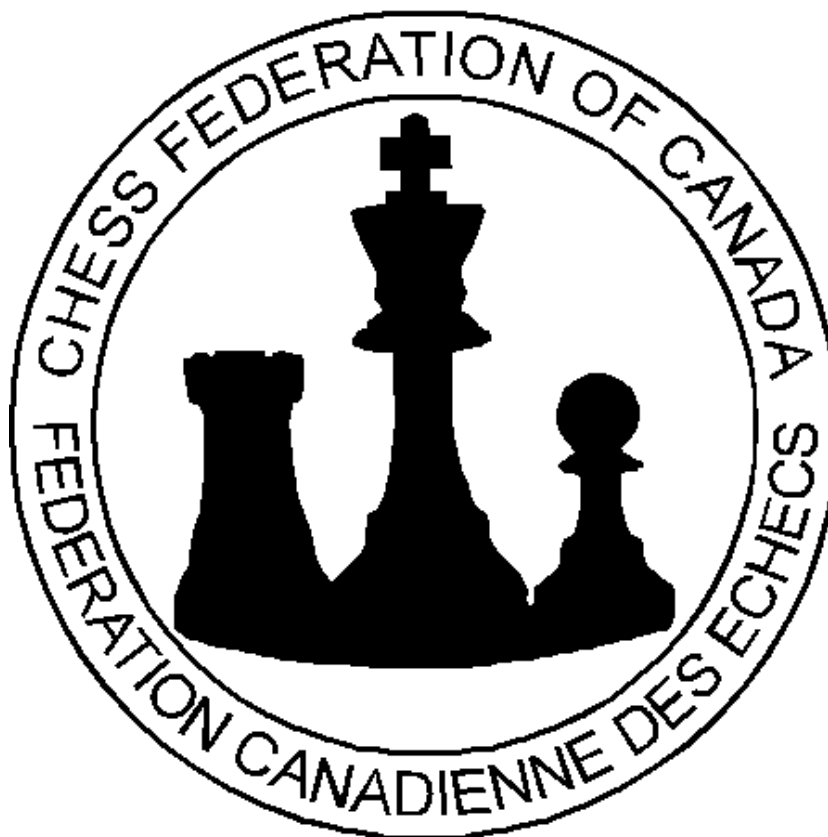


# **CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER ONE 1997-1998**



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@chesscanada.org](mailto:info@chesscanada.org)

Please NOTE: Due to the size of this Governor's Letter, it was not sent out by e-mail

**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@chesscanada.org](mailto:info@chesscanada.org) if interested.

**Deadline for next Governors' Letter is October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1997**

### NOTE

The following items were missed in the last GL. As I was not the one compiling the GL at that time, I have no idea why they were missed. [TV]

#### **Vojin Vujosevic:**

STRAW VOTE: 97-6 NO  
97-7 YES  
97-8 NO

VOTE: 97-9 YES

COMMENTS 97-10:

Why do we need to do extra work for any one group. TD's can add a number such as 50 or a 100 to FQE ratings for pairing and prize distribution purposes. Otherwise we treat everybody the same way.

I also find it interesting that CFC Governors will vote and then wait, for the higher official body, the FQE, to ratify our rules by August 31st, 1997 or it is all null and void. Impressive! See page 9 in the GL #5.

### MOTIONS FOR VOTE

**97-10:** Moved Cabañas/Smith (a) That the following be entered under a new section of the handbook entitled "Section 23 Provincial and Territorial Programs"

#### **Specific regulations for players resident in the Province of Quebec**

**2305** The CFC Rating auditor shall calculate on an annual basis the conversion number,  $X_q$ , to be added a players Fédération québécoise des échecs (FQE) rating,  $Q$ , in order to convert a players FQE rating to the CFC scale.  $X_q$  may depend upon  $Q$  and may be a positive or negative number.

$$R_q = Q + X_q$$

**2306** For a player resident in the Province of Quebec with no CFC rating, and with an FQE rating their CFC rating shall be determined as follows:

- $Q$  is a permanent rating (25 or more FQE rated games). The CFC rating shall be calculated using the established CFC rating formula with  $R_o$  replaced by  $R_q$  for the first event. For subsequent events the established CFC rating formula is used. The rating shall be published as provisional after 3 CFC rated games with a rating indicator equal to 10 plus the number of CFC rated games and shall be considered and treated as permanent after 15 CFC rated games.
- $Q$  is a provisional rating with  $N_q$  FQE rated games, where  $N_q$  is greater than or equal to 10 and less than 25. The CFC rating shall be calculated using the CFC provisional rating formula after assigning the player an initial rating equal to  $R_q$  with an activity of 10 games. For subsequent events the provisional and/or the established CFC rating formulas are used as appropriate. The rating shall be published as provisional after 3 CFC rated games with a rating indicator equal to 10 plus the number of CFC rated games and shall be considered and treated as permanent after 15 CFC rated games.
- $Q$  is a provisional rating with  $N_q$  FQE rated games, where  $N_q$  is less than 10. The CFC rating shall be calculated using the CFC provisional rating formula after assigning

the player an initial rating equal to  $R_q$  with an activity of  $N_q$  games. For subsequent events the provisional and/or the established CFC rating formulas are used as appropriate. The rating shall be published as provisional after 3 CFC rated games with a rating indicator equal to  $N_q$  plus the number of CFC rated games and shall be considered and treated as permanent after 25 -  $N_q$  CFC rated games.

**2307**  $Q$  shall be obtained from the most recent rating list provided by the FQE to the CFC that does not include the tournament where the player obtains his/her first CFC rating.

**2308** The provisions of 2305, 2306, and 2307 shall remain in force only if the FQE agrees to rate CFC the Top section of all events which are FQE organized, and to recommend to its clubs, affiliates and organizers that they follow a similar policy in their events.

(b) That the following article be added to section 7 of the Handbook

**720 Players Resident in the Province of Quebec.** Regulations 2305 2306 2307 and 2308 apply to players with no CFC rating.

The provisions of this motion shall only take effect after the FQE formally agrees to 2305, 2306, 2307 and 2308. If the CFC does not receive official notice, from the FQE, of this agreement by August 31 1997, this motion is rescinded with no further action required by the Assembly. The passage of this motion is subject to the passage of 97-4. [This motion did pass.]

#### **Votes:**

**Yes:** John Armstrong, Maurice Smith, Rick Martin, Walter Watson, Yves Farges, Ari Mendrinos, Lembit Joselin, Andrew Walls, Grant Brown, Francisco Cabanas

**No:** Gordon Taylor, Robert Bowerman, Vojin Vujosevic, John Puusa

**Abstain:** J.Ken MacDonald, Lyle Craver,  
Ten for, four against and two abstain. Motion passed.

### DISCUSSION ON 97-10

**John Puusa:** After some reflection, I have decided to vote NO to 97-10, though this in no way should be regarded as non-confidence in the leadership of President Cabanas and Vice-President Smith. Governor Craver's background in statistics is invaluable to the Board of Governors and his analysis helped me in making my decision. His comment regarding the lack of a sunset clause in the motion is worthy of note; its presence might have made 97-10 more amenable to some. Governor Brian Smith also raised some good points in that individual chess players in Quebec could take out CFC membership of their own volition. Governor Bowerman made mention of the disincentive of Quebec-based chess players to join the CFC should 97-10 pass. In short: Regretfully, NO!

**Lyle Craver:** My previously stated objections to the mathematics of the rating calculations have not been answered. The ONLY reason I'd consider this motion at all would be that FQE rated players would get a provisional and not a permanent rating -- and that the policy of the CFC remains that ONLY permanently rated players qualify for national and international events.

Frankly I am highly suspicious of the FQE's good faith in last autumn's negotiations. That no French-language version of last autumn's accord has even now been produced (as confirmed

recently by two members of the Executive to me personally) speaks volumes about FQE intentions.

I would LIKE to support the President's initiative -- but at the moment it seems entirely one-sided on the CFC's part. In any case the CFC's job is to provide services to chess players throughout Canada and while in the case of Quebec cooperation with the FQE would be desirable, our mandate is still to represent ALL players (including Quebecers) even if we don't have FQE support in whatever form. This mandate exists and will continue to exist regardless of the success or failure of 97-10.

### **DISCUSSION ON 97-11**

**97-11:** Moved Stringer/Lee

That effective August 1, 1997 section 731 p7-4 of the handbook be replaced by the following:

731. Fee: The rating fee for all events (tournaments or matches) with the exception of junior events is \$2.00 per player. The rating fee for junior events is \$1.00 per player. An event is considered junior for the purposes of this section if all the players meet the age requirements of the World Junior of the year following the year in which the event ends.

**Maurice Smith:** This is another motion designed to increase the participation of Juniors in their events. If it increases Junior membership and subsequently adult membership, it should offset any initial loss of revenue. I believe it is worth a try.

**Ari Mendrinis:** It is a great idea to encourage the young generation to participate in chess tournaments. Therefore I am for the motion in full steam ahead.

**Robert Bowerman:** I continue to support 97-11 as a useful measure in promoting junior chess. I would not expect dramatic increases in junior participation because of it, but hopefully it will have some positive impact. It would be useful to monitor the results of this change in order to assess its usefulness.

**Lembit Joselin:** Yes.

**Vojin Vujosevic:** Yes, we should promote junior chess

**John Puusa:** My comments in GL 6 (p.7) still stand. In favour of the Stringer/Lee motion. Good work!

**Roger Langen:** My vote is YES

**Lyle Craver:** While I agree with this motion, despite the Chair's comments I DO think that the "Born after \_\_\_-\_\_\_-\_\_\_" definition of Juniors and Cadets needs to be printed in the rating lists - reading section 10 in the Handbook should NOT be necessary particularly with the chaotic situation at FIDE.

**Grant Brown:** I say this is a good start and suggest that we find a way to eliminate rating fees entirely, for everyone. Having one's games rated should be a free service to members.

### **Discussion on 97-12 Straw Vote Topic**

**97-12** Moved Langen/Vujosevic

1) *a system of titles linked to rating be adopted for players over 2200*

SUCH THAT

a) a player maintaining a rating over 2200 (and less than 2300) for twenty (20) consecutive games in appropriate-strength qualifying events, or entering the 2200-2299 range for the third time on the published national ratings list, be awarded the title **Candidate Master**;

b) a player maintaining a rating over 2300 (and less than 2400) for twenty-four (24) consecutive games in appropriate-strength qualifying events, or entering the 2300-2399 range for the third time on the published national ratings list, be awarded the title **Canadian Master**;

c) a player maintaining a rating over 2400 for twenty (20) consecutive games in appropriate-strength qualifying events, or entering the 2400+ range for the third time on the published national ratings list, be awarded the title **Ranking Master**, such player to have automatic consideration for Canadian Closed and Olympic team events;

AND IT IS FURTHER PROPOSED THAT

2) *a system of certificates linked to rating be adopted for players under 2200*

SUCH THAT

a) a player maintaining a rating over 2000 (and less than 2200) for thirty (30) consecutive games in regular rated events be formally certified an **Expert**, such certificate having meanings as designed by the Chess Federation of Canada (e.g. to qualify for a particular event, to be permanently ineligible for lower-category prizes, etc.);

b) a player maintaining a rating over 1800 (and less than 2000) for thirty (30) consecutive games in regular rated events be formally certified an **A-Player** (and similarly for the other classes of player, B to D), such certificate having meanings as designed by the Chess Federation of Canada (as above).

For all the categories above, any player who enters a higher category shall automatically qualify for the title or certificate of the lower category, e.g. an Expert who makes 2300 will automatically receive the Candidate Master title; a C-player who makes 1800 will automatically acquire the B-player certificate; etc.

Discussion: Titles can be announced as they are achieved in *En Passant* and would be notated in the rating list accordingly, e.g. RM, CM, cm. Certificates (i.e. permanent class designations) would be notated: X, A, B, C, D. Players wishing to have individualized CFC certificates sent out to them could pay a \$10.00 fee. Such a generalized system would give readers of the annotated rating lists a much clearer idea of playing strengths. The movers of this motion welcome suggestions and ideas for improvements.

**John Armstrong:** I like the idea for players above 2200 (or maybe above 2000). Ranking master sounds odd to me. Senior Canadian master is an alternative. Before voting we should know how much the administration of this system would cost. Also, what are the implications of "automatic consideration for Canadian Closed and Olympic team events"?

**Yves Farges:** The authors of this motion are to be congratulated for addressing the need of formal recognition of achievement in chess. I don't mean the rarified heights of master, so much as the recognition of the grassroots player: D-Class, C-Class, B-Class & A-Class. They play just as hard (in some cases, a lot harder judging by the disgraceful draws by masters a few moves long...) and play at their level in the spirit of good sportsmanship. These players also deserve to be recognized, in a tangible way, for performing well at their level. The CFC is mostly made up of these players, with only a small percentage over 2200. I would like to see this as a real motion, rather than a straw vote topic.

**Ari Mendrinis:** The system is really complicated but should be implemented to encourage the higher rank of player to play and achieve their goals. I am for this system.

**Robert Bowerman:** I like the general idea behind motion 97-12. We do need to recognize achievements at other levels besides the very elite who have international titles. While money is undoubtedly a paramount consideration for our professional players for many of us it is of secondary importance – it is simply one way of recognizing achievement in a particular tournament. Arguably awards and trophies might serve the same purpose. To this end, category awards and/or certificates would help satisfy the desire for peer recognition and bring a sense of closure as particular categories were reached and maintained. As mentioned in the proposal, these titles might be useful in determining who is eligible for class prizes in tournaments. There might also be the possibility of raising additional revenues because of fees raised for certificates. Speaking as a teacher, awards & certificates are very useful incentive for children. This proposal would further promote junior chess particularly if certificates were awarded without cost.

**Vojin Vujosevic:** Maybe it can be refined but the main thing perhaps should be issue certificates for non-masters on demand and at a small fee.

Those who are professional chess players may find a framed “diploma” helpful when dealing with sponsors, students etc. Obviously I do support the motion.

**John Puusa:** Credit goes to Governors’ Langen and Vujosevic in attempting to standardize and define the status of Canadian Master, Candidate Master and Expert. The certificate program is an inexpensive way to recognize past achievements by chess players as they continue to move up through the ranks. A \$10 fee for a personal copy is not unreasonable. This proposal should be broken down into concurrent motions and voted on in that fashion.

**Roger Langen:** As the mover of this proposal, my “straw vote” is YES. Perhaps the complications in the proposal can be simplified for Motions as follows:

MOTION to establish a Canadian Master title at the 2300 marker after qualification, details of qualification to be settled by committee.

MOTION to establish a Candidate Master title at the 2200 marker after qualification, details to be settled by committee, etc.

MOTION to establish a Ranking Master distinction (perhaps not a title), for purposes of identifying players who might qualify for Olympic or Canadian Closed participation (minimum rating 2400?).

MOTION to establish a certificate of achievement for the Expert level (2000-2199) after qualification, details etc.

And similarly for the rating groups A to D.

This makes eight motions altogether: five for certificates, two for titles, and one for a distinction or title. If the Straw Vote is generally in favor of the proposal, then, with advice from the President and the Governors’ discussion of the proposal, the movers will prepare language for motions.

As the originator of the proposal, I would prioritize the motions above as follows:

1. Canadian Master title. This is the primary purpose of the proposal, to establish a national title to honor players with a stable 2300 achievement; and, in a corollary sense, to distinguish such titles from the fluctuations of the ratings

numbers. On this scheme, Geza Fuster, for example, an IM, could never have been considered an Expert despite his ratings decline (2100+) in later years. He would always have been an IM (or a CM or an RM or whatever).

2. Candidate Master title. I like the idea of using this rather interesting expression (perhaps Russian in origin?) in our system, but with a clear purpose: to create a clearing house or buffer zone between rated players and titled players, such that the 2200-2300 area becomes a birthing place for Masters. You don’t simply jump from Expert rating level into the Canadian Master title (unless, perhaps, you leapfrog the whole 2200-2300 category and “stick”), but move up a rating level and try to stay (or keep getting back to it), then get the Candidate Master status (cm) readying you for your try at the big title, the Canadian Master.

3. The certificate system. I value these class certificates equally, not Expert first, A next, and maybe not even a C or D. The point is that average tournament play strength is somewhere near high C. A lot of novice/amateur players (U1200) would value a certificate at D. After all, it is a form of recognition and does have value - to them, and as a playing level. The D certificate would be an entry point to chess reality, so to speak, in the tournament play system, and distinguish such players generally from all amateur play, whether children learning the game (of whom there are a great many now) or hobby adult players (who might see a tournament play certificate of some interest because it had attainability).

4. Ranking Master title or distinction. I am least concerned about this one since it is somewhat artificial as an honorific (2400 players tend to be well regarded and stable at that level) and since qualification to the Canadian Closed or to the Olympic Team is already covered by rules, etc. However, it might prevent unnecessary “weakening” of the Canadian Closed to establish a Ranking class of player. Its other possible value is to establish an international reputation to certain of our players who do not get adequate IM norm opportunities playing only in Canada. This is perhaps worth thinking about.

In conclusion: I like a title & certificate system to give more structure (and honors) to our ratings. I like the Candidate Master title to make the transition from rating class to title more testing and to keep the Canadian Master title at a good level (2300). And I like the certificate system as a means of recognizing the majority group of our players and to give them more incentive to play often. I think this is one of the desired effects of the whole scheme: more play by everyone. There is also the thought that once having achieved a level, you cannot win prizes in a lower group whatever your rating, i.e. no more sandbagging. This does not, of course, prevent tournament directors from offering prizes occasionally on the old system (ignoring certificate restrictions, etc).

I look forward to all responses.

**Lyle Craver:** No. Most players do not have any idea what ‘Candidate Master’ and ‘Ranking Master’ mean. To the extent the average player understands ‘Candidate Master’ he/she equates it to ‘Expert’. As for ‘Canadian Master’, most chess magazines currently say ‘Master’ or ‘National Master’.

Furthermore the clause ‘such player to have automatic consideration for Canadian Closed and Olympic team events’ would mandate a change to existing regulations by the back door.

This is NOT my idea of a suitable 'straw vote' motion to put it mildly.

**Grant Brown:** I'm in favour of the CFC providing documentary titles and certificates of ratings, and am happy to leave implementation details up to someone else. It's not a major deal.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION SURVEY**

**Maurice Smith:**

1. (4)
2. (4)

I do not need any specific information at this time.

3. (4)

However, there is one comment I would like to add. I am not entirely unhappy with the way things are, but most of the auditor's suggestions seem to be worth implementing.

Other Comments:

The suggestion to do away with the Treasurer is a little hard to take. While the Treasurer's position is redundant in the day to day operations of the C.F.C., I still think there should be a person overseeing the Business Office from a financial viewpoint. This person should have an accounting background and receive quarterly statements. He can then advise the Business Office {and the Executive} on where and how we should spend or not spend. This could even work in favour of the Office staff in that if operations are being run efficiently, the Treasurer would speak positively about their efforts to the Executive, and be able to support them at the Annual Meeting.

**Rick Martin:**

1. (5)
2. (4)
3. (4)

**Yves Farges:**

1. (5)
2. (5)

1. Historical Financial Data, outlined by notes would give a clear view of cash drains. Hell if one of my programs created a cash drain, say so and other presidents can learn from experience.

2. Update historical contributions to chess foundation (it was in old GL) (Lynn has it too).

3. (-)

I am never happy with the status quo. The office has done a great job organizing. Keep up the good work.

Other Comments:

I am delighted to see the office at the level of long range cash flow-planning. My thanks to Michael Yip for volunteering his time and expertise to the CFC.

Suggest: Plan the Olympic chess weekend now for fall. I will TD two days in Vancouver, provided I am informed early enough to clear my business calendar and/or travel calendar.

**Robert Bowerman**

1. (1)
2. (1)
3. (1)

**John Puusa:** As a non-accountant, I appreciate the inclusion of the Auditor's Report in GL #6. His analysis of the CFC's financial position and its administrative set-up is worthwhile input. His recommendations should be seriously examined by the Executive and the Board of Governors.

**Lyle Craver:** I welcome the lengthy Auditor's Report comments. However page 13 seems to say a budget was to be presented - page 14 came out blank on MY GL; is this correct?

1. (5) disagree

2. (5) disagree - I'm specifically interested in a more detailed breakdown of CFC merchandise inventories (books, equipment, computer related equipment - both hardware and software). I'm also interested in some kind of planning for events not held annually - we seem to get wild swings in Olympiad and Canadian Zonal years. I also want to see more detailed membership information of the sort printed on pages 8-9 quarterly or at the very least every second GL. I'd also be interested (one-time - obviously not each GL) in learning the formula used to calculate earned and unearned membership revenue. Is there a seasonal pattern and how is this accounted for? How are life members accounted for on this calculation?

**Grant Brown:**

- 1 (5)

2. I want to know more, specifically what is included in the following categories of expense:

Building & Equipment  
Office

Other Exec. & Admin.

Publications

International Programs

National Programs

3. (5)

Is the building owned "free and clear of all encumbrances" by the CFC? Does it include land?

How much of the employee time bought with the "Salaries & Benefits" expense is spent on the following tasks?

(a) merchandising	x%
(b) En Passant	y%
(c) other (specify)	z%
	100%

### **Other comments:**

**Grant Brown:** This is my first opportunity to comment on CFC issues as a governor, so I would like to begin by injecting a fresh perspective on some broader concerns. I hope this will be taken in the spirit of constructive criticism.

The primary purpose of the CFC is to promote competitive chess in Canada, and in that regard we have not been conspicuously successful. Despite our strategic advantages — being the oldest chess organization in Canada and having exclusive authority to select individuals and teams to represent Canada in FIDE competitions — CFC membership, at only 3389, is probably lower than the combined (non-CFC) membership of *Chess 'n' Math* and the FQE. If there is room for these other chess organizations in Canada, and if they are growing faster than the CFC, then I trust we can all agree that there must be things we could be doing better.

To be sure, promoting chess in Canada is not as easy as in Europe or elsewhere; but it should not be so terribly difficult,

either. Chess enjoys a popular mystique which attracts millions of dilettantes. The problem is how to turn a higher proportion of these dilettantes into competitive players. That requires a coherent, long-term plan, as well as dedicated and competent volunteers to implement it; *but it does not require much (or any) money*. As far as I can see, the CFC has no plan at all, and expends no effort at all solving the fundamental problem; new competitive players are just supposed to appear at CFC events like manna from heaven.

To get a dilettante hooked on competitive chess, you first have to bring competitive chess to his or her awareness through free public events like simultaneous exhibitions and casual afternoon tournaments for non-rated players. (There are well over 100 masters in Canada who are perfectly capable of holding public simulms; and they shouldn't expect to be paid for it.) That's when you hit them with flyers from the CFC and CFC-rated tournaments.

My experience in the chess wasteland of Lethbridge shows that shopping malls, community centres, libraries, etc., are quite willing to lend space at no cost for these purposes; and community newspapers and TV stations are more than willing to report on them. I have also found local businesses willing to donate small prizes. If giving dilettantes a taste of competition and a taste of success converts even a small proportion of them into serious students of the game, memberships will rise dramatically. But as long as the CFC thinks that its role begins and ends with CFC-rated events, the numbers will remain stagnant.

Another impediment to increasing memberships is that, in my opinion, CFC membership is just a bad deal. For \$33 per year, the only apparent service you get is 6 issues of *EP*, priced on the cover at \$4.50 per issue (\$27 per year). You don't get your games rated for that price; you have to pay extra for that service. You don't get books and equipment at a genuine discount — the CFC uses sales as a profit centre. You don't even get the satisfaction of having contributed to Canada's Olympic teams; extra donations are needed for that, too!

Where does the money go? The CFC spent *twice* as much on Building & Equipment and Office Expenses in 1996-97 than on National and International Programs; in 1995-96 it was *three times* as much. Salaries & Benefits eat up virtually all of our revenues from memberships. Together, these overhead expenses consume 72% of total revenues, such that, on average, each of our 3389 members pays \$42.14 per year just to cover overhead!

Compare this with the Alberta Chess Association, which delivers a much bigger bang for the buck. With an annual budget of only \$15,500 — less than 8% of CFC revenues — the ACA nevertheless manages to spend about \$11,000 on programs for Alberta players (mostly supporting clubs and tournaments, and paying travel costs to provincial and national championships). This is more than the CFC spent on national programs in 1996-97 — and *three times more* than the CFC spent the year before! Through careful financial planning, the ACA also managed to save an additional \$12,000 to support the Canadian Open in Calgary last year.

Think about this for a moment. A small, provincial association, in a chess backwater, with less than a twelfth the budget of the CFC, nevertheless consistently spends more in absolute dollars than the CFC on programs for its players! If the ACA rated games, and if I didn't play outside of Alberta, then I wouldn't buy a membership in the CFC, either. There's

no need to attribute bloody-mindedness or political motives to Québec players for preferring their provincial association to the CFC. The fact is that the CFC is not doing a very good job of delivering services to Canadian chess players from coast to coast, and if there were options elsewhere, the CFC would quickly crumble.

In short, I think the CFC is moribund and needs radical surgery. Most of what I see in the governors' letters — giving certificates to masters, knocking a dollar off of rating fees for juniors — is merely cosmetic surgery. The patient is not well, and powdering his nose is not going to resuscitate him. Let's try to come up with a more comprehensive business plan to turn this thing around! In fact, let's invite Larry Bevand, whose *Chess 'n' Math Association* is evidently booming, to tell us what we need to do to work successfully together. We desperately need someone with proven organizational expertise.

#### **Query to the Secretary:**

The items detailed in response to Gordon Taylor's questions are presented "for your information", not to solicit opinions. Of course, governor's opinions on what the Executive is doing are always in order. — John Quiring, Secretary.

**Lyle Craver:** Concerning the items detailed in response to Mr. Taylor: what are Items 10-18? Are they proposals or motions to the Executive and/or the Governors? Are the Governors' opinions being sought on these?

#### **New Motions**

**98-1 Moved** (Taylor/Burgess) that Section 10 of By-Law #2 of the CFC be amended by replacing "Past President" with "Immediate Past President".

The following comments are from the chair:

1) This motion was presented at the Incoming board of the AGM in Winnipeg. This motion is a constitutional amendment and consequently was not voted upon at the AGM. The requirements for this motion to pass are in By Law 3 section 3, page 2-9 of the handbook. Please refer to the minutes for discussion on this motion at the AGM. This motion will go for discussion in GL#1 and #2 and for vote in GL #3.

2) Note: If this motion were to pass the position of Past President (To be called Immediate Past President) is not filled if a President is elected for a second or subsequent consecutive term.

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA**

## **MEETING OF THE OUTGOING BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

### **July 14, 1997**

CFC President Francisco Cabanas took the Chair and called the meeting to order at 10:14.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: REGISTRATION OF PROXIES**

Francisco Cabanas asked everyone to register their proxies with the Secretary.

Governors present are listed on the left, the proxies they hold are listed to the right. Non-governors holding proxies are in parentheses.

Francisco Cabanas - Yves Farges

Maurice Smith - Ken MacDonald, Ari Mendrinis, Liana MacMillan, Brian Smith

(John Quiring) - Walter Watson

Ford Wong

Lynn Stringer - Jim Ferguson, Lyle Craver

Peter Stockhausen

Kevin Spraggett - Denis Allan, Vojin Vujosevic, Dan Majstorovic, Mon-Fai Lee, Miles Obradovich, Frank Thiele

David Ottosen

Deen Hergott

Gordon Taylor - Terry Fleming, Doug Burgess, John Armstrong

(Peter Alderton) - John Quiring

Phil Haley - Lembit Joselin, Hans Jung

Hugh Brodie

Cecil Rosner

Also present were CFC Staff members Troy Vail and Tom O'Donnell, and German Chess Federation president Egon Ditt. John Quiring noted that there were 32 votes in the room, so no one could hold more than 3 proxies; this would affect Maurice Smith and Kevin Spraggett. Maurice then gave Liana MacMillan's proxy to Phil Haley; Kevin gave Miles Obradovich's proxy to Peter Stockhausen, and those of Mon-Fai Lee and Frank Thiele to Deen Hergott.

[Note: all references to Smith in this document are to Maurice Smith, unless otherwise noted.]

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2: INTRODUCTION AND OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

CFC President Francisco Cabanas welcomed the Governors to the AGM and gave a special welcome to Egon Ditt, President of the German Chess Federation. He asked the governors to introduce themselves, and they did.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: MINUTES OF THE 1996 ANNUAL MEETING**

Francisco Cabanas noted that the minutes had been published in Governors' Letter #1 1996-97, and asked if there were any amendments. Secretary John Quiring read this note: "One amendment has been brought to my attention: in the

discussion to the Sales Manager's Report, I add Stephen Ball's comment that he was incorrectly named in the report as organizing the phone calls to the National Appeals Committee". Francisco then asked about the questions that had been raised regarding the Section 801 motion. [Last year's minutes, page 21: section 801 was changed to read "Beginning with 1998, the Zonal ...". This motion passed with 23 in favour, 22 opposed]. John replied that a question had been raised as to whether the vote was correctly recorded. He had asked other governors for their recollections, and two other governors found that the notes they made during the meeting last year agreed with his notes, so he was confident that vote was correctly recorded and the motion did, in fact, pass.

**Moved:** (Smith/Stockhausen) to accept the Minutes as amended.

Discussion: none.

Passed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORTS**

##### **ITEM 4A) PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Francisco Cabanas presented a written report [attached]. He highlighted as key accomplishments, the tournament membership fees and the improved productivity and efficiency in the CFC office. He also lamented the tendency to see the CFC as "someone else".

Gordon Taylor asked about Brad Thomson's termination as a CFC employee. Francisco replied that the termination was not for cause; the office had been re-structured and Brad had received severance pay. Gordon then asked about the rule limiting a player's rating loss to 50 points in one tournament. Francisco replied that that rule had been previously rescinded.

##### **ITEM 4B) VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Maurice Smith presented a written report [attached]. He highlighted the last paragraph, stating that the CFC is all of us, not just the people in the office or the Executive.

##### **ITEM 4C) PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

No report was received from the past president.

##### **ITEM 4D) SECRETARY'S REPORT**

John Quiring presented a written report [attached]. Peter Stockhausen suggested that the Secretary's files could be scanned into machine readable format to provide a backup, as well as to permit quick retrieval of information when required. Gordon Taylor asked about the breakdown of the correspondence between Governors' Letters and Executive matters. John estimated that 35-40% was GL, the remainder was Executive correspondence. Francisco Cabanas said that some of the information is confidential and can't be released publicly.

#### **ITEM 4E) FIDE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Phil Haley presented a written report [attached]. He added that a recent fax from FIDE regarding the upcoming Congress included a registration form, but no answers to his questions.

Peter Stockhausen suggested moving FIDE's administrative functions to Canada, for a less expensive and more efficient operation. Phil said the former FIDE president Campomanes had thought it would be advantageous to have the office in Lausanne, near the International Olympic Committee's head office. Gordon Taylor commented that Iljumzhinov was a third world dictator and asked at what point we withdraw from FIDE. Even if FIDE is the only organization around, the time comes when continuing membership is no longer constructive. John Quiring asked about the relationship between FIDE and the IOC. Egon Ditt replied that the IOC recognizes FIDE as an organization, but little else official right now.

Cecil Rosner asked about the costs of FIDE membership. Phil Haley said the main costs are sending teams to the Olympics and players to the various world championships. He added that he pays all his own expenses to attend FIDE meetings.

Egon Ditt said that in Germany about 3% of the players are involved in the top level, FIDE rated events. They incur costs for GM, IM and FM titles, and Germany also sends players to the Olympics and world championships.

Francisco Cabanas asked whether the motions and suggestions proposed by Phil had received consideration. Phil replied that he had spoken personally with Iljumzhinov, who seemed very receptive and positive, but there was never any action. Francisco suggested the CFC has two options with respect to FIDE: to get out, or to replace the powers that be. He wondered how many other federations were also having these sorts of discussions. Leaving FIDE would be absolutely the last resort. All federations have responsibility to FIDE because we comprise FIDE, and throwing everything away is not constructive. Peter Stockhausen said that Canada is a founding member of FIDE, and has its own "Zone". Replacing FIDE doesn't guarantee that the current problems would be solved. He thanked Phil for doing a fine job in difficult circumstances.

Gordon Taylor thought that the CFC's first option with respect to FIDE should be to work actively to create a new, better organization; the second option should be to walk away rather than give credence to a terrible organization. Phil welcomed Gordon's comments, but thought they were a bit harsh. Francisco said we need to make a distinction between FIDE as an organization, and its leadership.

#### **ITEM 4F) TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dan Majstorovic was not present, but had provided a written report [attached].

Phil Haley asked if the CFC's auditor was also Chess and Math's auditor. Troy Vail confirmed this was the case. He added that he was not concerned about confidentiality because the auditor is a paid professional. David Ottosen asked why sections 5 and 7 were included in the Treasurer's Report. Maurice Smith responded that the Treasurer's duties are most done by the CFC office, and the report is a more general report by a member of the Executive.

Cecil Rosner asked where the financial information was? Troy Vail said it was published in GL #6. In reply to question (f) in the report, Troy replied that the Dufferin Game Store debt is with the individual stores which are franchises, not the head office. Cecil asked whether there had been any items since the year end that had a major impact. Troy said the year was young (year end is April 30) and there were no such items. Francisco Cabanas noted that Brad Thomson's termination had a positive financial impact due to reduction in office salaries.

#### **ITEM 4G) RATING AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Hugh Brodie presented a written report [attached].

Gordon Taylor said that the FQE conversion formula depends on the accuracy of the conversion factor, and asked whether Hugh was comfortable in producing this. Hugh said he had access to statistical experts at McGill University to solve any uncertainties he might have. Francisco Cabanas noted that the motion re: FQE ratings called not for a "conversion" but rather for use of the FQE rating in lieu of a provisional rating. The approach has to be based on a sound mathematical basis, using a "least-squares fit". Phil Haley said it should be made clear that no one will qualify for a national event based solely on a converted FQE rating. Francisco said that a player needs to have played at least 15 CFC-rated games.

#### **ITEM 4H) JUNIOR COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

David Ottosen presented a written report [attached].

Francisco Cabanas said that a match for second place in the Cadet was appropriate and had been arranged. Hugh Brodie said the match was scheduled for the previous weekend and that Glinert had draw odds, but he didn't know the result. Kevin Spraggett asked how many players are going to their respective championships. David said the boys champions are all going, but didn't know how many of the girls champions are going, since they have to pay their own way. Francisco Cabanas stated that the CFC pays all the registration costs, plus travel for the two traditional champions, Junior and Cadet; Echecs et Maths pays the travel costs for the other champions. He added that these events should be up for bid each year.

Deen Hergott asked why players should be encouraged to play in their own provincial championship. David Ottosen said that players should not sit on their ratings. The current system discourages participation, as players are afraid to lose rating points. Francisco Cabanas noted that we have no participation requirements for the Junior Closed, unlike the Canadian Closed for example. Gordon Taylor thought that Juniors generally played a lot. His primary criticism of qualifying by rating is that it has been used by regions to get additional players into the Closed. Strong players sit out their provincial championship and qualify by rating, while a weaker players wins and qualifies as provincial champion.

Hugh Brodie asked if the age championships are held at different places around the world. David Ottosen said that some were held together, others were at different places and times.



**ITEM 4I) WOMEN'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Ari Mendrinós was not present, but had provided a written report [attached].

John Quiring asked whether it was for the Women's Coordinator to say that there would be no championship this year. Francisco Cabanas said the tournament depended generally on FIDE cycles, and the matter would be discussed further when Tom O'Donnell's report was presented.

**ITEM 4J) MASTER REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

No report was received.

**ITEM 4K) AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Francisco Cabanas noted that the report had been published in GL #6 and would be discussed in conjunction with the Executive Director's report.

**ITEM 4L) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Troy Vail presented a written report [attached].

Maurice Smith said that the 8% response on the Reader's Survey was low, which made it difficult to draw conclusions. He also said the scale 1 - 10 was arbitrary. Troy replied that the comments written by the respondents helped in interpreting the results, and thought that 300 people would be fairly representative. Maurice said that approximately 68% of Canadians have Internet access, but only 12% have it from their homes. Troy said that most hits on the home page occur during office hours. Maurice commended the office for the excellent work done on the Internet site and the accounting software.

Peter Stockhausen said that generally less than 2 % of people respond to surveys, and thought that 8% response would be a valid result. He also suggested we could get analysis by marketing experts; for example, graduate students at a university might do it for free. Finally, he noted that Browsing For Endgames was dropped from EP, and the computer column stayed despite the results of the survey. Troy said that people tend to be passionate about the computer column, and didn't want to remove it. Phil Haley commended Troy for the web site. Vojin Vujosevic expressed concern (via proxy) that the CFC's computer software is only usable by the current staff. Troy said that documentation of the ratings and membership functions is complete, but the accounting is not. He said the software is user friendly and has been tested with untrained people.

Gordon Taylor said there used to be an interim rating list, Northern, so the ratings were done monthly, not bi-monthly as stated in the report. He also noted that in-house programming can lead to questions from auditors of whether the results are accurate. Troy said this will be part of the review done next year by the auditor."

John Quiring asked how easy the CFC office's software was to enhance and debug. Troy said it would require a programmer knowledgeable in Access and Visual Basic, which are generally easy to use and popular languages.

Hugh Brodie asked if the poor financial results were due to severance pay. Troy said it was the result of Olympic Team funding. Francisco Cabanas noted that the CFC has a two

year financial cycle, with Olympiad expenses appearing every other year.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Michael Yip's report was published in GL #6.

John Quiring asked about the cost of the audit. Troy Vail said it was \$1600.00, which was a special rate, below market value. Gordon Taylor noted this was probably the first time the CFC had an auditor present at year end. The budgeting process is common among larger organizations, but if implemented by the CFC we could become slaves to the budget. He added that he liked the point made about governors giving costs of their proposals. Troy agreed that following a budget too rigorously would probably be a bad idea. Peter Stockhausen said we have received excellent value for our money with this fine report. It is proper to budget for even small companies, it is a necessary stepping stone for a business plan. It makes exceptions stand out and provides a basis for business decisions.

Deen Hergott wondered about Michael's opinion that the treasurer's position be abolished. Phil Haley thought there was room for this role; we have a small enough Executive already. Peter Stockhausen said we need an elected representative to look after the CFC's financial affairs. Troy Vail commented that the governors haven't always elected treasurers with accounting knowledge. Maurice Smith thought the extra level of control provided by the treasurer is necessary. Deen said that if there are no requirements to elect a competent treasurer, it is unclear what the point is of having one. Francisco Cabanas said that we have had treasurers with no day to day awareness of the operations of the office; it is up to the governors to elect the right person. Deen asked if it was permissible to leave the position vacant. Francisco said that is an option for the assembly during the elections.

**ITEM 4M) EMPLOYEE'S REPORT**

Tom O'Donnell presented a written report [attached]. He mentioned that shipping sometimes eats up the entire profit of a sale, citing the Mammoth Book Of Chess as a good example.

Gordon Taylor said it was hard to compete with local stores if you raise shipping and handling fees. We need to build that cost into the price of the books. Phil Haley said that it seems every year he raises the question of the inventory value. It seems now that inventory is bloated. The Balance Sheet should reflect the value of useless items in inventory. Maurice Smith asked if other carriers are cheaper than Purolator. Tom O'Donnell said there are positive points about Purolator: they are fast and good at tracking shipments. Troy Vail said he checked UPS and other carriers, and Purolator won on price and coverage of Canada. Francisco Cabanas said that the CFC doesn't have "special" rates for Yukon and NWT, which is good.

[Item 4N The Chess Foundation Report was temporarily delayed as Lynn Stringer was absent]

**ITEM 4O) PUGI FUND REPORT**

David Ottosen presented a verbal report. He said we now have many events internationally, and get annual request from these players. We have received requests for the same

tournaments two years in a row, but he personally thinks the Fund should be used for special, one-time events rather than these recurring championships. Phil Haley said there seems to be no chair for the Pugi Fund Committee, and no formal report was presented.

#### **ITEM 4P) NATIONAL APPEALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report was presented.

Gordon Taylor, who was on the committee, said he had expected a report would be provided by the Chair (Miles Obradovich). He said the committee considered one appeal relating to a touch move incident. Deen Hergott (also on the committee) said the event was part of the Echecs et Math competition, which was not CFC-rated. He said we should have consistent rules for all CFC events, including those which are awarded to Echecs et Math.

#### **ITEM 4Q) CANADIAN CORRESPONDENCE CHESS ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Ken MacDonald had provided a written report [attached].

Francisco Cabanas noted that playing chess via e-mail on the Internet in a "postal" manner is not the same as live play. There is a grey area here. David Ottosen said we still have the same division: real time belongs to the CFC, and longer time controls belong to the CCCA. Francisco said the problem with playing CFC games in real time over the Internet is one of player supervision. There is also competition for this service, as rated play is provided by chess servers. David thought it was unlikely that the CFC could compete in this market, as there are several well-established servers already out there.

#### **ITEM 4R) OTHER FORMAL REPORTS OLYMPIC SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Denis Allan had provided a written report [attached].

Kevin Spraggett said it was unfortunate that Denis Allan would not continue on the committee as he had provided good leadership. Deen Hergott said that two people mentioned by Denis, namely Gordon Taylor and David Ross, were both present, and asked if they were interested in serving. Gordon said he would consider it, but not as Chair. David said he would be interested. Gordon said the Olympic Team Captain has many duties, and asked Kevin how onerous they were in Yerevan. Kevin thought about 1 hour a day, but said that in Moscow, which was horribly organized, the duties were vastly more time consuming.

Kevin Spraggett said he had spoken with Denis Allan about how the captain is picked. This is an unpleasant task because you have to pick one person over another. The CFC has put itself into a poor position because the captaincy is a popularity contest. It is a difficult position for the captain to be in if he knows 2 or 3 people on the team wanted someone else. Also, the players don't necessarily know all the candidates. Kevin recommended the Executive or the Olympic Selection Committee pick the captain. Bryon Nickoloff said the top players on the rating list have the experience and knowledge to be in the best position to pick the remaining two players.

#### **CFC FEMALE SURVEY**

Tom O'Donnell presented a written report [attached].

Maurice Smith said that Tom is not objective on this topic. The survey indicates that the women want this program to continue. Women cannot currently compete at the same level as men. Many things in the world are divided by sex. On the question of whether we can afford it, Canada is an affluent country and we should be able to afford this program. Tom replied that following FIDE is a poor reason to keep this program; Canada often doesn't follow along with what other countries are doing, such as China and Cuba. We don't discriminate on other criteria, such as race, for example; there is no reason to discriminate by sex. Peter Stockhausen said the question is whether we are directing resources correctly. The question on the survey appear to be neutral and valuable. Kevin Spraggett said some top players have demonstrated that men and women can compete. The issue is whether the CFC wants to continue to participate in this FIDE program, and it would be unfortunate if we chose not to take advantage of these opportunities. David Ottosen said that some of the women mentioned they couldn't compete with men, but that was ludicrous. He disputed Leger's comment that cancelling the program would hurt women's chess because there would be nothing to play for, and noted that the same applies right now to many men. However he added that he is still in favour of sending women to events because of the opportunity of international exposure.

Francisco Cabanas said that if we are going to have this program, it must be on an all or none basis; it makes no sense to compromise with a half-hearted gesture. A decision of this type should be sent out for vote by mail. Troy Vail said that FIDE is currently run by third world countries which generally have negative views about women; Canada should be a moral leader on this topic. Gordon Taylor said this is not a big issue this year, but next year we have an Olympiad an women's championship again. Kevin Spraggett said we had a good team at the last Olympiad, with a lot of potential. Women's chess has never been better, we should spend money to maintain this stature. Tom O'Donnell said the comments in this discussion were very demeaning to women.

Gordon Taylor said this was a good program but expensive. The CFC could well fall upon hard times and drop programs that we cannot afford. Lynn Stringer said that the majority of men shouldn't have to pay for women to attend the Olympics, but then there would be no development of players like Stefanie Chu. Francisco Cabanas said affordability is one issue; another is where we want the program to go. We must address the principles involved. Phil Haley said he had always supported the women's program and felt good about the team in Yerevan; but there is a moral issue here and Tom has done an excellent job on reporting on this difficult issue.

Deen Hergott wondered about financing the Olympic team. He said that in the past there have been Olympic Chess Weekends but they produced no income. Francisco Cabanas said that the current budget provides for sending the National and Women's team, but that doesn't mean we're obligated to. David Ottosen said we shouldn't use the team's success over the board to judge this program. FIDE is stupid to hold these events, and we should continue to take advantage of this stupidity. Gordon Taylor thought having a women's team should be an advantage when it came to fund-raising, but it

didn't seem to be. Ford Wong said this is a topic of the idealism of plans, versus the reality of spending. The Alberta Chess Association has the same discussions in deciding how much to fund the top players to national events.

#### **ITEM 40) CHESS FOUNDATION OF CANADA REPORT**

Lynn Stringer presented a written report [attached].

Lynn asked why the Pugi fund had no expenditures. David Ottosen replied that the committee had rejected the requests because they were for on-going, repetitive competitions, not for special opportunities. Deen Hergott said that Teplitsky was accompanying Andrew Ho to the World Junior, why not use the Pugi fund for that? Francisco Cabanas said this was a case where an unusually young player was involved, and it didn't fall into the guidelines for Pugi funding. David said the fund is for special trips such as Adam Littke's trip to Europe several years ago. Lynn Stringer said the fund was for the top juniors and not necessarily just for trips to Europe. Gordon Taylor said the fund should be used for events not normally covered by the CFC, and could be applied a bit more liberally. Something is wrong if the money is not spent in a year.

Hugh Brodie asked if the will could be published in a GL. Francisco Cabanas said it should be in the Handbook. Deen Hergott said that even for standard events, if the CFC is not covering all the costs the Pugi Fund should be available. David Ottosen said this depended on the precise wording of the will. Lynn Stringer asked if the fund was for national travel too. Francisco said the will does not specify just international travel. The intention was that a player gets to go to an event he couldn't normally go to. Lynn thought the money should definitely be spent every year.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: MOTIONS FOR VOTE**

#### **MOTION 97-11**

**Moved (Stringer/Lee)** that effective August 1, 1997 section 731 p. 7-4 of the Handbook be replaced by the following:

731. Fee: The rating fee for all events (tournaments or matches) with the exception of junior events is \$2.00 per player. The rating fee for junior events is \$1.00 per player. An event is considered junior for the purposes of this section if all the players meet the age requirements of the World Junior of the year following the year in which the event ends.

David Ottosen said the \$1 decrease will have absolutely no effect on Junior chess and only serves to reduce CFC income. Troy Vail thought directors might be likelier to submit a tournament for rating if the total rating fee was, say, \$50 instead of \$100. Lynn Stringer said that the players want ratings, and this will make it easier to rate Echecs et Math tournaments. Peter Stockhausen asked for the maximum amount of money this motion could cost; Troy said the absolute maximum was \$1000.00. Francisco Cabanas said that "junior only" events are primarily run in BC. The coordinator wants to keep fees low, and \$1.00 would make a difference. The upside for reducing the fee is substantial, the down-side is limited. Rating cost is a major factor when you have 100 or 200 players.

Vote: motion carried, 2 opposed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: BIDS FOR 1997 EVENTS**

##### **ITEM 6A) CANADIAN JUNIOR**

No bids were presented.

Moved (Spraggett/Smith) to defer the bid to the Executive.

Vote: motion carried.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:46

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA (Day 2)**

### **MEETING OF THE INCOMING BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

#### **July 15, 1997**

CFC President Francisco Cabanas took the Chair at 10:05 and called the meeting to order.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: REGISTRATION OF PROXIES**

Francisco Cabanas asked everyone to register their proxies with the Secretary.

Governors present are listed on the left, the proxies they hold are listed to the right. Non-governors holding proxies are in parentheses.

Cecil Rosner

Francisco Cabanas - Yves Farges, Lyle Craver

Maurice Smith - Ken MacDonald, Liana MacMillan, Ari Mendrinos, Mark Dutton, Brian Smith

(John Quiring) - Walter Watson, Grant Brown, Neil Sharp

Ford Wong

Phil Haley - Lembit Joselin, Alex Knox, Hans Jung

Gordon Taylor - Terry Fleming, Doug Burgess, John Armstrong

Deen Hergott - Brad Thomson

Kevin Spraggett - Denis Allan, Vojin Vujosevic, Dan

Majstorovic, Mon-Fai Lee, Miles Obradovich, Frank Thiele

David Ottosen

(Lynn Stringer) - Jim Ferguson

Peter Stockhausen

(Peter Alderton) - John Quiring

Also present were Tom O'Donnell, Troy Vail and Egon Ditt.

The Secretary noted that there were 35 votes in the room, so no one could vote more than 3 proxies. Maurice Smith then gave Liana MacMillan's proxy to Phil Haley, and Brian Smith's proxy to Ford Wong. Kevin Spraggett gave proxies of Denis Allan, Miles Obradovich and Frank Thiele to Peter Stockhausen.

[Note: all references to Smith in this document are to Maurice Smith, unless otherwise noted.]

**AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF  
GOVERNORS FROM PROVINCES  
(TERRITORIES) WITHOUT AN AFFILIATED  
PROVINCIAL (TERRITORIAL)  
ASSOCIATION**

A. Northwest Territories (1 position)  
No nominations were received. The position is vacant.

B. Quebec (3 positions)  
Phil Haley nominated Hugh Brodie.  
Gordon Taylor nominated Diane Mongeau.  
Francisco Cabanas nominated Gilles Groleau.  
Brodie, Mongeau and Groleau were elected by acclamation.

C. Yukon Territory  
Maurice Smith nominated Bob Bowerman.  
Bowerman was elected by acclamation.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: RE-REGISTRATION OF  
PROXIES**

Francisco Cabanas asked if there were now additional proxies to be registered; there were none.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: INTRODUCTION AND  
OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

Francisco Cabanas welcomed the governors to the meeting of the incoming governors and asked the governors to introduce themselves; they did.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: ELECTION OF  
OFFICERS**

ITEM 5 i) Board Of Directors  
ITEM 5 i) A) President  
Francisco Cabanas indicated he was a candidate and ceded the Chair to Maurice Smith.  
Liana MacMillan nominated Francisco Cabanas.  
Cabanas was elected by acclamation and took the Chair.  
ITEM 5 i) B) Vice-president  
Brian Smith nominated Maurice Smith.  
Smith was elected by acclamation.  
ITEM 5 i) C) Secretary  
Maurice Smith nominated John Quiring  
Quiring was elected by acclamation.  
ITEM 5 i) D) Treasurer  
Lynn Stringer nominated Peter Stockhausen (16 votes)  
Denis Allan nominated Miles Obradovich (16 votes)  
The Chair cast the tie-breaking ballot for Peter Stockhausen.  
ITEM 5 i) E) FIDE Representative  
Brian Smith nominated Phil Haley.  
Haley was elected by acclamation.  
ITEM 5 i) F) Rating Auditor  
Brad Thomson nominated Hugh Brodie  
Brodie was elected by acclamation.

Francisco Cabanas mentioned that Yves Farges remains on the Executive as past president.

ITEM 5 ii) Officers Not On The Board Of Directors  
ITEM 5 ii) A) Masters' Representative  
Kevin Spraggett advised the governors that Francois Leveille remains the Masters' Representative.  
ITEM 5 ii) B) Women's Coordinator  
Maurice Smith nominated Ari Mendrinos  
Mendrinos was elected by acclamation.  
ITEM 5 ii) C) Junior Coordinator  
Peter Stockhausen nominated David Ottosen; he declined.  
Lynn Stringer nominated Jim Ferguson.  
Jim Ferguson was elected by acclamation.  
ITEM 5 ii) D) Other Officers  
No nominations were received.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: APPOINTMENT OF  
AUDITORS**

Tom O'Donnell advised that Michael Yip was willing to be auditor again.

Moved (Stockhausen/Smith) that Michael Yip be appointed auditor, and that the Executive determine his compensation.

Discussion: John Quiring asked if Michael was a chartered accountant. Tom O'Donnell indicated that Michael had a professional accounting designation before moving to Quebec, but thought that language requirements might put his current status in doubt.

Vote: motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: APPOINTMENT OF  
CHESS FOUNDATION OF CANADA  
TRUSTEES**

John Quiring indicated that last year we elected Miles Obradovich to a 5 year term, which was incorrect as there is no five year term. He also said the Handbook, when revised in 1996, had an omission.

**Moved (Quiring/Stockhausen)** To replace the sentence in Handbook section 1451 that reads "Each year, at the Annual General Meeting of the Chess Federation Of Canada or by its direction, one trustee will be appointed for a one year term." with the sentence

"Each year, at the Annual General Meeting of the Chess Federation Of Canada or by its direction, one trustee will be appointed for a four year term and one trustee will be appointed for a one year term."

Discussion: None.

Vote: carried.

Francisco Cabanas noted that we already have a trustee with 4 years remaining (Obradovich) and need to replace only the Trustee whose one year term expired.

Phil Haley nominated Ford Wong.

Wong was elected by acclamation.

[The current situation stands as follows:

Miles Obradovich has 4 years left of a 4 year term.

Stephen Ball has 3 years left of a 4 year term.

Yves Farges has 2 years left of a 4 year term.

Lynn Stringer has 1 year left of a 4 year term.

Ford Wong has 1 year left of a 1 year term.  
Next year we elect a 4-year person to replace Lynn, and a 1 year person to replace Ford, and we will finally be in sync with the Handbook]

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **ITEM 8 A) Kalev Pugi Fund**

Lynn Stringer nominated Jim Ferguson.  
Phil Haley nominated Vojin Vujosevic.  
Gordon Taylor nominated David Ottosen.  
Ferguson, Vujosevic and Ottosen were appointed.

### **ITEM 8 B) National Appeals Committee**

Hugh Brodie nominated Deen Hergott  
Maurice Smith nominated Mark Dutton  
Francisco Cabanas nominated Miles Obradovich  
David Ottosen nominated Gordon Taylor  
Gordon Taylor nominated Hugh Brodie  
Hergott, Dutton, Obradovich, Taylor and Brodie were elected by acclamation.

### **ITEM 8 C) Olympic Selection Committee**

John Quiring nominated David Ottosen.  
Lynn Stringer nominated David Ross.  
Kevin Spraggett nominated Gordon Taylor; he declined.  
Gordon Taylor nominated Greg Huber.  
A general discussion ensued on how we select players. Phil Haley said that the committee should consist of strong, experienced players and wondered about David Ottosen's qualifications. Francisco Cabanas said the number of committee members isn't specified, which makes these nominations more difficult. Gordon Taylor thought it was good to have geographic distance on the committee. This is a very difficult job, and he didn't want to risk friendships personally by serving on the committee. Kevin Spraggett suggested there should be 4 members on the Committee and nominated Zvonko Vranesic. Ford Wong said previous Olympic experience would be a valuable asset. David Ottosen commented that the Selection Committee previously asked the prospective players to submit games, but he would prefer to go to chess databases himself to look for their games. Kevin Spraggett thought that David Ottosen's rating of about 2100 was strong enough to serve on this committee. Gordon Taylor said that Zvonko has Olympic team experience, but has been involved in unpleasant situations in the past and wondered if he would accept. Phil said Zvonko might not be the best choice due to his past record, and Kevin replied that Zvonko has experience and thick skin. Gordon Taylor suggested considering Bryon Nickoloff's idea of having the 4 members who get in by rating select the other 2.

**Moved (Taylor/Haley)** That we postpone selection of the Olympic Selection Committee until a format for that committee is determined.

Discussion: Gordon Taylor said we are in a muddle and could get new ideas over lunch. Peter Stockhausen and Kevin Spraggett thought we were well into the issues and should resolve them now. Cecil Rosner asked what principles the committee should follow in selecting players. Francisco Cabanas said we have no structure defined in the Handbook for this committee, which causes difficulties. David Ottosen

said we have an accepted practice, we have nominations in place, and we should continue as in the past.  
Vote: Carried, 14 in favour, 13 opposed.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: BIDS FOR 1998 EVENTS**

### **ITEM 9 A) 1998 Canadian Open**

Gordon Taylor presented a bid from Ottawa [attached]. Maurice Smith said there was potentially a bid from Andy Kielba of St. Catharines, ON, but he had no further information at this time; he suggested giving Andy until the end of the month to provide details. Phil Haley thought these bids were unacceptable and we should give time for proper bids to be submitted. He noted that we turned down a Vancouver bid for 1998 in the same circumstances. Francisco Cabanas said the Vancouver bid was far worse than Ottawa's. David Ottosen said the Vancouver bid at least had dates and a site. Peter Stockhausen didn't like delaying these bids; less than 24 months to organize the Open is already serious time trouble.

**Moved (Quiring/Smith)** to defer the 1998 Canadian Open bid to the Executive.

Cecil Rosner said this is a showcase event, the Executive should ensure there are proper bids forthcoming. We should plant seeds and encourage organizers long in advance.

Vote: Carried, 24 in favour, 1 opposed.

### **ITEM 9 B) 1998 Canadian Junior**

### **ITEM 9 C) 1998 Canadian Cadet**

No bids were received.

**Moved (Stockhausen/Ottosen)** to defer these bids to the Executive.

Vote: Carried.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10: BIDS FOR 1999 AND LATER EVENTS.**

### **ITEM 10 A) Canadian Open**

Peter Stockhausen said the BCCF had a bid for 1999, but ongoing sensitive negotiations required confidentiality.

**Moved (Stockhausen/Spraggett)** That the bid to be presented be confidential until July 31, 1997.  
Carried.

Peter Stockhausen then presented his bid [attached].

Maurice Smith said the dates are earlier than usual and will conflict with the July long weekend tournaments. Peter said the dates were deliberately chosen based on the expected supply of hotel rooms and convention facilities. He added that the number of players from the east who travel to western tournaments is not substantial, only 17 in Winnipeg for example. Hugh Brodie said the World Open had only one major player from Canada this year, but we should check for competing tournaments in the northwest US. He asked where the hotels were. Peter replied they were near the airport, within walking distance of some facilities. Phil Haley asked how realistic the budgeted support from government was; Peter said he had some connections and estimated 50% likely. Phil questioned the expected attendance, noting there were only 3 BC players in Winnipeg. Peter said there had been no major tournament in Vancouver for many years. Vancouver is a very large population centre, and could supply 150 players.

Also the US is nearby, there are always many US players in the Keres.

Deen Hergott noted that the bid calls for a large CFC commitment. Peter said the Open should be the CFC's showcase event. Potential sponsors often ask about what support there is from the provincial or national organizations. He added that the tournament will be purchasing advertising from the CFC and paying rating fees. Ford Wong stated he opposed paying \$4000.00 to the organizers. Gordon Taylor said he didn't like the time controls; an 8-hour session is too long. He asked about the cost of the CFC meeting. Peter estimated the cost at \$600.00, \$100/day plus \$150 for services. Gordon asked what percentage of the advertising budget would go to the CFC; Peter said he did not know at this stage. Gordon asked if the CFC has given cash to organizers before; Francisco Cabanas said this had happened many years ago. Peter said we would be well served if we had a formal Open bidding procedure in place, with funding by the CFC. Kevin Spraggett noted that Peter has an excellent track record with bids. Phil Haley said we need first class events and supports Peter's bid completely.

Troy Vail thought the corporate sponsorship was unrealistically high. Peter said the Winnipeg organizers had \$17,000 in 1996 and \$20,000 in 1997 so he thought the budget was realistic. Peter added that he had documented the 1994 procedures for corporate sponsorship, and the 1997 bid followed those principles. It details how to go about municipal fund-raising and getting corporate sponsorship.

Troy Vail said the requirements regarding feature articles in EP seem to dictate editorial policy, which is not appropriate. Peter replied that all he wants is exposure; the content, length and topic are all up to the editor, who has total freedom without repercussions. Tom O'Donnell expressed concern on this topic as well, noting he has recently been criticized for articles about the Toronto International.

Troy Vail said the cash is not available for the August 1, 1997 payment specified in the bid and suggested pushing the time frame back one year. Peter suggested January 1, 1998 and January 1, 1999. Gordon Taylor thought the amount was too large, and suggested halving it. He thought the Canadian Open was becoming an unpopular dinosaur, with long weekend events being more popular. Peter said the \$4000.00 support from the CFC was required, or the bid would be withdrawn. He agreed the trend toward long weekend tournaments was clearly true. Ford Wong said he did not like Peter's adamant position about the \$4000.00 funding from the CFC. It was such a small percentage of the total that it should not make or break the project. Peter replied that the CFC should support the Open, and this was a matter of principle. Peter Alderton said the fact the Open is a week long tournament is the reason people come to it, including GM's who prefer a one game per day schedule. He also suggested the organizers could guarantee to spend a certain minimum on advertising in EP. Francisco Cabanas said the organizers need freedom to spend their advertising dollars optimally and we shouldn't tie their hands. Peter Stockhausen said, as an example, that they might have to buy the membership list from the USCF.

Kevin Spraggett said there seems to be pessimism in some of the comments, and said the CFC will recoup the funding for this project in many ways. David Ottosen said he has concerned about setting a precedent, but thought the CFC should fund its major event. Deen Hergott said this was a lot of money to spend without knowing if the projected event will come true. It shows faith in the organizer, but we don't know if the CFC finances can support it. Peter Stockhausen said that as Treasurer he is in a conflict of interest on this question, and asked Troy whether the CFC finances could sustain this expense. Troy wasn't sure, as he didn't have a 2 year projection available. Kevin Spraggett thought \$4000.00 wasn't much, amounting to only 60 cents per member per year.

Peter Stockhausen said that on the previous day Lynn Stringer had shown a visitor around the tournament site, who said that his city would be enthusiastic about supporting such an event. Peter said he was following up on this opportunity as quickly as possible. Francisco Cabanas said we need to consider the option to move the Open, if we accept this bid. Peter said the other site being considered was Victoria. He added that we was amenable to changing the playing time controls, to 40/2, 20/1, Game/30. Phil Haley said he had a motion from Lembit Joselin to change the Open to having a top section restricted to players rated over 2000; Francisco said it could be considered under "Other Business" but shouldn't be imposed on the current bid.

**Moved (Stockhausen/???)** to accept the Vancouver bid for the 1999 Canadian Open with the following changes:

- 1) the length, type, layout and content of the EP articles is strictly at the discretion of the EP editorial staff.
- 2) the payment dates for the CFC funding are changed to January 1, 1998 and January 1, 1999.
- 3) upon approval of the Executive, the bid may be moved to Victoria.
- 4) the playing time controls will be changed to 40/2, 20/1, Game/30 minutes.

Vote: 22 for, 6 opposed, 3 abstentions (including Stockhausen)

#### **ITEM 10 B) CANADIAN CLOSED**

Peter Stockhausen said we currently have two champions in "inventory", will we need a Zonal championship in 1999? Phil Haley said there is much uncertainty from a FIDE perspective; last year's projections didn't work out at all. Kevin Spraggett said that the current situation is very poor, and that "inventorying" interzonal spots is detrimental to chess, especially to the young, up and coming players. He said he would be willing to give up one of his spots if the FIDE cycle falls behind. Francisco Cabanas said that we should hold a Zonal championship in 1999, otherwise we will be going at least 4 years without a Zonal. We should be looking for an organizer and a bid as soon as possible. Gordon Taylor said that if the Interzonal is held this year as planned, and Kevin Spraggett generously gives up a championship spot, we should have a Zonal in 1998. Deen Hergott said we have no real idea what the schedule is, so it is hard to plan. Troy Vail commented that we can still have a Canadian Championship, even if it is not a Zonal. He added that we shouldn't accept Kevin's offer of giving up a championship; the governors knew the facts when the last

Zonal was held, and the organizers were also under the impression they were conducting a Zonal championship. We shouldn't even consider changing that now.

**Moved (Smith/Taylor)** that the Canadian Closed bids be deferred to the Executive; and the 1999 Closed will be run under Zonal rules.

Discussion: David Ottosen said that it is important to know for sure whether the tournament is a Zonal because a non-Zonal closed is a much different bid than a Zonal. Kevin Spraggett said that even with uncertain FIDE activities, we have a duty to act as best we can and try to anticipate what will happen. Phil Haley added that we should act as if the 1997 and 1999 Interzonals will take place, and if FIDE fails to run these events we will adapt. Brad Thomson (by proxy) said he is opposed to holding zonals until Spraggett's position is clarified.

Vote: Motion carried, with 2 opposed, 1 abstention.

#### **ITEM 10 C) WOMEN'S CLOSED**

Moved (Stockhausen/Smith) to defer the bid until the governors have clarified the CFC's women's chess program. If this has not been resolved by December 31, 1997 the Women's Closed will be deferred to the Executive.

Discussion: Deen Hergott mentioned that, by a previous motion, the National and Women's Closes are linked together; this motion freezes both tournaments until December 31, 1997.

**Moved (Ottosen/Spraggett)** to rescind section 801 of the Handbook and renumber section 800 to 801.

Discussion: Deen Hergott said we should try to avoid motions like section 801 which have such far-reaching consequences. David Ottosen said the motion was originally meant to protect the Women's Championship, but would instead harm the Closed.

Vote: Carried.

Vote on the Stockhausen/Smith motion: Carried.

ITEM 10 D) Canadian Junior

ITEM 10 E) Canadian Cadet

No bids were received.

### **AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Over 2000 Section At Canadian Open**

Phil Haley said that Lembit Joselin feels high rated players don't show up because they don't want to play weaker players, and would like to present a motion that the Open be run with an Over 2000 section. Francisco Cabanas said the motion is to imprecise, we have to know what impact such a motion has, and where it goes in the Handbook; he ruled the motion out of order. Gordon Taylor said he would challenge the Chair on such a ruling, as the motion could simply be added in a new section, 23, for additional motions, or better yet, to section 3. He offered to amend the motion and the Chair accepted it.

**Moved (Joselin/Stockhausen)** that section 388 be added as follows: The Canadian Open will be run with a section restricted to players rated over 2000.

Discussion: Peter Stockhausen said that you can't please everybody, some people like the varied play and others do not. Deen Hergott said this motion would increase the chances for norm possibilities. Francisco Cabanas pointed out the motion would obviously apply only to future Open bids.

**Moved (Quiring/???)** to cease debate and vote immediately. Carried.

Vote: the motion was defeated, with 4 abstentions.

Cecil Rosner said this was an important topic and he wanted to hear other opinions on it. He was troubled to hear that there are players who would come only if the Closed was played in sections. Phil Haley indicated he too wanted to hear more opinions. Kevin Spraggett thought personal opinions such as this are fine for discussions, but not proper for motions. Francisco Cabanas said that was his reason for wanting to rule the motion out of order; motions like this need to be carefully worded with the implications fully addressed. Gordon Taylor replied that this was too much to expect. A governor may have a good idea and should be able to present it without worrying about picky, punctilious details. Francisco said there were ways of introducing topics without making them motions, and referred the governors to section 22 on page 2-15 of the Handbook.

#### **Abe Yanofsky Book**

Cecil Rosner stated that his understanding was that the CFC had decided to conduct a project to re-do Abe Yanofsky's book, "Chess The Hard Way". The book was to be introduced at this year's Open, a fact that was mentioned in tournament ads. In talking to Troy earlier this year, he (Cecil) found out that the project would probably not happen. It was a project of former president Yves Farges, not the CFC, and Farges had failed to raise the money for it. Now it seemed that this was a volunteer project which was in big trouble.

Peter Stockhausen said he had spoken to Farges some time ago about this project. Farges said he had been in contact with Yanofsky, and had a book printer lined up, everything seemed in order. Yves thought the CFC could put up money to complete the project and recoup the money from sales. Yves had also suggested getting donors for the project, with proceeds to go to the Chess Foundation of Canada. Troy Vail said that one of the volunteers on the project was Brad Thomson, which led to the misconception that this was a CFC project.

Francisco Cabanas said that he was one of the donors approached by Farges. He had told Yves that this was not a CFC project, it was Yves's project. Subsequently the project appeared to fall apart, which came to a head when Brad Thomson was terminated. Yves had indicated then that he would guarantee financially the printing costs. A printer had already been lined up, and the work was scheduled for completion in the fall. Farges indicated that he was the manager of the project, and \$1500.00 had been set aside by the CFC for this, with income going to the Foundation.

Cecil Rosner said that Abe Yanofsky had received diskettes, but has no computer and is not sure what is on them. Abe is trying to round up volunteers to help. We need a book editor, someone to do layout, a chess skills editor, etc. The project must be professionally managed or it will be a disaster, and we need to determine whether the CFC wants to do this. Deen Hergott said he was approached by Yves Farges to edit the book in 5 days. Deen said his estimate was that about 200 hours of work was required, and he told Yves that the \$1500 fee was much too low. Kevin Spraggett asked if the book had been written, and Cecil Rosner said it had; it was awaiting editing, layout, etc. Troy Vail said the CFC office had done a cost analysis of the project, and concluded it would lose

money. He said that strong chess players who had seen parts of the new work said it was not particularly good and asked if the CFC wanted its name on a bad book.

Gordon Taylor said that Yves Farges had ideas but was not good at following through on fine details. It would be irresponsible to leave it in Yves hands. If we want to see the book published, we need to find someone else to complete the project. Cecil Rosner said that Jonathan Berry had looked at the current state of the manuscript, and concluded that much work remained in editing both chess and text. Phil Haley asked what happened to the original book; Cecil said it formed the first half of the new book, with more recent material making up the second half. Troy Vail said the entire book is in machine-readable format. Tony Ficzer and Brad Thomson had successfully completed their part of the project, which was to input the data. Kevin Spraggett said that what has been done already is great, we shouldn't abandon it now. John Quiring said we need to know the cost of completing the book. Troy replied that it depends on how many copies we print and sell. He said printing 500 copies had been mentioned in the past, but realistically expected to sell 200 at most. Cecil said that was a pessimistic estimate; the book would have broad appeal, including internationally. Tom O'Donnell said he felt even 200 copies was optimistic, given sales trends on this type of book.

Francisco Cabanas said that to carry forward, we will likely require further funds. Troy Vail estimated editing would cost \$3000.00-\$4000.00, layout might take a week, say \$1000.00. He added that the selling cost would be \$20.00, a stipulation of Abe Yanofsky's, who wanted the book to be affordable. Gordon Taylor said the layout could be done in a week, excluding any editing and fact-checking, and volunteered to do it.

**Moved (Rosner/Ottosen)** that the CFC appoint an editor/manager with a budget of \$4000.00 to bring the Yanofsky book project to completion.

Discussion: Cecil Rosner said that we should get this project completed. 200 copies at \$20 pays for this. David Ottosen said it was an important book, and the numbers were acceptable. Francisco Cabanas noted that the \$4000.00 included the \$1500.00 already allocated. Peter Stockhausen said the book has wide appeal, more so than standard books.

Maurice Smith said the money part is worrisome. We have a cash-flow problem; where will the money come from? Who will we appoint? There are obstacles to overcome. Troy Vail said the CFC has money problems and asked what the deal with Farges was. Francisco replied that Yves would guarantee printing costs if he can choose the printer. Troy noted that this book falls in the category of worst sellers at the book store. Phil Haley said that the project had been mishandled, and it would reflect poorly on the CFC if it failed. Ford Wong said this project was Yves problem, and he should finish it. John Quiring asked what it meant to pass a motion to spend money, if we don't have enough to write the cheque. Francisco Cabanas said we are currently in a cash-flow problem, and should be OK in the longer term. Troy reminded the assembly of the auditor's recommendation to investigate such projects first, then include them in the budgeting process. Cecil said that Abe Yanofsky's current understanding is that the book needs to be delivered to Yves for printing this fall. He said other organizations are interested too, such as ICE and Echecs Et Math. Kevin Spraggett said we seemed to want to do the

project, but don't have the money right now. There's no reason to push the time frame so hard, the motion has no time frame specified.

Vote: Carried, 18-8 with 6 abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 16:45.

## MEETING OF THE INCOMING BOARD OF GOVERNORS, continued (Day 3) July 16, 1997

Francisco Cabanas called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Francisco mentioned that the last motion of the previous day had not explicitly stated what project we were discussing. Since it was clear to everyone that we were speaking of the Yanofsky book project, the wording should be changed to reflect that. He asked if there were comments; there were none. [As you can see, the wording has been changed in these minutes].

### AGENDA ITEM: OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Moved (Taylor/Burgess) that Section 10 of By-Law #2 of the CFC be amended by replacing "Past President" with "Immediate Past President".

Discussion: [Reference: page 2-7 of the 1996 Handbook].

Gordon Taylor said that the rationale for including the Past President on the Executive is for continuity, but this serves little purpose when someone is more than a year out of office. Francisco Cabanas noted that By-Law #3 [page 2-9, 1996 Handbook] gives requirements for amending the constitution; in particular, changes at the AGM require prior notice, plus a 2/3 vote majority. Since no notice had been given, this motion could not be put forward for vote. The amendment could be put forward for mail vote, in which case 50% of eligible votes would have to be cast, with 2/3 majority required to pass. Gordon Taylor said he would pursue the change via mail vote. Peter Stockhausen said that reducing the Executive has no effect on chess promotion, increasing membership, etc. It could happen that the Past President could provide valuable input in some crucial situation. Phil Haley said that in the past some Past Presidents have done nothing. Kevin Spraggett thought the motion was too broad, since some Past Presidents have been very active. Troy Vail noted that it is virtually impossible to change the Constitution by mail vote, as we have never had 50% of eligible votes cast on any issue. Gordon said that the Executive should be a lean, mean, active fighting machine. David Ottosen thought that someone might have a period of renewal after leaving office, and be ready for action again in later years; it was difficult to judge in general. Francisco noted that we could have situations where a poor president remains on the Executive because he is replaced by a good, popular president who wins repeated re-election. Maurice Smith questioned the value of having a defeated president on the Executive even for 1 year.

[As noted above, this motion could not be voted on.]



Moved (Spraggett/Stockhausen) To delete Section 1206 of the CFC Handbook and replace it with: 1206 The Executive shall (a) decide the selection of (i) the National team captain; (ii) the Ladies' team captain

(b) determine what terms and conditions will be offered to the captains. The terms need not be the same.

Note: The Executive can decide that (i) and (ii) are the same person.

Discussion: Kevin Spraggett said that this motion would avoid conflict. Tom O'Donnell said he had disagreed with the choices for captain in the past, and thought the players should be involved with the selection. Deen Hergott also thought it made sense for the players to have some input. Gordon Taylor thought that the players don't necessarily work well together to make a good, united choice. Kevin said the CFC should ensure a responsible person goes along as captain, able to do the job. Other teams don't use players to choose a captain. Deen asked if the motion required the Executive to consult with the players. Kevin said that we would naturally expect the Executive to use their best judgement, which would probably including consulting the players.

Vote: carried, with 4 abstentions.

#### **Olympic Selection Committee -- reprise.**

Discussion on this topic was resumed. Kevin Spraggett nominated Zvonko Vranesic for Selection Committee member. Ford Wong thought it would generally be good to include the previous captain, who would obviously have experience. Phil Haley commented that we need guidelines for the committee. Gordon Taylor thought the guidelines were implicit--to choose the best team. We have to have confidence that the Selection Committee will do their job, and we lose flexibility if we specify too many conditions. Deen Hergott noted that we now have four nominees, and an even number can lead to deadlock situations. Kevin withdrew his nomination of Zvonko.

Francisco Cabanas asked for further nominations to the Olympic Selection Committee, and hearing none, declared David Ottosen, Greg Huber and David Ross elected.

#### **German Chess Federation**

Francisco Cabanas invited Egon Ditt, President of the German Chess Federation, to give a presentation about chess in Germany.

Egon said Germany has many players in a small geographic area, which makes it easy to hold meetings within driving distance of almost everybody. Chess is structured around local clubs. Players pay club fees of \$4-\$25 per month depending on the club, and the club collects \$10 per player per year which is sent to the national Federation. About 97% of the players are primarily interested in club-level chess, and about 3% pursue the top level, FIDE-rated tournaments. The Federation has separate committees to address various concerns, such as developing junior chess talent, a seniors (over 60 years old) program, and developing chess teaching aids. There is also a trainer employed on a contract basis who, among other duties, captains the Olympic team.

Peter Stockhausen asked how government sponsorship is obtained. Egon said both corporate and government funding depended on personal and political connections. It is always difficult to get money, but chess has a very positive image in Germany. Kevin Spraggett asked if chess was considered a

sport. Egon said it certainly was; the Chess Federation was a founding member of the German Sport Federation. He cited a scientific study which removed any doubt that chess was a physically strenuous activity, and said it was generally accepted in Germany that chess is a sport.

#### **Chris Field**

Chris Field, organizer of the 1987 Canadian Open, was on the CFC Blacklist for failure to pay out the guaranteed prize fund. He remitted a cheque to the CFC for final payment of debts relating to the 1987 Open, and a letter which detailed the payments made over the last 10 years to various prize winners. He asked to have his name removed from the Blacklist.

**Moved (Quiring/Smith)** to remove Chris Field's name from the Blacklist, provided his July 2, 1997 cheque for \$1091.15 clears.

Carried.

#### **Sectioned Tournaments**

Maurice Smith said that in Toronto, generally all tournaments are in sections. Tom O'Donnell didn't like to impose rules on the TD's, but said early rounds are often disliked by both players. Deen Hergott said he doesn't like the early rounds, and finds that players generally don't like playing IM's and GM's. Francisco Cabanas said that sections increase the possibility of norms, and Canadian Open bids in the past have included sections. Phil Haley suggested taking a survey of players on this topic. Gordon Taylor said that one big section is one of the signature aspects of our lovable dinosaur Canadian Open tournament. Peter Stockhausen said the Canadian Open gives a good opportunity to get players' views and would plan on doing a survey in Vancouver in 1999. He noted that TD's currently have the option of making a tournament sectioned. David Ross commented that, with or without sections, norm opportunities are rare in such open swiss events. John Quiring said it was an important factor for him to have the chance to play titled players, which is a rare opportunity for players in some provinces.

#### **Next Annual General Meeting**

Peter Stockhausen suggested reducing the meeting times on playing days, and starting the day before. Francisco Cabanas also preferred meeting earlier. Deen Hergott said it was very demanding to play and sit in on the AGM. Straw vote: meet 2 days before the tournament begins (6 votes); current schedule (5 votes). Maurice Smith said the meetings are demanding, but cost is an important factor. Gordon Taylor said he would ask for compensation to attend if the meeting was held in advance. He also said he found the playing/meeting schedule very demanding and might bypass the AGM next year.

Moved (Quiring/Stockhausen) to defer the place and time of the 1998 AGM to the Executive

Carried.

Moved (Quiring/Stockhausen) to adjourn.

Carried.

The meeting ended at 12:02.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 1997 ASSEMBLY OF THE CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA**

I will begin my report first by thanking the executive, the governors and the many volunteers. I wish also to express my thanks to the professional staff for their work and dedication to the CFC. It has been a great honour to work with you all during the last year.

This past year has been a year of profound change in the CFC. I will first begin with the Business Office. I had the opportunity to visit the office three times during the last year. Mr. Troy Vail was promoted to Executive Director (Congratulations on a well-earned promotion). We have also been very fortunate in having IM Tom O'Donnell join the office first on a part time basis, as a replacement for IM Deen Hergott, and now on a full time basis. The employment of Mr. Brad Thomson was terminated this spring. It is my expectation that we will be able to hire a third person at least on a part time basis this fall. There has been a marked improvement in the efficiency and operation of the business office. This is in fact the continuation of a process started during the term of Mr. Yves Farges as President. The new rating software was implemented with surprising few problems. It has now been expanded to fully integrate the membership accounting and inventory needs of the federation. The software was developed in house by Mr. Troy Vail, using the Visual Basic for Microsoft Windows 95/NT language. This has led to a marked improvement in the productivity of the staff. A perfect example of the advantages of this is the new CFC Internet site where we can provide both ratings and crosstables of all CFC rated events, on the Internet, approximately every two weeks at no additional charge to our members and organizers. This is done regardless of whether the tournament is submitted in machine-readable form or not. No other federation in FIDE has been doing this on a systematic basis. In short this is one area where the CFC is the world leader. We now have the capability to handle orders for books and equipment on line. There have many new features added to the CFC Internet site ranging from highly objective book reviews to the new Junior Chess Newsletter, GM Factory, to upcoming events etc.

The financial statements for the 1996-97 fiscal year will be audited financial statements. I must emphasize this is a full audit and not a comment letter as has occurred with the 1995-96 financial statements and in other years in the past. I urge the Assembly to carefully consider the auditor's recommendations. The budget projections allow for the CFC to keep its current level of program commitments while breaking even financially. Any significant new program spending must be accompanied by an increase in revenue such as an increase in membership, tournament activity or sales or a combination of all three. It is important to recognize that the CFC must maintain a healthy and profitable book and equipment business in order to maintain the current level of commitments. This should become apparent upon a close examination of the budget and financial statements.

During the last year we sent both National and Woman's teams to the Chess Olympiads in Yerevan Armenia. I believe with hindsight that it was the correct decision to send both teams; however I must add that FIDE did not make this decision easy with their very poor communications regarding the Yerevan Olympiad. We also supported both the Canadian Closed and Zonal and the Canadian Woman's Zonal. This is an area where FIDE again makes life quite difficult. The uncertainty regarding the World Championship cycle makes it very difficult to plan for these events. We already have two Canadian Zonal Champions in "inventory" due to the problems in FIDE. At this point planning for a Canadian Zonal for 1999 is the best course of action; however there are many uncertainties. On a final note I must say that there are many problems in FIDE, and this has made Mr. Phil Haley's position in the CFC and FIDE very difficult. He needs all our support during these difficult times in FIDE.

There have also been other positive developments. The Assembly has passed motions to allow for tournament memberships. This will allow for much more flexibility in promoting chess across Canada. In Quebec for example this will allow for CFC rated play without the requirement of purchasing, the English only, En Passant. I did attend last fall a very successful tournament in Quebec, the Outaouais Open. It was both CFC and FQE rated (all sections) and I do believe that this is a very positive model for tournaments in Quebec. I also attended a meeting with representatives of the FQE. I have covered this issue before but one thing I will say a resolution of the Quebec question will take time but it is possible. I must unfortunately comment at this time that in some respects Quebec is not the worst problem. There have been no CFC rated tournaments in Newfoundland during last year while there has been chess tournaments rated there under other rating systems. This in fact is worse than the original issue with Quebec. I say this to remind the Assembly that we must keep things in perspective. There has also been no CFC rated tournament activity last year in either of the Territories.

I will now comment on an issue that I consider critical for the CFC in the future. The CFC is dependent on volunteer organizers and directors for the vast majority of chess tournaments in Canada. The CFC membership has remained relatively stable on a National basis for years. If one averages over Ontario or over Western Canada one also finds approximate stability over time; however if one looks at the local level the results are very different. There is strong growth in some areas and also strong decline in other areas. One can look at PEI or Yukon over time and see the fluctuations quite readily. The reality is that growth in the CFC is determined by the support in most cases of only a handful of volunteers. Take away these volunteers and membership will in most cases decline or stagnate. This is not to say the membership programs launched from the office will not work. The opposite is in fact the case, for example the membership retention program. We must recognize however that these kinds of programs work in conjunction with and not as a substitute for local volunteer organizers. It is with this in mind that I have identified a strong need in the CFC for staff based volunteer development, coordination and support. This is very common in many non profit organizations that have both staff and volunteers. In order to accomplish this in any meaningful way additional person hours are going to be required at the office. It is my expectation that we will be in a position to bring in an additional staff person in the fall that will be able to fill this need.

There is one final area I must address in this report. There has been a tendency in some quarters to look at the CFC as a foreign body. This is unfortunate although understandable when one considers the physical size of Canada as a country. I must say I have had a chance to ponder this question particularly when travelling to the CFC office. It takes 4½ hours by jet to fly from Vancouver to Ottawa. We must all recognize that the CFC is our federation and it belongs to all of us. We must also all recognize that it is the responsibility of all of us to support the CFC. We must all contribute towards a strong CFC. This is not somebody else's responsibility.

I will conclude by indicating that I will be pleased to answer any questions at the AGM in Winnipeg. I will also indicate to the Assembly that I am prepared to let my name stand again for the position of President.

Respectfully Submitted, Francisco Xavier Cabañas, Vancouver, BC, July 4 1997.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

It was a busy year fulfilling the role of Vice President. Every week there seemed to be an e-mail to answer or a decision to be involved in. While not each item was a serious policy decision, careful thought was usually required to take the appropriate action. One area I have been particularly interested in is getting the C.F.C. more involved in scholastic chess. I have conducted several meetings and talked with many people trying to obtain a thorough background of what is required to set this up in the proper format. We are now ready to start this up in the fall, initially in Ontario and afterwards we will see if it can be expanded.

Another area I have been working on is sponsorship. I have put together a package on the C.F.C. to send to potential sponsors. We are looking for sponsorship for our national events. Two major Companies have now been contacted and more will be explored. Obviously though, sponsorship for chess on a national level is a pretty hard sell, so this could take some time to show positive results.

As we look towards the future, it is important to realize that the C.F.C. is one big family including the Executive, Governors, Business Office and all its members. It is not just one of the above but all of us. Therefore when we have emotional disputes that result in divisive actions it weakens the fabric of our organization. United we stand, divided we fall is a good motto for the C.F.C. Although we will always have disagreements, it they can be settled without rancour, but with and understanding of the other side's position, it will help pull us all together and make us that much stronger.

I look forward to being able to contribute in helping the C.F.C. to grow in the future, therefore I will stand for reelection as Vice President in 1997/1998.

Maurice Smith

---

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNORS 1997 AGM**

The 1996/97 year has been another busy one. My main duties, aside from participating in Executive discussions, were to produce the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and to file Executive correspondence. This includes correspondence among the Executive members, as well as between the Executive and Governors, CFC members, and international contacts.

Again this year the volume of correspondence has set a new record. I piled 11 years of Governors' Letters and 4 years of Executive correspondence on the bathroom scale; it weighs 32 pounds. This leads to serious problems in finding information on specific topics. Some sort of cataloguing system must be developed if we expect to make use in the future of this information.

I thank you for the privilege of serving on the Executive.

Respectfully submitted,

John Quiring, CFC Secretary

---

## **REPORT OF FIDE REPRESENTATIVE AND ZONAL PRESIDENT WINNIPEG, JULY 14-16, 1997**

I attended the meetings of the Central Committee and the General Assembly at the 1996 FIDE Congress held in Yerevan, Armenia from September 24 to October 2, 1996. My detailed report covering the highlights of this Congress was published in En Passant, December 1996. Neither the meeting of the Central Committee nor the meeting of the General Assembly was well handled and a state of near chaos frequently existed.

The team selected to run against President Iljumzhinov lacked cohesion and did not conduct a solid campaign. All members of the initial team opposing President Iljumzhinov were not firmly committed with Emmanuel Omuku of Nigeria defecting to the opposition, followed by the President of the Russian Chess Federation, Andrei Makarov leaving Sunye Neto's team and announcing his support for President Iljumzhinov, and later Noureddine Tabbane of Tunisia became part of President Iljumzhinov's team. Of the original eight man team only Gunther Loewenthal of the Netherlands and Sunye Neto himself remained on Sunye Neto's final five man team.

A lot of delegates were unhappy with President Iljumzhinov but most of them were content to express their comments behind the scenes and few of them publicly announced their opposition or took opportunities to challenge the President. Details of the election are covered in my En Passant report and will not be repeated here.

President Iljumzhinov has not been very successful to date. The 1996 Interzonal Tournament and Candidate matches were unilaterally cancelled. His proposed 1996 100 player World Championship match event was cancelled at the last minute, the Karpov-Kamsky match was eventually held but only after an ill advised attempt to run it in Baghdad had met strong opposition and fallen through. Although Karpov and Kamsky were eventually paid, neither was paid promptly and in both cases this caused considerable discussion and disruption. President Iljumzhinov also did nothing to resolve the long standing question of the validity of ex-gratia payments to former president Campomanes. Finally no progress was made with respect to organizing a Kasparov-Karpov world championship unification match.

The 100 player World Championship has now been definitely planned for 1997 with the early matches in Groningen, the semi-finals in Elista and the finals in Lausanne. If the planned 100 player World Championship proves to be a success this will obviously be a major accomplishment for President Iljumzhinov. The event will lose stature however if Kasparov and Karpov do not participate. On June 27, 1997, Kasparov wrote a letter to Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee very clearly stating that he will not participate in this event.

The next FIDE Congress is scheduled for Moldova, September 2-10. Although this is close at hand, no information has been released relative to travel, health, visas, credit card usage, immunization, doctors and medical facilities or accommodations and I have had no replies to two letters to the FIDE office requesting information. The same problem was encountered with the last FIDE Congress in Yerevan. Although it is relatively easy for those living in Europe to make last minute arrangements, it is difficult for those living on other continents.

Egon Ditt of Germany, Almog Burstein of Israel and I have each introduced a number of constructive motions aimed at improving the operation of FIDE Congresses. The manner in which President Iljumzhinov addresses these motions at the next Congress will be a key indicator of the future direction of FIDE. My four motions are as follows:

1. Moved that no later than six months prior to the start of any FIDE Congress, the FIDE office and/or the organizing federation shall provide all delegates with detailed information covering the following as a minimum:

1. Travel... flights, airlines, discounts, etc
2. Hotels... choices, quality, costs, food, etc
3. Visas... are they required, cost, how does one obtain?
4. Medical shots recommended?
5. Use of credit cards?
6. Medical facilities and availability of doctors?

2. Moved that a free day be provided after the end of the Central Committee and before the start of the General Assembly. This would have two advantages. . . allowing minutes of the Central Committee to be distributed to delegates to the General Assembly before the start of that meeting... and secondly allowing delegates a day to visit points of interest in the country where the meeting is being held.

3. Moved that FIDE pay the translation costs at all FIDE meetings.

This will have the advantage that more countries will be able to host FIDE congresses and thus have FIDE meetings in different parts of the world. With four of five FIDE meetings being held in parts of the former Soviet Union... Moscow, Yerevan, Kishinev and Elista... there is need for a more worldwide allocation of FIDE congresses.

4. Moved that all FIDE meetings be run according to Robert's Rules of Order or any other equivalent recognized book of parliamentary rules. Our recent meetings in Moscow, Paris and Yerevan all had problems relative to proper order and I believe it is generally recognized that improvements in this area are much needed.

Finally, I will briefly mention that a new world chess organization is in the development stages. No organizational meeting has yet been held although apparently one is to take place before the end of the year. It is not clear who the main support behind this operation will be. One of the prime movers has been Ignatius Leong of Singapore.

P. G. Haley, July 7, 1997

---

### **CFC TREASURER'S REPORT 1997**

I have reviewed the auditor's report and have found it extremely clear and informative. There is nothing I feel I should add to it as Mr. Yip is quite qualified to make suggestions and I agree with all of the suggestions he has made. Here are, in addition to the excellent report, a few suggestions with regards to the long term policies:

- 1) In my statement to the Assembly in Winnipeg last I indicated that our budget projections should be based on what can in reality be expected to produce positive financial results and not on what seems at times to be "wishful thinking". In that respect I strongly welcome auditor's recommendations with regards to the Olympiad and other national expenses. It further stresses the negative effect that the lack of Olympic fund donations in the previous year has caused. We literally cannot afford this kind of oversight.
- 2) Following the above, I would recommend a separate account which would be solely dedicated to the large-scale commitments so that we don't have to wonder as to how much money exactly we can afford to spend on an Olympiad or any national event. It seems that there has been a collective push and opposition at the same time with respect to these large-scale commitments and the picture has not been sufficiently clear to everyone. At the same time, in order for this effort to be complete, a proper evaluation of the flow of revenues and expenses in the last 5-10 years as it affected the same expenditures and vice versa should be made. This way we would be in the position to fashion our long-term policies and decisions on what could be expected based on passed experience.
- 3) The above mentioned situation also reinforces the importance of continual pursuit of corporate funding for our events despite the initial difficulties. In that regard the efforts that Maurice Smith has undertaken are to be encouraged as strongly as possible. To this end, soliciting our members and/or their connections with the local Lion's, Optimist and other clubs Canada-wide should be a matter of our policy and not a one-time short-lived effort after which everyone gives up in despair. We MUST tie The CFC with another charitable organization to boost the strength of our initiatives. The important thing to keep in mind here is that the business wants to see something in return for their money. This is to be determined as the situation arises with specific companies in mind.

Some of the possibilities might be:

- a) Free membership in local chess clubs/CFC
- b) Many free services for their children; we are seeing many scholastic chess events growing further in numbers.
- c) A few free copies of "En Passant".

d) Advertizing the companies' services and/or products in our magazine. Whatever happened with the companies whose products we sell already, or could sell? Why not have a section in the magazine for the business card size ads to generate interest and income? Ex: Scholar's Choice, Moyers, Dufferin Game Store, Novag Computers and others, etc.?

e) Discounted prices of our merchandise for the companies' workers and simul exhibitions when possible?

f) A question: How come we have increased a bad debt allowance to the Dufferin Game Store and yet they have refused to co-sponsor our chess events? Something has remained unanswered here.

g) We should approach the banks for their sponsorship: Canada Trust has published a brochure recently which has chess pieces all over it in order to promote healthy financial planning.

- 4) The new types of tournament membership fees have stimulated a positive response in my area and it is my opinion that it will continue to attract players who normally would not want to spend \$60- \$100 the first time they decide to join a tournament. Of course, it is too early for any conclusions at this time. For the next three to six months I would suggest to keep track of this and discuss the report for that period then. In my, limited-time, experience I have seen people who clearly chose " the full package " and not the tournament membership when offered the choices, hence my optimism with this regard.
- 5) My next recommendation is going to cause a puzzled look on many faces and some may even think that I am off the proverbial rocker. I also realize that this is an extremely delicate venture, but here it is: DRESS CODE in our major (BIG) tournaments, such as Canadian Open, Canadian Closed, Canadian Junior, etc. For the purposes of soliciting corporate donations a much better image of the chess community is a MUST. A question: how many times have we heard a story where a TV crew taped a chess event and saw a group of "excentric" people dressed in clothes that left a lot to be desired. We ourselves are guilty of projecting this image and can only blame our misguided sense of "freedom" for the cold reception we get from most of the serious corporate sponsors. This in my humble opinion, has nothing to do with anything one might take personally and everything to do with how much money the CFC could generate for its future events. Why should golf fare so much better than chess? IMAGE. The Canadian Closed in Hamilton comes to mind here. This of course will be anything but an overnight solution.
- 6) The income from the magazine sales was not available to me at the time of this report. However, " En Passant " has generated numerous excellent reactions with the chess enthousiasts and the office staff, once again deserves encouragement for the work they have done on the magazine, as well as, of course, for the rest of their responsibilities.
- 7) My last item is related to the scholastic chess initiatives. Since last year we have seen a great push and improvement with respect to the initiatives related to chess in school programs. OCA has recently devised a plan by which this initiative will be set in motion. BCCF also is participating in promoting their own initiatives. This shouldn't only be " isolated incidents " but rather become a collective conscious effort by ALL the provincial organizations and their affiliates. Scholastic chess, in London, for example, is the ultimate answer to many of our question related to finances and the future of chess in Canada.

Finally, I would like to thank most sincerely everyone for their support of my work in the past two years and wish the best of success to my successor in this position.

Dan Majstorovic, Treasurer, July 8th, 1997

---

### **RATINGS AUDITORS REPORT**

The past year has been another fairly quiet year for the Ratings Auditor. Detailed comparisons were made between CFC and FQE ratings for active players with ratings on both systems. Problems arose due to the lack of FQE players with ratings of under (roughly) 1800, since so few players rated below 2350, and 50 points higher for higher rated players.

One appeal was settled in the appellant's favour due to a typo in the crosstable.

I am willing to stand again for the position of Rating Auditor, unless there is someone else willing to take over

[signed] Hugh Brodie, Rating Auditor

---

### **JUNIOR CO-ORDINATORS REPORT**

The last few years have seen FIDE get much more involved with youth chess, and this has spilled over into Canada as well. Whereas five or ten years ago, there was the junior and the cadet and nothing else, now FIDE hosts championships for U10, U12, U14, U16, U18 and U20. This has led to Canada hosting similar events, which I feel have served to promote junior chess in Canada as well. However, any new venture also serves to cause new issues to deal with, and this past year we had to deal with several. The first was the issue of girls' representatives to the various championships. Currently, the Chess'n Math championships provide solely an absolute champion (who goes to the boys' championship), and this year, several girls inquired as to whether or not they could represent Canada. It was decided to use the CFC rating list, and allow the highest rated on it to represent Canada, at the representatives own cost.

The Junior was held in Edmonton, and despite the strange factor that each of the top 6 players qualified by rating rather than winning their provincial championship, it was a success. However, I feel it may be necessary in the future to change the rules to encourage strong juniors to play in their own provincial championships (only one of the top six even played in their provincial junior).

I can only echo last years comment that every player in the 1996-97 junior is still eligible for next years junior, and that this is a positive indication that there is a deep pool of Canadian junior talent.

The Cadet was held in British Columbia, and also ran smoothly. One issue that did arise here was that with a tie for second, a playoff was arranged, but was unable to be held at the tournament due to time restrictions. It was then arranged later in the east. However, there are no provisions for playoff matches to decide second in the junior/cadet rules, and in fact, it clearly states the S-B should be used. While the idea of a playoff match seems intuitively good, it was decided (rightly) that the CFC should follow the rules in the Handbook, and if the rules are not good, change the rules.

Another welcome change was the requirement that each player in both the junior and the cadets adhere strictly to the deadlines for submission of entry fee. In the past, the deadlines were treated less seriously, and players often let them slide. This year, there was no drama like waiting on that last day to see who would get in on time! Seriously, the stricter enforcement of the Handbook rules was a general theme this year, and a welcome one.

Both the junior and cadet were held in the west this year, and I feel it would be nice to move them back east for 1997-98 (if only to give westerners a break!). No group that I am aware of is bidding on these events.

Finally, I would like to see the CFC request some form of apology to Danny Goldenberg for the FQE's statements about him. I met Danny at the Junior, and he is an extremely nice and polite young man. The FQE's statements regarding his playing strength, which were even repeated in Jonathan Berry's Globe and Mail column, were uncalled for and insulting. It is unfortunate that Danny had to be dragged into this dispute, and even more unfortunate that he was so publicly denigrated.

David Ottosen

---

### **WOMEN'S COORDINATOR REPORT**

Date June 23, 1997

CFC Governors,

During the past 12 months chess for women is flourishing. Last Aug. 1996 the Canadian Women's closed Championship ran together with the National at the TARTU COLLEGE students residence in downtown Toronto.

It has been long time to have a 10 Women's Championship at the same time and at the same place with the National.

The Championship not only created a new Champion (Johanne Charest) but 2 Women became IWM's. Namely Johanne Charest and Natalia Khoudgarian as a result of their final scores of 6/9 or better. Congratulations Johanne and Natalia. Congratulations also go to Penka Apostolov and Stephanie Chu for attaining the Title of Women FIDE Master.

Stephanie Chu competed last year (1996) in Menorca Spain in the under 14 for girls category and despite facing strong opponents she did very well.

This year Stephanie will go to Poland for the World Junior Title for girls under 20. The dates for this event are from July 13 to July 28. In October you will find Stephanie in Cannes France to compete for the World Youth Championships for girls under 14 and this event will take place from Oct 28 till Nov the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Good Luck to you Stephanie from all of us.

There will be no Women's Championship this year.

Best Regards, Ari Mendrinios, CFC Womens Coordinator

---

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Readers Survey**

The results of our recent readers' survey were in the June magazine. The most astounding part of the survey was the nearly 300 responses received. This is almost 2 1/2 times more respondents than on the 1995 survey. Many of those responses commented on how people like the larger format for the magazine. I believe that as far as the membership is concerned, this is one of the larger value added programs the CFC has recently done.

There were many heated comments concerning the ratings list issue. Even though the side in favour of getting rid of the list had the larger amount of the votes, the people in favour of keeping the list are very passionate about it remaining in the magazine. For now, we will be looking at more efficient ways to present the ratings lists.

## **Finances**

I've said it before and I'll say it again. Governors' and Executive MUST become more fiscally responsible. I would love to give money to every program, idea and request out there that does anything for chess, but the CFC would not last very long if I did. Hard decisions have to be made and people may not like you for it, but this is the responsibility you take as being the members' representatives. A perfect example was the recent Olympiad. Option1: Send a Women's Olympic team and have the Olympiad cause a loss to general revenues of over \$12,000. Option2: Use rule 1202 in the handbook that states "When finances permit there will be two Olympic teams..." to decide against sending the second team and save the CFC from taking a sure loss on the bottom line. Option 1 is the nice and popular thing to do while Option 2 will make some people angry, but it is the fiscally sound thing to do. There are too many Option 1's being approved and not enough Option 2's.

Sales this year followed the usual trends. Equipment increasing and books decreasing. Membership revenue was up, but this was mainly due to the increased membership fees. Memberships as a whole is relatively stagnant. Of particular note is the increase in rating fees collected of over \$2,600. That translates to over 1,300 extra participants in tournaments throughout the country. I don't know the exact reason for this, but I would be willing to guess that it is due to extra efforts on the part of TD's across Canada and they should be commended for their good work. Newsstand sales are generating about \$400 per issue with around 175+ issues selling every EP. Overall we had a loss of over \$9,000 last year which could have been much worse, but by no means is anything to be content with.

## **Internet Site**

This has to be one of the most positive areas for the CFC in the last year. Currently our web site is getting over 5,000 hits per month to the homepage alone. It may not be Microsoft, but it is fairly good for a small organization. The focus of the web site over the last year has changed, I believe accounting for this increase. Initially the focus was to 1. Sell chess supplies 2. Let people find the CFC and 3. Give something extra to members. Now the order of focus is 1. Give extra value to members 2. Let people find the CFC and 3. Sell chess supplies. This has not only pleased us with greater traffic to our site, but has (judging from feedback) made the membership very happy.

Members and Tournament Directors can get ratings online that are now updated every two to three weeks. This is a substantial increase over a couple of years ago when ratings were updated every two months. Along with ratings, players and TD's can now get crosstables on line. Theoretically a person can finish a tournament on Sunday and view their updated rating and results on Tuesday. Another positive side effect of this has been pressure from members on TD's who are slow in getting results in. A participant in a tournament can see if the results have been received in a punctual manner, and if they haven't, get after the TD to send them in on time.

The web site contains the following information: club listings, coming events, advertising of major tournaments, crosstables, ratings, current news, membership information, Governors' Letters and members GL forum, the CFC handbook, complete book and equipment catalogue, full back cover descriptions for all chess books, junior newsletter "GM Factory", TD resources and over 50 in depth book reviews. Occasionally we put a feature article that doesn't make "En Passant" on the site. This kind of service has led to discussion in chess newsgroups along the lines of "If the CFC can do it, why can't the USCF". It's nice to think that we are able to provide better service in some areas than an organization over 20 times our size.

## **New Accounting Program**

Some people had some real problems with this being done internally. However, the new program was created over the last 6 months and was implemented May 1<sup>st</sup> without a hitch. This program is fully integrated with our membership database and ratings program. Therefore we can track peoples ratings and purchases in the same place. This eliminates the constant errors encountered in trying to maintain two databases. The new program does have a few shortfalls over an off the shelf program but most of them are cosmetic. The advantages on the other hand are considerable.

1. Searching for names and CFC numbers is from 4 to 20 times faster.
2. Tracking of customer histories and trends is considerable better and in some cases the new program can track in ways the old one never could.
3. Certain functions such as bank reconciliation's can be done considerable faster (Bank Rec. old program approx. 20 minutes; Bank Rec. new program approx. 4 seconds).
4. When membership are paid, they are updated automatically now. This eliminates a second step that could produce more errors as well as taking longer.
5. The system prompts you when a membership has expired for a person purchasing books and equipment and is thus not qualified for membership pricing. The old system didn't keep track of expiry dates at all.
6. Typical order processing is 3 to 10 times faster.
7. The new program is expandable and can be modified to future needs.

As the complete program stands it is currently over 16,000 lines of code, or about 350 pages of code. This represents a large investment of time (probably in the neighborhood of 400+ hours). This time has created software that enables the CFC to better manage its membership information, ratings and crosstables, financial information and inventory management. Less time spent on these items is one of the major reasons why the Business Office is currently running on only two employees and thus saving the CFC money.

If you have any other questions, you may contact me at your convenience.

Troy Vail, Executive Director

## **EMPLOYEE REPORT FOR THE CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA**

By Tom O'Donnell

I would like to divide this report by major function performed by my (as yet untitled) position. There are many other minor functions not mentioned here that this employee performs and aren't included in this report. The major functions are:

- 1) Inputting (data entering) articles that appear in EP.
- 2) Editing articles that appear in EP.
- 3) Processing mail.
  - a) Processing memberships.
  - b) Processing crosstables.
- 4) Processing and sending out book and equipment orders.
- 5) Ordering books / book sales (equipment is handled by the Executive Director).

### **Inputting Articles**

I have been performing this task since being hired in January 1997. On the whole, I am very satisfied with the condition in which we receive articles. In my previous stint as the article data-entry person at the CFC, about seven years ago, virtually every single article came in on pieces of paper. They would have to be typed in, which was not only very time-consuming, but also increased the chance of error. As it stands now, the office has effectively increased the time for proofreading while decreasing the need. As a result there are a fraction of the typos in a typical EP as there were as few as four years ago.

I would estimate that approximately 60% of the major articles received by the CFC are sent in either by e-mail or on diskette. These are the preferred methods for article reception. An article sent in on paper is far less likely to go into EP in a timely manner, especially if it is submitted near deadline.

This does not include Across Canada reports, which are generally short enough that it does not cause any staff disruption to enter them.

### **Editing Articles**

I have also been performing this task since January 1997. I would first like to thank all of the people who have contributed articles over the past six months. My title with respect to EP has been "Chess Editor", but to be honest, I believe this is simply incorrect. It should have been "co-Editor" at the least. According to my job description at the time I was hired, my duties would include the editing of all chess content in the magazine. It soon became fairly obvious that I would also be asked to proofread all parts of the magazine, and make editorial decisions with respect to the priority of articles that would get published.

I also took the step of contacting many of our contributors (e.g. Deen Hergott, Philip Jurgens, Al Tomalty, and Larry Fyffe) when there was time, and submitting to them the finished versions of their articles for approval. This would allow them to voice any concerns or criticisms about the result of the editing process. It also allowed them to make suggestions, **many** of which were useful, as to how to make the end product better.

I have been stockpiling articles for future use. Should one of the employees become incapacitated for a lengthy period, the office could still produce at least one magazine short-staffed. Articles totaling in excess of thirty pages are in the computer, most of which have been proofread at least once. An example would be the very popular Masters' Forum feature - as you read this we have one going into the next magazine, and two others in various states of readiness waiting to go into upcoming issues.

The above encompasses the mechanical (and for the most part objective) aspects of this task. There are also some subjective tasks that I fear are presently, and perhaps have always been, problems. I would suggest there are two in particular: rating bias and regional bias. I would like to briefly mention what is being done on each front.

Rating bias: It is true that higher-rated players will generally get preferential treatment with respect to submissions to this office. This does not mean that the rank-and-file players will be ignored. Our new policy of publishing virtually no unannotated games will allow lesser-known players to have a chance to shine in the spotlight, especially in the Across Canada section of the magazine.

A lack of skill at chess does not necessarily mean a lack of skill in writing about chess, so that even though not every annotated game will get in, many class players will see their names (and games with their notes) in the magazine. I sacrificed a couple of Sundays to annotate many games for the Across Canada section in En Passant 144. I did this to serve as a blueprint for others to follow. Not with respect to the style of the annotations, but rather with respect to length of them. I have high hopes that this will make the magazine even more attractive to our members since everyone who can write will have a chance to see his or her most interesting games in the magazine.

Regional bias: This problem is a much tougher one to deal with. We get complaints from virtually every region of the country that they do not get enough coverage of their events. It would seem to me that the very fact that we get complaints from **all** of these regions means that we are doing our jobs fairly.

Of course, it is not possible for us to include every detail submitted. A few tournament directors mention **every single** player who plays in their tournament, in their report. My self-imposed cutoff is that no more than 30% of the players will be mentioned in the report, and that this percentage decreases as the number of people playing in the event increases. I am sure that this will not make every person happy, but if we did not impose some type of cutoff the Across Canada section would be at least twice as long as it is now.

### **Processing Mail**

I have been performing this task since May 1997. All pieces of correspondence see my desk. Membership reports and renewals, crosstables, book and equipment purchases, and routine inquiries are all dealt with. The new accounting package



programmed by the Executive Director is at least three times as fast as our old Peachtree Accounting Package, and more importantly, is far more reliable. It has a number of other positive features that are included in the Executive Director's Report.

In general I am quite happy with the professionalism of our tournament directors with respect to tournament submissions. The use of the appropriate forms continues to grow. I do have a number of observations about how this aspect of my job can be sped up, and errors can be decreased.

- 1) Payment. We do not like post-dated cheques. I am seriously considering simply returning all postdated cheques that we receive to the sender, with a note that we will not accept postdated cheques. This seems to happen about once every two weeks, and they are a headache for this office.
- 2) Processing memberships. The tournament director does not need to place all of the address information on the membership report form for a person who is renewing his or her membership, and has not had a change of address. The problem is that if a tournament director writes down all of this redundant information, two bad things happen.
- 3) The first is that I have to scan each entry looking for any difference between the information on the form and the information in the computer database. Even though this only takes about one minute, the cumulative effect of this over hundreds of memberships is quite large. The second problem is that if the tournament director receives incorrect information, I will generally change the address of the person in our database.
- 4) An example will make this second point clearer. John Doe, who lives at 123 Main St., gives his address to the tournament director. The tournament director writes it down as 321 Main. I look in the database, see that the two addresses are different, and will change it to the new (incorrect) address. When sending in membership report forms, only give us the name, CFC number, and the \$\$ figure, if the person is renewing and their address has not changed.
- 5) Crosstables: For the most part this is also done well by tournament directors, but I have noticed a few errors. The first is major: include the CFC number of all participants in your event, if possible. We don't need, or want, their ratings - we definitely need their CFC numbers since that is each member's unique identifying feature. Also, it is not necessary for the TD to rewrite the crosstable in finish order. The computer will rearrange the players in finish order once all of the information is entered.
- 6) On a related note, I would like to say something about SwissSys and other computer pairing programs. If you use them, use them properly. Quite recently we received a very large tournament near a rating deadline with a huge number of mistakes - and it was computer generated! The TD obviously did not know how to work the program, and so this employee had to devote six hours to entering and making alterations to the crosstable. I don't mind working extra hours, but I was not too happy to be awake at 2 a.m. fixing errors that should never have happened in the first place.
- 7) Separate each item using different pieces of paper: Our filing system is such that orders, crosstables, and memberships are in different places. It is not a good idea to put multiple different items on the same piece of paper. For example, an Across Canada report submitted on the same piece of paper as the crosstable could easily be missed, and it would not get in. Likewise it is very bad to submit memberships and crosstables on the same piece of paper, since it too could result in one of these items not being fully processed. To repeat, if you are sending in different items use separate pieces of paper.
- 8) We prefer to receive everything at the same time. In my view this is the biggest procedural problem that we have in the office. We get e-mails that go something like, "Here is the e-mail report for tournament XYZ - the cheque is in the mail." My response to that is, "Ideally, the Across Canada report, payment, and crosstable should be sent in together (though on separate pieces of paper), if we do not receive payment with the crosstable, then the crosstable will be returned to the TD."
- 9) The problem is that if we receive the report, the money, and the crosstable at different times, it is an administrative nightmare. The office would have to keep track of which tournaments were paid for, which report corresponds to which tournament, whether an Across Canada report should go in even if we haven't yet received the crosstable from the organizer, etc. Please, please, please send in all items pertaining to your tournament together - and don't forget to mention the method of payment.

### **Processing Book and Equipment Orders**

This section refers only to the mechanical aspects of shipping, which I have been performing since May 1997. The more subjective aspects of predicting book sales, and the impact of shipping on them, appear later.

The CFC uses Purolator Courier to meet the majority of its shipping needs. This system has a number of advantages over Canada Post. The most obvious one is speed. Sending a package to BC, for example, by Purolator Air will often result in it arriving at its destination in as little as two days after it is shipped from Ottawa. Heavier packages (generally over four pounds), and all packages to Ontario and Quebec, are shipped by Purolator Ground, which is also substantially faster than Canada Post.

A second advantage of Purolator over Canada Post is our ability to track shipments. In the rare cases where something does not get to its destination quickly, Purolator has an electronic link so that the package's location can be tracked. This saves us time and cuts down on the number of complaints. The system is also easier and faster for the shipper to use. One side effect of this change is that it is very useful to have the phone number of the person placing the order. Purolator stresses that their delivery efficiency improves if they have the recipient's phone number, particularly when delivering to Post Office boxes.

This information will be included in the next catalogue, as will the fact that we also ship Canada Post if the recipient makes that request.

### **Book Sales / Book Ordering**

I have been performing parts of this task since January 1997 and other parts since May 1997. It is not a secret that book sales are not what they once were at the CFC. Increased competition from Chess n' Math, and large bookstore chains like Chapters, have cut into our market. We also have the problem of perceived value. I know of at least two Governors of the CFC who believe that Chess n' Math has lower prices than we do. I decided to take 100 books at random and compare prices between the CFC

and Chess n' Math. Here is what I found (prices refer to the CFC Christmas 1996 catalogue plus updates, and to the Chess n' Math book list of May 1997). Incidentally, I have intentionally tried to avoid choosing titles that we have discontinued, and as a result of which we sell at even less than our normal prices.

<b>Title:</b>	<b>\$C+M</b>	<b>\$CFC</b>			
Alekhine, Beating w/Exch.	18.95	<b>13.55</b>	Three Steps to Mastery	30.95	<b>27.95</b>
Alekhine, New Ideas	26.95	<b>24.95</b>	HOT Chess	31.50	<b>27.95</b>
Alekhine, The Complete	32.95	<b>29.95</b>	Secrets of Spectacular Chess	32.95	<b>28.95</b>
Archangel: Power Play	15.95	<b>13.95</b>	Winning Chess Brilliances	12.95	12.95
Beating the Anti-KID	31.50	<b>27.95</b>	Anand: Super Talent	23.95	<b>21.95</b>
Bird-Larsen (Revised)	22.95	<b>19.95</b>	Attacking with Tal	16.95	<b>15.95</b>
Bishop's Opening	29.95	<b>20.75</b>	Botvinnik 100 Selected Game	13.50	<b>12.95</b>
Blackmar -Diemer (Lane)	23.95	<b>21.95</b>	Capablanca: Immortal Games	11.95	<b>9.95</b>
Caro-Kann in Black and White	34.95	<b>30.95</b>	Fischer 60 Memorable Game	32.95	<b>29.95</b>
Complete Najdorf 6.Bg5	37.95	<b>33.95</b>	Fischer: Complete Games	27.95	<b>24.95</b>
Flank Openings: Beating the	31.95	<b>28.95</b>	Karpov Best Games	34.95	<b>31.95</b>
Four Knights, New Ideas	21.95	<b>20.95</b>	Nunn's Best Games	36.95	<b>33.95</b>
French Defense, Winning w	29.95	<b>25.95</b>	Polgar Sisters	23.95	<b>21.95</b>
Gruenfeld: Beating the	29.95	<b>24.95</b>	Rubinstein: Uncrowned King	39.95	<b>34.95</b>
King's Gambit Acc. (Soltis)	22.95	<b>21.95</b>	Rubinstein: Masterpieces	<b>8.95</b>	10.95
KID: Mainline	40.95	<b>36.95</b>	Rubinstein: Later Years	39.95	<b>34.95</b>
Latvian Gambit (Kosten)	28.95	<b>24.95</b>	Smyslov's 125 Best Games	26.95	<b>21.95</b>
Nimzo-Indian: Classical	24.50	<b>21.95</b>	Timman's Selected Games	26.95	<b>23.95</b>
Noteboom, Play the	26.95	<b>24.95</b>	Basic Chess Endings	27.95	<b>23.95</b>
Petroff Defense: Winning	22.95	<b>21.95</b>	Batsford Chess Endings	44.95	<b>39.95</b>
Pirc: New Ideas in the	24.95	<b>21.95</b>	ECE Rooks 1	45.95	<b>43.95</b>
QGD: Chigorin	29.95	<b>25.95</b>	Buffalo 1894 and 1901	39.95	<b>36.95</b>
Sicilian 2.c3, Complete	31.95	<b>27.95</b>	Elista Diaries	39.95	<b>34.95</b>
Sicilian Kan, Winning with	30.95	<b>27.95</b>	Tal-Botvinnik 1960	32.95	<b>29.95</b>
Sicilian: Accel. Dragon	25.95	<b>22.95</b>	Zurich 1953	16.50	<b>14.95</b>
Sicilian: Beating the III	32.95	<b>28.95</b>	Chess for Dummies	24.95	<b>22.95</b>
Sicilian: Fischer Sozin Att.	29.95	<b>23.15</b>	1001 Brilliant Checkmates	13.95	<b>11.95</b>
Sicilian: Kalashnikov Win w/	29.95	<b>25.95</b>	Endgame Magic	23.95	<b>21.95</b>
Sicilian: Sveshnikov, New I	30.95	<b>28.95</b>	Karpov's Endgame Arsenal	30.95	<b>27.95</b>
Spanish Exchange: Powerplay	18.95	<b>15.95</b>	Rate Your Endgame	25.95	<b>23.95</b>
Spanish: Closed	19.95	19.95	Secrets of Pawnless Endgames	36.95	<b>35.95</b>
Spanish: Winning with	27.95	<b>21.95</b>	Winning Endgame Technique	29.95	<b>26.95</b>
Vienna: Complete	26.95	<b>24.95</b>	Anthology of Combinations	49.95	49.95
Black Defensive w/1...d6	22.95	<b>18.95</b>	Art of Attack	26.95	<b>23.95</b>
Complete Def. For Black	29.95	<b>25.95</b>	Chess Middlegames: Ess.Kn.	19.95	<b>14.95</b>
Gambits (Burgess)	17.95	17.95	Combination Challenge	24.95	<b>22.95</b>
How to Play Good Open. Mov	13.95	<b>11.95</b>	Fighting Chess	29.95	<b>26.95</b>
Ideas Behind Chess Openings	19.50	<b>17.95</b>	King Hunt	30.95	<b>28.95</b>
Opening Ideas and Analysis I	22.95	22.95	Modern Chess Strategy	11.95	11.95
Opening Play: Ward	17.95	17.95	My System	24.50	<b>22.95</b>
Winning w/1.c4	<b>17.95</b>	21.95	Piece Power	17.95	17.95
Best Lessons of a Coach	21.00	<b>18.95</b>	Positional Play	40.95	<b>36.95</b>
Chess For Tigers	15.95	15.95	Think Like a GM (algebraic)	<b>32.95</b>	34.95
Winning Tactics for Jrs	13.95	<b>12.95</b>	Training for Tournament Player	33.95	<b>31.95</b>
101 Tips to Improve	20.95	<b>19.95</b>	640 Best Games	29.95	<b>27.95</b>
Application of Chess Theory	26.95	<b>24.95</b>	ECO E	50.95	<b>47.95</b>
Chess Master at Any Age	34.95	<b>27.95</b>	ECO: Mono B12 Caro	19.95	19.95
GM Achievement	32.50	<b>28.95</b>	Informant 66	42.95	42.95
Lasker's Manual of Chess	13.50	<b>11.95</b>	Informant 67	43.95	<b>42.95</b>
Modern Chess Self-Tutor	24.50	<b>22.95</b>	Informant 68	43.95	<b>42.95</b>

**The final totals are astounding!** Chess n' Math is cheaper in three instances, the two organizations are the same in eleven instances, and the CFC is cheaper 86 times (for an average savings of about 10% on the entire 100 items). For many titles, it is actually less expensive to buy two books from the CFC and pay shipping than it is to walk down the street to Chess n' Math and buy them in person.

Does this mean that we should stand pat with our present policy and hope that the word spreads that the CFC is the least expensive place to buy chess books in Canada? No, I do not think so.

We have to become leaner. Our book inventory (which hovers in the low to mid \$30,000 range) is bloated with many titles that simply do not sell. The previous employee in charge of books was not very interested in that aspect of his job, and as a result we have a fair amount of inventory that is overpriced and outdated, sitting on our shelves. I have already begun implementing a "weeding out" process, whereby old titles that don't move are to be discounted until they do.

An example of this is the Trends titles that originally sold very well, but over the last few years have been unqualified duds. Likewise, many of the ECO Monographs sold well at the beginning, but sales of these have tapered off as well. It is my belief that by

this time next year our book inventory will be reduced (both in terms of numbers of titles and dollar value) and only the most popular and/or recent titles will be on our shelves.

Then there is the shipping problem. Purolator is expensive. It costs the CFC \$11.95 to send a package of less than two pounds to Alberta and BC, and \$13.95 to Newfoundland. Even without taking into account the employee's time, we lose at least an average of \$3 on every shipment.

I would like to change that. It is my belief that we will have to raise our shipping rates to encourage people to make purchases from us consisting of multiple items at a time. Those who order one item at a time tend not to make us much money, and in fact occasionally we lose money on such shipments. I suggest the following (all totals are pre-shipping and pre-tax):

- 1) We charge \$8 for shipping (up from the present \$5) on orders of less than \$60.
- 2) If an individual (as opposed to an institution) purchases from \$60 to \$300 in books and equipment, then shipping is \$5.
- 3) An individual purchasing over \$300 would pay no shipping.
- 4) In order to continue to give value to our members, and to compensate for increase shipping costs, we would lower our margins on books so that the prices of the books we sell are even more attractive.

The net effect of this is to get people placing fewer orders, but larger ones. It would also give members even greater value for their chess dollar since their money would go farther. In a sense we would become closer to a Zellers, Walmart or Price Club concept. I think that without some new approach, we will eventually see our chess book revenues shrink to the point where it is no longer in our interest to sell books. On a personal note, as a person who likes to read chess books, that would be a shame.

### **Closing Thought**

The CFC Business Office staff has come under a great deal of fire recently for the "unfair" way in which it treats certain groups. For example, recently we were blamed for not writing the report for a recent major tournament. It was pointed out that the Business Office staff had written the report for another major tournament, and that "fair is fair".

At the time the article was written, there were two full-time and one part-time member of the Business Office. Now there are only two full-time members. There is no longer time for any employee to be writing tournament reports during office hours. I for one put in about 60 hours per week working for the CFC, and I would like to avoid increasing that number if possible.

---

## **CANADIAN CORRESPONDENCE CHESS ASSOCIATION** **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CFC GOVERNORS 1996-1997**

- The CCCA sponsored John F. Cleeve memorial tournament began during the summer of 1996 A class XI event with an average rating of 2510, this important tournament features the participation of 5 GMs and 8 IMs.
- The CCCA sponsored the Candidate Master Invitation Tournament in Memoriam Drew Lamb Stoll.
- The CCCA Championship of Canada (K-49) was officially completed and won by Art Prystenski. We can also report that (K-50) I near completion and K-51 began in early 1997.
- International friendly team matches were started or are in the works against NBC (Netherlands), Switzerland, Finland, Argentina and the BCCA while team matches were completed against Ireland, Germany, France and New-Zealand. At the same time friendly E-Mail tournaments have just been organized against Sweden, Austria and Australia.
- Dr. Philip Cody finished first in one of the ICCF World Cup VI/VII Semi-Finals sections moving him along to the final round. This was quite an accomplishment!
- The CCCA was not able to attend the 1996 ICCF Congress held in Germany was represented by proxy.
- The CCCA awarded four titles: The CCCA Master title to Joe Deidun Sr., Philip Cody and Gordon M Greig. The title of CCCA Candidate Master was awarded to Daniel Trahan.
- The ICCF sponsored another World Cup tournament, edition XI/XII, which is set to begin this fall. We expect the CCCA to once again have a strong contingent of participants.
- The annual meeting of the CCCA Executive was held in November in Kingston, ON. AT this meeting the CCCA decided to suspend for the time being the publication of the French language edition of its magazine following the resignation of the editor. All CCCA members now receive the English language quarterly edition.
- The CCCA entered into a new book distribution agreement with the CFC. CCCA members can now place their orders directly with the CFC.

Finally, we continue to struggle with membership numbers. While we have a large core of strong dedicated players, many of whom represent Canada Internally, we can't seem to increase our membership base. Services offered free of charge or at little cost on the Internet are certainly a factor. In response to this, the CCCA and ICCF now offer the opportunity to play rated E-Mail events and the ICCF now has a web site. The CCCA web site is expected to be operational during 1997.

Respectfully submitted, J.Ken MacDonald, President, CCCA

## CFC FEMALE MEMBERS' SURVEY

### **Background Information**

A total of 68 surveys were mailed out, one to every known female in the CFC database. It is certain that the actual number of females is greater, but there was no way to determine this. In total fourteen women responded to the survey. One answered only the background information, so she is included in the statistics that follow, but her answers to the questions are not included, as she didn't have any.

The average age of the respondents is 33 years. Most learned to play chess from a family member; their father was the most likely teacher. They average about 20 hours of study per month, and play in about five tournaments per year. The questions and responses appear below. I have added my own synopsis and suggestions for changing the direction of the women's program. I have also included an e-mail from one of the largest women's groups in Canada, and what my future plans are with respect to this report. [Note to respondents: I have edited these answers solely for clarity and grammar. It is not my wish to alter the meaning of any of the statements below, if I have done so, please contact me ASAP.]

**QUESTION 1:** At the moment, the CFC presently spends on average \$3,000 - \$4,000 per year on programs which are of benefit solely to women. These include sending a Women's Olympiad team (about \$2,000 - \$3,000 per year), holding the Canadian Women's Closed (about \$1,000 per year), and sending a representative to the Women's Interzonal (about \$500 per year). Do you think this amount is adequate, inadequate (either too much or too little), or is the entire concept discrimination based on sex? If you were in control of the decisions over this money next year (about \$3,500) would you spend it differently? If so, how would you spend it to better promote women's chess in Canada during 1997?

### **RESPONSES:**

- A) It is definitely not too much, but within the economical context it's comprehensible. It's sure that I would prefer a little more money but I understand the position of the CFC because approximately four percent of chessplayers are women. This is why it is not a concept of discrimination based on sex. Supplementary efforts should be made to have more sponsors.
- B) I think the amount of money spent on women's chess is grossly inadequate. I fully support spending money on the Women's Olympiad team, holding a Canadian Women's Closed and sending a representative to the Women's Interzonal, but there appears to be none left to support grassroots development! Earmarking funds for women's chess is not discrimination; I assume it reflects a policy decision to promote and support women's participation in the sport and to ensure that Canada is represented at international events by women, too. I don't know the value of Interzonal representation, so I can't comment on that. I understand the concept of earning one's berth in a closed event, but if the objective is to promote women's chess then I suggest holding an open event for women or a series of provincial events - something that is more inclusive of as many women chess players as possible.
- C) \$3,000 to \$4,000 per year is too little even if this amount is spent in B.C. only. To better promote women's chess in Canada I would pay local trainers for the training of women's chess in Canada in chess clubs, and I would pay for the female championship by categories (by province); e.g. Under 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 years of age.
- D) Promote chess at the elementary school level. Grades four and five are ideal. Girls compete as people, not girls at this age.
- E) Adequate.
- F) I believe that whatever is necessary is what should be spent providing the funds are available.
- G) In my opinion, these important events should be kept because they already are doing a good job by giving a good image to women's chess. In this regard, the Women's Closed must be held together with the National Closed, as was done this year. This fact contributes to the status of women in the eyes of the chess fans. What we need is **publicity** and the last Women's Closed gave a lot of opportunities - just consider the surprise of the seventh ranked player becoming champion. Unfortunately, these opportunities were not properly exploited. The Zonal is almost **the only** possibility for us to get a FIDE rating or FIDE title. And it worked well last August - four international titles were achieved! It is very essential to hold the Zonal **regularly in this format**.
- H) To evaluate this question based on the monies being spent is for women is somewhat difficult, since there are no figures given on expenditures for male players. According to hearsay, favouritism is bestowed to the gentlemen.
- I) I am an Anglican priest, and usually have busy weekends especially on special holidays - which of course conflicts with tournament dates.
- J) It would be excellent if the CFC could organize a way that chess to be taught to children starting with the elementary grades. I don't consider it important that the chess teacher be a woman. Having an award for the best female player.
- K) Not really.
- L) Spend more on Junior women, PLEASE.
- M) The amount you spend on women is more than adequate. I appreciate the problem that the CFC has funding women's teams. I don't think there is much else you can do. Of course this is sexist but women don't play as well as men unless your last name is Polgar, and I don't know why this is, maybe because they don't spend enough time studying, too many other things to do.

**QUESTION 2:** The vast majority of young people joining the CFC are male. How could the CFC better attract young females? For example, and keeping budget constraints in mind, do you think that the CFC should spend some money hiring women to teach chess to girls?

### **RESPONSES:**

- A) Yes, I think it's a good idea to budget some of the money hiring women to teach chess to girls. For example, Chess n' Math has a good approach in this sense. In Quebec Echecs et Maths has six women teachers out of a staff of 60.
- B) I think the best way to ensure the growth of chess, for girls and boys, is to develop partnerships between School Districts and the CFC / provincial chess organizations. Hiring chess instructors is not a cost-effective method of reaching the masses. I suggest the CFC develop two or three basic teaching units that can be given to CFC-affiliated local chess clubs to offer to local elementary schools. The program could include a strategy to engage girls. That could include having female teachers sponsor a chess club, holding girls-only tournaments, etc.
- C) There is no difference at all if the teacher is a man or a woman. Chess is very popular among boys and girls of all backgrounds from around the world.

- D) No - see my answer to question 1.
- E) Yes.
- F) I teach chess *voluntarily* at our local public school two afternoons per week, and in October/96 I also started teaching chess at the high school for one 75-minute period per week. Although I have been quite happy doing this without pay for the past eight years, to actually get paid for doing my favourite activity would be *awesome*. BUT I do not believe that women should teach only girls - I teach both girls and boys, and none of the children have indicated they think anything unusual is happening. Women playing chess is quite natural, and in Grey County there is a significant number of mothers and women teachers who do play.
- G) Attracting young female players is an important element of any program aiming to increase female membership. I would like to share with you the experience that I had with my daughter. At the age of seven she was very enthusiastic about chess and she was learning very fast at home. Unfortunately, her two encounters with competitive chess alienated her to the degree that she quit chess. The reason: the aggressiveness of the boys at her age. I still think it was my mistake that did not prevent this or persuade her to continue, but the fact is a fact: at the age of 10 she does not want to hear about chess. In this regard, I think girls should be encouraged and proper stimuli must be found. More about this in question 6. The idea of hiring women to teach chess to girls could be a good one. At least, it must be tried.
- H) The task for the CFC to better attract young females is unrealistic. Children show the desire to chase the wind and display anger when asked to sit still for even a short duration. As a youngster my son was offered to learn chess and bridge after school. Eventually he approached his tutor, stating that he and his friends would much rather play more sports, or do woodwork. Chess is as much a personal pursuit, as the choice for an apple over a pear is. I can't help noticing a slight gambling trend in myself and my chess-playing friends.
- I) I am now "retired" but am classified as a "missionary priest" which means I still have weekend assignments at times, but could attend the occasional tournament. I have not done so because of a slight misunderstanding which perhaps would affect other female chess-players as well. Upon reading the chess periodicals - *En Passant*, *Check!*, *Exclam!*, etc. it became obvious to me that the tournaments seemed quite segregated - apparently women could attend, because there were separate sections for them, but they do not pay the same fees, and until recently they did not appear to enter the main tournaments. Personally I would really enjoy entering the occasional tournament, especially as I would like to see if I could become eligible for the Canadian Open [NOTE: *There seemed to be a misunderstanding here, so I contacted the lady in question and informed her that she was eligible to play in the Canadian Open, if she so desired.*], but I took it for granted that under the apparent rules, I could only enter such events as e.g. (provincial) Women's Closed, or at best the Canadian Women's Closed. Being a rather competitive person, I would much rather enter a tournament where ratings, not gender, are the only deterrent! Actually, though, until I recently received the October issue of *En Passant*, I was not aware of the Canadian Women's Closed. In closing, I would suggest that all chess-players should participate equally if they have the required ratings. To segregate women implies that they are somewhat scholastically inferior. As a former school principal with a major in the Math-Science Dept., I would take exception to that, and I would suspect that perhaps there are many other women who might not be participating for similar reasons. May I congratulate you on your recent efforts to rectify the situation.
- J) So far chess does not have any promotion at all. Kids do not hear much about it. They do not have "chess idols" because they don't know anything about them. We taught our daughter chess, as much as we knew. She really likes it, but from here there is no clear way how to improve and continue. It is necessary to have an organizational structure to: promote first chess in schools and to teach kids how to play and give them motivation. After Sinziana's picture playing chess had been seen by her colleagues in the Province newspaper, at least five other girls have become interested in chess. Each school district should have it's own chess mentor. The mentor's responsibility would be to organize and run a chess club, with at least weekly sessions.
- K) It might be a good idea.
- L) It's an okay idea. Women attract women!
- M) No, girls would learn just as well, or maybe better, from a man, if he was patient and a good teacher.

**QUESTION 3:** At present the world body of chess, FIDE, awards titles separately to men and women. In order to qualify for the "unisex" titles of Grandmaster, International Master, and FIDE Master, it is generally required that one achieve performances of 2600, 2450, and 2300, respectively. In order to achieve the "female" titles of Women's Grandmaster, Women's International Master, and Women's FIDE Master, it is generally required that one achieve performances of 2400, 2250, and 2100, respectively. In essence the "unisex" titles are 200 points higher than the "female" titles. How do you feel about this? Is this a good idea to promote women's chess worldwide, or does it insult women by implying that men are inherently better at chess than women?

**RESPONSES:**

- A) Presently I think that the difference of 200 is appropriate. It's not an insult, because it is true some men are better. In a couple of years (under ten), I hope the difference will be around 100. I'm sure it will have the same evolution in this sport as in other sports.
- B) With a rating of 1478, I couldn't care less about the debate over unisex vs. female titles! I am very interested in seeing top-notch women chess-players featured in competition reports, but the finer subtleties of international scoring systems mean very little to me.
- C) I agree with the current system.
- D) It stinks!
- E) It's okay to be separate.
- F) I do find the lower standards for women quite insulting. For example, the achievement for a woman's international title seems almost phony when the "unisex" titles requires higher ratings. Lower standards for women may drive some away from the game. I do not believe that men are inherently better players, only that their opportunities for learning have been better.
- G) I do not understand why too much speculation is involved when we are talking about "discrimination". It is simply stupid. **FIDE has taken the right direction.** Let's face the reality - if women are not as good as men, does it help if they are put in the same boat? Of course, if they equalize the requirements for men and women we would end up with just a few women who are International Masters and it would produce only damage to the popularity of chess among women. Women have need to have recognition and the present situation is not so bad.

- H) While I strongly believe in equality and unity among people, this might be one of these exceptions where a mother is hampered by domestic duties to get more exposure to tournaments. In case of a vote, I would prefer the same system (as men).
- I) No response.
- J) I don't think the fact that the "unisex" titles are 200 points higher than the "female" titles insults women, on the contrary, it may encourage women to attempt to get titles.
- K) No.
- L) It's okay. Then we can go either way.
- M) I think it is good for women to be encouraged and of course men are better at chess than women.

**QUESTION 4:** A typical CFC tournament of 100 players has about 3 to 5 females. How does it feel to be so greatly outnumbered in this "male dominated" game? Keeping in mind this large disparity, how could the CFC & local organizers make females feel more welcomed during events (e.g. lower entry fees, or other inducements to get women to play)?

**RESPONSES:**

- A) If you want females to feel more welcome during events, I think it would not be an expensive idea to let them play for half price for their first three tournaments.
- B) It feels somewhat uncomfortable to be one of a handful of female competitors but I have NEVER been made to feel less welcomed by tournament organizers. I think we should concentrate on getting more girls/women involved in clubs and only then will the number of women competing in tournaments increase.
- C) The CFC and local organizers can make females feel more welcome during the events if there are prizes for the first woman, first junior girl, first under sixteen, first cadet, first unrated woman, first local woman, etc. Concerning the entry fees, they are very high and the prizes very low. For example, in Greece there are open tournaments where you pay about \$30 but the first prize is about \$4,700, a ratio of almost 1:160. Such tournaments are held all year in different places and the chess clubs used to send some players there for free. There are team championships in four categories as well. In those championships ten players participate and two of them are female (one woman and one junior girl) and one cadet player (boy or girl). The other boards are two junior boys and five adults (men or women).
- D) Treat women equally!
- E) Give out separate awards and placement by sex.
- F) All my experiences playing in male-dominated tournaments have been positive. My very first tournament was in Midland, Ontario, organized by the Midland Chess Club and run by David Williams. I was also the first time that a woman had played in one of their tournaments, and they treated me like a queen! Except for the very odd fellow, I find male chess-players and organizers to be courteous, kind, and generous in their praise of women who enter such a "man's world". I always feel very welcome. Lower entry fees are nice, but I would still play even if I had to pay regular fees.
- G) I first encountered this "phenomenon" when I arrived in Canada six years ago. It was a shock for me. Now I would not change it even if it would be possible. Why? Men do not like to lose against women. So, anyone playing against me is playing his best, often beyond his real strength. I know there is no easy game for me, I am always tested to the end. And I like it because in the long run it would work for my good. Unfortunately, I don't think it is the same for the other women. Here is the question of how to keep them in the chess field. Well, any girl or woman that is paying for the first time should be encouraged - give her a small gift to mark her start. The value of the gift is not important, it could even be \$3-5, but this gesture of attention would mean a lot for her, probably this simple thing will keep her playing again. Also, to the other women who are not playing for the first time any gesture of attention would have incredible effect. Now about material, not idealistic, stimuli. How about a prize for the best score by a woman? Okay, for small tournaments it is probably not feasible and in the Canadian Open it is a fact, but what about Toronto tournaments? I strongly believe that organizers should offer lower entry fees to women players. Why do almost all organizers offer discounts for juniors and cadets? The answer is obvious - to encourage their present and future participation. **Can anyone explain to me why the same is not true for women?** And just consider the following fact: in an average tournament there are at least ten or fifteen juniors playing, and two or three women, one of whom is a girl. Thus, the organizers are willing and ready to miss, say \$150 to juniors in reduced entry fees, but not an additional \$20 to women. It does not sound reasonable, does it? I question 3 it was mentioned that the world recognized that women are 200 points below men. But not Canada. What do I mean? In many tournaments the organizers offer free entry to players rated above 2400 CFC. Why? My guess is that there could be two reasons: to attract strong players and to give incentives to the top players who are usually professionals who earn a significant part of their income from chess. If the latter is true I don't see why they don't give the same support for top women players. What I am suggesting is that Canada must follow the world and recognize the 200 point difference between men and women. Effectively it mean that to any woman rated over 2200 CFC must be offered free entry. Organizers should not be afraid that they will lose a lot of money in the near future. Recently, there is just one woman rated above 2200 - Nava Starr, and she is usually playing only one tournament per year. At the end I would like to give the recognition due to the Toronto organizers who have implemented already some of my suggestions. But the rest of Canada must think about this.
- H) For me, playing in a tourney is always a special occasion. I have finally conquered to simply pursue my aim, rather than trying to defeat one of my own children when paired with a youth. The concept of a lower entry fee does not appeal to me, nor has it done the trick over the years. I participate as a player, and not as a "female". To our superficial way of living and its quick fix for anything under the sun, chess fails to entice in many areas. Since 1971 I have observed a steady decline in the weaker sections. In that year I entered my first tournament, run by Walter Dobrich. Recollecting, there were 156 participants in the Novice Section. The rewards were three prizes with the rest of the substantial sum simply handed over to the top players. This betrayal, still occurring in every competition has been my vocal point with many a TD. Free entries, triple prize money seems to be the norm for our elitist players. This unhealthy, unaccountable action defeats the true spirit of contesting. One has only to read Jean Hébert's article on the World Open to find proof of my accusation. His inflated ego clearly depicts the pecking order aforementioned. For the wellbeing of any organization it is important to acknowledge the working class and to act accordingly. To sum this chapter up I also wish that the stronger players would get involved in finding sponsors, whose products can be consumed at sites; after all generals are familiar with both glory and responsibility.
- I) No response.

- J) Have an award for the best female player.
- K) Lower entry fees.
- L) Each woman who invites another woman to the tourney should get free entry.
- M) It feels real good, especially if you can play some good games! The main thing that we can do for women especially in clubs is to play chess with them, don't ignore them. Usually if they are attractive they get attention and otherwise forget it.

**QUESTION 5:** Have you been a victim of harassment or abuse at a tournament because of your gender? How would you deal with offenders and how would you prevent this from happening again?

**RESPONSES:**

- A) No. Both boys and girls are gentle with me. I have played chess for thirteen years.
- B) I have been treated rudely by other (male) competitors, but rarely. Usually it's confined to derisive snorts when they see that they are paired with a woman (I just wish I could beat those jerks!). But twice I've had to endure verbal comments about why women can't excel in chess, blah, blah. Once a man smashed his fist down on the chessboard because I won, scattering chess pieces and irritating other players. I deal with this by ignoring it, which has worked for me so far.
- C) No, never.
- D) No.
- E) No.
- F) I have never been the victim of harassment or abuse at a tournament. Should I ever become victim in such an event, I would immediately tell the organizer(s). If there was no response (which is highly unlikely), I would then have to speak to the police. I do not know how I could prevent it from happening again.
- G) Not at all.
- H) As far as discrimination is concerned, I have seen a lot of improvement in this male-oriented sport. My personal battles came in attempting to have no smoking laws. It was the women players who lit up, that ostracized me in different ways. I suggest that if the offender is unapproachable to speak to the TD.
- I) No response.
- J) No response.
- K) In former years I was a victim of harassment. Not so much anymore. However, there were tournaments where I was paired with much better or higher-rated players to prevent me from bettering my rating.
- L) No.
- M) This is hard to answer. I have felt very inferior for a long time but I do like the game so I try to ignore these feelings but rather I am thankful when someone does play chess with me. I have had about five people who have tried to help my chess improve and encourage me in chess. I have been in the club for a long time and because I do help and try to cooperate I now feel comfortable in the club. I do not know how to prevent this and I'm sure this attitude will be difficult to overcome. Sometimes I think it is the same with all weaker players and unfortunately most ladies are weaker or presumed to be.

**QUESTION 6:** For the last 20 years, the CFC has had only 4% female membership. Do you think that there is anything the CFC can do over the long-term to change this? If so, what **long-term** plan would you implement to change this figure to more accurately reflect the population at large?

**RESPONSES:**

- A) If you want to change these tendencies you must be make an investment in primary and secondary school. If you could interest young people, the chances that they will continue are excellent.
- B) Long-term plan: target elementary school aged girls with a comprehensive but adaptable program based on community mobilization principles; develop a template for local clubs to encourage female membership; have open provincial tournaments and have provincial chess organizations pay or subsidize travel to a Canadian Championship. Need a local / provincial / national strategy that all ties together.
- C) The answer for this question is contained in all of the above answers.
- D) Support chess in schools.
- E) Get more girls playing chess at school.
- F) Encourage women to teach chess at their local schools. Encourage women to become involved in chess organizations. **Perhaps vote in a female CFC President!**
- G) Yes, the CFC is capable of doing a lot to change this trend. I believe there are two aspects that must be emphasized: **young players and publicity**. First, I think we are losing many potential future players, not only females, at around age twelve. This is when teenagers are mostly exposed to the temptations of "adult" life. Canada is rich in talents but we cannot afford to lose them. Jeff and Julia Sarwer are sad examples. Female young players need special attention at this age. To keep them in the game we should be really flexible in finding attractive forms. Let me tell you one of my propositions: organize mixed junior tournaments with five girls and five boys. To create equal chances the age limit for girls should be sixteen while for the boys it should be twelve. I believe when we start there will be many creative ideas in place. Second, **publicity** is crucial to the popularity of chess among women. We did not hear a lot about women in chess lately. Worse, they are completely ignored. Last time a report from the Moscow Olympiad was not published despite the fact that the team captain Diane Mongeau provided the CFC with a written one. The reasoning: it was too late, four months after. And in the next issue there was published a story of the adventure of Adam Litke in Europe - **a year ago!!** This must be changed. I am pretty sure that if there is more news about women in "En Passant" it would change things dramatically. I will throw in a few ideas: a most active women's player award, annual reward for best game played by a woman (it will make the women annotate and send their games in and will catch the attention of the readers. If the readers vote for the best game they will get even more involved.), a so-called "victims club" - men defeated by women - it is likely that it will create competition among women to defeat men with higher and higher ratings. Just think about this - if you start rubrics like this you will gain tremendous popularity, and not only among women.
- H) No response.
- I) No response.

- J) No response.
- K) I really don't know.
- L) Girls attract girls; no stigma, no hassle.

M) I honestly do not know what the CFC can do to change this. You are doing well now, I wouldn't worry about it.

**QUESTION 7:** Have you attempted to convince your non-chessplaying female friends or relatives to learn the game? If not, why not? If so, were you successful?

**RESPONSES:**

- A) All my friends are chessplayers.
- B) The women who are interested in playing chess all learned as kids (except me). My own experience suggests that a full-time job, kids, etc. all mitigate against spending hours studying, spending entire weekends at tournaments, etc. I can barely scratch out a couple of hours for a game now and then!
- C) No response.
- D) No, I'm the mother of five - who has time!!
- E) Yes, with some success.
- F) I have never attempted to convince anyone to learn the game. What I do tell people the merits of chess and let them take it from there. If they are interested, I will help them.
- G) Yes, I tried many times and I was moderately successful.
- H) No response.
- I) No response.
- J) No response.
- K) Not with much success.
- L) My mom and I play. My mom organized the school chess club.
- M) Yes Yes Yes, No! I have not been successful.

**QUESTION 8:** Do you think it would be a good idea for the national chess magazine *En Passant* to have a chess column written by and for women? In your opinion would this significantly increase female readership?

**RESPONSES:**

- A) For me, it's not important that a column be written only for women, because there are not enough women chess activities. Sometime it might be interesting if you have an interview with women.
- B) I would love to see a women's chess column in *En Passant*. I don't know if it would significantly increase female readership.
- C) No response.
- D) No.
- E) Yes.
- F) I am interested in reading about the state of women's chess in Canada, but any of these columns do not have to be written by women. Furthermore, I have no objection to articles written by women about chess in general. The point I am making here is that the less segregation there is, the better.
- G) Absolutely, I am in favour of such an idea. It will create identity for women's chess. The fact that they will have a voice would push them to write and would stimulate their improvement.
- H) For a woman to write a chess column would not increase female readership. Interest in learning a subject does not depend on the teacher's gender.
- I) I do not believe a separate women's column would be a good idea. Encourage women to participate in the current columns.
- J) No response.
- K) It might.
- L) Okay.
- M) I doubt if this would increase female membership. I will be interested to hear what the other ladies think on this.

**QUESTION 9:** Do you have any other comments regarding women in chess?

**RESPONSES:**

- A) I appreciate the effort from the CFC to make a women's chess program, and this survey is a good example.
- B) No response.
- C) Teaching chess in the elementary schools is a very good idea, but the chess clubs are necessary too. Even a chess school would be a good idea. There are so many companies that can help financially advertise their name, and there are people that can sponsor too. The local press can help advertise the tournaments and the women champions by photo. Chess is the best way to keep children away from everything bad (like drugs, etc.) and to help them in math, creative activities, intuition, and understanding the good and bad sides of everything.
- D) No response.
- E) No response.
- F) What about doing biographies, rather than interviews? Help make women/girls feel that chess is a game for everyone, and that they can be good, even great players (Judit Polgar). Put our Canadian women players on the **cover** of *En Passant*. Since I joined the CFC in 1988, only two issues have portrayed women on the cover: #99, December 1989 - Nava Starr, "Canadian Women's Champion", and October 1996/vol. 24, issue 5 - Johanne Charest, "Women's Champion" (a recurring theme). In the last eight years there have been 48 issues, and 46 featured men.
- G) I consider myself to be among the top female players and as such I am concerned with some issues at the highest competitive level. It is my strong personal belief (conviction) that with certain hard work and proper preparation, the Women's Olympiad team could move 20-25 places in the next two Olympiads. Why? Because the competition is not as fierce as among the men and we (women) have an undeveloped potential. This is a chance that should not be missed. In this regard, I think the proposed CFC Women's programs be implemented even if I am not familiar with the details.
- H) No response.



- D) No response.
- J) No response.
- K) Twice I have played in women's tournaments and lasting friendships resulted. Considering my age, I seem to have trouble improving my rating.
- L) Bravo.
- M) What do other chess federations do about this. I do think that the CFC has been very fair to the ladies but I think the question is whether to continue this way or not. I used to think that we should support the women for sure but my stand is softer now as I realize that it is expecting a lot to have 96% of the people pay for 4%. Sorry, I wish I had all the answers.

#### **Conclusion**

First, I would like to thank all of the respondents for the thoughtfulness of their answers. It was quite clear from the answers that we have some things to be proud of in the CFC. Few of the respondents had experienced any harassment, and many acknowledged that considering the small number of female chess players and our limited financial resources, we do a decent job. There were two views about the wisdom of having separate women's programs. Many of the women thought it was a good idea and helped foster women's participation, while others thought it sexist and demeaning. I must say that I would sympathize with those in the second camp.

However, by far the most telling responses concerned attracting new female members. Virtually all respondents felt that it was necessary to attract potential members (both boys and girls) as early as possible. This leads me to make the following recommendation:

**We take the money that we presently spend on all women's programs, and we earmark that money specifically to school programs.** I am not certain what steps which should specifically follow, and whether it should be in a competitive or co-operative venture with Chess n' Math, but one thing seems certain - if we don't attract more members at an early age, our Federation will always hover around 3000-3500 members. At present, between sending a Women's Olympiad team, an Interzonal representative, a Canadian Women's Closed, and funding Women's FM and IM titles, we easily spend twice as much money on women as we collect in membership fees. This is obviously a waste of money, and claiming that we are simply following FIDE is silly. Are we to take the lead from other FIDE nations like China and Cuba? These are countries not exactly known to have the best human rights records, but they do send teams to the Women's Olympiad.

In closing, I would like to point out the following exchange of e-mails:

#### **First, my original communication,**

Hello,

My name is Tom O'Donnell, and I have been asked to make recommendations as to whether the Chess Federation of Canada should continue to have separate programs for women. Females represent at most 3% of our membership, and in order to get more of them to participate, we have so-called "women's programs". We hold "women's championships", and even send a team of females to the "Women's Chess Olympics", a worldwide competition held every two years.

Please understand that we do not have a policy of preventing women from playing in our National (Unisex) Championships, however in about the 100 years that the event has taken place, not one woman has ever qualified to play.

My question for you is this:

Is it discriminatory for a body to have "women's programs" in an activity like chess where there is no evidence that one sex has a "biological" advantage over the other? Do you believe that it is demeaning, or would your organization consider it an attempt to redress an historical imbalance? Thank you for your time, and I hope to hear from you soon.

I can be reached at: [master@chesscanada.org](mailto:master@chesscanada.org)

Incidentally, the "master" referred to above is simply a chess title, which women are also eligible to obtain - no disrespect is intended.

#### **Then, the response:**

Hello, Tom

Your e-mail presented an interesting question. I cannot speak for any other women's group, nor can I speak on behalf of all the members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. My personal belief is that if women are interested and want to take part in a competition, they should be treated in the same way as any other competitor. I do not believe that women deserve special rights simply because they are women -- I prefer to think that the person best qualified should get the position, whether male or female.

Re "women's programs" being discriminatory -- I think this falls in a category similar to schools where girls and boys are segregated for science and math classes. Some people think this helps girls achieve better marks; others don't. No matter which side you agree with, there will be criticism of the position!

Using common sense, it seems to me that if having women's programs gets more women involved than not having them, then by all means have them. If it is a fruitless endeavour to have special categories, then why bother with the extra effort involved.

Please note -- these are personal comments only. I am assuming you got my e-mail address from the web page of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. These comments do not necessarily represent the official view of the FWIO. If you wish an official view, please send me more information and I can bring the topic to the attention of the provincial board and/or executive when we meet this summer.

Mary Janes  
Public Relations Officer  
Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario

I draw this to your attention not for the obviously personal (though in my view, telling) remark about women needing no special treatment in competition, but rather that I am taking this survey and e-mailing it to the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. It seems to me that if women's groups eventual find the policies of the CFC out-dated, then perhaps this will finally end this sexist program.

Tom O'Donnell, Special Officer

---

### **CHESS FOUNDATION OF CANADA REPORT**

The year end for the Chess Foundation of Canada is April 30<sup>th</sup> 1997, and at that time our balance was \$88,940.52 after the interest for the C.F.C. was deducted.

As of June 30th 1997, the balance was \$91,461.42. My Ambition is to see the Foundation realize \$100,000.00 after the interest to the C.F.C. has been paid. One person has donated \$500 to the Foundation for the last few years and another interested person sold his old C.F.C. magazines at our tournament and while they only netted \$32.50, this is how our fund grows. Mr. MacAdam used to collect 50 cents, one or two dollars and even occasionally \$10.00 at tournaments and from these humble beginnings our Foundation started and with Life Memberships it has grown to this balance of \$91,000.00. If others across Canada could just raise even the small amount, maybe by selling books or using some money from a tournament, soon we could meet this \$100,000.00 goal.

As you all know, the interest from this fund goes to the C.F.C. every year to help with the expenses to send our top players to world events and the Pugi Fund which is \$13,490.00 is used for the Juniors expenses. We have an investment in Ontario Hydro at 10.25% until July 98, and we have Bell Canada at 10% due December 1999 for our highest interest rates but we do have some at 4.5% as well to make our average about 6.86%. Please help us reach this goal of \$100,000.00. Thank you for every donation, no matter how small. Income tax receipts will be issued.

Lynn Stringer.

---

**The British Columbia Chess Federation  
(BCCF)  
Presents  
1999 Canadian Open Bid  
to  
The CFC Board of Governors  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
July 15, 1997**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Statement of Objectives  
Organizing Committee  
Budget  
Tournament Fact Sheet  
Memorandum of Agreement**

**OBJECTIVES**

The 1999 Canadian Open has the following primary objectives :

- 1, Determine the 1999 Canadian Open Champion.
- 2, Attract 400 competitors.
- 3, Provide for FIDE norm opportunities
- 4, Achieve the financial targets outlined in the budget.

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

<b>Peter Stockhausen</b>	<b>Chairman, Corporate Fundraising, Provincial Fundraising Site/Hotel Arrangements</b>
<b>Lyle Craver</b>	<b>Deputy Chairman, Treasurer, Signing Officer</b>
<b>Bruce Harper</b>	<b>Strong Players, Historical Exposition, Signing Officer</b>
<b>Lynn Stringer</b>	<b>Tournament Volunteers, Cross Table</b>
<b>Steven Miller</b>	<b>Scholastic Event(s)</b>
<b>Yves Farges</b>	<b>Corporate Fundraising , Historical Exposition Speed Chess Championship, Siamese Chess Championship</b>
<b>Michael Fairley</b>	<b>Corporate Fundraising, Speed Chess Championship Siamese Chess Championship</b>

**OPERATING BUDGET**

**A, REVENUES**

	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>COMMITTED</b>
<b>Entry Fees</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	
<b>Corporate Advertisers</b>	<b>30,000</b>	
<b>BC Bingo</b>	<b>6,000</b>	
<b>City of Richmond</b>	<b>7,500</b>	
<b>Province of BC</b>	<b>7,500</b>	
<b>CFC</b>	<b>4,000</b>	
<b>Commission</b>	<b>2,000</b>	
<b>BCCF</b>	<b>1,000</b>	

<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>83,000</b>
----------------------	---------------

**B, EXPENSES**

<b>Prize Fund</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>International Expenses</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Rent</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Lighting Expense</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Banquet</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Advertising</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Tournament Book</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Direct Mail</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Printing</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Director Fee</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Rating Fees (CFC)</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Trophies</b>	<b>500</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>80,800</b>
-----------------------	---------------

<b>SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)</b>	<b>2,200</b>
----------------------------	--------------

**TOURNAMENT DETAILS**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>Saturday, July 2, 1999 to Sunday, July 11, 1999</b>
<b>CITY</b>	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Richmond Inn or Delta Pacific Resort</b>
<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>10 round single section swiss<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>TIME CONTROLS</b>	<b>40/2 - 20/1 - SD/1</b>
<b>RATED</b>	<b>CFC and FIDE</b>
<b>FIDE NORMS</b>	<b>Sufficient foreign IGMs and IMs will be present to allow for FIDE norms.</b>
<b>PRIZE FUND</b>	<b>\$30,000 projected. The actual Prize Fund will be on a Guaranteed Basis by August 1, 1998. Upset prizes for wins and draws in each of the first two rounds. The under 2400 Class Prize will at least equal the under 2200 Class Prize.</b>
<b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>Monday, July 4 to Wednesday, July 6 1999</b>

<b>OTHER EVENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Canadian Speed Chess Championship</b></li> <li>• <b>Canadian Siamese Chess Championship</b></li> <li>• <b>Children Tournament</b></li> <li>• <b>Six Lectures</b></li> <li>• <b>Two Simuls</b></li> <li>• <b>CFC Store on Site</b></li> <li>• <b>Author Autograph Session</b></li> <li>• <b>GM/IM - Amateur Game Analysis</b></li> <li>• <b>Meet the GMs and IMs Reception</b></li> <li>• <b>Canadiana Chess Exhibition</b></li> </ul>
---------------------	---

<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>The Richmond Inn or Delta Pacific</b>
----------------------	--

**AGREEMENT**

---

<sup>1</sup> Could be changed to 11 rounds to allow for more norm possibilities.

