



International Federation of Petanque and Jeu Provençal

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MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE **ON 10 AND 11 APRIL 2015** **AND INFORMATION**

These meetings took place at the Servotel Saint Vincent in Nice. They were preceded by a meeting of the CMSB medical committee, which now covers all three sports. Executive Committee members joined the meeting on their arrival.

Financial Questions:

The 2014 accounts, which had been verified the previous day, were approved unanimously. Michel Signaire said that the implementation of the 2015 budget was in accordance with forecasts. Documents attached.

Medical action and anti-doping measures:

Members were first reminded that the three international federations – FIPJP, FIB and CBI – had decided that in future there would be a single common medical committee under the aegis of the CMSB.

Jean-Pierre Cervetti and Giorgio Barone presented the reports of the meeting held in Marseille with Laetitia Zumbrunnen, who is responsible for the AMA at SportAccord; of the technicians' forum organised in Lausanne the previous month; and of the previous day's meeting of the medical committee.

Main points:

- the maximum alcohol consumption allowed in world competitions is maintained at 0.50 g/l. It is hoped that this will be extended to the level of national federations.
- beta blockers will be reinserted in the list of prohibited products as from 2016.
- a project tender will be launched with universities in the framework of the EU.
- Emphasis will be placed on the value of Boules sports in sport-health policy, in terms of prevention, practising of a physical activity, social contact, rehabilitation...
- documents concerning the rules for anti-doping tests, prohibited products, and AUTs, authorisation to use prohibited products for therapeutic reasons will be downloaded onto the FIPJP and CMSB websites.

Confederations' activity:

Americas: Bernard Aurouze has finished his term as interim president. The presidency is now covered by Xavier Thibault from the USA. Member countries need to play against each other and develop regional competitions in which the French “départements” of the region may be included. South America could possibly also be granted a team for the world championships.

Asia: Since Eddie Lim from Singapore is now president of the Confederation and no longer presiding over his national federation, activity has been reduced, particularly in terms of training of teachers and umpires as well as at the level of relations with the Asian Olympic committees. Petanque now forms part of the Asian Beach Games, the last edition of which took place in Phuket in November. Discussions are underway to get it into the Asian Games, which have been moved from Hanoi, where they had practically been set up, to Indonesia. Nong and the President will go there shortly to meet with the authorities.

New federations regularly join the Confederation. The most recent to join was Turkmenistan, whose president belongs to its National Olympic Committee. There will be a problem of precedence in Taiwan.

Oceania: The Confederation is looking for two new member countries, which would allow Petanque to enter the Pacific Games. It is already registered and its president, Jean-Christian Lérandy, has had permission from the political and sports authorities of New Caledonia for twelve teams instead of eight to be invited to the next Confederations Cup in October, as well as throughout the preceding week, to participate in the traditional international tournament. As Monaco does not wish to go because the dates clash with the Costa Challenge in the Principality, there is a place free for Europe. It will be offered first to the semi-finalists of the last European championships, Spain and Italy.

Europe: Gérard Schneider will be the official FIPJP representative in his management committee, which is now chaired by Mike Pegg. There should really be one in each of the leading organs of the confederations. It is crucial to ensure harmonisation of actions and homogeneity in the way they are run, since the confederations only exist because of the FIPJP.

He highlighted the creation in Luxembourg of a training centre available to all federations; it is situated in the national bouldrome, at which more than 600 spectators turned up to watch the final of the European Clubs' Cup.

Africa: Ibrahima Idrissou began by saying that, at the request of the FIPJP, Chad had withdrawn its offer to organise the world championships in 2016 because several countries had expressed fears about security. On the other hand, Chad will be able to organise the African championships this year as planned, from 12 to 14 June.

He has persuaded the Association of African Sports Confederations (AASC) – which succeeded the Superior Council for Sports in Africa (SCSA) after it was dissolved by the governments to allow the introduction of Boules sports in the African Games, with expenses covered for 100 people. The organising committee has chosen to allow only Petanque in the first event, which will take place from 4 to 19 September. President Azéma will go there in May to meet those responsible and hold an umpires' training course for this event. He will also assess the possibility of introducing a Lyonnaise competition, even though that sport is barely practised in Africa.



The technical delegate there will be Guy Tronou, ex level 3 trainer at the FFPJP, who returned to Benin about ten years ago.

Following some outspoken exchanges of emails between Africans, Eddhif Lassaâd proposed that a conciliation meeting be held in Tunis. The President accepted but stressed that exchanges of emails in which everyone was put in copy was particularly stupid, gave the sport a bad name, and made one think that those writing them were seeking self-promotion rather than to resolve the underlying problems. He reminded members that while the “petition” procedure can sometimes have a use in civil society, it had neither legitimacy nor grounds in the world of sport.

International co-operation and training initiatives:

Victor Nataf summed up the past year’s initiatives on umpire and teacher training, which had involved more than 200 trainees: in Vietnam, Indonesia, Tunisia, the Philippines, and Myanmar. The next ones will take place in Andorra and the Congo.

The FIPJP, in collaboration with the CIEP, issues trainer diplomas at levels 1, 2 and 3, but for umpiring it only awards the international umpiring diploma, as at the end of the other training courses there is only a test and the results are sent to the national federations, which then have to organise their own umpiring bodies and examinations.

Priority is given to training courses involving several countries, but the procedure is always the same: a request addressed to the FIPJP with trainers’ expenses paid, but with the possibility of agreements between a government and the FIPJP for travel expenses either of the trainers to the country concerned, or of the trainees to France for the higher levels.

The setting up of the training centre in Luxembourg will allow the issuing of European diplomas, which will be recognised by all countries.

A common training course for umpires of the three sports will take place at Saint Vulbas with a view to the forthcoming major international competitions. The number of officials and holiday-makers will be limited in order to provide more places for athletes. The idea is to create a single Technical Committee for the entire CMSB.

Umpiring:

The President began by highlighting the interest in, and great success of, the first international umpires seminar in Toulouse. It led to some very interesting proposals concerning both the rules of play and umpiring practice desired by the FIPJP. However, as it was impossible to present them to the 2014 Congress, they cannot be put into place until 1st January next year. Most of the new facilities were, at the request of Jean-Claude Dubois, tried out on competitions in France. They will be presented and discussed at the international umpires committee, before being adopted by the Executive Committee at its November meeting in Thailand.

Two examinations took place this year, in Kuala Lumpur and Mersin. They had three parts: written, practical and oral. The President, who participated in two exams, emphasised that the entrants were of a high quality – some were even remarkable. There were no low-level candidates, as there has sometimes been in the past. In particular, they all perfectly



understood the umpiring philosophy desired by the FIPJP, stressing the importance of umpires' behaviour, the way they handled players, and way of proceeding, and the fact that they were responsible for both the application of the rules but also for pedagogical aspects of the game.

The obligation to hold a continental diploma or to have been introduced by his or her confederation should lead to positive changes in this direction.

The only candidate who failed did demonstrate an excellent knowledge and a perfect understanding of the role of umpire. On the other hand, he lost his way a little during the practical test. He will no doubt obtain his diploma at a forthcoming session, as the strong interest he showed for this function and his state of mind show that he has a future in the role.

Thus the following people passed the FIPJP international umpiring examination:

- Abdelillah Ait Ahmed (Morocco)
- Patrick Burgeat (France)
- Didier Schmitt (France)
- Hicham Rahmi (Morocco)
- Peter Beaumont (Australia)
- Justin Cheng (Taiwan)
- Atif Ismail (Malaysia)

The successful candidates will receive their umpire's card, badge and shirt via their own federations.

Communication:

Claude Stirmel stated that at the request of Infomaniak, he would proceed to delete mailboxes that were not active, as some were too full of unread messages. The official mailbox addresses were those that included the name of the country, in French or English, followed by @fipjp.com. The FIPJP only wrote to those addresses and could change the password on request. Federations could also request the redirection of messages arriving in those mailboxes to personal email addresses and have them deleted.

Federations may add information to the FIPJP website as it is important to keep it active. This concerns particularly the English website, which English speakers must not hesitate to correct if they see errors – even though translations are now done by a British person.

CHAMPIONSHIPS AND WORLD CUPS:

2015:

- **Women's World Cup by team at Lons le Saunier:** This competition, organised in order to benefit from funds for televising it, was a great success. A great start for the Equipe 21 channel, and in general for Women's Petanque, which no channel had ever wanted to broadcast. It was the third broadcast since the opening of the channel, which seems to have got a taste for it as it has scheduled another broadcast for the French federation.

The matches were organised on a team basis, following the formula used in 1996 for the first Women's European championship – the shooting competition having replaced the "tête-à-



tête”, as in the Cities Trophy these days – which was particularly appreciated. It would be good to follow this formula for all of the Confederations Cups.

- **Tête-à-tête World Championships in Nice**: This event was also a great success and followed on from the experimental competition organised last year. The men’s and women’s events were broadcast live on Sport Plus, then later on France Télévisions with almost 3 million viewers. No problems with accommodation, meals or transfers; well supported by the local authorities and the Alpes Maritimes Committee of the FFPJP. The only problem was the communication difficulty between the boudodromes, but in the end everything worked out fine.

- **Confederations World Cup**:

This will take place at Nouméa (New Caledonia) from 16 to 18 October. With the strong backing of the different local authorities the Federation chose to invite not just eight but twelve federations and to welcome them from 9 October so that the teams could participate in the international competition of Nouméa. The Confederations selected the following:

- Africa: Morocco and Tunisia + Madagascar
- Americas: Canada + Martinique
- Asia: Thailand and Malaysia
- Europe: France and Monaco but to be replaced (Spain or Italy)
- Oceania: Tahiti and New Caledonia + Vanuatu

The competition will be based on the formula used at Lons le Saunier: two doubles with 1 point then a triple with 2 points without a replacement, the fourth player automatically taking part in the simplified shooting match in order to decide between two teams in the event of a tie after the triples.

- **Juniors’ and Women’s World Championships**: Nonthaburi (Thailand)

Calendar: 31 October: Welcome dinner and draw
 1st to 3/11: Juniors World Championship
 4 November: Executive Committee meeting
 5 November: Morning: International Congress
 5 to 7 : Women’s World Championship
 7 November: Closing dinner

The championships will be held in an air-conditioned area within the university and the teams will be met on arrival at Bangkok airport. Their expenses will be covered for four days, rather than just three.

The cost for other members of the delegations will be 65 € per person per day with three meals in a single room; and 45 € per person per day in a double room with three meals. Teams will be able to stay in or outside the university, about 20 minutes away by shuttle bus.

Scoreboard: Michel Signaire - Karel Dohnal - Claude Stirmel

Umpires: Chen Chao-Yen (Alex) (Chinese Taipei) - Ismaël Atif (Malaysia) –an international umpire from Thailand



Jury: Juniors: Claudio Mamino –Delegates from Tunisia and Turkey – an umpire –
Ruejumon Vichaidist (Cherry)

Women's: Reinold Borré – Delegates from Myanmar and Spain – an umpire – a
member of the organising committee

Anti-doping, medicine and technical: Dr. Cervetti and Victor Nataf. Planned: 8 tests + an
alcohol test

2016: Men's World Championship

In view of the fears expressed by the governments of numerous countries at the Nice Congress and thereafter about the security situation in Chad, the President asked Mr. Idrissou to explain the situation to the Chad Federation and why the world championships could not be held in N'Djamena in the current circumstances. The President will go to Chad to meet the president of that country – himself an ex-player – if possible at the time of the General Assembly of the African Confederation, to be held during the African championships.

The results of a survey showed the following:

- 24 federations are prepared to go to Tahiti, three to Chad and 17 would not go to either of the two countries
- Out of three continents the vast majority, if not the unanimity of federations, would return to Tahiti, while Europe voted the opposite way.

During the discussion, members of the Executive Committee took note that:

- the responses had been determined by economic factors more than by the facts of the cases, added to which there was a lack of confidence in Tahiti's capacity to organise the event;
- It was crucial to organise a Men's World Championship in 2016 and to return to alternating between the Women's and the Men's;
- The global aspect of our sport had to be taken into account, thus the necessity to diversify the venues of the world championships;
- Despite appearances, the FIPJP had received officially only two complete files with signed specifications, those of Chad (now put aside) and Tahiti;
- If Tahiti is to be given another chance – its federation was not to blame for the political decision taken by the local authorities, and its members had already worked hard on the file – it would be necessary to lay down additional conditions to ensure that any pending reimbursements were dealt with, and to have a guarantee in the event that new problems arose in the future.

They therefore adopted unanimously the communiqué which had already been sent to all federations, which is appended to this report.

They also decided that, from now on, applications must have the opinion of the confederations and be sent by them. This does not mean that they cannot be sent directly to



the FIPJP for information. A file will only be considered complete – including for those to be sent before 31 May for 2016 and/or 2018 – if it contains: an application letter, a letter from the local authorities confirming their participation; a signed specification; and the payment of the 10,000 € deposit.

Reminder: 31 May will be the deadline for Tahiti to satisfy the required conditions and for the depositing of a possible bid for 2016 and/or 2018.

2017:

- **Women's World Championships**: No bid

- **Juniors' World Championships**: No bid

- **World Championships new formula**:

After the success of the tête-à-tête championships, we will try offering federations the opportunity of participating in the doubles and mixed doubles championships. The latter formula fits perfectly within the policy of mixed teams favoured by the International Olympic Committee.

As we have seen with the tête-à-tête, this will benefit the smaller federations and allow them to reduce travel costs, as a single delegate per country will suffice. On the other hand, the specification will set out the way in which the federations will settle the payment of expenses. The organisers will offer several choices.

There will be a maximum of four players per team – two women and two men – for five championships: tête-à-tête and women's and men's doubles, then mixed doubles. For this experimental event there will be no continental qualifiers.

A working group will be convened on the subject during the world championships in Bangkok.

Reinold Borré presented Belgium's bid – probably in Gentbrugge – proposing daily tariffs at 157 € in a single room, 112 € x 2 in a double room, and 94 € x 3 in triple rooms, including room and meals.

- **Women's Confederations World Cup**: No bid

2018 and following years: No bids

INTERNATIONAL MULTISPORTS EVENTS:

- **Commonwealth Games** (Glasgow- July 2014): The President went to Glasgow to meet the new British president of the International Lawn Bowls Federation, which is part of these Games, and its treasurer. The sport is well publicised with many spectators, but few young followers. For the time being its managers have no intention of returning to the CMSB, but they are still prepared to collaborate on a case-by-case basis as they did with the FIPJP.

- **Asian Beach Games** (Phuket - November 2014): Nong and the President took part in the Petanque competition (9 matches), one of the 26 sports selected. Thirteen countries



participated, including Turkmenistan, which made its first appearance. That didn't stop its women's team winning a bronze medal in the triples!

This event was an opportunity to make many interesting contacts with the sports ministers of several countries and most of all with the presidents of national Olympic committees. In particular, plans for two training courses were drawn up with those interested: the Philippines and Myanmar. It is interesting to note that the managers of Petanque federations in South-East Asia nearly always include a member of the country's Olympic committee.

The President also collected the technical handbooks of all the sports in preparation for the forthcoming meetings on the World Beach Games which SportAccord wants to launch.

The 2016 event should take place at Nha Trang in Vietnam.

- **Games of the Small States of Europe** (Reykjavik, 1 to 6 June 2015): From now on the rule is that eleven sports will take part, plus two chosen by the organising country. This year, however, the sport of Boules, which was present in 2013 in Luxembourg, was not selected. It should return in 2017 when these Games will be held in San Marino.

- **SEA Games** (Singapore, 29 May to 16 June 2015): Petanque was not very well represented in Singapore; nor was it recognised by the NOC, so it took persuasion by numerous countries in order to retain it, and it will keep its eleven matches. Nong will supervise the competitions and ensure that the technical specification is respected.

- **Indian Ocean Islands Games** (La Réunion: 1 to 9 August 2015): Even though Petanque has usually formed part of these Games since of the seven participating countries, six have a national federation, the work has not been done correctly on site. The Departmental Committee of La Réunion – linked to the FFPJP – has not managed to establish itself. Consequently, Petanque will not form part of the programme. This shows the necessity of following these events and setting up dedicated bodies on the ground.

- **Mediterranean Beach Games** (Pescara, 28 August to 6 September 2015): Having fought to obtain these first Games, the town of Pescara does not have the means to ensure that they are run correctly. The President learnt in Sochi from Mr. Adaddi that there will be only ten or eleven sports – compared with about twenty at the Asian Beach Games! – and that the Boules sports would finally not be included, despite what had been said within the CMSB in 2013. Petanque had proposed doubles and shooting events, a progressive shooting event in Lyonnaise, and Raffia, a game combining the three sports but resembling none of them.

- **African Games** (Brazzaville, 4 to 19 September 2015): Thanks to action taken by the President of the African Confederation, which resulted in the reintegration of the ACSB in the AASC, Petanque will enter these 50th anniversary Games with 100 people's expenses being covered. Priority will be given to those countries that had obtained their ticket in 2013 for the world championships in Tahiti.

It would also be highly desirable to envisage a women's competition, especially as there are some very high-quality teams on the continent. A demonstration of Lyonnaise could also be organised, but the real presence of this sport is weak on the continent and we must ensure that that does not lead to the same failure as happened in 1992 for the Barcelona Olympics, where pressure to get the three sports selected resulted in the disappearance of Boules from the



demonstration sports. It would be much better to follow the same procedure as for the World Games or the Mediterranean Games, with successive entries.

The President, who will go to the venue mid-May to meet with the COJA and the Minister of Sports of the Congo, is personally following the issue with the CMSB's technical delegate, Guy Tronou.

- **TAFISA Sport for All Games** (Jakarta, 7 to 14 October 2016): During the working group on the theme "Games of Yesterday – Sports for Today", the President obtained the participation of Boules in these Games, where only demonstrations and initiations are organised. Ten people's expenses will be covered for the duration of the event. The FIB president has already signalled his agreement. In addition, the facilities will be open for parallel international competitions, and the Asian Confederation is going to look into various possibilities.

- **World Games** (Wroclaw, 20 to 30 August 2017): As from the preliminary discussions, the President obtained the IWGA's agreement to increase the number of qualifying countries from six to eight. He also negotiated a slight rise in the number of persons whose expenses would be covered, with a large reduction in the number of "officials", from 23 to eight, and 32 players per sport. Petanque will have a doubles and a precision shooting event, but with one of the doubles players. Subsequently, a difficulty has arisen as the city of Wroclaw, seriously in debt and struggling with fierce domestic opposition, has sought to "sell" some of the sports in its region. Alerted by our technical delegate, David Nouraud, the President went to Poland to participate in the first preparatory meeting. He visited the proposed site, 80 km away and lost in the countryside, which would completely separate the sport and the players from the World Games. He intervened during the group's last meeting to put forward his arguments and obtained satisfaction, as shown by the letter from President Perurena in reply to his correspondence.

However, at the IWGA General Assembly at SportAccord, the organising committee resumed the attack by proposing to organise the competitions at Jedlina and to offer the teams two extra days in Wroclaw with a demonstration of Boules sports. The President made it clear that that is out of the question.

- **Mediterranean Games** (Tarragona: June 2017): The technical delegate, Mario Bascomte, will follow the preparatory operations, liaising with the Spanish Petanque Federation. It goes without saying that Petanque and Lyonnaise will be selected, but the organising committee is less happy about including Raffa, as it is not practised in Spain and no particular effort has been made to include it at the start of the process of drawing up the programme. The President did however meet the CIJM President, Mr. Adaddi, in Sochi and asked him to try if possible to review this decision.

For Petanque there will be two match categories for the men and the women, as was the case up until 2005 in Almeira; there will be doubles – perhaps triples – and precision shooting, as Lyonnaise has opted for progressive shooting in singles and doubles.

- **Youth Olympic Games** (Buenos Aires, 2018): As soon as Buenos Aires was chosen, Alfredo Limardo, President of the Argentinean Boules Confederation and Deputy Secretary General of the Argentinean Sports Confederation, started the procedure of introducing Boules into this sort of antechamber to the Olympic Games. The President met him when he was with



the rugby team of the French Parliamentary XV and gave him authorisation to represent the CMSB on this subject, whichever sport is selected.

- **Asian Games** (Indonesia, 2019): In Hanoi where these Games were initially supposed to be held, Petanque had a good chance of being selected on account of the strong support of the Olympic Committee of this country. But as Vietnam has recently withdrawn its bid to hold the Games, they have been moved to Indonesia. The Indonesian Federation immediately made contact with the appropriate people. A meeting, which the President and Nong will attend, will be scheduled with the president of the Indonesian Olympic Committee, Mrs Rita Subowo, who has already taken part in training courses organised last year. In fact, organising countries may choose ten match types.

Having been included in the Asian Indoor Games, Petanque will make an interesting first appearance in what remains the second biggest multisport event after the Olympic Games, bringing together more than 10,000 athletes in 36 sports.

- **Pacific Games:** The president of the Oceanic Confederation is still endeavouring to get two additional countries to join, because even though Petanque figures on the list of programmable sports, it has to have at least six member countries. Australia and New Zealand do not take part in these Games.

CMSB AND OLYMPIC APPLICATION:

The President wished to update members on the action taken by the CMSB, the only body, he reminded them, recognised by the IOC, and on the Olympic application.

Even before being elected to CMSB President, on 16 April 2014, he had participated in the SportAccord Convention in Kemer (Turkey) where he had reminded members of the ARISF General Assembly of the steps he had taken the previous year regarding the entry conditions of the sports in the Olympic Games.

He and Romolo Rizzoli met Coralie McConnell, the person responsible for the IOC's relations with the international federations. They set up a meeting with her office in Lausanne. The sum allocated to the CMSB rose from \$20,000 to \$25,000 on condition that a third was used for actions in the field of anti-doping and the remainder for training.

The President also had several discussions with Mr. Amar Addadi, President of the CIJM, to get him to agree to the return to four match types for Petanque, as for other sports: thus in 2017 there will be doubles (or triples) and precision shooting, in men's and women's.

After his election he immediately got in touch with Joachim Gossow, Director of the World Games. This resulted, after several exchanges, in a reduction in the number of officials and a rise in the number of qualifying countries from six to eight for each of the three sports, and thus to a growth in the number of athletes whose expenses will be covered. Each of the sports will have four match types in 2017: two for the women's and two for the men's.

On the day he returned from the Asian Beach Games in Phuket, where he had had meetings all week with numerous sports ministers and Asian NOC presidents, he spent two days in Wroclaw to support the action taken by our technical delegate, David Nouraud, against the threat to decentralise the Boules sports 80 km away from the World Games venue. They achieved satisfaction at the meeting then subsequently in writing, though that did not stop



those responsible for organising the event from returning to the attack at the IWGA General Assembly in Sochi.

The President also had excellent talks with the President of SportAccord, Marius Vizer, who has invited him to the international judo championships in Montpellier, then to a working lunch in Lausanne in July. In Sochi he named Claude chairman of the committee on the forthcoming World Beach Games.

On 26 May the accounts were finalised in Monaco. Mr Rizzoli had been authorised to withdraw the remainder of the sums that he had brought by way of the Italian Boules Federation, leaving only a small nest egg available.

During the same period the President began a reform of the CMSB statutes by deleting completely two rules: the obligation to take Monegasques as treasurer and secretary; and the rule that said that the CMSB would be dissolved if one of the founder federations were to withdraw.

On 24 and 25 June the President went to Lausanne to meet the future counterparts of the CMSB: Christian Wassmer, Director of the department for relations between the IOC and the international federations; Vlad Marinescu, Director General of SportAccord; David Nivelles, Director of the Multisport Games Unit; and Laetitia Zumbrunnen, correspondent of the World Anti-Doping Agency at SportAccord, who made facilities available to update us on the subject, particularly concerning the WADA code and the testing procedures.

The President has been back there several times since, notably from 3 to 5 November to participate in the international federations' seminar on communication. This gave him an opportunity to make numerous contacts, especially with those responsible for Euronews, a partner of SportAccord, to set up regular collaboration. He saw them again anyway in Sochi. His main intervention in Sochi was in the workshop on relations between ARISF and the IOC to propose that each federation that wanted its sport selected for the Olympics complete in advance a short questionnaire about the type of match wanted, the number of countries concerned, the number of athletes that would be involved, and the requirements in terms of facilities. A session of ARISF could be devoted to this subject and a report drawn up for submission to the IOC; such a report would be suitable for sending also to candidate or organising cities to give them concrete information in order to help them choose possible additional elements which they may wish to add to the Olympic programme.

The Sports Director of the IOC, Kit McConnell, was interested by this idea.

The President went to Monaco twice: first to take part in the inauguration of the magnificent covered bouldrome in the presence of HRH Prince Albert; then to follow the sittings of the 127th Session of the IOC, during which recommendations on the 2020 Agenda were adopted.

The President also took part in some Lyonnaise events: the first African championships organised at the initiative of the African Confederation in Tunis, but with just three countries; the final of the Whitsun tournament in Lyons; a meeting of the Management Committee of the FIB at Saluzzo where a sponsorship award was concluded with Boulenciel for the FIPJP; the women's world championships at Macon with an Executive Committee meeting to follow in the presence of the directors of the Lunacom company who had come to present their project and their vision of the application.



After a first meeting in July with Marc Gu erin, who created and piloted the Point P Trophy when Claude was president of the FFPJP before spending many years as director of ASO for the Tour de France, several working sessions had been organised. The desire to launch an official bid on behalf of Boules for the Olympic programme was strong, as Marc and his wife were Boules fanatics. The documents to be sent to the federations in May will show the procedure, perfectly illustrated by the plaque created to be presented during SportAccord.

The key words are quality, rejuvenation and improvement of the image of Boules. The first step was to change the CMSB logo, with the federations being invited to do the same, the creation of new websites for the CMSB and for the bid, making them more dynamic and interactive, and the arrival on the social networks.

However, it is crucial to avoid personal uncoordinated initiatives, so that the procedure remains homogenous and of equal quality. The initiative must not come from one country or another, but from all sides of the planet, from all countries, and all of the federations. Our universality, our sports' attributes of conviviality and a capacity to bring people together are our best weapons in the face of the financial or media weight of other sports.

We are far from sure of success, but we will at least have presented another image – more business-like, more dynamic – of our sport; we will have made it better known and more appreciated, which should help its further development and benefit all the national federations with a mind to engage in the action. But no one is obliged to believe in the future.

INTERNATIONAL TEXTS:

- Specification for the manufacture of boules and certification

The President, Michel Signaire and St ephane Pintus met Mr. Data, CEO of Boulenciel, in Macon. Mr. Data presented to them his new coloured boules, whose shells are only half pierced, leaving the insides empty. The question of the hardness of the coloured parts remains to be verified, and the percentage of the surface concerned tested.

Mr. Data also submitted for testing two models of boules entirely in steel, one stainless steel and the other carbon. Both were successful in the tests carried out by the LNE – the national testing laboratory – and have therefore been certified under the LI and LC labels respectively.

The Executive Committee is also finalising the certification of boules that have been accepted technically by the LNE:

Geologic: Alpha, Delta T and Delta P

Delcotec: White Boule BB-AC

Nationman: V5 and V9

The registration of the labels was updated in accordance with the favourable opinion of the LNE.

- Petanque rules:

The interesting proposals put forward by members of the Umpiring Committee following the remarkable international umpires' seminar in Toulouse last year could not be presented to the



International Congress before the end of 2014 for application in 2015 as planned, as the Congress could not take place in Tahiti and we had to wait until January to hold it.

Information was sent to the federations, and France chose to try out most of them this season. The Umpiring Committee will meet before the next World Championships in Bangkok so that the Executive Committee can adopt them and present them to the Congress for general application at the beginning of 2016. The principle of just one revision every four years was also decided.

- FIPJP statutes:

Lassaâd Eddhif has sent some proposals for changes. Obviously, the FIPJP statutes should also be changed, for example to take account of the setting up of continental confederations. A working group has been created on this subject, including Eddhif Lassaâd, Reinold Borré and Gérard Schneider who will take up the title of Vice-President in charge of reform of the statutes, in order to put the case to the Luxembourg authorities.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Karel Dohnal has asked all members of the Executive Committee – and federation managers – to check the texts on the website, particularly in English, to see both whether they are up to date and if they contain errors.

Claude Azema
President

