

CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER TWO 2001-2002



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 Jan 21, 2002

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that i can report that the membership numbers are up from last year, and from the rating fees collected, that more people are playing in CFC events. Steady growth is a trend i inherited from our past president, Maurice Smith, and it is my hope to continue.

Our new web page is getting great revues! This thru the tireless efforts of the dynamic duo in the CFC business office, Serge and Gerry, who keep on top of the ever changing flow of information keeping us all updated on recent events. Bravo guys! Also i would like to thank them for getting our catalogue out in time to meet the demands of the season! I hope that many of you got in on the 15% discount the CFC offered from the 10th-24th of December.

Since the last AGM the following players have received there titled diploma and badge: Alex Lesiege GM, Mark Bluvshstein IM, Dave Ross IM, Hans Jung FM, Brett Campbell FM, Mark Ghannoum FM, and Ray Philips FM. We are honored to have you represent us in the FIDE ranks!! Congratulations!!

The Canadian Junior is being held in Winnipeg this January. It will be nice to meet the many of you who will be attending. Good luck and have fun. See you at the opening ceremonies.

Seasons Best Wishes

Dale Kirton
CFC President

KEEPING GOVERNORS INFORMED

1) The Executive approved a motion allowing all players from a CYCC qualifier event scoring 80% or better, who are not otherwise qualified to be eligible for the National event.

2) The Executive approved a revised bid from the FQE for the 2002 Canadian Open and CYCC. The only alteration from the original bid was a reduction from \$100 to \$75 to go to the local organizers, from the CYCC entries, for organizational expenses.

3) David Cohen resigned as Women's Co-ordinator. He was replaced by Hans Jung.

Dale Kirton
President
Chess Federation of Canada

CFC TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Anyone interested in working with a group of volunteers and the business office to re-establish this important program should contact me at fred_mckim@hotmail.com

Fred McKim
Secretary
Chess Federation of Canada

MOTIONS

Motion 02-1: (Peter McKillop/Tony Ficzero): Regarding Canadian Youth Chess Championships, that the CFC's policies and procedures with respect to such events be amended such that:

a) There will be a single championship tournament for each age group. Boys and girls in each age group will compete together.

b) The prioritization of subsidies, if any, granted by the CFC to assist with the travel expenses of players playing in any section (Open or Girls) of the World Youth Chess Championships will be as follows:

First priority: the reigning first place finisher in each age group of the CYCC, starting with the U18 group and working down to the U10 group.

Second priority: the reigning second place finisher in each age group of the CYCC, starting with the U18 group and working down to the U10 group.

Subsequent priorities: as determined by the CFC at its sole discretion.

Tony Ficzero: With only a handful of women players in this country, it seems to make little sense to run separate events at this time. Anyone who believes that women are intellectually inferior to men is wrong. The reason women don't play as well as men is that they are not interested in the game. Simple. We should be working at promoting chess to women and not segregating as this only hampers a woman's development in the game, and as the records in the CFC database will prove, this approach has done nothing to bring more women members into the CFC. Hazel Smith did exceptional at the WYCC, one wonders how she would have done against everyone else in her age group. I can assume that Hazel plays at her current strength not because she is playing strong women players, but because she has been playing in mixed events. In general, having separate women's events does nothing to promote chess among women.

Motion 02-2: (Lyle Craver/Ken Craft) Addition to CFC Bylaw 1, paragraph 13 concerning eligibility of members for CFC Governorship:

Any provincially elected Governor found not to be a CFC member in good standing shall have his/her voting privileges suspended. Once suspended the governor and his provincial body shall be notified and requested to bring his/her membership into good standing not later than 30 days from his/her election or expiration of membership.

In the event that the Governor's membership still not be in good standing 30 days after the suspension, the president of the provincial / territorial organisation and the Governor shall be notified that the Governor's seat is declared vacant. A request that a by-election be held to fill the vacancy shall also be made to the provincial / territorial organisation."

L. Craver: Rationale: Non-members of the CFC should not be voting on CFC business period - and I think the procedure indicated above is reasonable and fair given how members typically renew their CFC membership. I would suspect (and should probably ask BCCF president Bruce Harper who is a lawyer or some other lawyer in our assembly) that there might be liability issues if we allow non-members in our assembly.

Straw Vote Topic 02-1: (Peter McKillop) Regarding candidates for positions on the CFC executive:

a) Any member of the CFC who wishes to stand for election to a position on the CFC's executive committee, and who is eligible to do so in accordance with the applicable CFC bylaws, rules and regulations, must declare his or her candidacy for such office by notifying the CFC's Secretary in writing (e-mail is acceptable) prior to the submission deadline for the June issue of En Passant Magazine. If there is only one declared candidate for a particular position on the CFC's executive committee, then that candidate will be deemed to have been elected by acclamation. If there is no declared candidate for a position on the CFC's executive committee then, at the next Annual General Meeting of the CFC, the incoming Assembly of Governors will, in whatever manner it deems fair and expedient, select a person to fill the vacant position.

b) In the June issue of En Passant Magazine each year, the CFC will publish the names and contact particulars (mail address and e-mail address, if available) of all declared candidates

for positions on the CFC's executive committee together with a brief statement (not to exceed 200 words) from each candidate. A candidate should limit the brief statement to his/her qualifications for the position s/he is seeking and his/her position on key issues.

P. McKillop: Publishing the names of candidates for executive offices and incoming governors in the June issue of En Passant will give CFC members an opportunity to voice their preferences/concerns to their local incoming Governors prior to the CFC's AGM, thus (hopefully) making the whole process somewhat more democratic than it is now. The current process seems to entail, generally speaking, the identities of candidates not being available to the general membership prior to the AGM. I feel this is unacceptable for any organization which claims to represent the interests of its members. Referring to Section 2, II, 6 of the CFC's Handbook, publication of candidates'/incoming governors' names in the June issue of EP would be consistent with the CFC's stated object of publishing "...a medium from which chess players may learn of the progress of chess in Canada...".

Straw Vote Topic 02-2: (Peter McKillop)
Regarding nominees for CFC Governorships:

a) All affiliates of the CFC who are entitled to nominate individuals for the position of CFC Governor must submit the names of their nominees in writing to the CFC's Secretary prior to the submission deadline for the June issue of En Passant. If the number of nominees named by an affiliate is less than the number to which the affiliate is entitled then, at the next Annual General Meeting of the CFC, the incoming Assembly of Governors will, in whatever manner it deems fair and expedient, select a person(s) to fill the vacant governorship(s).

b) In the June issue of En Passant Magazine each year, the CFC will publish the names and contact particulars of all incoming governors.

P. McKillop: (see above)

Straw Vote Topic 02-3: (Gordon Taylor) That a committee be struck to do a feasibility study into ways by which the Board of Governors can conduct the business of the Chess Federation of Canada via Internet. If approved, said committee shall report their findings to the Board within three months.

G. Taylor: A CFC member recently sent me an email suggesting that the business of the CFC could be better conducted through the medium of the Internet. He suggested Internet conferencing, which I have to admit I am not entirely familiar with. But I think most of us are familiar with message boards such as ChessTalk (<http://www.chesstalk.com>) and how it operates. In any case the possibilities are limitless and, sooner or later, are certain to become standard practice for most organizations. Let's look into it now. Accordingly I propose this motion.

The blunt reality today is that the Governors' Letter does not function well in so far as most of the dealings of the Federation are concerned. Most decisions are left, either explicitly or implicitly, with the Executive. In today's electronic age this need not be the case.

The foremost objection to the Board conducting its business in this manner at present is that not all Governors enjoy Internet access. But if we agree that change is required, or desirable, then the provincial associations will simply have to make it a requirement that the people they choose to serve as Governors do have access. More than half our Governors are effectively inactive already so I doubt those inconvenienced would be much missed. Also, most public libraries now provide free Internet access to the public, albeit for fixed time allotments only, so that even those few without access to the Internet at home can enter into the decision making process with but a little effort.

GENERAL REMARKS ON CFC BUSINESS

a) Canadian Closed 2002

Charles Graves: I wish to comment on the awarding of the 2002 Canadian Closed. The Executive accepted the Stockhausen/ BCCF bid despite obvious conflicts with the Canadian Closed regulations outlined in the Handbook (Section 8: Canadian Championships Rules of Procedure). Specifically, the Stockhausen/ BCCF bid lowers the rating requirement to from 2250 to 2200. In addition, it permits the possibility of 30+ additional participants that do not meet the 2200 rating cut-off but are rated 2050 or above.

The Stockhausen/ BCCF bid was accepted despite the fact that a second bid, conforming to the Handbook rules, had also been made. I have no inherent objections to the Stockhausen/ BCCF bid. Indeed, there are some positive elements to it (e.g. fund raising) and, in the absence of the conflicts with the CFC Handbook, I would consider the bid, for the most, quite acceptable.

Perhaps it would be helpful if a motion was made to clarify this matter * the motion might indicate that the criteria for the Canadian Closed as outlined in the Handbook is optional and can be overturned by the Executive. This addendum could be included in Section *814. Authority of the Board of Directors* or could have a new Section, but I will leave it with members of the Executive to present the motion in wording that they feel is appropriate and identify where it might be best placed.

b) Miscellaneous

Kevin Spraggett: Correction: I wish to correct a comment that I had written concerning Mr. Maurice Smith and Mr. Martin Jaeger. I had

previously written that Mr. Jaeger had been trying for a number of years to discredit Mr. Smith, as concerns chess politics in Ontario. It has recently been made aware to me that Mr. Jaeger and Mr. Smith actually get along very well and respect each other (and have for years, in spite of the occasional tiff).

I regret having given the wrong impression, and apologize if any offence was felt.

Motions for Discussion

01-1 McKillop/Ficzere. Prioritizing CYCC Funding.

01-2 Craver/Craft. Removing non-member CFC Governors.

Straw votes for Discussion

01-1 McKillop. CFC Executive Candidate Submissions.

01-2 McKillop. CFC Governor Submissions.

01-3 Taylor. Feasibility study re on-line Governing of CFC.

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