9 votes, who had indicated his willingness to continue with the according task before the meeting.

c. Long term development

Frank Rövekamp points out that the official postal address of FESA is the private address of Fabien Osmont. This has much helped with the official establishment of FESA under French law and has saved cost. This however cannot be a permanent solution for a developing international organization. A possible future solution is the use of an address service. A range

of such services are offered for a fee in France. For the time being Fabien Osmont may still be willing to “host” FESA, but the organization needs to consider alternatives in the future which do not put special burden to individual members.

Frank Rövekamp announces that he will stay in Japan for about six months from September as a visiting professor. He will keep in close touch with the FESA group, but also closely align again with JSA and use his stay to search for potential regular sponsors for European shogi.

10. Any other business

Philippe Le Roux introduces Fabien Osmont’s proposal to set an official minimum time for games rated by FESA.

Such a rule exists however already according to Article 15.4 of the official FESA rules: 30 minutes and 30 second byoyomi or 20 minutes and 40 second byoyomi. Exceptions of this rule, which may especially apply for the International Shogi Forum in Japan, may be made case by case with the approval of the GA.

With no other business forthcoming Frank Rövekamp closes General Assembly at 23:30.
Bratislava, August 16, 2019

Frank Rövekamp

Mariusz Stanaszek