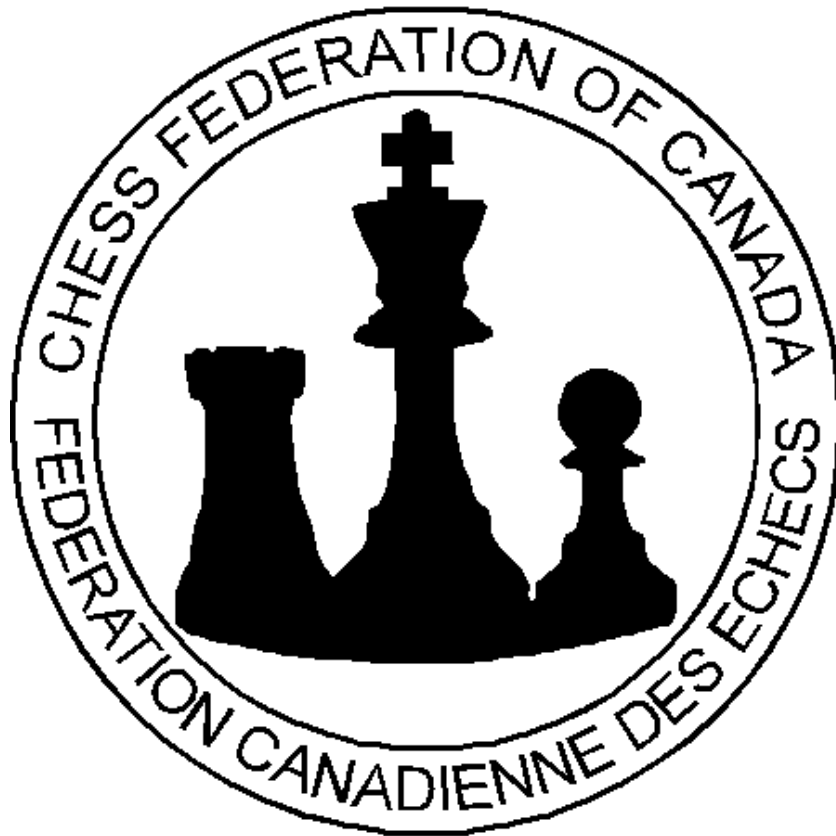


CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER TWO 2000-2001



Responses may be mailed, faxed or E-mailed to the Chess Federation of Canada, E-1 2212 Gladwin Crescent, Ottawa, ON, K1B 5N1, fax: 613-733-5209, E-Mail: info@chess.ca

ATTENTION ALL GOVERNORS: Anyone with an E-Mail address can have their Governors' Letter sent to them via E-Mail and save the CFC paper and postage costs. Please E-Mail info@chess.ca if interested.

Deadline for next Governors' Letter is November 15, 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The biggest and most important news since the last G.L. is that we now have a sponsor for the Canadian National team at the Olympiad in Istanbul. Belzberg Technologies Inc. have agreed to cover the cost of sending the team to the Olympiad. Also, Sid Belzberg, CEO and Donald Wilson COO will be going to Istanbul to actively assist the team wherever possible. This is a huge commitment and the CFC is very grateful to the Belzberg Group for their personal and financial involvement. We wish both the National and Women's teams much success and an enjoyable time in Istanbul. It is a great honour to be playing for your Country and I am sure our teams will represent us well.

A motion recently passed by the Governors states that En Passant will make space available for Provincial news. While items of this nature are welcome, this space is not for items that would normally appear elsewhere in the magazine. Also, it is not for items that would normally be considered as advertising. I trust this clarifies any questions that might have arisen from the results of this motion.

Increasing memberships and reducing costs. These are the keys to what is becoming an increasingly challenging year for the CFC. While the Executive tries to keep a lid on expenses, we certainly need assistance in obtaining new members. Clubs, Governors and all CFC members can help by reaching out to chess players to become active members in our organization. One factor in our favour that can be stressed is the cost compared to joining other sporting organizations. Also, the excitement and intensity of playing a live person within arms reach is more satisfying than continually hammering away at a computer.

Everyone may have their own feeling about this, but we do need the positive aspects of the CFC demonstrated to prospective members and we do appreciate all the help we can get in obtaining these new members. The Fall season is when many clubs renew their activities after the summer break. As players return to action, I hope they will be able to embrace new members into our organization during this time. The next edition of the G.L. should be out by year end. So until then, best wishes in the world of chess.

Maurice Smith
President
Chess Federation Of Canada

KEEPING GOVERNORS INFORMED

Women's Coordinator - Denis Allan resigned from this position in September. The President will attempt to fill this non-Executive position in the near future.

Handbook Update - Francisco Cabanas is working on updating the Handbook. Sections 4 and 5 have been completed. Also when current motions that have reference to the Handbook are passed in the G.L., the Secretary will inform the Business Office to make the appropriate change. Governors should further note that future motions whose passing would reflect on portions of the Handbook, but have not included the appropriate wording for the Handbook, may be ruled out of order.

Women's Olympic Team - David Chu was named elected captain by the Executive.

Maurice Smith
President
Chess Federation Of Canada

OLYMPIC FUNDRAISING

The Olympic Fund is within \$1000 or so of covering the cost of sending our team to Istanbul.

The Olympic Fund Update in the October issue of En Passant does not include two recent donations, a \$7,200 donation from Belzberg Technologies and \$600 from Chris Collins.

I would like to personally thank all our contributors. Those Governors who have not contributed to the Olympic Fund should consider making a donation to take the fund over the top!

Halldor P. Palsson
Vice President

2001 CYCC ORGANIZATION DETAILS

The following list of responsibilities as proposed by Dave Barrett, 2001 Canadian Open & CYCC Organizer, were agreed to by the CFC Executive in Edmonton. The entry fees per player are to be split as follows: \$50 to the local organizer (Mt Allison University) and \$100 to the national organizer (the CFC).

Fred McKim
Secretary
Chess Federation of Canada

CFC Responsibilities:

- establish entry fee schedule
- collect entry fees
- establish and maintain website
- promote and advertise the event
- pay FIDE and CFC rating fees
- provide tournament pairing software
- provide trophies, plaques and awards
- provide tournament rules and regulations

-provide transportation and accommodation for CFC staff.

-determine qualifying criteria for Pan-Am and World events

-provide transportation to World event for the winning players

Organizer's Responsibilities:

-provide facilities including tables, chairs and table clothes if necessary

-provide tournament director and arbitrators

-provide inexpensive accommodation for players

-provide GMs and/or IMs for simulms or lectures

-provide facility including tables, chairs, table clothes and phone line (local calls only) for CFC store.

CFC TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The C.F.C. used to have a Tournament Director certification program which included a test of thirty questions that covered various aspects of tournament chess rules. Somewhere in the last few years, this just seemed to fade away and was forgotten. We would like to revive it, because it should be an important part of a Tournament Director's development. It requires that a T.D. become knowledgeable in all areas of chess rules. Also, once a person has the Certified Tournament Director achievement, it gives him more weight when handling disputes. Therefore we are looking for volunteers to help put this together. If we could get three knowledgeable persons to form a Committee and put together a new T.D. certification program, it would be very helpful to us. The C.F.C. Executive have had some large issues to deal with in the last two months and we all have some priorities that we are working on, and others keep arising. Therefore, any help from volunteers on issues like this one are appreciated. This

is the kind of item that you start working on, then other issues arise that seem to have more priority, and it gets put aside. Well I would hate to see this put on the back burner again. If we could get two volunteers, then it is likely that an Executive member could be of assistance in some way. So if you are interested, please advise Fred McKim, C.F.C. Secretary
fred_mckim@hotmail.com)
and hopefully we can get this underway again.

Maurice Smith
President
Chess Federation Of Canada

BIDS FOR 2001 ZONAL

The CFC Executive would welcome bids for the next Canadian Closed and Zonal Tournament. This event must be held before next year's World Championship, therefore a prompt response from organizers is necessary to allow adequate time for all the necessary arrangements. Please send all bids to the CFC Business Office.

Maurice Smith
President
Chess Federation Of Canada

MOTIONS

Motion 01-1: (Roger Langen-Robert Webb): Whereas titles assist chess players to advertise competence for chess teaching and otherwise to enjoy the recognition of their peers for an achieved level of play;

be it resolved that the CFC adopt a title system for players rated above 1999 such that:

1) A player who attains a rating of 2000-

2199 be awarded the title of Expert, provided that this rating level is maintained for 24 consecutive games, exclusive of privately arranged matches or private tournaments not previously approved by the CFC;

2) A player who attains the rating of 2200-2299 be awarded the title of Candidate Master, provided that this level is maintained for 24 consecutive games, exclusive of privately arranged matches or private tournaments not previously approved by the CFC;

3) A player who attains a rating of 2300 be automatically awarded the title of National Master;

4) A player who attains the rating of 2400 be automatically awarded the title of Senior Master, with attendant rights and/or privileges for national or international play as may be decided by the CFC; and be it further resolved that the CFC adopt a certificate system for class players such that:

1) A player who attains a rating of 1900 be certified an A-class player;

2) A player who attains a rating of 1700 be certified a B-class player;

3) A player who attains a rating of 1500 be certified a C-class player;

4) A player who attains a rating of 1200 be certified a D-class player.

Roger Langen & Robert Webb: The above Motion may be treated as a single motion subject to various amendments or deletions; or reduced to two motions, on titles and certificates, respectively.

Questions related to the execution of the Motion if passed may be treated separately. Certificates, for example, may be signified by an annotation on the membership card with updates reflected on the electronic rating list; that is, they need not be designed as paper products for members (although it may be useful to reward Junior players with

a certificate proper). Title designations may be annotated as follows: Candidate Master (cm), National Master (NM), Senior Master (SM). If three Master titles seems too many, then I suggest dropping the Senior Master title for the time being. The other two titles affect more players.

A mid-range rating is not suggested for the D-class certificate as that rating range is a novice attainment; as, furthermore, first entry into a Class category should be recognized at the point of contact (to encourage younger players and reward participation in CFC events); and as distinction for prize purposes is not usually made among players rated below 1400, so that a concern to establish a D-class standard is not pertinent.

A qualification period is not suggested for the titles of National Master or Senior Master, as the attainment of the ratings 2300 and 2400 under the current system is already a remarkable achievement.

Players active over the last three years (or more, as the CFC may determine) should receive titles or certificates immediately as per the criteria above. Exceptions might be made in some cases for the period prior to the rating change, e.g. ratings of 2300 attained by the 16+ formula but not maintained. For players not active in the last three years, a committee of the CFC may decide the manner of assigning titles and certificates.

The movers of this Motion, Governors Roger Langen and Robert Webb, recommend this Motion to our fellow Governors and to the CFC Executive. We believe it will encourage greater interest and participation in CFC events at all rating levels. We invite discussion.

Motion 01-2: (Martin Jaeger/ Wilf Ferner)
That after the words "highest rated chosen" in 1203a) the words "from among participants in the most recent Closed and Zonal" be inserted.

Martin Jaeger: At the AGM, particularly as part of the masters' rep report, the question of strengthening participation in the Closed was addressed. The above motion would provide for an added incentive for increased participation by strong players.

This motion would make participation in the Closed a necessary condition for being chosen a selection rating list member of the team. Hence the strong players would have a stronger incentive to participate. Accordingly other registrants would have an enhanced opportunity to meet strong players over the board, and thereby earn selection rating list rating points. The event would be stronger and the Closed would serve partially as a qualifier event. The increase in the strength of the tournament would provide an increased incentive for organisers to step forward.

Motion 01-3: (Richard Bowes / Ken Craft)
That in Motion 01-1 a) the proposal for certificates to class players (below 2000) be eliminated and b) the clause "exclusive of privately arranged matches or private tournaments not previously approved by the CFC" under articles 1 & 2 be eliminated.

Note: The President has ruled that Motion 01-03 is actually an amendment of 01-01. While the numbering can remain the same for reference purposes, the amendment will have to be voted on first when the time comes.

Richard Bowes: a) I don't agree that this adds anything. The present division of classes and publication of ratings is

sufficient to distinguish/advertise the achievements of class players.

b) This is impractical and implies an undefined criteria to apply to the 24 consecutive games in order that they qualify.

Straw Vote Topic 01-1: (Martin Jaeger)

“That the Canadian zonal be held biennially and if a second world championship be held between zonals, Canada's representative to the second world championship be the winner of a match held between the first and second place finishers at the most recent zonal.”

Martin Jaeger: The world championship is now tending to be an annual event but holding a zonal every year is beyond the financial capabilities of Canadian players and organisations. Accordingly the above straw vote motion is presented.

While we (players and organization) cannot afford to hold a zonal every year, we should be able to finance a biennial Closed and a biennial match. In my view the match would be an interesting event for our membership.

MOTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION

First Discussion of 01-1

Ari Mendrinós: For players above 1999 should be as follows : The players with a range 2000-2199 should be called EXPERTS. Over 2200 a player is considered a Master and therefore the various titles apply such as FIDE Master, International Master and Grandmaster. As they do in the States a person that is steady as 2300 level should be called a National Master.

I don't think we need any certificates for players Under 2000 as the players with a range of 1600-1999 are called Intermediate

players and those below 1600 are called amateurs.

So the levels are 1) less than 1600

AMATEURS

2) 1600-1999

INTERMEDIATE

3) 2000-2199 EXPERTS

4) 2200 and over the Titles

that I mentioned above.

David Gebhardt: This motion dealt with titles for players rated above 1999 and certificates for class players. While I will gladly support this if it is passed, I would like some more information about this first.

One of the points of this Motion is that the movers of the Motion believe that it will “encourage greater interest and participation in CFC events at all rating levels.” The USCF has had a similar sort of system in place for quite a while now. Has anyone contacted them to see how popular their system is? Do we have a good idea that this will actually improve interest in chess through discussing this with even a small group of players (even 50-100 players would give some indication)? Do we know of any other country that has done this to encourage participation and, if so, have they been contacted to discover any pros and cons of the system?

I personally believe that it is mainly our younger players that might be interested in a certificate system for class players. If this part of the Motion is simply intended to encourage junior participation, then that is fine. Does this system simply require a player to achieve the specified rating, or does it have to be maintained for a period of time?

I like the idea of a titled system for chess players, but I'm not sure whether adding additional titles at every level is a good idea – this may simply devalue the achievement

if there is a large number of titled players (and there are a significant number of players above 2000). Perhaps this system should only be implemented for players above 2300 and 2400 (parts 3 and 4 of the first part of the Motion).

How much labour will this system require once it is implemented? Is there any cost associated with implementing this system? As we all know, the CFC is tight on funds and needs to ensure that any spending is done wisely.

David Miriguay: What I would like to see (if this motion passes) is that it be left up to the individual involved to apply for the certificate. For example: if someone feels they deserve a Master certificate, they will have to provide the office with the proper information ie: where they achieved the appropriate rating and how they maintained that rating for the appropriate amount of time. That way, all the office will have to do is to verify the information and produce the certificate. There really would not be that much time/effort needed by the office if the "leg work" has already been done.

I would also like to see there be an application fee submitted with the application/request.

If the office had to keep track of everyone's movements, we would get bogged down. It would take so long we wouldn't be able to do anything else. Also, not everyone cares about receiving a "class certificate" so having the people "apply" for one is the best solution.

Alvah Mayo: As a Maritimer I am strongly opposed to the new title system proposed by Mr Webb and Mr Langen. My reasons are as follows:

1. The proposed system would raise the bar for the National Master title by 100 points to 2300. Due to the deflated ratings in Atlantic Canada it is already virtually impossible to gain the NM title at the current 2200 level. I can count on one hand the number of people who have managed to obtain a 2200 rating in Nova Scotia during my 15+ years as a CFC member. Raise that bar to 2300 and that number drops to zero. Couple this with the ridiculous new deflationary rating system the CFC now employs and you can kiss goodbye the chances of anyone from the Maritimes ever obtaining this "new and improved" NM title.

2. The proposed system requires CFC "approval" of tournaments before they are counted towards the various titles and excludes match results entirely. Are matches and events without "prior CFC approval" rated under the same system as other events? Of course! As such, these events should obviously count in any ratings based title system. Additionally, I don't like any system which introduces a brand new requirement for organizers to seek prior approval from the CFC to run an event. Interestingly enough the "prior approval" clause doesn't seem to be necessary for the 2300-2400+ set, judging by its absence from sections 3) and 4) of the proposed system.

Lyle Craver: Although only a motion for discussion I see several points I'd have strong reservations about:

1) Resolution paragraph 1: what do the motion's movers mean by "private tournaments not previously approved by the CFC"? Since the CFC is not in the habit of approving tournaments now, what precisely does this clause mean? As things stand, this bars pretty much ANY Canadian tournament other than the various National championships and the Canadian Open.

What is the definition of a "private tournament"? Any "closed" event?

2) The changed definitions of 'national master' and 'candidate master' - the latter term most players understand to be synonymous with "Expert". To me this would only lead to endless confusion

3) There are obvious transitional issues not remotely discussed by this motion particularly concerning inactive players.

For these and other reasons I cannot support 01-1 in its present form. Perhaps with further crafting I might but there is a LOT of work needed before I could support this motion.

John Rutherford: I agree with the whole motion - including senior master title. The more titles, the better; the more heroes, the better!

Discussion of new Motion 01-2

Kevin Spraggett: I definitely am not a fan of Martin Jaeger's ideas concerning how to improve the Canadian Chess Championship and the Canadian National Team. And I would hope that no one takes any of his ideas too seriously.

The problems in Canadian Chess, as I see them, have to do with the lack of sponsors, money and the difficulty finding good, competent organizers. On top of this we could add that Canada's size doesn't help make things any easier for either the players or the organizers. Further, we wouldn't be very far off the truth by stating that Chess can hardly compete with hockey, baseball or even the down to earth frisbee.

I am not surprised by Martin's ideas for improving chess nationally. Martin has been

involved in Canadian Chess for a long time and is well known to me. We get along very well, even though we often disagree. He is a colourful and controversial member of the CFC. Unfortunately, his 'national' ideas never seem to deal with real problems and instead usually evoke unnecessary and massive changes of whole sections of the rule book. Martin doesn't consider the lack of sponsors, money and good, competent organizers to be as important considerations as I do.

For Martin the principal problem in Canadian Chess has more to do with those nasty 'strong' players. His solution to this is to politely 'extort' the strong player into 'supporting' both the Canadian Championship and the Canadian National Team.

I consulted a dictionary and found this under the entry 'EXTORT' to force or threaten; to wring out(dry)

Let me explain how Martin is trying to 'extort' the strong players with his motion. He wants to link the Canadian Championship tournament and the Canadian National Olympic Team: that is, he wants to make participation in the National Championship Tournament a necessary condition to qualify for the Canadian National Team. That is, for those strong players such as myself, if we don't play in the Canadian Championship then we can never qualify for the Olympic Team. We can just forget about the Olympic Team, unless...

Of course, Martin doesn't mention in his motion /ideas mundane things such as the lack of a decent prize fund or sponsors. Or the fact that participants in the Canadian Championship have to pay a \$200 entry plus all of their expenses (travel, hotel, food, etc)

He prefers to ignore such bread and butter issues. He talks instead of 'incentive':

"The following motion would provide for an added incentive for increasing participation by strong players." and then goes on to point out the delicious fact about the only way for the stronger players to play on the Canadian National Team would be to play in the Canadian National Tournament (at considerable personal expense) "Hence the strong players would have a stronger incentive to participate." And he goes on to square the circle by pointing out, as a logical consequence, that "The increase in strength of the tournament (because of more strong players participating-kbs) would provide an increased incentive for organizers to step forward."

All perfectly logical...to Martin.

His motion is quite a gem: how he can avoid talking of those things that actually concern the top players is worthy of a case study of subjective/deliberate blindness.

The CFC should never want to share Martin's ideas of the use of extortion as a means of promoting national chess!

To go along with Martin's ideas would mean that the CFC might necessarily have to send a Canadian National Team with an average rating lower than the Women's Team, should the stronger players (including myself, Lesiege, Zugic, etc) decide not to play in the Canadian Championship Tournament as a form of protest against the lack of decency.

Of course, this would probably not happen...and of course Martin realizes this. But, Martin's clever ideas are based on 'bluff', on veiled threats, ...on a polite form of 'extortion'. That is, 'with a smile'!

Recently a sponsor (Belzberg Financial) has come forward and taken on the sponsoring of the Canadian National Team. This is a significant development in Canadian Chess. This is real progress because it deals with one of the real problems facing Canadian Chess: lack of sponsors.

I believe that it is very possible that Belzberg Financial came forward because our Olympic Team this year is very attractive: we have two strong and talented teenagers on it, plus every member other than myself is in their twenties. And because our team is very strong. (we have numbers 1,2,3,4 from the rating list)

Motions and ideas such as Martin's lead to the cheapening of Canadian Chess. They don't address real problems. They shoot at false targets. And make victims of our top players.

I suggest that if Martin would really like to promote the Canadian Chess Championship that he donate \$100 to the prize fund of the next Canadian Championship ! That at least would be a constructive gesture. And it would save the governors' time...not to mention getting a tax receipt.

Discussion of new Motion 01-3

Roger Langen: I don't mind splitting off the certificate piece as a separate motion. I don't agree, however, that it "adds nothing". The amender should read the original motion and reply to the arguments.

The 24-game rule is essentially a FIDE style criterion. It asks: Can you hold this level? "Privately arranged matches" is a prohibition intended to prevent fraud; one may play such matches for rating points but either they will not count toward your 24 game count; or (better) they should not be

played during a qualification period. Of course, matches that are not privately organized, e.g. playdowns in an event, play-offs, etc., would not be subject to the restriction.

GENERAL REMARKS on CFC BUSINESS

a) Comments on GL #1

David Gebhardt: Treasurer's Report: As this is my first time as a Governor, I have never seen the financial statements before now. I was shocked to learn how much money the CFC makes from sales – I had always assumed it was a small portion of the income.

As some of you know, I worked in England for a couple of years and took the opportunity to play chess there. The British Chess Federation (BCF) does no book, equipment or software sales, and memberships are not a prerequisite for tournament participation. How is it that the CFC generates more income from each of these sources than does the BCF, yet the CFC struggles to break even? I think part of this lies in the fact that the BCF doesn't publish a magazine, simply a small 6 or 8-page bulletin. They also seem to have better corporate sponsorship than the CFC. The BCF certainly is by no means financially stable, but considering the additional revenue that the CFC generates from sales in particular, you would think the CFC should not have any problem generating operating funds.

I would suggest that someone get in touch with the BCF and obtain a copy of their financial reports and compare them to ours. This may give us some indication of where we have additional expenses and perhaps the BCF could give some suggestions on how to

create some additional savings.

Lyle Craver: As usual an interesting first GL of the new season.

I am very sorry to hear of Peter Stockhausen's resignation from the CFC Executive; as BCCF Treasurer I've always found the now former CFC Treasurer's advice welcome and well-timed. Re the Kirton/Neven motion concerning the re-admission of the Ratings Auditor to the CFC Executive - has proper notice of motion for 2001 been made? (I'm not sure if I support the motion or not but it deserves to be at least debated and voted on in 2001).

Secretary's Report: It is particularly good to see that the CFC is continuing francization efforts on the website as well as marketing efforts into Quebec. While I find the present 'bilingual' homepage awkward, I hope this will be refined over time. Otherwise I'll probably just enter from another page. I don't see any conflict with current discussions with the FQE. Mr. Cabanas knows better than most of us how fruitless discussions with the FQE have been in the past - and in the meantime it would be irresponsible not to explore all opportunities in Quebec both commercial and otherwise. If we hold back just because the FQE would prefer we didn't, where are we at if and when the present set of discussions break down? It's not bad faith to continue to fulfill our mandate in the entire country - we are the Chess Federation of CANADA after all.

Ratings Auditor's Report: Surely no one knows better than Mr. Cabanas how Mr. Bevand would view the CFC rating of AEM tournament games! While it may or may not be laudable given playing conditions at the typical AEM event, anyone who has followed Bevand's policies during the years must know it's a fantasy.

Master's Rep Report: My main reason for supporting a Round Robin Canadian Closed is that it better facilitates a broader geographic mix of players than does a Swiss which in my view over-emphasizes players of the host region. While it's interesting that Germany uses the same Swiss format we now do, it is just not comparable geographically - it is a MUCH more difficult thing for a strong master from Vancouver to participate in a championship in the Maritimes (or vice versa for that matter) than it would be for a master from say Munich to attend a German championship in Hamburg or Berlin. That's a basic problem of Canadian geography where a flight from Vancouver to St. John, NB or St. Johns, NF costs more than a flight to London or Hamburg.

Executive Director's Report: I am VERY pleased to see membership info in the form given in his report. This is the sort of information I've been trying to get for years. I'd like to see this information presented quarterly which should be no problem given the degree of computerization now in place at the Business Office.

Straw vote 00-9: It is good to finally see that the Executive has determined the GL is to be 'public' - I myself am not certain this is a good idea but for most of the last two years it seemed that no clear decision had been made on the status of the GL. Now at least we know for sure. I'd like to see a short paragraph in En Passant letting players know about this.

Chess PEI's affiliation is more good news for the Governors.

The Week in Chess is indeed competition for EP but is an entirely different venue particularly with respect to the game section. Publications like TWIC concentrate on mass

numbers of unannotated games; I would like to see EP concentrate on fewer but better annotated games, even if only annotated from a key diagram. I particularly enjoyed Masters' Forum and hope to see more like it in EP in future. I strongly agree with the President that EP is an important marketing tool for the CFC.

I would be appalled if the discontinuance of EP in paper format was considered; even though I own most of the issues of the Bulletin and EP I would myself buy a CD-ROM copy of the archives, particularly if the games were in a separate PGN file.

All in all one of the best first GL's I've seen in years.

John Rutherford: Proposed En Passant Survey: Some ideas - 1) New membership fee. State that EP is online and the fact there is much more information online; however, if a magazine is desired, inform members of the stores that sell EP - store can sell the magazine by email (as well as off shelf). Handling it this way, certain stores become exclusive distributors for En Passant. Internet sales should easily exceed sales at store level. Include store's address and toll-free phone number, if available. 2) Lower membership fees for those accessing EP online.

To increase response to survey - include with the Dec EP a postage-paid card insert with the survey and state on the card that when the survey is completed and the card mailed, each response receives a choice of: a percentage off (ie 10%) book purchase, \$5.00 off full membership renewal, or whatever.

b) Marketing the CFC

David Gebhardt: I think that the CFC does

a wonderful job with the website, publishing *En Passant* (although there are far too many mistakes in it for my liking – publishing an August issue with June 2000 on the cover should never happen, and this isn't the first time that a mistake has been made on the cover – offhand I can recall three different issues this year alone!), providing updated ratings and many other areas. However, for whatever reason, the CFC seems to have a problem marketing itself.

It is very rare that I see any information about the CFC outside of chess tournaments. I only found out about the CFC through playing chess against another Canadian player on the Internet in the early 90s. – up to that point I had no idea how to get in touch with the CFC or how to find out what tournaments were taking place. I cannot ever recall seeing an issue of *En Passant* in a bookstore.

I know that newspapers are a business and they are adverse to giving away free advertisement, but we do have players who write regular columns. Has someone contacted these newspapers and the writers to see if a little section at the end of the column could be devoted to information on contacting the CFC?

Does the CFC currently issue press releases? This could be done for national events such as the Canadian Open, Canadian Closed, and national junior tournaments, special achievements such as Igor Zujic's GM norm in New York, etc. There is no guarantee that any of these stories would be picked up, but at least it is an attempt to increase the general public's exposure to chess and the CFC.

Perhaps it is time that the CFC looked at dropping the requirement of CFC membership for foreigners, or at least giving

them the option of taking out a reduced fee membership with no magazine subscription (think of this as similar to the Junior Participating Membership). There must be some American players in areas close to the Canadian border that would be willing to come for an occasional tournament, but they aren't necessarily going to want to pay for a full year's membership to play in one or two tournaments, even if the argument can be made that they get to receive a magazine whether or not they play.

Nobody is going to confuse the British Chess Federation (BCF) with a world-class organization. However, they do have better corporate arrangements than does the CFC. They have the Smith & Williamson British Championships, the Onyx Grand Prix and other events with corporate sponsors. I have played tournaments in excellent facilities at a Rolls Royce plant and at a Siemens office. Even when companies do not donate money, they are at least providing facilities (at what charge, if any, I do not know). I would like to see someone from the CFC contact the BCF to get some ideas on corporate sponsorship if this has not already been done. Perhaps they have some ideas that we have not yet tried. While chess is more popular in Europe than it is here, this cannot be the sole reason that there is very little corporate support of chess in Canada.

At this point, all of these are just my comments for open discussion and perhaps some or all of these avenues have been tried. However, I am trying to come up with any ideas I can personally think of to improve chess in Canada (I may make motions on some of these points in the future, but I'm not prepared to do so yet). I welcome comments from anyone on any of the above matters.

c) Annual FIDE Fees

Martin Jaeger: In governors' letter 00-5, Peter Stockhausen reported that we pay 5 CHF (\$5 Canadian) for each FIDE rated player beyond 100, ANNUALLY. Apparently this fee is payable WHETHER OR NOT THE PLAYER IS A MEMBER OF THE CFC. That is, a player could earn a FIDE rating, then drop out and we would be stuck with a payment for the rest of that player's life.

I discussed this matter with Mr. Haley and he agreed (for which I thank him) to explore with FIDE the possibility of restricting the fee payment requirement to listed players who are members of the national federations. That is in the Canadian case, a non member would not generate a fee and (very likely) would not be listed.

I do not know if FIDE will adopt such a policy voluntarily but in my view if FIDE does not adopt this practise we should inform FIDE that we will reduce our FIDE payments by the amount that reflects non members on the list.

d) Kalev Pugi Fund Use

Alvah Mayo: Regarding the Kalev Pugi Fund, I am curious as to whether our Junior members of the Olympic team would be eligible for money from this Fund. The Olympiad seems to meet all the criteria contained in GL #1 and the last time I looked our Olympic team could certainly use the cash. Personally I would consider the funds to be better spent sending our elite Juniors to the Olympiad rather than giving \$1000 to some class players to go to a lesser tournament.

e) Rating of Active Junior Events as Regular

Alvah Mayo: I have been disgusted with the

liberties that have been taken with the rating system, namely the rating of multiple Junior Active events on the Regular rating list. I find even more distasteful the fact that Motion 90-11 has been used in an attempt to justify damaging the integrity of the rating system.

90-11 states that "the Executive Director has discretion to accept or refuse any tournament for rating where the intent of this rule has not been followed". In other words, the motion says that Executive Director can refuse to rate or rate an event under the guidelines given. 90-11 does NOT give the Executive Director permission to rate an event under an entirely different system but that is precisely what has been going on!

I call upon the Rating Auditor to put a stop to this illegal activity and ensure that in the future events with Active time controls are rated solely on the Active rating list, in accordance with CFC regulations.

f) CFC Handbook Revision

Lyle Craver: What is the current state of the CFC Handbook revision (which I understood would be in PDF format by this year's AGM)? What is the current projected date?

g) NW Ontario

Lyle Craver: Fundamentally this is an OCA matter which must be decided by the OCA themselves. I think it would be a very good thing if the OCA reserved CYCC places of their own accord but essentially it is not the business of the CFC Governors or Executive to impose such a move.

h) Snail Mail vs. E-Mail

Lyle Craver: As someone in the mail order business I have to say the picture is nowhere as rosy as Maurice thinks particularly from BC to Ontario and points east. I have not changed my view that he is quite naive in blithely trusting Canada Post's thoughts on service standards. As someone "in the trenches" day by day whose living depends on the Post Office it just isn't so - mail does get here eventually but to say 95% arrives in two days is ludicrous. Even Canada Post says that standard is only major center to major center and that any Governor outside a major center can expect a minimum 2-3 days slower. (In fairness Canada Post HAS improved their service dramatically in the last 5 years but is still a LONG way from the Promised Land) At the same time I do feel

the Business Office should pay close attention to what proportion of Governors are currently getting their GL's by e-mail. Anyhow, Maurice, let's get back to chess.
>grin<

i) Advertising Clubs

Lyle Craver: I would like to see both EP and the Web site advertise clubs much more often - particularly on the web site. Something like what the BCCF does (www.chess.bc.ca) would be ideal on a national level. As BCCF Secretary (and an active TD) I routinely get calls from newcomers to Vancouver looking for info on local tournaments and clubs. What the CFC primarily offers is face to face chess - and both tournaments and local clubs are key elements in our mandate.

