

CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER THREE 2002-2003



Responses may be mailed, faxed or E-mailed to the Chess Federation of Canada,
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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 submissions to GL #4: December 10th 2002

Message from the President

This GL was a little delayed because a, we wanted to include the Report on the FIDE Congress by Maurice Smith, our Zonal President and b, by some sudden computer problems on my side.

1, Olympiad

Our thanks to our "Olympians" for the tremendous show they put on and the results they achieved in Bled. Also a very heartfelt thanks to Belzberg Technologies, that once again, sponsored our National Team and to Sid Belzberg who committed his time and effort to our team.

2, Financials

After the first half of this fiscal year we are in very good shape. Revenues are moderately above budget but our bottom line is sharply improved, due to the great efforts by Gerry Litchfield and Les Bunning. We show a profit of slightly above \$10.0, which compares favourably to the loss of (\$14.0) at the same time last year. We will continue on our prudent path and now hope to recover last year's loss of (\$33.0) within in the next 12 months.

3, Membership Drive

On January 15, 2003 we will commence a co-coordinated effort to reach the more than 10.000 ex-members of the CFC, whose membership has expired for more than 12 months. The details, which I communicated to you a little while ago, are as follows:

1, Each Governor, who volunteers for this drive, will receive on the 1st of each month a list of 30 expired members in his immediate area, including last known address and length of previous membership.

2, With this list the Governor will search and make sure the address is correct and locate the phone number.

3, Then the Governor will contact each person on the list via phone to encourage him/her to renew. (There will be no long distance cost involved.)

4, In a space provided on the list the Governor writes whatever answer he/she may receive. In case of a NO, also the reason for it

5, At the end of the month the Governor transmits the completed list to the Business Office.

6, For each 10 renewals a Governor will receive a \$30 Gift Certificate for book or equipment purchase from the CFC.

7, This drive will run for at least 12 months or until we have contacted each and every expired member. (The more Governors volunteer, the faster it will go.)

Please respond to me at your earliest convenience, indicating your willingness to participate. Please also include your phone and fax number.

Here is a great opportunity for you to make a REAL DIFFERENCE

Quite a number of you have already communicated to me your willingness to participate in this effort and I hope to hear from the rest of you in the next few weeks. The more who participate, the more successful we will be.

4, Voting and GL Participation

A few motions are up for vote and a few more are in need of discussion. I urge all of you to participate actively in our affairs.

Peter Stockhausen

FIDE REPORT

Highlights of the FIDE Congress in Bled

The biggest highlight was Yasser Seirawan's presentation of the Prague Unity Plan that will unite the chess world. The process accepts the main principle that FIDE is the custodian and owner of the World Chess Championship title and that there should be only one federation-FIDE - recognized by the IOC and the world of sports representing the chess world. The unification process leads to only one undisputed World Champion recognized by FIDE. Gary Kasparov addressed the Assembly and declared that now no chess player owns the World Championship, and that it belongs to FIDE. The plan is that Peter Leko will play the Classical World Chess Champion Vladimir Kramnik, and the present FIDE

World Champion Ruslan Ponomarev will play Garry Kasparov, the current World's number one rated player. The two match winners will play a REUNIFICATION Classical Chess World Championship in October/November 2003. This appears to be a very positive solution for FIDE and the chess world.

The anti-doping situation was discussed at both the Continental Assembly and the General Assembly meetings. I spoke out strongly against drug testing for chess at the Continental meeting. I mentioned that there was no scientific proof anywhere that any substance could aid a chess player's skills. Also, there should be no monetary penalties for any chess player found to have an {illegal?} substance such as caffeine from six cups of coffee in his system. This was also mentioned again at the General Assembly. However, Deputy President Georgios Makropoulos speaking for President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov said that we are part of the IOC and therefore drug testing is mandatory. We were able to get a commitment from FIDE to research substances to prove or disprove that there were no benefits to chess players. Also that FIDE would continue to impress upon the IOC that mental sports are completely different from physical sports.

There were no challenges to the President in an election year, therefore Kirsan Ilyumzhinov retained his position by acclamation. All the members of the Board stayed on. Ignatius Leong who at one time was running against the President but then withdrew was named a Vice President.

A motion by the United States to split the Continents into North and South America {which I would have strongly supported} was withdrawn. William Kelleher the U.S. FIDE Rep. advised me that he had spoken to Jorge Vega who was elected President of the Continental Americas and that Mr. Vega had said that there was no chance of the motion passing. However, Mr. Kelleher did get a commitment from this Assembly and the General Assembly that the North American Zonal Tournaments would remain and not be affected.

A motion to lengthen the time controls to 150 minutes total per player for the Olympiad was passed at a Qualifications Committee Meeting. However it was subsequently changed back to 120 minutes at another meeting. Both the President and Deputy President are very much in favour of shorter time controls. Deputy President Makropoulos said that although there was some criticism at first, now everyone is in favour of the shorter time controls. However, that did not seem to be the consensus among North American Delegates. Of note, a motion by Willi Ickliki to have the time control for the Olympiad at 25 minutes a player was defeated before it got to the General Assembly.

The 2004 Olympiad and FIDE Congress is scheduled for Menorca Spain. There was a presentation made on their behalf. However, there were rumours of funding problems and Don Schultz of the U.S. proposed that Jacksonville, Florida could put on the tournament and provide a lot of extras if Spain fell through. There were bids for the 2006 Olympiad from India, Estonia and Italy. After presentations from each Country, India withdrew. That left a secret ballot between Estonia and Italy. It was won by Italy so the 2006 Olympiad will be in Turin, site of the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Vishy Anand proposed that rating a tournament be done on an individual basis rather than on the average of the tournament. This was accepted, but is not likely to start until 2005 when the rating floor is supposed to drop to 1000.

There was confirmation of future tournaments locations and dates that may be of interest to Canadian players.

The World Youth Championships will be held in Greece 2003 and 2004. In 2005 they will be in France. In 2006 they will be in India. The World Junior and Girls Championship in 2003 will be in Baku, Azerbaijan. The 2003 Pan Am Youth Championships will be in Columbia.

While many items were discussed at the seven meetings I attended, the above appeared to be the main highlights. The tone

of all the meetings was surprisingly amiable with little confrontation or criticism at any time. There will be a Continental Meeting in Mexico next year and an Executive Board meeting in Greece later on in the year. Then it is on to either Menorca or Jacksonville for the 2004 Olympiad and FIDE Congress.

Maurice Smith
CFC FIDE Delegate
Zone President

New Motions: None

Discussion on Motions

Motion 2003-01: (Cabanas/Stockhausen)
Life Masterships

Lyle Craver: I agree though prefer most any other method than putting it on the Business Office.

Ari Mendrinis: I agree and also am in favor to be done by a special committee so the office won't have this burden.

Neil Sutherland: The Life Mastership program is a good one but lets not put anything else upon the National Office, the National Office has enough and if this is going to be a burden upon the National Office then I suggest that it be reviewed at another time.

Motion 2003-02: (Cabanas/Stockhausen)
CYCC Organization:

Neil Sutherland: This program is a great program for the youth in chess. Although not many youth play here in Canada's NorthWest Territories. I agree with everything that is said but one problem up here is that it costs twice as much to fly out of here as it does to fly Vancouver to London England and if you were to help out with a youth going from Nunavut, NWT or the Yukon to the CYCC then I know you would get many interested players from these Territories. Like I mentioned before the price is \$850 just to get to Edmonton, Alberta from Yellowknife and even more to fly from any other community in the NWT.

Motion 2003-03 (Cabanas / Stockhausen)
Changes to Active Chess Regulations:

Neil Sutherland: I must agree with Hal Bond in his reply in the GL#2.

Motion 2003-04: (Rosner/ Remillard)
Grant to Abe Yanofsky Memorial :

Hugh Brodie: Have Pascal, Alex, and Kevin been approached about playing in the event? \$2500 would be a lot of expense money if only one of them could show up. I would be in favour of the CFC donating a sum (maybe not \$2500) if all three commit themselves (in writing) to play.

Neil Sutherland: I do believe that sponsoring the grandmasters would be just to much right now for the CFC as they do not have the funds or the membership to support this undertaking.

2003-05: (Stockhausen / Smith) Changes to FIDE Rating Fees:

Hugh Brodie: The Office keeps track of the details of events submitted for FIDE. Under the proposal, how much would have been charged for events over the last couple of years? FIDE charges a maximum of 4,000 Swiss francs (about \$4200 Canadian) to a federation annually for rating fees.

If we are approaching (or exceeding) this amount, the rating fees in the motion could be reduced. (see FIDE Handbook, section B-03).

Lyle Craver: Clearly with the coming change in the FIDE rating floor to 1000 we cannot go on subsidizing FIDE rating fees as previously. Having said that I do feel that the changes proposed are excessive and do feel that at the very least provincial and national championships should be exempted from these proposed changes.

Ari Mendrinis: I agree as the amounts are reasonable.

Neil Sutherland: I do believe changing the FIDE ratings is a good thing.

- A) Round Robin and Matches
- B) Swiss Tournaments
- C) Team Tournaments

FIDE is a reputable Chess Federation and one that many are listed under but when it comes to ratings how are they chosen-FIDE or CFC?

Not everyone approves of FIDE and I for one as not a member of FIDE feel that it is time we looked at the number of persons participating in FIDE and see if they would like it changed. I personally think changing it would help CFC and that the CFC would get a better stronghold upon the number of people participating in FIDE Tournaments.

General Comments from Governors:

[First an editorial note: I apologize to Governors for an embarrassing mistake – on GL#2 I posted the deadline for submissions as October 31, 2003. I trust no one was misled by my error!]

Hugh Brodie: On the French version of "Chesstalk" there is a thread discussing the French translation of the CFC's Web page. Obviously, someone ran the whole Handbook through an online translation program - producing some laughable results.

My favourite - "matches" translated to "allumettes" - correct, if you are referring to the matches you use to light a fire.

"FIDE" becomes translated as "FOI" , etc., etc.

Jean-Pierre Rheaume of Montreal offered his translation services free of charge to the CFC over a year ago, and never heard back from them. Let's get rid of the French web page until it gets cleaned up.

Frank Dixon: 1) The University of Western Ontario in London is planning to organize a Canadian Interuniversity Team Chess Championship in January 2003. Any Canadian post-secondary institution is eligible to enter team(s) of four players. Further precise details, such as dates, entry fees, site, prizes, and so on, are not available

at this time. But I wanted to bring this event to the attention of CFC Governors. This is an area of chess which the CFC currently does nothing to foster or support, as opposed to the USCF, which has a Collegiate Chess Group. This is the first CFC event of this type since 1997.

2) Jeff Sonas, an American mathematician, has published an exceptionally interesting and detailed paper on ratings, which is currently available for reading on the website chessbase.com. Sonas advocates some changes to the system developed by Professor Arpad Elo to make the FIDE rating system fairer. Notably, he discusses the harmonization of the Rapid and Classical chess ratings into one unified system, employing a gradient formula to weight the rating contributions of the different time limit games. While a deep discussion of his paper would not be appropriate in this forum, I would recommend that the CFC's experts, such as Francisco Cabanas, Nathan Divinsky, and Phil Haley study his paper in detail, and report to the Governors any useful recommendations they may have, as to how his work could improve the CFC's current system. This paper is certain to be debated internationally among chess federations. In a short correspondence with Jeff Sonas, I pointed out that one of his inherent assumptions could be flawed. That is, he implicitly assumes that the results of all the short time limit games played internationally would have been the same if they in fact counted for rating purposes (which they have not done in the past).

This gets a bit tricky from a mathematical standpoint, and Jeff Sonas agreed with me that this could be a bit of a bugbear.

3) I have come across a point which may not be covered by the CFC chess rules. This arose recently in an event I was directing, and while it was settled without controversy, I thought that reporting it could be interesting for future reference. A medical doctor was playing a tournament game. He was on call. His pager sounded; this turned out to be a patient seeking medical advice. The doctor stepped away from his game to call the patient and deal with the problem. When I, as TD, realized what was occurring,

I stopped his clock, and only restarted it when the situation was resolved. Certainly fair to all concerned, and no protest was made by the doctor's opponent.

John Remillard: I would like to volunteer for the 2003 Membership Drive but also wanted to share with yourselves another avenue which I was able to recently explore under fund raising.

I am both a volunteer for the CFC acting as President and one of two Governors for the Manitoba Chess Association. But I am also an employee of RBC Financial Group. I recently submitted an application for consideration under RBC's "Employee Volunteer Grant" program for a request of \$500.00. The RBC committee recently reviewed my application and approved it forwarding a cheque of \$500.00 and a letter of support. The funds will be forwarded to the CFC for tax purposes and the MCA will be allocating the funds on new chess sets, books and trophies for our Youth Chess program. Our members vary from professional, to students (from grade school to university), to business to employees of a wide variety of public and private organizations and there may be other such programs which we could approach and successfully win financial support for our local and national chess programs. Since my involvement with the MCA I have tried to focus on fiscal responsibility, fund

We have planned at our next Youth Tournament in November to have an official picture and cheque presentation capitalizing on the momentum the RBC Financial Group "Employee Volunteer Grant" has afforded the MCA. I hope you as representatives of the Canadian Chess community can also tap into the many resources that might yet be available but not yet discovered.

Neil Sutherland: I have taken a strong interest in the financial loss by our CFC and hope that since the newly elected council will bring a better outlook and membership campaign into the CFC.

I also believe that Governors should have a say as to what goes on in the CFC and be able to vote on the appropriate items. It is a

shame to see our newly elected executive thrown into such a mess and I truly believe that they will pick up things and let the Governors know just exactly what is going to happen. I also strongly believe a membership drive will bring many of the old members back to playing the best game in the world.

I strongly believe our newly elected President is one of the best Presidents we could have judging from past governor's letters and the En Passant magazine. I see that he really takes a valued interest in the CFC and with his ideas I personally believe that the CFC will once again become a strong voice in CHESS.

Motions for Final Vote:

**Motion 2003-01: (Cabanas/Stockhausen)
Life Masterships**

Be it Resolved that the CFC handbook be amended as follows:

a) Renumber Regulation 738 as Regulation 739

b) Add Regulation 738 as Follows:

738 CFC Life Masters. The CFC will issue a "Certificate of Chess Master" for each player who achieves a CFC rating of 2200 or above for 24 consecutive Regular Tournament Games. Players who have achieved this performance in the past can request their Certificate from the CFC Business Office, by providing satisfactory evidence of their performance to the CFC Business Office.

**Motion 2003-02: (Cabanas/Stockhausen)
CYCC Organization**

Be it Resolved that the CFC handbook be amended as follows:

a) Amend Section 1011 by deleting the following text:

"The sum of \$100.00 of each entry fee shall go to the tournament organizers to assist with the cost of running the event and to provide trophies and/or prizes where appropriate."

The amended 1011 will now read:

1011. Players Expenses:

Each player will be responsible for paying his own travel expenses, accommodation and meal expenses.

b) Amend Section 1012 by Deleting the following text:

"The sum of \$50.00 of each entry fee shall go to the CFC business office to help defray the cost of sending Canada's representative to the appropriate world event."

The amended 1012 will now read:

1012.Participation in the World Event:

The winner of the event shall be eligible to participate in the appropriate world event. If the winner is unable to participate, the second place finisher shall be invited to go in his place. If the second place finisher also declines, the highest finisher in the tournament who is willing to participate in the world event shall be selected. The CFC Board of Directors shall use an appropriate tie breaking method to break ties if required to determine the order of finish.

c) Renumber Section 1014 as Section 1015

d) Add section 1014 As follows:

1014 Organization

The principal Organizer of the CYCC is the CFC with the responsibility for the event resting with the Junior Co-coordinator and the Executive Director. All expenses such as prizes, travel to the world event, trophies, medals and rent shall be borne by the CFC. The Events will be held immediately preceding the Canadian Open Tournament. The Organizers of the Canadian Open will receive \$5 from each entry for securing the playing site. Any surplus funds generated will be utilized by the CFC for future Junior Activities or transferred to the Junior Fund (Kalev Pugi Fund).

e) Amend Section 1061 by deleting the following text:

"The sum of \$100.00 of each entry fee shall go to the tournament organizers to assist with the cost of running the event and to provide trophies and/or prizes where appropriate."

The amended 1061 will now read:

1061. Players Expenses:

Each player will be responsible for paying his own travel expenses, accommodation and meal expenses.

b) Amend Section 1062 by Deleting the following text:

"The sum of \$50.00 of each entry fee shall go to the CFC business office to help defray the cost of sending Canada's representative to the appropriate world event."

The amended 1062 will now read:

1012. Participation in the World Event:

The winner of the event shall be eligible to participate in the appropriate world event. If the winner is unable to participate, the second place finisher shall be invited to go in his place. If the second place finisher also declines, the highest finisher in the tournament who is willing to participate in the world event shall be selected. The CFC Board of Directors shall use an appropriate tie breaking method to break ties if required to determine the order of finish.

c) Renumber Section 1063 as Section 1064

d) Add section 1063 As follows:

1063 Organization

The principal Organizer of the Canadian Junior Championship Tournament is the CFC with the responsibility for the event resting with the Junior Co-coordinator and the Executive Director. All expenses such as prizes, travel to the world event, trophies, medals and rent shall be borne by the CFC. Any surplus funds generated will be utilized by the CFC for future Junior Activities or transferred to the Junior Fund (Kalev Pugi Fund).

**Motion 2003-03 (Cabanas/Stockhausen)
Changes to Active Chess Regulations**

Be it resolved that the following be deleted from section 7 of the handbook.

"711.1 Active Chess. The CFC supports Active (30 minute sudden death) Chess in Canada by:

1) Rating the results of Active Chess games on a basis similar to the current rating system, excepting that the ratings will be maintained, calculated, and listed separately.

2) Establishing rules for Active Chess in

Canada which will be the FIDE rules with the following changes: [Note: for most recent version see Supplement 4 in section 5 of this Handbook, pages 5-5 to 5-8]

i) add 10 d) (drawn game) If the flag of one player falls and the other player has only a king, a king and a knight, or a king and a bishop remaining.

ii) Add 10 e) (drawn game) If a player can demonstrate perpetual check to the arbiter's satisfaction. A claim not upheld by the arbiter would result in 5 minutes added to the claimant's elapsed time except to the extent that this would leave him with less than 5 minutes remaining in which case any remaining penalty would be deducted from the elapsed time of his opponent.

iii) add 10 f) (drawn game) If a player can establish, either with a completed score sheet, by agreement with his opponent, or verified by an arbiter or other mutually acceptable witness, if available, that 50 moves have been made by each player without a pawn being moved or a capture being made.

iv) delete rules 12 and 13.

3) Deciding on the requirement for and style of a national championship at the 1989 CFC Annual Meeting (allowing for a trial period for Active Chess). [ref: Motion 89-20; GL, March 1989, p. 4-4 - 4-5]

711.2 The CFC will recognize as an option the use of the FIDE "Rules for Active Chess" as approved by the 1988 FIDE congress in Thessaloniki, as well as all future revisions, for use in all games which have a sudden death time control and in which each player receives at least 30 minutes for the entire game. Games which have both normal time controls and a sudden death time control shall only use the "rules for active chess" during the sudden death portion. [ref: Motion 89-22; see GL, June 1989, p. 7 and amended in GL, September 1989, p. 1-4 - 1-5]"

Motions for Second Discussion

2003-04: (Rosner/ Remillard) Grant to Abe Yanofsky Memorial :

2003-05: (Stockhausen / Smith) Changes to FIDE Rating Fees:

**Deadline for submissions to GL #4:
December 10th 2002**

Motions for Vote

2003-01 Life Masters
2003-02 CYCC Organization
2003-03 Active Chess

Yes_____No_____Abstain_____
Yes_____No_____Abstain_____
Yes_____No_____Abstain_____