

CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER TWO 2003-2004

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

Deadline for submissions to GL #3: December 22, 2003.

President's Message

I would like to congratulate our National Team at the 2003 World Youth Chess Championship on their success. I urge all Governors to carefully read Patrick S. McDonald's submissions on this the 2003 WYCC and the next cycle.

I have also included an interim accounting of revenues and expenses for the 2003 CYCC. The final figures will be published in our annual report.

Tournament Directors Program

In November I sent all Provincial Chess Associations a list of tournament directors that had tournaments rated by the CFC since 1996. I asked our Provincial Governing bodies to grandfather their qualified and experienced tournament directors.

The CFC will put up Provincial lists on its website in the near future and roll out the new Tournament Director Certification Program by January 1, 2004.

Financial Management

The CFC Executive and the Office have done a budgeting exercise and worked hard to find cost savings. The CFC budget projection is for a modest profit of about \$10K.

The CFC financial picture is brighter as a result of cost savings and increased revenues from sales, membership fees and rating fees. The CFC is now at a break-even point and we are hopeful about meeting the budget projection referred to above.

The Canadian Zonal 2004

The CFC Executive recommends that the Governors accept the bid for the Canadian Zonal that is for up for a vote in this issue of the GL. This is a good bid from the Ontario Chess Association and comments from Governors are generally favourable.

The Canadian Junior and Pan Am 2004

I would like to thank the Alberta Chess Association for stepping in and organizing these tournaments. Good luck to all our juniors in Calgary!

Keeping Governors Informed

The following players have been awarded titles by FIDE:

FM Zhe Quan

FM Thomas Roussel-Roozmon

FM Lefong Hua

FM Igor Dviljan

WFM Dinara Khaziyeva

WFM Hazel Smith

Secretary

I would like to suggest to Governors that they preface their comments with “GL submission” or something similar when they send GL submissions to the CFC Office. This will serve to eliminate guesswork as to whether a given communication from a Governor is meant for inclusion in the Governors Letter.

Apparently some Governors were confused about whether there were or were not any motions for discussion or vote in Governors Letter #2. When there are motions up for discussion or vote they will be listed at the end of the GL as usual. I received no motions for inclusion in the GL therefore there were none open for vote or discussion.

Motions must be submitted in the proper format and in accordance with CFC regulations in order to be included in the GL. The full text of the motion is required. Each motion requires a Governor to move the motion and another Governor to second the motion. There are myriad examples of proper motions in past issues of the GL.

In the specific case of the Canadian Closed bid from Toronto, the organizers failed to submit any motion to accept the bid. This oversight has been corrected by a motion included in this GL.

Alvah Mayo
CFC Secretary

FIDE Representative

The FIDE meetings were held this year in the Greek resort village of Kallithea on a peninsula on the Aegean Sea. There was an upside and a downside to this location.

On the upside, the scenery was delightful, the hotels were excellent and the buffet meals three times a day were full of a variety of tasty dishes. From my room I could see the pool, the Aegean Sea, the next peninsula and on a clear day Mount Athos on the third peninsula.

Since it was a resort area I went for a walk and noticed go-kart tracks, a horse riding academy, a bowling alley and several night club type places all near by. However, they were all closed down. Actually, outside the hotels it looked like a ghost town.

There were three small souvenir shops near the hotel, so I ventured into one of them. I asked the very elderly man who owned the store what had happened to all the businesses in the area. He said that the whole area closes the middle of October. I arrived October 27th. I asked him when he was leaving. He said "When you go, I go." So after the FIDE Meetings and the WYCC the place would just about be deserted.

Well, onto the meetings. They were held with the usual delays and abnormally long coffee breaks. Furthermore, the Chairman at most of the meetings would have difficulty running a Boy Scout meeting. When it comes to procedures and Roberts Rules of Order, the only Roberts they would know is Julia Roberts. The exception being the Continental President Jorge Vega. He is a gentleman and has a high regard for proper procedure.

I have picked out the following highlights {or lowlights depending on how you look at them} in no particular order.

The Treasurer's Report and the Verification Committee's report were both highly critical of FIDE's finances and how there was a total disregard for the budget, a tremendous amount of overspending and no financial controls. It seemed that all FIDE's revenue was being spent on administration of the FIDE Secretariat Office in Lausanne.

Therefore it was recommended and approved that the contracts of the entire Lausanne office staff be terminated and the office moved to Athens where the salaries are much cheaper. Also the FIDE credit card was to be cancelled and the mobile phone was only to be used in emergencies. At least this time something was done about the situation.

The Executive Director resigned and has become a special assistant to the President to be paid by Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and not by FIDE. The Verification Committee is an Audit Committee and they did a fine job. Both the Presidential Board and the Executive Board this year took their advice and it should mean a cleaner, leaner FIDE in the future with more financial controls.

At the Titles and Ratings Committee Meeting I argued unsuccessfully for Pascal Charbonneau to get his GM from his result in the Continental. Twelve games are required and the Continental is only eleven, but a result can be extended. Pascal finished with eight points, however Mikko Markula the Chair said that he done the calculation and that Pascal would have required eight and a half points to be eligible for a twelve round title.

I argued, but Markula was adamant saying he had done the calculation twice and that is what it was. Surprisingly (or maybe not) no one else said anything or came to my support. Stewart Reuben who actually wrote the rules and was there said nothing. Oh well, one more norm for Pascal should just be a matter of time.

Also at the same meeting, Chairman Markula said that he wanted to see a ranking system where all countries would have their Chess Federations ranked according to number of players, number of titled players, Olympic results etc. He said it would help to get sponsorships when a country could boast about how high they were ranked as a chess nation.

I spoke out against this because what happens if you are near the bottom of the list? How can you boast about that? It is just too subjective. Reuben argued that several sports like soccer had a ranking system and we should take the lead from other sports. Someone else mentioned car racing.

I argued against this saying that chess was its own sport with our own systems and we should not be compared with physical sports. I said "I hear about soccer and car racing, what's next, golf? wrestling?" Anyway, Markula is going ahead with his plan and will bring something to recommend next year.

Another item that was mentioned was that the rating floor will be lowered to 1600 in July 2004. Although it was mentioned that it would not be mandatory, I voted against it, because I felt it was just the first step in making it mandatory. However, it was passed, mainly because most countries do not have their own rating system. I mentioned that we had an excellent rating system and we get tournaments rated faster than FIDE.

In regards to the World Championship, well it seems that the matches are not coming off. The World Championship will be held in April/May 2004 and the winner will play Kasparov before June 2005. In June 2005 the next cycle will then start. That is the plan so stay tuned.

The Women's Championship will be held in Georgia {not U.S.} in May/June 2004.

Regarding the Olympics, there was a motion that each Federation would pay \$25 a player a day to FIDE. A lump sum from this would go to the organizer. An amendment was motioned that there would be research done to see who were non affluent countries that would be hurt by this. Both U.S. delegate William Kelleher and Honorary President Florencio Campomanes mentioned this.

However, the problem with this is that an affluent country could have a non affluent Chess Federation and a non affluent country could have an affluent Chess Federation. It depends on government funding. So anyway I voted against it, but it passed to take effect in 2008.

The Olympiad next year will be in Majorca, a Spanish island in the Mediterranean. In 2006 the Olympiad will be in Turin, Italy. Argentina wanted to bid on 2008 but Deputy President Makropoulos said that we don't usually accept bids four years in advance.

The last item on the Olympics is that when women are allowed to play on the Men's team, it will no longer be referred to as the Men's team but as the National team.

At the Continental Meeting I gave a speech outlining why Canada had not been very involved in holding any Pan Am or Continental events. I emphasized no government funding and lack of sponsorship. I mentioned that the Canadian government did not recognize chess as a sport or an art and there was no category for chess, therefore no government spending.

Then I mentioned that I thought things would gradually get better because we had seen local sponsorship result in a high total of our youth participating in the WYCC. We

would build on that and hopefully soon we would be in a position to host a Pan Am event. I believe that I was well received.

It is quite awkward sitting there listening to the South American countries fighting over who is going to hold what event, while they look at what they think is an affluent country sitting back and doing nothing.

To sum up, while I am highly critical of FIDE in some areas, there are individuals who are a joy to know and are very dedicated to chess in their countries. It is unfortunate that the general chess public does not see these people, because the sum of all the parts is far less impressive. This results in the view that FIDE is a bureaucratic empire lacking control that continually makes decisions of a dubious nature. Well, at least this year, the financial problems have been identified and positive action taken. That is a good sign for the future.

Maurice Smith
FIDE Delegate
Zonal President 2.2

Junior Co-ordinator

Report on the World Youth Chess Championships 2004

This year Canada was represented by 27 youths at the World Youth Chess Championships (WYCC) in Kalithea, Greece - on the peninsula of Kassandra at the north end of the Aegean Sea. As such, we were the 6th largest contingent at this event.

Larger teams were fielded by Greece, Russia, Germany, France and India (in that order). Again this year, a record was set of 1020 youth attending the event. In all, 53 Canadians attended the WYCC - players, coach and parents (plus one grandparent).

Held in tandem with this event was the FIDE Congress, which was attended by our FIDE representative Maurice Smith.

While we did not manage to win any medals this year, our overall performance was quite good when compared to other countries. This year, just as last year, we managed to place 15th out of 84 countries. (Based on taking the best scorer from each section and adding the total points) While many countries did not field a full team, we still placed 14th out of 30 countries that did have team members in each section.

Many thanks go to Yan Teplitsky, who did a WONDERFUL job as this years coach. This was quite an undertaking for Yan. There were twenty-seven youths all looking for help with analyzing their games and preparing for their next game. Yan did quite well with this and many parents pitched in to help with scheduling and keeping the kids in order. No one felt that they hadn't gotten their share of Yan.

While the venue was not quite as nice as the previous year in Crete, it was still quite a nice location. The playing halls were in two neighboring hotels (a short walk between them) situated on the beach. The food was good, but had a surprising lack of traditional Greek fare. (No Baklava!?!)

I was accepted as an arbiter for the event and served as Category arbiter for the Under 14 boys section - with two assistant arbiters. As such, I made a strong connection with the hall senior arbiter, Mr. Gerry Walsh, President of the British Chess Federation. Mr.

Walsh was quite excited to see such a large contingent from Canada. He encouraged me to continue with our progress on a worldwide basis. As an aside, Mr. Walsh strongly urged us to participate wherever possible in attaining FIDE titles. This will be a "norm" for me towards an International Arbiter title. He also encouraged Canadians to pursue the International Organizer title.

The team was quite cohesive this year. We managed to "stake out" a location within the hotel and it became the "Canadian corner". Every morning, many team members came there to meet with Yan to prepare for their upcoming game. Every evening, most of the team came there after their games and everyone took part in consoling and cheering up those that may have had tough losses, just as everyone shared in rejoicing over the hard fought wins.

The team was quite social - and this is partly due to the parents and accompanying persons getting along so well and supporting each other so well. From this standpoint, the team was a huge success. I am sure that our point total would have suffered without this camaraderie.

I would like to see every year having someone that would organize things before hand and keeping everyone involved up-to-date with planning leading up to the event. This, I believe, had a hand in creating a cohesive group.

I would also like to see more support in attempting to raise sponsorships to send our team to the WYCC. We need to start to help pay for our seconds and thirds to each group to go to this event.

I would like to see more coaching support for this event. We need to consider funding a coach for every 10-15 players or so. Yan did a fabulous job this year, but was somewhat overtaxed.

On a worldwide scale, chess is coming closer to being a recognized sport. If we can manage to attain this status in Canada, there will immediately be more financial support for events such as the WYCC.

As a final statement, it is becoming clear that - at least from a youth standpoint - Canada is becoming recognized as an "up-and-comer" country. While we still don't have the power in chess, this is improving. Attending events such as these with substantial teams is helping with recognition worldwide. I fully expect that we will be "in the medals" more often in the future.

Patrick S. McDonald
Chess Federation of Canada Youth Co-ordinator

CFC Office

2003 CYCC Financials:

Additions to Fund

National Championship Entry Fees	\$22 875.00
Northern Ontario Championship Fees	\$1 533.00

6 Ontario Qualifier Fees	\$1 519.00
Northern Ontario Qualification Fees	\$1 486.00
Ontario Championship Fees	\$988.00
New Brunswick Championship Fees	\$626.00
British Columbia Championship Fees	\$489.00
Nova Scotia Championship Fees	\$250.00
Alberta Championship Fees	\$188.00

Less subtractions from Fund

Share to Town of Kapuskasing	\$15 250.00
Ten Airfares	\$11 891.37
Medals, Medallions, Supplies	\$1 831.93
T-Shirts	\$348.12
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	\$114.73
Current Fund Balance	\$517.85

Less further expected changes

Ten WYCC Entry Fees	\$1 000.00
Expected Deficit	\$482.15

Governor's Comments

Alvah Mayo:

I agree that it is clearly preferable to have "independent" tournament officials running and directing CFC events. However, being related to participants has not nor should it be an absolute bar to serving as a tournament director or organizer. Not long ago the Canadian Junior was organized in Manitoba by Peter and Jeanine Henson while their son Joshua was a player. As I recall, there were no complaints.

Motion 2004-01:

Moved by Alvah Mayo/Eric Newman that the Chess Federation of Canada accept the Ontario Chess Association bid for the 2004 Canadian Closed Championship (as presented in GL 2003/4-2).

Discussion:

It has been almost two years since we last held a Canadian Closed Championship. The OCA is the only organizer to have come forward with a bid for this event. Additionally,

the bid looks like a good one in my estimation (notwithstanding the wrong year appearing in two places). Holding the event during the summer should allow young players in school or university to attend. I applaud the efforts of the OCA in bringing forward this bid and I echo our President's call for my fellow Governors to support it.

Halldor Palsson: *Ruling on Motion 2004-01. I call for a vote. This motion can be voted on because the bid was published in GL #2 with a call for comments on it. I think Governors are ready to vote on the question.*

Barry Thorvardson:

Please note that the OCA will have two recognized TD's for the 2004 Canadian Closed and Zonal if it is successful in being awarded the event. At this time, Mark Dutton is not able to commit to be the lead TD. We will finalize TD's within thirty days of being awarded the event. (Interested TD's, from anywhere in Canada, may contact myself).

As a CFC Governor I vote for the OCA Bid for hosting the 2004 Canadian Closed and Zonal. The write up on the 2004 Championship calls for a vote, but the end of the Governor's Letter does not indicate a call for voting. (If successful, we want to start advertising as soon as possible, so an early vote is appreciated.)

I invite all provincial organizations to help make this 2004 Zonal a high profile chess event so that we can maximize the visibility of chess in Canada, and work towards obtaining chess sponsorships for the CFC to benefit us all.

At this event, we plan on having a major media event and awards banquet to honour our champions. First we want to honour each provincial champion, then the top provincial player achievement in the event, and finally our Canadian Champion.

We welcome suggestions and want us all to work together to mutually plan and benefit from media visibility and recognition to our champions, to provincial championship events leading up to the Canadian Championship, during the Canadian Closed, and following the event.

Lyle Craver:

Questions for the President:

1) To what does he put down as the reason for the serious deterioration of the CFC financials between the financial year end (which is the last interim financials the 2002-2003 Executive saw) and those presented at the AGM?

Halldor Palsson: *The executive in May 2003 got an interim (before year end adjustments) final Income of \$25,288. The final income was \$12,708 less than the interim report. THERE WERE YEAR END ADJUSTMENTS of \$12,708! At the AGM we also had financial results from May to July 1. The CFC had slow months over the summer. Our book sales were/are down and our expenses for En Passant were higher than expected.*

2) Why is/was it necessary to have only a one week deadline for GL responses in a GL published bi-monthly? When I was doing the GL I was on a monthly schedule and always allowed two weeks to reply. If we are back to a one GL per two months schedule again one would think the response period would be LONGER not shorter.

Halldor Palsson: *This was an oversight. We will try to make sure there is a two week reply period.*

Concerning the 2004 Canadian Open Bid process:

The BC Chess Federation Executive believes none of the bids presented at the 2003 AGM were fully in compliance with the requirements for the 2004 Open and thus the President grievously erred in not re-opening bidding for the event.

As to why there was not a challenge to the ruling of the chair the BCCF Executive in a full Executive meeting specifically voted not to do so as we did not believe we would get a proper or full hearing of our case. (I personally voted against this motion but was not part of the majority which included several BC governors on our board. I personally strongly supported a challenge to the chair.)

Halldor Palsson: *I chaired the AGM. As the presiding officer I tried to be fair and apply the CFC rules judiciously. That is really all that I can do.*

If I made mistakes (with respect to how the proposals for the 2004 Canadian Open were handled and as a result the AGM exceeded its authority), then my mistakes could not be corrected unless my rulings were challenged by the BCCF Executive. There was a clear process to challenge my rulings. It was their right and they chose not to exercise it. As a result these decisions, right or wrong, stand and we move on.

Numerous events have been held through the years in Ontario and Quebec during the time slot which normally hosts the Canadian Open in years when the Canadian Open was not in those provinces. As such while I personally think the WCO process has been more confrontational than need be, I do not think there can be any good faith argument against BC organizers holding an event during these dates. There simply is no date as good within a six week period before or after.

If the President wishes us to "unite for one national event per year" then the bid process needs to be completely transparent with no non-conforming bids given the right to re-submit their bid after they are found to be non-conforming unless all other bids are given the right to do the same. THE PROCESS NEEDS TO BE TRANSPARENT. I cannot say this strongly enough.

Whether the President and Executive accept the above characterization of how the Kapuskasing 2004 bid was altered after the other bids were exposed, this IS very much the perception and I do not think this perception has been properly addressed.

I would welcome a requirement for 2005 that all Canadian Open bids be published in the last 2003-2004 before the AGM so Governors can perform their role and fairly judge each bid on its merits. This is particularly critical in years when the Canadian Open is held in locations not easily reachable by air travel.

Finally - on the "one national event per year" question - we do indeed unite for such an event right now. That event is the Canadian Championship otherwise known as the Canadian Closed.

To summarize, there is a strong feeling in BC at present that we have not been fairly treated by the Kapuskasing AGM and that this needs to change during 2003-2004. There is also a strong perception out here that no region's needs except Ontario's matter and I sincerely hope the present CFC Executive will take sensible steps to deal with these feelings of alienation. While I don't agree with everything I have heard from our provincial Executive, I do believe the situation is likely to be exacerbated rather than improved when the 2004 AGM is held again in a geographically remote location from travel connections outside the host province. Unless these issues are taken seriously I see no improvement as I do not recall the last time the CFC Executive was so geographically concentrated in one region. I am hearing rhetoric from members of our provincial board I have not heard in the past decade.

FIDE titles:

I am totally mystified why ONLY Alex Davies would be recognized in the GL as the following have also received FIDE titles since the last GL: Lefong Hua FM, Zhe Quan FM, Thomas Roussel-Roozmon FM, Mark Barnes IA, Yves Casaubon IA, Lyle Craver IA, Lynn Stringer IA. In short, I don't recall the last time Canada had so many titles awarded in such a short period! It's my belief that FIDE titles should be announced either by the President or the FIDE Rep and if anyone's title is mentioned they ALL should be mentioned. Certainly these new titles should be mentioned in EP.

Other comments:

Thanks to Mr. Cohen for his kind words. I honestly don't know what the BCCF has planned for 2005 - we do have the 30th Keres Memorial and Elod Macskasy Memorial planned and do not know whether we can also do the 2005 Canadian Open / CYCC. However there is lots of time before bids need to be ready so we shall see.

Special thanks to Pierre for his information on FQE doings. Too often we at the CFC Executive and CFC Governors level tend to forget that we are the Chess Federation of CANADA. When one provincial federation suffers - even the FQE - it diminishes us all.

If Pierre needs a seconder for his proposal concerning adding the updated FIDE regulations to the CFC Handbook ("Motion for GL2: That the latest FIDE title regulations are added to the CFC handbook. Those rules have been changed effective July 1st 2003. Every arbiter should be aware of the changes.") I will happily second that motion.

I certainly second Alvah's call for more Governor involvement in the GL - that was my single biggest frustration as CFC Secretary and hope this changes for him!

It is good to hear of a strong Yanofsky Memorial. This definitely deserves featuring in EP.

Unlike Mr. Barron, I prefer the GL in two column magazine type format. While it's a pain for the Secretary to put the GL in this form (as I know from personal experience) it is definitely more readable in two columns rather than one.

I also believe it would be a step backwards to only do ratings once per month. Basically Gerry enters crosstables all month long and puts them through his "edit" program to catch any data input errors. This is where the bulk of his work is and he does it well.

Actually running the rating program which outputs the rating list is far more a matter of CPU time than his time - there would be few if any cost savings involved in running the rating program less often as the labour intensive part of the job is the data entry of individual tournaments. I also do not believe downgrading this service would be well received by players given the recent rating fee increase.

Once again, I would like to make the call for the Business Office (or associated volunteers) to prepare a standardized online data entry form to allow the Business Office to eliminate most of the keying of events. It ought to be doable and is something I've suggested to every Executive Director since (and including) Troy. It would of course be a lot more popular with the TDs if it included a reduction in the rating fee which would be financially do-able if Gerry and staff didn't have to spend the time entering crosstables!

Concerning EP, the "Holy Grail" would of course be to provide fully equal and equivalent magazines in both languages. Financially at present it seems unlikely though. While I have always been a 'hawk' on the subject of the shenanigans perpetrated by the FQE towards the CFC (most recently with motion 97-10), we need to work on expanding French-language serves wherever possible.

At a bare minimum we need to do a good job of keeping the French-language portion of the CFC web page current. Until recently the French language CFC web pages still had Serge as Executive Director and myself as CFC Treasurer! (Enough said!)

One key reason why I was one of those who favoured keeping the CFC Business Office in Ottawa as opposed to Toronto was my strong belief that prospective francophone staffers were far more readily available in Ottawa than Toronto.

TORONTO CANADIAN CLOSED BID:

I assume the deadline for advance registration was intended to be August 15th, 2004 not 2003 as given in the GL. I do not agree with limiting the number of players to 50 provided all meet the minimum rating criteria. This is particularly interesting since the event budget presumes 50 players all paying entry fees. If there are "discretionary" seats these should be determined by the CFC Executive rather than the OCA - though I dislike the concept of "discretionary seats" period. Are we the governors being asked to vote on this bid or are the Governors being informed pro forma with the decision already been taken by the Executive?

Frank Dixon:

Here is my input to the new Governors' Letter. I am taking up the CFC President's call for ideas and issues to be discussed.

Format of presentation of GL: The latest Governors' Letter, which arrived in early November by email, was almost unreadable because of the atrocious amount of dead space, poor layout, disjointed presentation, and the missing Olympic Regulations, which arrived as a separate document a couple of days later.

When dealing with such a large document on a computer screen, it is very difficult to make sense of nearly 90 per cent of the material being dead space, which has to be scrolled, up and down, and side to side, repeatedly, as one tries to find the good stuff.

There were a couple of very important items in the letter, namely the bids for the 2004 Canadian Closed and the 2004 Canadian Open, but I had great difficulty making sense of the Open bid. We need to do vastly better.

I think the Executive Director owes the Governors an explanation and an apology, for this appalling effort. Try to make a more concise presentation, to the point, avoiding the dead space in the future. Quite honestly, the quality of work done on this was something that a bad high school student would be ashamed of handing in, let alone a professional paid employee of any organization.

Toronto bid for Canadian Closed 2004: I am voting in favour of the Toronto group's bid for the 2004 Canadian Closed. I believe this is something that I am supposed to vote upon, correct!?! Instructions are confusing.

Confusion reigns on with Kap bid: The Kapuskasing 2004 bid, as presented originally in July, 2003, at the AGM, was passed and later found to be non-conforming with CFC rules. I cannot understand the revised Kapuskasing bid for the 2004 Canadian Open, as presented in the letter, so I am asking for further clarification of the information involving this bid, to be presented in the next issue. Remember that CFC members are asking CFC Governors for information on this and other issues, so if we as Governors can't understand what is happening, the CFC doesn't look very good, does it!?

Also, I would like to introduce discussion on instituting a CFC regulation preventing any given city or group from holding more than two Canadian Opens in a row. The Kap monopoly on the Open should end after 2004. The Canadian Open needs to be moved around the country.

Conflict of Interest Issue: I would like to open discussion on the issue of conflict of interest in Canadian chess, as it applies to the organization and direction of tournaments, when fellow family members are taking part.

I can't find anything in the CFC Handbook about this, and it is an issue which needs to be addressed, especially in view of the situation involving the Canadian Junior in Calgary, now possibly suspended, where one of the key organizers is related to two potential players in the event. Governors should think about this and express their views.

Then we can draft a policy so that people will know where they stand when this issue comes up, to the benefit of everyone, with fairer play and organization hopefully resulting from the process. What does FIDE have to say about this issue!?

Ontario Post-Secondary Chess: I can report that the Queen's University Chess Club will be hosting the 2004 Ontario Interuniversity Team Chess Championships in Kingston, Jan. 9-11, 2004. The event will be open to four-player teams representing post-secondary institutions, both university and college, in Ontario. McGill University of Montreal, Quebec, has also expressed interest in taking part, and the organizers welcome McGill's involvement.

The tournament will be organized in two sections with the top section CFC-rated and the reserve section not CFC-rated. Play will be over four rounds with a team Swiss format. I will direct the event for free, the Queen's University Club has secured a free

playing site, and the Queen's University student government has come through with a nice financial grant to kick off our efforts.

Planning of this event for future years will be undertaken during the tournament weekend, with some sort of formal affiliation with the Ontario Chess Association being one possibility. The Ontario schools have expressed some interest in forming a new Ontario Post-Secondary Chess Association.

The 2004 event follows up on the very successful event organized in January, 2003, by the University of Western Ontario (see my tournament report, including several annotated Master games, in the June 2003 issue of *En Passant* magazine). A detailed advertisement of the 2004 tournament will appear in the forthcoming December issue of *En Passant*.

Olympic Team Selection: The selection lists for the 2004 teams have started appearing. I think it is time for a complete revision of this entire process, given that the selection lists count games played in Canada only, and do not deal with international play by Canadians. For example, IM Pascal Charbonneau's wonderful tournament in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during the summer, where he represented Canada in the Continental Championship of the Americas, challenging to win the title until near the very end, and scoring a Grandmaster norm, does not count for the selection lists. This seems absurd and wrong.

It is probably already too late to revise this process for 2004, since the selection lists have started appearing. But it seems that if we want to field our best teams, taking into account the very quick improvement of certain players, with international norms being scored regularly, and in view of the increasing competition among top players for team selection, that we need to come up with some sort of a weighting formula to count both domestic and international play, at least in time for 2006. Discussion of this idea should begin now. Canada has not had for over 20 years such a deep and strong group of talented young players as we have now. We need to optimize this on the international stage.

Wilf Ferner:

As governor I vote for the Canadian Zonal bid for Toronto as detailed in the GL#2. The president says he hopes the governors will accept the Toronto bid. And at the end of the GL it says no motions for discussion/vote. Very strange and confusing! Why? Please have it clarified!

Stephen Wright:

Canadian Zonal 2004: there seems to be a procedural problem - the president notes that "The CFC Executive recommends that the Governors accept the bid for the Canadian Zonal that is published in this issue," yet we are told at the end of GL#2 there are no motions under discussion or being voted on. I am new to this, but presumably there should be a motion to accept the bid?

I hope the renovations at Tartu College have been extensive - I know that a number of players at the 1996 event were not happy with the playing conditions or accommodations.

General Announcements: there are others who have received FIDE titles recently who have yet to be acknowledged in this fashion.

Thank you to Gerry for the notification concerning changes to the FIDE rating regulations. However, this has been in effect since July 1st; it would be nice to know of such changes in advance, rather than after the fact. Would it be possible for our FIDE representative to make announcements of significant changes in the FIDE regulations?

Motion 2004-02:

Moved by Stephen Wright/Lyle Craver that the following apply to Section 1012 of the CFC Handbook:

For each of the ten categories (girls and boys under 18, 16, 14, 12, and 10) in the Canadian Youth Chess Championship (CYCC):

- 1. The first place finisher at the CYCC receives free air fare to the World Youth Chess Championship (WYCC).**
- 2. The second and third place finishers at the CYCC qualify for the WYCC and may attend that event at their own expense.**
- 3. Any player rated as high or higher than the lowest rated qualifier from the CYCC, taken from the most recently published rating list prior to the CYCC, may attend the WYCC at his or her own expense.**

Discussion:

This year a number of our stronger juniors were unable to make the journey to Kapuskasing. Consequently, they had no means of qualifying for the WYCC, and as a result our team in Greece was significantly weaker than it could have been. This motion would allow our high-rated juniors to participate in the WYCC at their own expense without having to qualify via the CYCC, thus allowing Canada to field our strongest possible team at the world event.

Halldor Palsson: *Ruling on Motion 2004-02. I rule this motion out of order. The CFC qualifies Canadians to FIDE world events through a championship qualification system. My understanding is that a national championship is used by every other Chess Federation in FIDE to qualify players. Our rules specific to junior chess specify the CYCC. The FIDE rules are silent on how national Chess Federations qualify participants to the WYCC, perhaps because of the definition of a championship. A championship is a contest held to determine a champion – sitting on your rating does not qualify as participation. The Canadian participants in the World Youth Chess Championship obtain qualification through a contest held to determine a Canadian Champion known as the Canadian Youth Chess Championship.*

Hal Bond:

TD Certification: This program did not die on my watch. All applications were processed during my tenure. I don't know what happened afterward. I am glad to see the program renewed in any case.

Women's Co-ordinator: We are fortunate to have Bela's enthusiasm in this portfolio. At least one bid for the Women's Zonal is in the works.

Western Canada Open: This is an unfortunate development. The precedent being set is disturbing. Maybe the moral of the story is to remember the importance of attending the AGM. Decisions are made by those who show up.

Patrick McDonald:

I am calling on all Governors and organizers to organize local regional qualifying tournaments for the Provincial finals leading up to the Canadian Youth Chess Championships 2004.

I am also calling on all provincial Associations to organize their provincial finals to send the countries top youth to the CYCC 2004. Please let me know of your plans and of how I can be of assistance with your tournaments.

Please email me at: patrick@imaging-arts.com to let me know about your plans for regional and provincial CYCC qualifier tournaments.

Pierre Denomee:

President's message in GL 2: The part on the conflict of interest is quite right. The parents and long-time coaches of the participants should not be allowed to be arbiters. In fact, they should not be allowed in the playing area even as simple spectators. Personal conflicts may exist in any organization including our Provincial Associations. The possibility that a person might be banned without valid reason should be dealt with. Anybody banned by a Provincial Association should have the right to appeal to the CFC. The players are already granted the right to use a national appeal committee and this right should be broadened.

FIDE report: The tournament reports of tournaments which are registered in advance with FIDE are to be sent directly to FIDE by the Chief Arbiter. For tournaments not registered, the report should be sent to the CFC. In theory, tournaments not registered in advance cannot be rated by this rule has never been applied. Tournament reports for tournaments registered in advance are an exception to the rule that a person shall not contact FIDE directly.

The FQE certified TD list is on the FQE web site at <http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/ressources.htm> . Not all of the TDs listed are active but they have written the exam.

We should hold a Canadian Closed every year because FIDE waive the requirement about the number of foreign players for national championships. This means that our players could achieve valid FIDE title norms by playing solely with other Canadian players. The final title application cannot be based solely on such internal norms but a player could get two norms at home. Similarly, FIDE grant the same exemption for the (non-existent) Canadian team Championship.

Michael Barron:

It's better to issue Governors' Letters more frequently and allocate equal time for Governors' responses and for preparing new Governors' Letter after Deadline for submissions of responses – let's say, 2 week each period.

The Olympiad Regulations: the corrected revision of the Section 12 of the CFC Handbook was missed in Governors' Letter #2. I have included it in Governors' Letter #3 and call Governors' vote for approving it.

Halldor Palsson: *I rule this motion out of order. This is the same issue as motion raised in motion 2003-08, amendment 3. This was voted for by 6, against 19, abstain 7 [GL #1 2003-04, p.5]. APPENDIX A IS DELETED.*

CFC members recruiting: I think the Chess Federation of Canada should invest its resources in organization of chess events in Canada, otherwise we cannot expect the increase in membership. I believe we need at least annual Canadian Closed, Open, Women, Senior, Junior and Youth Championships. Right now we have annually only Open, Junior and Youth Championships, and even those events face serious organizational problems.

Canadian Zonal 2004: I vote in favour of the Ontario Chess Association's bid for the Canadian Zonal 2004.

Canadian Open 2004: I vote in favour of the proposal for Governors' vote on competing bids for the Canadian Open 2004 in GL #3.

The New Women's Coordinator: I am welcoming Ms. Bela Kosoian as our new Women's Coordinator and wish you success in organizing Women's chess competitions in Canada to avoid this year's situation, when CFC President need to ask anybody to represent Canada in Continental Championship.

Motion 2003-06: I support Pierre Denomee's comment about Motion 2003-06. This motion should be made consistent with FIDE Laws of Chess.

Pierre Denomee's motion for GL2: I support Pierre Denomee's Motion for GL2: The latest FIDE title regulations should be added to the CFC handbook.

Time Controls: I believe that CFC, as FIDE affiliate, should encourage using of official FIDE time control (90 minutes for game + 30 second increment per move) in all chess competitions in Canada. This could help Canadian players to prepare better for international competitions.

Motions for Discussion and for Vote: To increase Governors' participation in each Governors' Letter Motions for Discussion and for Vote should be clearly identified.

Maurice Smith:

This is in response to Michael Barron's eleven point comments in GL 2. In particular my response is to Item 2 - More resources for CFC and Item 5 - Awarding the Canadian Open at the Annual Meeting.

Mr. Barron suggests that the CFC should obtain government sponsorship and not raise any type of membership fees. Mr. Barron is obviously unaware of the past history of the CFC and our current financial situation.

For many years, Governors and the Executive have approached government and potential sponsors at various times requesting funding. The results have usually been quite negative. The federal government in particular does not perceive chess as either a sport or an art. There is no category, therefore no funding.

It is very difficult to get sponsorship on a national basis, better success is achieved on a local basis in some communities. In the past few years, gradual improvement has been noticed, perhaps due to the persistence of various chess people. So Mr. Barron should not assume that nothing has ever been done or that it is easy. The opposite is true in both cases.

The financial situation dictated that measures to increase revenues had to be put in place immediately. The small increase in membership fees will add up to a significant revenue boost while really causing little hardship to members. After all, if chess players cannot support their own interests, then who will?

On Mr. Barron's Item 5, he suggests that the Canadian Open should not have been awarded at the Annual Meeting because all Governors did not have a chance to vote on it. Mr. Palsson has already announced the reasons of awarding the tournament to Kapuskasing.

I want to focus on the thinking that crops up from time to time that motions should not be debated at the Annual Meeting because not all Governors are present. Actually, the Annual Meeting IS the time when motions should be debated.

It is the only time when Governors can sit down face to face and openly discuss the issues affecting the CFC. Opinions can be formed and changed watching and listening to Governors intensely debating these issues. It is much different than the cold phrasing of a paragraph in an e-mail or a Governors Letter.

To my knowledge there were no Outgoing or Incoming Governors barred from attending the Annual Meeting in Kapuskasing. All Governors had the right to attend. Indeed, we had dedicated Governors from as far away as Alberta and Newfoundland.

More votes are recorded at an Annual Meeting than in the GL. Last year there were five motions voted on in the GL. The total number of votes on each one was 14, 16, 16, 9 and 10. At the Annual Meeting, other than procedural type motions {motion to accept report, motion to table, motion to adjourn etc.} I counted sixteen business motions. On ten of these there were 37 votes. The lowest vote was 32. On average you get more than double the votes at the Annual Meeting than you do on a motion in the GL.

To summarize my points, they are mentioned for information purposes rather than for criticism. We do need new Governors such as Mr. Barron to help put forward new ideas

to increase revenue and reduce expenses. However, before they do, I suggest they read past GLs and discuss with other Governors what has happened in the past and what is presently happening.

This is especially important with our financial situation. Then after analyzing all this information, I am sure that any new ideas that result from this will be welcomed and considered by other Governors and the CFC Executive.

Motions for First Discussion:

None

Motions for Second Discussion:

None

Motions for Vote:

Motion 2004-01 (Mayo/Newman) Canadian Closed Bid

Deadline for Submissions to GL #3: December 22, 2003