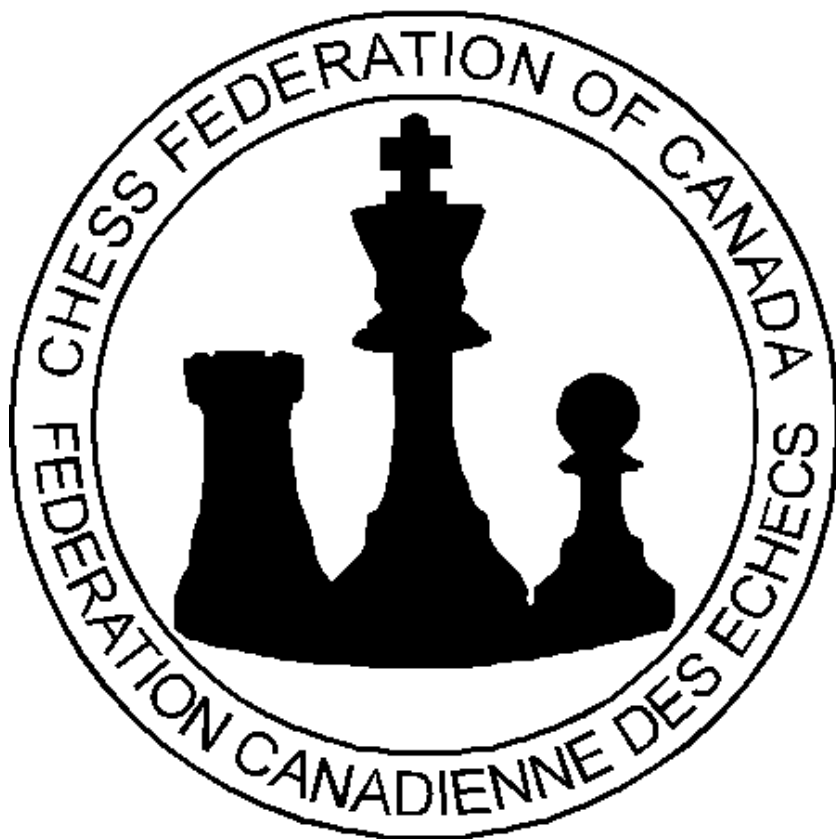


CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER ONE 1997-1998



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

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 if interested.

Deadline for next Governors' Letter is October 26th, 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:

- a) Q is a permanent rating (25 of 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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 9th.

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 1st 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.

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

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

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 30th 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**

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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

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

OPERATING BUDGET

A, REVENUES

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

Total Revenue	83,000
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B, EXPENSES

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

Total Expenses	80,800
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SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)	2,200
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TOURNAMENT DETAILS

DATES	Saturday, July 2, 1999 to Sunday, July 11, 1999
CITY	Vancouver
LOCATION	Richmond Inn or Delta Pacific Resort
FORMAT	10 round single section swiss¹
TIME CONTROLS	40/2 - 20/1 - SD/1
RATED	CFC and FIDE
FIDE NORMS	Sufficient foreign IGMs and IMs will be present to allow for FIDE norms.
PRIZE FUND	\$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.
ANNUAL MEETING	Monday, July 4 to Wednesday, July 6 1999

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

¹ Could be changed to 11 rounds to allow for more norm possibilities.

British Columbia Chess Federation (BCCF)
P.O. Box 15548
Vancouver, B.C.

The Chess Federation of Canada (CFC)
2121 Gladwin Cr. Unit E - 1
Ottawa, Ontario
K1L 2K1

The BCCF undertakes :

- to hold the Canadian Open Chess Championship in Vancouver from Friday July 2, 1999 to Sunday July 10, 1999 inclusive.
- to hold the tournament at the Richmond Inn, the Delta Pacific Resort & Conference Centre or a facility with equal or better environments.
- to make it's best efforts to guarantee a Prize Fund of not less than \$15,000 by August 1, 1998, providing for adequate Class Prizes. (The under 2400 Class Prize to at least equal the under 2200 Class Prize.)
- to ensure that the tournament will be held according to the regulations laid out in the CFC handbook, directed by an NTD.
- to arrange for adequate facilities for the CFC Annual Meeting at the expense of the CFC, but at a discounted rate.
- to make it's best efforts so that the tournament offers IM and GM norm opportunities.
- to make it's best efforts to arrange for a minimum of 6 GMs from 3 different Federations, 6 IMs from 3 different Federations, 8 FMs from two different Federations
- to arrange for a number of appropriate side events, such as : Speed Tournament, Simuls, Lectures, Children events, Canadiana Chess Exposition
- to provide for an adequate room for the CFC store at no expense to the CFC.
- to arrange for a favourable hotel contract to ensure reasonable room rates for the competitors.
- to advertise and publicise the tournament in advance so as to attract the highest possible attendance.
- to solicit private and public sponsors.
- to provide the CFC Executive with regular updates on the progress of the preparations.
- to contribute 50% of the operating surplus to the The Chess Foundation of Canada.

- to register the tournament with FIDE and have it rated by FIDE at no expense to the BCCF.
- to provide a grant of \$4,000 to the BCCF for the running of the tournament, payable in two (2) instalments of \$2,000 each on August 1, 1997 and August 1, 1998.
- to collect entries on behalf of the BCCF and forward registration updates to the BCCF on a monthly basis.
- to supply the BCCF with an updated CFC membership list no later than August 1, 1998 at no expense to the BCCF.
- to provide an updated rating list to the BCCF no later than July 1, 1999.
- to provide two (2) interviews and or feature articles in EP in the eight months prior to the tournament.

On behalf of the CFC **Dr. Francisco Cabanas**
President

CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER TWO 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

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 if interested.

Deadline for next Governors' Letter is December 20th, 1997

President's Message

I first wish to welcome our new employee Ms. Stephanie C. Powers to the CFC and wish her the best of success in her new position. One of many the benefits of this new appointment is that office now has the ability to provide services in French. As I have indicated before this is a necessary first step in order to resolve the questions related to Quebec. This brings me to the next point the status of 97-10. I had a conversation with M. Stéphane Beaudoin president of the FQE on the matter. I indicated to him that 97-10 had passed before our AGM and that the deadline had expired on the 31st of August. He indicated to me that he would be presenting the motion to the FQE board. I indicated to him that if there is a positive vote from FQE on this then 97-10 would be presented for a vote again to the Assembly. He had no problem with this arrangement. Although some governors were under the impression that 97-10 was open ended this is by no means the case. 97-10 is not in force and can only be implemented now by a second positive vote of the CFC Governors.

The most significant new initiative by the office has been the new school program. Organizers and teachers have very well received the school teaching manual. The approach that is taken is to provide teachers with the resource materials to teach chess even though the teacher may have little or no knowledge of chess. The program is still very new however it is already opening many doors for the CFC in the area of scholastic chess. If any of you know of any school that is interested please contact the school so that they can obtain a manual from the CFC. The manual is sent free of charge to the school.

I had the opportunity to accompany Mr. Phil Haley to the FIDE meeting in Kishinev. I will not go into the details of this meeting since this is covered in the FIDE Representative's report in En Passant. I will instead focus on where I see the CFC's role in FIDE. It is fair to say that there have been many problems in FIDE; however it must also be said that there are many things in FIDE that actually do work. On the other side of the equation, one of the comments I heard from many delegates is the wish that Canada can increase its participation in FIDE events. This is particularly true of the Americas where there are individual and team events that Canada can send participants. It is also true that Canada could host some of these events. For example the individual championship is an excellent tournament to provide norm opportunities to Canadian Players. The youth tournaments are planned for Mexico for 1998 making it one of the years where travel costs from Canada will be comparatively low. It is fair to say that our financial resources are limited; however increasing participation in FIDE events is a worthwhile objective for the CFC. On a related topic the recent trend towards more FIDE title and rating events with events such as the recent Canadian Open in Winnipeg, the North Bay International, the Quebec Open and the Toronto International is a very positive development in this area.

Francisco Cabañas

Further comments from the President

In response to Mr. Thomson's question regarding the 1996 Canadian Closed I must say that this question should really be placed to the Past President. In view of the allegations regarding this in Mr. Thomson's remarks I will not comment on this matter until Mr. Farges has had a chance to comment on this matter. The question regarding who organized the vote of the National Appeals committee on the matter of the 1995 Closed I can answer since I organized the vote. I must say however that I answered the same question in Calgary in 1996, and the assembly in the 1996 AGM debated the question of the 1995 Closed at considerable length.

I wish to advise the assembly that 98-3 is very broad. A vote for 98-3 is basically a vote against all woman's chess programs including not only the Woman's Olympic Team and the Woman's Championship but also matters we may have not even thought of such as for example the question of Canada sponsoring FIDE events which also include woman's events, or allowing and funding players from Canada who qualify, under sex neutral rules such as 2230, to participate in FIDE woman only events. The wording is fine for a straw vote topic but the broad implications will have to be made clear for such a motion to be in order.

I also wish to advise the assembly that 98-2 as worded applies only to the Canadian Closed Championship.

Francisco Cabañas

DISCUSSION OF MOTION 98-1

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".

Gordon Taylor: I shall assume this motion is up for discussion although it was not properly presented as such in GL#1. I say this because there was no "Motions for Discussion" page at the back of GL#1, with the blank lines inviting comments. I assume this was an error of omission and not because of some procedural technicality. When I made this motion at the Annual Meeting I asked that it be presented as a Motion for Discussion in GL#1, and then for vote with GL#2, and there was no indication that this would not be done.

I was moved to present this motion after Phil Haley brought up this topic early in the meeting. As I recall, Phil simply said he did not understand why the Past President was on the executive when he was no longer the immediate past president. Of course, this situation will only occur when a President serves for two or more years.

At the meeting I made an analogy between the executive and a boat being rowed through the water. The boat should have the President at the tiller and the executive should be his crew, working in unison to propel the boat forward. I added that the Past President is often not rowing, and at times is more like a log being dragged behind the boat on a chain!

Francisco Cabanas made a good point that the Past President can be in an adversarial position, when, for example he ran against the new president but was defeated. Even in that case, there may be some virtue in the Past President sitting for one year on the executive, where he can act as a counter-weight, and of course speak to how policy was made the previous year. But I see little value in his continued presence after this first year. In my experience, the Past President tends to withdraw from decision making (he's in the boat but not rowing). Some perform well, most do not. But I really see no reason why a Past President should be on the executive after one year.

Please note that for this motion to pass:

- 1) at least half of the Governors must vote (either for, against or abstain) and,
- 2) that two-thirds of the votes be in favour of the motion (not counting abstentions).

I therefore implore all Governors to vote on this motion, regardless of their stand on the issue.

Jim Ferguson: I cannot see this motion affecting the CFC very much either way. The only question is what happens when the Executive either keeps a "bad" Past President or loses a "good" one. In the former case, the members of the Executive won't listen to him/her anyway and in the latter, the Past President can still advise the Executive in a less formal manner if he/she wishes.

Lyle Craver: What is the constitutional import of this motion? If the intent is to remove the position of Past President from the Executive when the President is in his second or later term then this simply makes the Executive one position smaller, right?

Are we being asked for a vote on this motion with this GL? If so – YES

COMMENTS

Brad Thomson: I noticed the names of two Governors on the Canadian Open crosstable whose names did not appear among those who attended the Annual Meeting, and who do not reside close enough to Winnipeg to have been at work during the day. This is an absolute disgrace and the two individuals might want to consider doing the only honourable thing, which is to immediately resign and allow someone who cares for and respects the privilege of being a Governor to assume their places. Apathy among the Governors is chronic, with a normal response rate of well below 50%. If you have nothing to say, fine, and if you have no opinion on a motion being voted upon, fine, but if you can't at least take the time to "abstain," then what are you doing as a Governor apart from wasting staff time, paper and postage costs?

Is 97-10 now in effect, or did the FQE not amend its own rules to allow for this motion to come into effect?

Mr. Cabanas stated during the discussion of the Secretary's report that some of the information is confidential and can't be released publicly. This statement is not accurate. Because the CFC is a registered charity, all of its dealings, books and so forth must be open, not only to members but to the entire general public as well. This is the law. And this improper policy has lead to many terribly underhanded dealings. To wit, I was personally instructed by the President (Mr. Farges) that the Executive had voted to run a Closed and Zonal in 1996 and to go ahead with the preparations. Later I was informed by two members of the Executive (Mr. Haley and Mr. Majstorovic) that they had never been asked to partake in a vote on the matter. I would like to ask Mr. Cabanas and Mr. Quiring if they were part of the voting or not? I recall a Governor at the time (Mr. O'Donnell), asking in the GL that the vote be made public. It was not. No doubt this was one of those sensitive matters requiring confidentiality. All Executive votes ought to appear in the Governors' Letter. Accountability must be maintained. And the laws that govern our land must be adhered to.

I would like to apologize to Stephen Ball for falsely attributing to him the organization of the Sunday phone calls to the National Appeals Committee during the 1995 Canadian Closed. I was under the impression that Mr. Ball had been the organizer since he was the one who informed me that the session would take place. May I ask Mr. Ball if he knows whom the person was that did organize the session?

I agree completely with Gordon Taylor when he suggests that the merits of Bryon Nickoloff's idea of having the four Olympic team members who qualify by rating pick the other two players be considered. Further, I agree completely with Mr. Nickoloff's idea. Who better to choose than the players themselves? But I would suggest that a reputable person be appointed to oversee the decision making process of the players.

I commend Kevin Spraggett for his willingness to relinquish one of his championship spots if the FIDE cycle falls behind, but I would respectfully suggest that it be gotten in writing if it is decided that he be taken up on his offer. With respect to Mr. Cabanas' comment that we should hold a Zonal in 1999 otherwise we would go at least four years without one: so what? We should hold our next Zonal when we don't have a champion declared for the next World Championship, and not before. Should FIDE hold two events before 1999 then I

agree with Mr. Cabanas, but not otherwise. We cannot afford meaningless championships at this time.

Concerning the bid for the 1999 Canadian Open, I agree completely with Ford Wong in opposing the payment of \$4000 to the organizers. I oppose the payment of any money at all to the organizers, including concession fees for the CFC store on site, and the waving of rating fees. The CFC cannot afford such luxuries. Indeed the Canadian Open is our "showcase" event, but if this is the case, ought it not make the CFC money rather than bankrupt it? It would be better to have no event than to lose money on it. I agree with Troy Vail and Tom O'Donnell in their viewpoint that the requirement of feature articles for the promotion of the Canadian Open infringes upon editorial policy. The Executive should keep their hands off of *En Passant* and leave it to the employees of the business office. If you don't like your coach, then fire him, but don't tell him what players to put on the ice. I am in agreement with Gordon Taylor and John Quiring when they maintain that the Canadian Open should be played in only one section. Part of the beauty of the event is the opportunity that all of us are given to get a real game with a Grandmaster. Let's not give that up. The notion of holding the Annual Meeting before the Canadian Open begins is absolutely idiotic. Attendance at these meetings is already too sparse as it is. Governors from around the country can play by taking one week off work. Now we want to ask them to take two weeks off, and incur several days of extra expenses so that we aren't tired when we play two or three of our games? Do we not think that this will hurt the already dismal attendance at some of our meetings? Do we want to cover staff expenses for these extra days just so that a few more of us are fresh when we show up to play a couple of times? Let's attempt to be realistic.

Regarding the report of the Executive Director, I am in full agreement with Mr. Vail when he suggests that the CFC Executive must become more fiscally responsible. As Troy points out, the rules indicate that we only send a Women's team to the Olympiad when finances permit. But with respect to the last Olympiad, finances did not permit, and yet the Executive decided to send a team anyway. During that same year, the Executive decided to expend an additional \$6500, which was \$2500 over and above what the rules call for, in order to line up people to represent Canada at the World Championships. Lining up players is something that was never done when FIDE was consistently performing on schedule, let alone when it is in a state of disarray! Mr. Cabanas suggests in his President's report that we have two champions in inventory due to FIDE's problems. This is false. We have this absurd predicament because the Executive chose to run a Closed before the winner of the previous event had ever represented Canada internationally. With respect to both of these events, the Executive should have listened to the opinions of the Executive Director and the rest of the staff, which because they are professionals dealing with these matters day in and day out, were far more educated than their own. Mr. Vail also points out, correctly, that taking what he refers to as "option two" will make some people angry. Sure it will. But sometimes these sorts of decisions have to be made for the long-term health of any organization. A responsible Executive will not simply throw money all over the place so as to keep everyone happy in the hopes of getting re-elected, and so as to build monuments to themselves. It will, rather, make

good, fiscally responsible decisions and have the satisfaction of knowing that the right decisions were honourably made, and then accept the consequences.

Congratulations and thanks to John Quiring for his efforts in providing the minutes of the Annual Meeting (punctilious?), and to Tom O'Donnell for his work on the Women's survey.

Jonathan Berry: Office Software (page 9). Troy's membership software is way more friendly than the software I wrote circa 1980. In case of disaster, it could have been run by an outsider, but only after an intensive course of reading the documentation. Troy's software has the familiar WIMP interface. The "Visual" aspect of the software should make it easier to maintain. He also fixed the "Year 2000" bomb.

- Grant Brown's remarks / Chess Futures Committee

I hope that every governor has had the chance to read Grant's wake-up call on pages 5-6. I like a lot of what he says, but I will put a few issues into perspective. On September 24th, the CFC celebrated (missed?) its 125th anniversary. The CFC was run on a volunteer basis, just as the Alberta Chess Association (ACA) is today. The CFC's address was a small room in the basement of its Secretary, George Bryant. In 1972, the CFC adopted a business plan formulated by Kalev Pugi. This called for a permanent office and paid staff. In fact, with the Fischer boom, it was impossible for volunteers to do the job anymore. By 1975, the CFC still had a "members' equity" of only about \$800. I don't remember if that was in addition to the IBM Selectric typewriter (now worth about \$45), or whether the equity <I>was</I> the typewriter.

The CFC paid its staff of one by commission. There was so much for each membership, so much for each issue of the magazine, and 50% of the profits from sales. As there were no salaries, the CFC was safe from loss (at least unless the Business Manager bought trainloads of stuff that couldn't be sold), and in fact made about \$15,000 per year most years, and that's after the Olympics etc were paid for. The Business Manager in turn hired staff, and paid them salaries. About 1984, the CFC Executive decided that a "proper" organization couldn't be run this way, and put all the staff on salary. The "Business Manager" was made into an "Executive Director", but with greatly circumscribed spending power.

So, Grant says that the membership fees go to pay the salaries. Historically, the profits from sales went to pay the salaries, so that the membership fees could pay for the member services. Without the sales, there would be no money for programs. Even though the sales make a needed profit, they are a "service" to members. In those days, the CFC had a wider and cheaper book selection than the USCF, and there was no match in Canada. Sales are still a service to members.

Much of Grant's fiscal criticism is not much different from bashing the school system for losing money. The root cause: you pay teachers and janitors and the oil company.

The ACA is a **particularly** well-run volunteer organization. No other provincial chess association is as successful as the ACA, and most of them, well, they make the CFC look good. As it is.

Still, Grant makes good points.

I think that the CFC needs a "Chess Futures Committee" comprised of maybe a couple of executive members, interested governors such as Grant, chess

personalities who are not governors (it might not hurt to ask the mercurial Mr. Bevand and/or a leader from the FQE), strong players who are not necessarily governors, a chess teacher, a parent, a strong young player, an internet technologist, an accountant, a business person, etc. Maybe a dozen people in all. The mandate would have a fixed term, say 18 months (one of the disincentives to becoming a governor is that it tends to become a lifetime vocation), and would include consultation with all chess “stakeholders” (not just CFC people). At the end of the mandate the committee would present a blueprint for the future of chess in Canada for approval (or, of course, rejection) by the Governors and/or Provincial Associations.

This is a process that many organizations engage in to renew themselves. It’s all too easy for us as governors to get too involved in minutiae, as Grant points out. And it is important that the committee not be dominated by the CFC-as-it-is.

To get its work done in 18 months, the committee would have to be extremely active, with things happening on a weekly basis, not just wait three months for the Governors’ letter. I think the work is possible on a “CFC-sized” budget only if all committee members are on the Internet.

- Single section Canadian Open

I would like to add the following to the discussion on page 17:

As has been documented before, a traditional single section Open (even with Haley Accelerated Pairings) results in most players experiencing the “yo-yo” effect. You rarely play somebody of near your own strength, unless you are in the leading or trailing groups.

Regarding norms, we have the example of the 1997 Canadian Open with more GMs than anybody has dreamed about (outside the 1988 World Chess Festival in Saint John), yet no norms achieved. If you look at the crosstable (in EP # 145, p. 9), you will see that the top non-GM or non-IM players were largely eliminated from norm contention already by round 3 or 4 because they had played too many FIDE-unrated opponents. Sure, norms will be possible, but only in exceptional or fluke circumstances. In fact, the problem of unrated players in norm events is much worse than it was a few years ago, because then an unrated opponent counted as 2200 in the average rating calculation, now it counts as 2000.

Compare the North Bay International Open. With one less round and far less in the way of titled firepower, in 1997 it had one IM norm achieved (with a round to spare, incidentally). In 1996 it had one norm, and another was possible up to the very last round, but the player lost a game he needed to win.

In my opinion, the clause in the Canadian Open contract (last page of GL # 1) “to make it’s [sic] best efforts so that the tournament offers IM and GM norm opportunities” is tantamount to false advertising if it applies to a traditional one-section (accelerated or not) Swiss. Having twice as many players as 1997 would make the hurdles even higher. I’m not saying that norms are a necessary part of the Canadian Open—but they are if you advertise them.

Therefore I ask what steps the 1999 committee is taking. Are they devising a new pairing system? Remembering the embarrassment of 1976 when the untested pairing system had to be doctored in the 5th round, will they present the new

system in good time to some august committee of the CFC for approval? If they are taking other steps to make norms a realistic possibility, let’s hear about them.

Canada has a dismal record in providing norm opportunities (aside from the Zonal windfall). Even tournaments where foreigners can get norms will result in reciprocal invitations. Norms are a motherhood issue, and it’s easy to pay lip service to them without making the efforts necessary for them to come about. The norms for 1997 came at North Bay and the Quebec Open, neither of which receives CFC sponsorship.

The USCF makes money every year from the US Open. Traditionally, Canadian Opens did not ask for subsidy from the CFC, and in many cases (St. John’s 1970, for example), local sponsorship paid GM expenses/fees and guaranteed the prize fund. In 1978, the Canadian Open in Hamilton donated \$1,000 to the Canadian Championship in Toronto. Without that money, it is unlikely that the Closed could have been held! With our \$4,000 investment in the 1999 Open, we spend more on the Open than we do (annualized) on the Championship, an event which by its nature must be subsidized. And if you want norms, you can get them by investing the \$4,000 in a different format.

- Olympic Selection Committee

On the second page of his report, Denis Allan mixes two events together. The 1972 Canadian Junior was won by John MacPhail, ahead of future-GM Kevin Spraggett and IM Jean Hebert. Nigel Fullbrook won the 1974 event ahead of Spraggett, Hebert, and future-IM Nickoloff. He did that despite being two points off the pace and tied for 3rd-6th with only 3 rounds to go. There was a second Canadian Junior (won by Peter Nurmi) in 1974, organized at short notice when FIDE decided to hold the then biennial World Junior every year. In the two latter events, Murray Campbell, future co-author of “Deep Blue”, represented Alberta.

-Employee Report

Items (8 & 9). The fact that a tournament cannot normally be submitted for rating electronically is troubling. I think that the office needs to work out a procedure which makes this possible. The suggestion that I made several years ago was to set up debit accounts.

Shipping charges: While I like Tom’s suggestion of reducing shipping charges for increasing orders, an \$8 charge is a big disincentive for a member making her **first** order. I remember we would frequently get a first order for a \$7 book (there were such things in those days), and ten days later get another order for \$80 (that’s \$8,000 in today’s prices) from the same new member, freshly having received her initial purchase.

In 1975-1985 there were no shipping charges, that was included in the price. That was consistent with the principle that all CFC members, wherever they lived, were equal. There are costs to do with off-the-street customers (display area, supervision, work disruption), so they paid the same.

The catalogue used to have an indication of which books were “recommended” and which were new since the previous catalogue. You could also tell from the catalogue number who the publisher was. Such touches turned the bare

listings of fact that were the catalogue into an "information-rich" resource. There were no book reviews in the magazine.

I don't think we will ever see the same quantity of book purchasing as when the latest Informant was #18, but I'm sure that with Tom at the book helm we will see improvements.

- Certificates (97-12 Straw vote topic)

I still think the approach is wrong-headed: decide in principle whether you want certificates, then ask the Office how best to implement them.

The USCF tried to introduce unfamiliar titles and had to beat a costly retreat. 2000-2199 is Expert, 2200-2399 is Master, 2400 and above is Senior Master. Mess with that at your peril.

Ron Langill: 97-12 - The comments of Yves Farges were dead on. The non-recognition of the average player has been a pet peeve of mine, especially when it came to the editing of my tourney reports. It appears that Mr. O'Donnell is addressing the editing part, and the idea behind this motion is a good step forward in recognizing non-titled players as important members of the C.F.C.

(note: not intended as part of comment - I don't think this is up for vote yet-if it is, my vote is yes)

Other comments:

Re: junior event rating fees - Page 11 of G.L.#1 shows the passing of a motion to reduce the fees from \$2.00 to \$1.00. Our latest issue of En Passant now speaks of an experiment reducing the fee to zero! Is someone unilaterally over-riding the entire motion process?

Re: scholastic chess: - The initiatives mentioned in En Passant is a good step in addressing the need to develop this area. I'm sure there are some who gagged when reading Mr. Brown's suggestion of inviting Larry Bevand for discussions but there is a good point made there. Chess 'n Math's specialty is promoting chess at a young age. In my mind, anything that helps youth chess is good for chess in general and good for the C.F.C. I hope that this is kept in mind during the development of any future initiatives. We need to get past some old-style thinking I have heard which portrays Chess 'n Math as a rival. We should be trying to work together for the good of youth chess and leave politics out of it.

Gordon Taylor:

A) re CFC's future with FIDE

I would like to correct what is written in the minutes respecting some remarks I made re Canada's future membership in FIDE (see p. 8 of GL #1, paragraph preceding ITEM 4F). In fact I said that the CFC had three options: the first would be to stay in FIDE and hope to God things got better; the second would be to remain but to work actively with other federations to create a replacement organization; and the third would be to walk. I know a lot of people don't think the third is a constructive option. Maybe so, but it is a principled one.

In my view, Canada's future, vis-...-vis FIDE, will depend greatly on how well FIDE carries out the upcoming Candidates' Knockout event to take place this December.

Regardless, we must admit that FIDE has failed to arrange a re-unification match between Kasparov and the FIDE World Champion. At present FIDE is really only working well with respect to the youth championships, FIDE ratings and titles. The Olympiad at Moscow was of a very poor standard while the one in Armenia, while it ran well enough on site, was chaotic in the months preceding it.

The minutes state that Phil thought my comments a "bit harsh." Maybe, though I don't recall this. He later thanked me for bringing the matter forward, and then related to me his deep dissatisfaction with the two FIDE Congresses in Moscow and Erevan.

B) re 1998 Canadian Open bid

On page 13, top right, we read that "Gordon Taylor presented a bid from Ottawa [attached]." Well, yes I did, and then I gave the bid to the Secretary, John Quiring. What happened? It's not attached!

Apart from these two reservations, I'd like to extend my thanks to John Quiring for a commendable job in compiling these minutes. I know from experience what a daunting task it can be.

Jim Ferguson:

Re: Junior Coordinator's Report - I agree with Mr. Ottosen's comments regarding higher rated juniors not playing in their own provincial/regional championship. One possible solution is to do what the BCCF does. Our policy is to guarantee to cover travel costs to our BC Junior/Cadet champions. We only fund players that get in by rating if we can afford it - but we make no promises. This encourages the top rated players to play in the regional qualifier so that they can get their expenses taken care of.

Lyle Craver: With all the talk about the passage of motion 97-10 I was surprised to see no mention of the FQE's response. After all, if there was no passage of equivalent motions on their part the motions die right?

Rating Auditor's Report: Has any work been done in determining how many players (a) from Quebec and (b) from other provinces have both ESTABLISHED CFC and FQE ratings? (I do not think the methodology allows comparison of non-established ratings) Does the Ratings Auditor intend to produce a statistical estimate of the expected error of any conversion factor?

Junior Coordinator's Report: Mr Hergott is confused if he seriously questions whether top juniors (or adults if we're talking about the Canadian Closed) should be encouraged or expected to take part in their provincial championships. If a provincial championship - adult, junior, cadet or whatever - is not PRIMARILY about settling who is the strongest player in that province or region then I'm obviously confused as to the purpose of holding the championship in the first place! While Mr Taylor is probably right in his thinking that some individuals bypass their championship for this reason, it's assuredly not the policy of the BCCF or any provincial federation I know of.

Tom O'Donnell's Report: In our business we do a LOT of mail order and I am surprised at Troy's comments concerning Purolator as they mirror our company's

calculations concerning Express and Priority Post. Care to share (privately) what the CFC pays?

I would note that the Executive Director's comments that it is now THEORETICALLY possible for a tournament to be completed on Sunday and rated the following Tuesday are no longer theoretical - the 1997 Vancouver Open was rated in precisely this manner. Credit where credit is due...

Danny Goldenberg - while I'm sympathetic to Mr Ottosen's views about the FQE's slandering of his playing ability, I'm particularly pleased that Danny himself has taken the high road and demonstrated that the FQE's comments were nothing but a canard in the best possible way. Danny doesn't seem to require an apology so I'd say there are bigger sins to flog the FQE for than this.

STRAW VOTE TOPICS:

98-2 (Brad Thomson:) Moved, that the following section be added to the CFC Handbook:

817. Dress Code

All participants, the Tournament Director, persons assigned to demo-boards and any other individuals visibly associated with the competition during the playing of games shall dress in a proper manner. Running shoes, jeans, shorts, T-shirts and any tattered or unclean clothing are not proper. Suits are preferable, while neat, clean casual wear is the minimum acceptable standard.

The Tournament Director shall ensure that proper dress standards are upheld. If a player is improperly attired, he or she will be asked to change. The rules in place for dealing with a player who arrives late shall be in effect for a player told to leave and return only when properly attired.

Commentary: I agree entirely with the comments of the Treasurer in his report to the Annual Meeting. If we are ever to have a hope of attracting significant sponsorship to chess, we must have a dress code in effect. Corporations who spend sponsorship dollars do so in the expectation that association with an event will enhance their name and public image. Unless we are seeking help from the Salvation Army, we must have a dress code in effect if we are to have a reasonable hope of obtaining sponsorships.

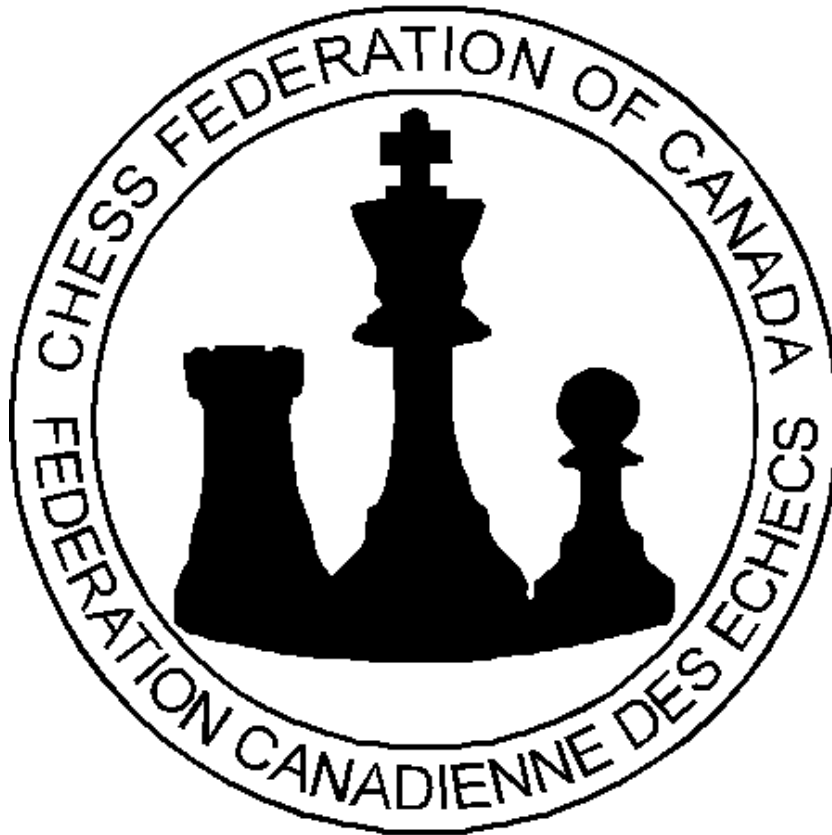
98-3 (Brad Thomson:) Moved, that the CFC cease and desist from sexual discrimination, and that all distinctions between the sexes be removed from the Handbook.

Commentary: Is anyone prepared to argue that women, because they are women, are inherently less capable of playing chess than men? Or vice-versa?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES IS DECEMBER 20, 1997

CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER THREE 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

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 if interested.

Deadline for next Governors' Letter is February 28th, 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this message I will address an issue that has been a concern of mine for a considerable amount of time namely the relationship between the CFC and the Association Échecs et Maths (AEM) and the question of junior and scholastic chess in Canada. This is a topic that leads me to ask many questions. For example: What are its constitution and by laws? Who are its directors? What is its financial picture? What visions for chess in Quebec does it have? What visions for chess in Canada does it have? I consider these and similar questions to be relevant to the members of the Assembly primarily because the CFC has provided and is providing AEM with the right to run certain Canadian Championships. The following reasons are also significant. The organization describes itself as "Canada's National Scholastic Chess Organization" in English and "L'organisme national du jeu d'échecs en milieu scolaire" in French. Do the English and French versions mean the same thing in the context of Quebec today? I have seen a set of unaudited financial statements that indicated gross revenue of approximately \$900,000 and a net profit of approximately \$90,000, I am quoting these figure from memory. It has certainly had very strong growth over the last 10 years. This is not an insignificant organization in the Canadian Chess Scene.

My understanding is that the AEM is incorporated as a non-profit society under the laws of the Province of Quebec. It has an elected board of directors. The membership consists of the parents of the players who participate in AEM events. I have met M Bevand, on various occasions and this has led to even more questions. For example is the Executive Director of AEM to all intensive purposes in control of the organization? What kind of control does in practice the elected board have? Can he be terminated at any time by the elected board? How is the board elected? Are there any provisions in place to ensure a balanced representation from the various parts of Canada in the elected board? Is the election process fair? What are the implications of the degree of control that the Executive Director of AEM has? What is the accountability? Are there questions of conflict of interest?

The AEM has a very significant Books and Equipment business. This has made it a competitor of the CFC. It also proposed to buy the CFC's book and equipment business in May of 1995 for five payments of approximately \$38,000. The equivalent revenue that the CFC would loose was budgeted for this year at approximately \$34,000. One of the provisions was a no competition agreement from the CFC for five years. There were other requirements such as the provision of space to the AEM in the current office facilities of the CFC and four pages per issue of free advertising in EP. The practical result is that had the CFC accepted such a proposal in 1995 we would loose our revenue from book and equipment sales in a little over two years from now. This leads to the following questions how would the CFC replace the lost revenue in two years had we accepted this offer? What would have been the impact on prices paid by chessplayers in Canada for books and equipment had the CFC left the market?

I have in my possession in Vancouver the catalogue that AEM under the name Boutique Stratégie sent to all FQE

members along with the November – December issue of Échec plus in which a chess clock is advertised for \$69.95. Shortly thereafter this same organization under the name Chess'n Math sends a catalogue to all OCA members advertising the same clock for \$42.50. The FQE price is over 64% higher than the OCA price. The CFC sells the same item to our members for \$49.95. The entire AEM (FQE) catalogue when compared to the AEM (OCA) catalogue follows the same pattern namely considerably higher prices for FQE members and somewhat lower AEM (OCA) prices than the corresponding CFC prices. One may ask what is the motivation for these distinct prices? AEM also produced an Alberta catalogue with prices that were different from both the Ontario and Quebec prices. One can ask the following questions: Is this an attempt by the AEM to gain market share at the expense of the CFC on the back of Quebec chessplayers? Was Alberta used as a trail run before the main move in Ontario? I will let the reader be the judge regarding these and similar questions. The reality is that these types of distinct prices typically do fail. Although the CFC has lost sales over the short term, this kind of action has the potential to hurt AEM more than the CFC over the long term particularly once the word gets out. This leads to the following questions. How will chessplayers in Quebec feel after been treated in this fashion by an organization that has profited so handsomely from Quebec chessplayers? By the way the FQE is well aware of this situation so we may have some answers. The next issue of Échec plus may prove to be quite interesting.

My most significant concern here is that this will lead to conflict between the CFC and the OCA. The OCA president informed the office that at NO TIME did it that M. Bevand from AEM have any access to our membership information. A professional mailing house did the actual mailing, M Bevand dropped off the catalogues and the OCA provided the labels. I do not believe that the officials of the OCA knew about the differential pricing between Ontario and Quebec. Was the OCA taken advantage of in this affair? This issue does raise many issues and has been discussed by the Assembly before. The current policy is that the membership list is to be provided only to Provincial Affiliates. Should this policy be changed?

It is difficult to consider these events without considering the differences between the CFC and the FQE dating back to the 70's. I have read through the governor's letters from that period in order to gain a better understanding of the CFC - FQE dispute and the different issues involved. Among these materials I found a letter written in Montreal on February 7 1979 by M. Jacques Labelle (at the time the President of the FQE when the FQE was still a CFC affiliate) and addressed to both Mr. W. Ferner, then Secretary of the CFC and Mr. Martin Jaeger, then President of the CFC. This letter was included in GL #6 78-79. I will include a quote from this letter because it raises even more questions.

"e) Back to the FQE-CFC relations. The Quebec Chess League is promoting the CFC mainly because of good administration and good work form J. Berry, your business manager. If only the Montréal Chess League (with L Bevand) would do the same thing there would simply be no problem. What can the FQE do? If we force a FQE-CFC common membership at \$15 no tournament director

(especially Larry) will charge that much to a new player. He will just start his 'Montréal rating'."

Is there a deeper question here that we need to take into consideration? Are there only financial considerations here? What are the links between the current issues between the CFC and the AEM and the entire CFC – FQE relationship? On the question of ratings it is important to recognize that the AEM does not rate its scholastic tournaments in Quebec under the FQE rating system. As we well know AEM does not rate its scholastic tournaments under the CFC rating system. Is the problem just the CFC rating or any rating also used for adult chess? The CFC has a book and equipment business but the FQE does not. Does the sale of books and equipment have anything to do with ratings? How does one rate a player that plays under both adult and junior only events, and take into consideration all that players games in determining a rating and use different rating systems for both type of tournaments? What advantage is there in segregating adults from juniors in this fashion? Is it not just better and simpler just to have one rating system for all players regardless of age? Or do we also need separate rating systems based on sex, race, ethnic origin, religion, etc?

In 1996 M. Bevand approached the BCCF regarding the possible expansion of AEM into Vancouver. We must keep in mind that British Columbia has a very strong CFC scholastic program. This has been the case in BC for years long before the AEM had any aspirations (in English only?) of becoming "Canada's National Scholastic Chess Organization". I have seen adult tournaments in Vancouver where 50 % of the players in the lower sections were juniors, and 20 to 30 % is not uncommon. The CFC membership statistics have over the years shown that a disproportionate number of the type 'J' and type 'P' members are in BC. The questions on multiple rating systems are particularly relevant in this case. At the meeting in which I was present the BCCF did not oppose AEM coming into Vancouver. What the BCCF did do is require that the scholastic tournaments be CFC rated (This did not preclude they be also rated under another rating system). The result AEM lost interest in Vancouver for the time being. Well I still have questions? Why would the AEM give up expanding its chess teachers program (a program that has been proven both in Montreal and Toronto) into Vancouver in order to avoid having to rate its tournaments by the CFC rating system? What does the rating of chess players have to do with the hiring and contracting of chess teachers?

The AEM opened a branch in Quebec City and subsequently shut down the operation. This leads to more questions when one considers that this is actually quite strange for an organization that is growing quite fast. Does the AEM program not work in centers equal to or smaller in population than Quebec City? Did AEM need to consolidate? In view of many if not all previous questions why should the CFC allow AEM run ALL scholastic and junior chess in Canada while the CFC would limit itself to Adult Chess? The CFC has recently started a school program. This program is very different from what AEM has offers and has been very well received. Does AEM consider this a threat? If so why? Is it appropriate for the CFC to ignore legitimate needs of chess players in Canada of any age simply in order to leave the market open for the AEM?

In view of section III-9 of the Letters Patent of the CFC which reads as follows:

"TO establish and maintain, in cooperation with its membership, a rating system which shall constitute an official record from time to time, of the relative chess ability throughout Canada."

Should or can the CFC violate its constitution for the sole purpose of avoiding a possible conflict with the AEM?

This is a report where I have provided more questions than answers. I must also say that I have many more unanswered questions on this topic. It is my hope that this will provoke constructive debate among the members of the Assembly and the chess community in Canada at large. I am all in favor of cooperation with the AEM. This has to be mutual and respect both the constitution of the CFC, and the legitimate role of the CFC in Canadian Chess. I have in the past before I was elected to the office of President urged the same from my predecessors.

Francisco Cabañas

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS BY THE PRESIDENT

Regarding the matter of 97-10. I have received an email, dated December 30 1997, from M. Stéphane Beaudoin in which he indicated to me that the FQE would consider this matter by the end of January. If the result is positive then the matter will be placed before the assembly for discussion and vote. With respect to Mr. Thomson comments on 97-10, I respectively remind the member that 97-10 did not allow for discretion by the President regarding the implementation of parts of the motion while ignoring other parts of the motion. His questions are best answered by reading the motion in question. I will also respectfully remind the member that the wording in 97-10 regarding the FQE's commitments was the wording I verified with the other CFC representatives present. I respectfully suggest that the members compare the wording in 97-10 with the wording in Mr. Thomson's comments.

In response to Mr. Knox, the comments of the members are not edited or corrected in any way. Consequently I respectfully request the members pay careful attention to questions of grammar and spelling.

I will address the question of executive confidentiality in my response to 98-4.

There is an outstanding matter that has being brought to my attention. The amount of funding provided by the CFC to the 1995 Canadian Closed was \$1000.00. This is actually stipulated in section 820-4 as standard for the Canadian Closed in non-zonal years.

Regarding the matter of 98-1. I respectfully remind the Assembly that this is a constitutional amendment. Consequently it has the following requirement to pass:

- 1) Quorum of 1/2 the eligible votes
- 2) 2/3 or more yes votes not counting abstentions
- 3) The number of yes votes must exceed the number of no votes and abstentions combined.

- 4) The list of eligible votes follows: Please note there are the following vacancies NF (1) NT (1)

"Walter"	"Watson"	"AB"
"David"	"Ottosen"	"AB"
"Grant"	"Brown"	"AB"
"John"	"Quiring"	"AB"
"Neil"	"Sharp"	"AB"
"Ford"	"Wong"	"AB"
"Bruce D."	"Thomas"	"AB"
"Francisco"	"Cabanas"	"BC"
"Lyle"	"Craver"	"BC"
"Yves"	"Farges"	"BC"
"Jim"	"Ferguson"	"BC"
"Nathan"	"Divinsky"	"BC"
"Jonathan"	"Berry"	"BC"
"Jason"	"Feng"	"BC"
"Peter"	"Stockhausen"	"BC"
"Jeff"	"Babb"	"MB"
"Cecil"	"Rosner"	"MB"
"Jacques"	"Blanchette"	"NB"
"Jim"	"Guimond"	"NB"
"Jacques"	"Brun"	"NB"
"David"	"Kenney"	"NS"
"Kim"	"Tufts"	"NS"
"Glenn"	"Charlton"	"NS"
"Ari"	"Mendrinis"	"ON"
"Yan"	"Teplitsky"	"ON"
"Denis"	"Allan"	"ON"
"Philip G."	"Haley"	"ON"
"Dan"	"Majstorovic"	"ON"
"Alexander N."	"Knox"	"ON"
"Derrick"	"Bessette"	"ON"
"Brian"	"Smith"	"ON"
"Herb"	"Langer"	"ON"
"Liana"	"MacMillan"	"ON"
"Mon-Fai"	"Lee"	"ON"
"John"	"Armstrong"	"ON"

"Lembit"	"Joselin"	"ON"
"Les"	"Bunning"	"ON"
"Ron"	"Langill"	"ON"
"Terry"	"Fleming"	"ON"
"Robert N."	"Webb"	"ON"
"Robert"	"Moline"	"ON"
"Stephen"	"Ball"	"ON"
"Hans"	"Jung"	"ON"
"Martin"	"Jaeger"	"ON"
"Mark S."	"Dutton"	"ON"
"Vojin"	"Vujosevic"	"ON"
"John W."	"Puusa"	"ON"
"Kevin"	"Spraggett"	"ON"
"Howard"	"Ridout"	"ON"
"Samuel"	"Carr"	"ON"
"Tony"	"Ficzere"	"ON"
"Shivaharan"	"Thurairasah"	"ON"
"Gordon"	"Taylor"	"ON"
"Miles"	"Obradovich"	"ON"
"Roger"	"Langen"	"ON"
"D. Andrew"	"Walls"	"ON"
"Brad"	"Thomson"	"ON"
"Richard"	"Martin"	"ON"
"Maurice"	"Smith"	"ON"
"J. Ken"	"MacDonald"	"ON"
"Deen"	"Hergott"	"ON"
"Doug"	"Burgess"	"ON"
"Michael"	"England"	"PE"
"Diane"	"Mongeau"	"PQ"
"Gilles"	"Groleau"	"PQ"
"Hugh"	"Brodie"	"PQ"
"Francois"	"Leveille"	"PQ"
"Steve"	"Siciliano"	"SK"
"George"	"Huczek"	"SK"
"Bob"	"Bowerman"	"YT"

DISCUSSION OF MOTION 98-1

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".

Gordon Taylor: I really have nothing to add to my discussion on page 3 of GL#2. However, as mover of this motion I must exhort you all to vote. Naturally I want you to support this motion but, as noted in GL#2, at least half of you must vote for it to pass, and then the "yeas" must outnumber the "nays" by two to one. So please do vote!

Francisco Cabanas: I am in favor of this motion for the reasons that I stated in the AGM. Having said this I do believe that Mr. Ferguson makes a good case for an abstention in that this motion will have very little practical impact. This leads me to my next point. I strongly urge all governors to vote on this matter regardless of whether your vote is yes, no or abstain.

Lyle Craver: I don't see this as a serious difficulty. As long as the President is prepared to rule that there are no constitutional issues involved I'd be prepared to vote yes in an immediate vote.

Yves Farges: As the current Past President of the C.F.C., I feel that a term of one year is enough. The concept of providing a bridge of information and some policy continuation in the executive is a good one, enhancing stability. Amending the Past President term on the executive to one year is sound. Should the executive wish to "keep" a Past President (or someone else), they can appoint them as special officers as per the constitution.

Gilles Groleau: I agree with Jim Ferguson when he says: "I cannot see this motion affecting the CFC very much either way". But people working with executive in real life know that small details may become very important. So my vote: YES

Deen Hergott: Makes good sense. There is no need or purpose to continually increasing the size of the CFC Executive. If former Presidents wish to contribute to current Executive policies, they are able and welcome to apply for positions at the AGM. And as continuing Governors, their insightful comments still appear in the GL.

Lembit Joselin: Yes

David Kenney: I agree with this motion. It does not appear to make any sense to have someone who is not the "Immediate Past President" serve on the Executive. I would be in favour of making this amendment to By-Law #2.

Alex Knox: I agree with the motion, (Taylor/Burgess) 98-1 to amend sec: 10 of by-law #2. It more correctly defines grammatically the true purpose of the position for everyone to understand, finally.

Herb Langer: Yes, most appropriate.

Miles Obradovich: I support the motion introduced by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Burgess. It is quite acceptable to understand that in electing a candidate to the position of President that the result will be a 2 year stint on the executive. One year as President and the second as Past President. The current system allows this 2 year term to be extended indefinitely, without the vote of the Governors and without the Past President satisfying any criteria or qualification. The extension is dependant solely on the success or perhaps popularity of the succeeding President. This is not the best way to determine the composition of the executive.

In those years when there will not be an immediate Past President the Governors may appoint a special officer if the incoming executive feels that its manpower is compromised. Although it is probably in my view unnecessary to do this it is a process whereby the Governors will have the appropriate power to decide who is on the Executive. It would still be possible for any past President to be elected to such a position.

Furthermore, past Presidents can always be called upon to furnish information for the purposes of continuity whether or not they are on the executive.

May I also suggest that the membership be reminded of the constitutional requirements to be met in order for this vote to pass.

David Ottosen : I think this motion is a good idea. The purpose of having the past president on the board is to give new board members (including the new president) some idea and explanation of decisions made by the previous board. In the event that a president is re-elected, he can fulfil this role. I was swayed by Jim Ferguson's comments until I remembered that the Past President still gets a vote, so even if he is a "bad" Past President, the new board cannot entirely ignore him.

Maurice Smith: There is only one minor problem that I foresee with this motion. It is when we have a President for two years, it means that the first year we would have seven members on the Executive, and the second year there would be six. This could result in tied votes in the second year.

However if there is a tie it would mean that a motion does not pass, so we could probably live with that.

I believe that the Past President should on the Executive the first year for " continuation " purposes. Consulting with the person who just did the job is often helpful for the new incumbent. However, one year is probably enough. After all there are still phones, faxes and e-mails where you can keep in contact if necessary in the future.

Brad Thomson: I would echo the request of Gordon Taylor when he implores all governors to vote on the issue, regardless of their stand. All governors should vote on every issue, regardless of their stand. Further, I will support the motion. Having a Past President on the executive only makes sense if he/she was the President in the previous year. When an incumbent President wins a second term, or any further number of consecutive terms, then there should be no Past President on the executive.

DISCUSSION OF STRAW VOTE 98-2

98-2 (Brad Thomson) Moved, that the following section be added to the CFC Handbook:

817. Dress Code

All participants, the Tournament Director, persons assigned to demo-boards and any other individuals visibly associated with the competition during the playing of games shall dress in a proper manner. Running shoes, jeans, shorts, T-shirts and any tattered or unclean clothing are not proper. Suits are preferable, while neat, clean casual wear is the minimum acceptable standard.

The Tournament Director shall ensure that proper dress standards are upheld. If a player is improperly attired, he or she will be asked to change. The rules in place for dealing with a player who arrives late shall be in effect for a player told to leave and return only when properly attired.

Grant Brown: I am opposed to 98-2. There are general clauses in the CFC Handbook which give Tournament Directors discretion over things like behaviour and dress; we don't need anything more specific. In fact, expressly prohibiting "running shoes, jeans, shorts, and T-shirts" would certainly eliminate this 20-year CFC member from tournament play....

Francisco Cabanas: First I wish to commend Mr. Thomson on the format of this straw vote topic. This has nothing to do with the substance of the Straw Vote topic, it has to do with the fact that he has taken the time to figure out exactly what wording he wishes to add to the handbook and where he wishes to put it. This is not a requirement for a Straw Vote topic (In fact Straw vote topics are the proper way to present a matter for discussion before the Assembly without working out formal precise wording in advance); however this is the proper way to present a motion designed to set policy before the Assembly.

I will now address the substance of the Straw Vote Topic. The subject of "Dress Codes" is always very tricky. Why? Because it is impossible to legislate style. The easiest dress code to enforce is the most severe; namely formal wear. Anyone who has watched snooker on TV can understand why the snooker federation has chosen the

formal wear approach. The more liberal a dress code the greater the chance of trouble. The wording proposed is a perfect example. Consider two players that show up to the Canadian Closed under the proposed regulations. One of the players is wearing a track suit. The other player shows up wearing a tweed jacket, shirt, tie and jeans. Both players meet the cleanliness standard and there are no further violations. Do I have any volunteers for the appeals committee? Read the proposed regulations carefully. The point here is not to suggest that "track suit" be added to the list of prohibited articles of clothing, but rather to illustrate the fact that it is very easy to break the letter of the law and conform to the spirit of a liberal dress code and conversely to obey the letter of the law and violate the spirit of a liberal dress code.

Is there a solution to this question? Maybe. I will propose the following wording for discussion:

817 Dress Code.

All participants, the Tournament Director, persons assigned to demo-boards and any other individuals visibly associated with the competition during the playing of games shall dress in a proper businesslike manner. A proper businesslike manner shall refer to the typical dress standards for the employees in an office environment of the sponsors or potential sponsors of the Canadian Closed.

The Tournament Director shall ensure that proper dress standards are upheld. If a player is improperly attired, he or she will be asked to change. The rules in place for dealing with a player who arrives late shall be in effect for a player told to leave and return only when properly attired.

One advantage of this approach is to allow for changes in dress standards in society (either more liberal or formal) without having to keep changing the rules. This is not an easy question from a wording point of view and I am quite interested in what other suggestions are proposed. There is one thing on this issue that I cannot support; namely lists of prohibited and allowed articles of clothing enshrined as policy in the handbook for posterity.

Lyle Craver: A dress code for the Canadian Closed would be a good idea. Given that chess is after all a recreational activity I would not favor a 'jacket and tie' code but having played in tournaments where the demo board operators were looking like the Unabomber isn't much fun when the local media are present to catch the whole thing on film.

Deen Hergott: I found the use of the phrase "minimum acceptable standard" very ironic. Particularly as I used the same expression when discussing the current state of the Canadian Closed and Zonal in *En Passant*. We need minimum acceptable standards in all aspects of our national championship, and while I agree that a Dress Code would be a good idea, it has a lower priority, in my opinion, than the more basic issues of tournament site, playing conditions, accommodation, prize fund, etc.

Lembit Joselin: Yes. Public image curling 1960-1997!

David Kenney: This motion will be somewhat controversial. If the primary goal of a chess tournament is to

attract corporate sponsorship, then I believe a "dress code" is a must! Although most chess players dress appropriately, there are always some people who show up in ripped and/or dirty looking clothes which I would agree would not attract any corporate sponsorship.

However, I believe most chess players come out to a tournament for the enjoyment of competitive chess and do not care whether it is sponsored by a major corporation. Most competitors will want to dress comfortably and may not participate in a tournament which requires them to wear a suit or something equivalent. Perhaps, the CFC could make suggestions as to proper attire when organizing and / or competing in a tournament rather than making a "dress code" mandatory.

Alex Knox: As well-intentioned is the reasoning to improve the image of chess in Canada, (or sophisticate it) by a dress code, I suggest no harsh standards be imposed. Rather, moderate dress, cleanliness, and good character be emphasized, all to be the responsibility of the organizers. As a senior, I am well aware of the changes society has experienced. Thus, adjustment is required.

Herb Langer: I agree, but how can this be enforced without loss of participation in tournaments? Will the C.F.C. supply uniforms for sale that will be acceptable.

Gille Grouleau: I agree with Brad that Dress code is important if we want to get sponsorship and media attention. But it is not a high priority. Players' behavior is more important. As example, this summer, Lesiege was playing against Schleifer in Quebec Open (last round). Alex came 45 min late and agree for a draw after only a few moves. Well he got his GMI norm but it was very bad for media.

Many years ago, Quebec City players organized some chess matches on local community TV. As I remember Jonathan Berry was one of the 8 players. In one match, no players were at the board for 45 min. What kind of game is this for people watching it on TV.

Ron Langill: I can sympathize with the idea behind this. It brings forth recollections of seeing a higher rated player in North Bay two years ago in dirty jeans which had more holes than material. Still, it has ramifications I have trouble with even in its straw vote format. 1) I recall as a T.D. having many more things to worry about and cases to rule on without worrying about/ruling on what someone is wearing 2) Does the guy with uncombed hair down to his shoulders (also unshaven) look any better because he isn't wearing running shoes?-appearance is a subjective matter. 3) In local tournaments, I'm more worried about how many people show up than how they look 4) With recent ventures to lure more young people into chess, is this a good way to turn them off? I can picture many local tourneys ignoring such a ruling. I don't agree with it, but if it did go through (since we're worried about sponsorship) maybe it can be tested at a few major national events first or even be limited to national/provincial championships - my gut feeling is it would be opposed even at that level - imagine the outcome of an important event being affected by a clothing ruling!

Miles Obradovich: I oppose this motion on 2 grounds. Firstly, the penalty to be imposed is rather draconian for what is a very meaningful competition (the section referred to is for the Canadian Championship and not tournaments generally). There could be some very good reason why the proposal could not be complied with and by legislating the penalty the Director would not have any discretion to deal with the situation by other means such as a warning.

Secondly, I think it is somewhat askance to ask the players to abide by certain standards but not impose similar conditions concerning the tournament hall, playing conditions, organization of publicity, the welfare of the players during the tournament, etc.

These matters and dress code may all be dealt with in consideration of the approval of bids for the running of this and other tournaments.

David Ottosen: While I am in favor of this idea, I would like to know the exact section where you wish to add this section. Of course, if the organizers do not attempt to attract sponsorship, the players will likely be upset about being "forced" to dress in a professional manner. I am not exactly sure if this is necessary to add to the handbook; in the event that an organizer attracts sponsors, is it not possible to simply add a dress code requirement to the player's invitation?

Peter Stockhausen: Yes - Let's discuss it

Brad Thomson: I would like to thank the President for pointing out that 98-2 applies only to the Canadian Closed Championship. This was my intent.

DISCUSSION OF STRAW VOTE 98-3

98-3 (Brad Thomson:) Moved, that the CFC cease and desist from sexual discrimination, and that all distinctions between the sexes be removed from the Handbook.

Grant Brown: I am opposed to 98-3 as worded. The positive side of holding female-only events is that they might attract participation where otherwise none might be forthcoming. The negative side is the cost. If the motion were worded so as to eliminate funding for female-only events, it might be acceptable; but where cost is not an issue, why prohibit the organization of female-only tournaments? Perhaps apportioning funds to female-only events according to the proportion of females in the CFC might be a fair compromise. (I.e. if 10% of CFC members are female, then give female-only championships 10% of the funding of open championships.)

Francisco Cabanas: Unlike Straw Vote topic 98-2 the wording is case needs considerable change before it can be presented as a motion. It is of course fine for a straw vote since it will give an indication on whether or not the Assembly wishes to have a woman's program. I ask the members to treat it as such and not be concerned about the picky details when voting on this straw vote. I will treat voting YES as a No to woman's only chess programs. I must mention that this wording as policy can lead to unintended results. In fact you can remove all references to women as different from men from the handbook and change the

constitution to prevent the passing motions which make any such distinctions in the future, and yet have a fully funded Women's Olympic Team! How? Consider the changing 2230 to read as follows:

2230 Support for other international events:

Where there are no rules for selection to a particular event, the President shall approach the highest rated player or players eligible to participate to determine if that player or those players wish to participate. The CFC will cover the travel expenses of the player or players.

I have done three things. First I have removed the President's discretion. Secondly allowed for team events and finally required the CFC rather than the players to pay the travel expenses. I certainly do not recommend that the Assembly change 2230 to read as above. In fact it will be very irresponsible to do so. Yet the wording as above will require the CFC to fund the Woman's Olympic team and does not conflict with the wording proposed in the Straw Vote Topic. We must consider that there is nothing "sexist" about the above wording and one can argue that the "sexism" is entirely on FIDE's part. All the CFC is doing is supporting Canadian Players in International Events. If the Assembly wishes to deny funding to players travelling women only events or to preclude Canada from sending representatives to such events removing all "sexist" language from the handbook, or blanket statements about "sexism" will not work as long as FIDE holds gender based events, or for that matter as long as organizers in Canada hold gender based events. We have to address these questions directly and not just in blanket statements.

In order to properly address this question we have to deal with the following questions:

1) Do we wish to deny funding or do we wish to deny participation as well as funding with respect to international events?

2) Do we wish to deny funding or do we wish to deny participation as well as funding with respect to national events?

3) Are we prepared to provide a structure for qualification to international events? A question as simple as identifying the highest rated woman for qualification to the world event. Providing rules for a Canadian woman's championship but no funding etc.

4) Are we going to provide any (even minimal assistance) to groups wishing to Canada's participation in FIDE gender based events? For example provide tax receipts to a Woman's chess fund, used for example to fund participation in Woman only FIDE events.

5) Are we prepared to rate gender based events? For example the BC under 12 girls championship etc.

6) Are we prepared to apply to FIDE for gender based titles? Or titles earned in "sexist" events? For example an IA norm earned by a Canadian Arbiter in a woman's only event outside of Canada.

7) What about a bid from Canada for a FIDE event that is "sexist"?

I will now express my observations on the whole woman's chess issue. My first comment is that this is a

subject where many if not most members of the Assembly have very strong feelings on both sides of the debate. For this reason there have been many attempts at compromise in an attempt to preserve harmony and avoid conflict. The unfortunate result of this is that woman's chess in Canada has been left in limbo and uncertainty resulting in a very ineffective yet expensive program. There is a very important principle here that the members of the Assembly must keep in mind. A woman cannot be half pregnant. Personally I do not have strong feelings whether or not we should send for example a Woman's Team to the Olympics, or hold a Canadian Woman's Championship. On the other hand I am very opposed to the CFC being involved with programs in a half hearted manner; consequently I am very displeased with the current situation regarding woman's chess. My hope is that this debate will lead to a clear resolution of these questions one way or the other. We must make a choice we make it a policy to send a Woman's Olympic Team every year or not. Both are perfectly reasonable options. Similarly for the Canadian Woman's Championship, etc. If we choose to have a woman's program we must fund it and support it properly. In particular I ask those members of the Assembly on the losing side to stand behind the result for the good of the CFC. We can have an ambitious woman's program, a modest one or none at all. The important thing is to stand 100% behind whatever parts (if any) of the woman's program we choose to keep.

Lyle Craver: Eliminating all mention of women in the Handbook would be a bad idea - quite apart from anything else it would eliminate all Canadian involvement in FIDE sponsored women's events. If an organizer wishes to organize women-only events he/she should be free to do so. This is no more discriminatory than the organization of junior or senior events.

On the whole 98-3 seems to be a solution in search of a problem - it's not even the usual Ontario attempt to impose a national solution on a local Toronto problem!

Deen Hergott: Our current policy is to follow the conventions of FIDE. Has anyone considered addressing FIDE directly on what many feel is an obvious case of sexual discrimination? Or other federations? At the very least, perhaps their responses would shed some light on new perspectives concerning this issue.

Lembit Joselin: Abstain

David Kenney: I agree that all distinctions between the sexes should be removed from the CFC Handbook. I can not think of any reason why there should be a distinction made between men and woman playing chess.

Alex Knox: To my knowledge, there is no difference between males and females, except sexual make-up, which is not of our doing. Therefore, eliminate the discriminatory practice. Right reason dictates chess as a mind challenge form does not recognize biology.

Herb Langer: Abstain - I agree that women should be treated equal. Would this create difficulties with FIDE? If so, I would recant and tolerate it until a solution is found -

either acceptance of women's equality in FIDE, or a new world organization that accepts it.

Ron Langill: I see no sense in this if it has the ramifications in it that Mr. Cabanas implies. I would not want to stop a women from competing in international women's events, just as I would not want to stop a junior from competing in junior events.

Miles Obradovich: This motion is too vague and should be withdrawn as it is capable of conflicting interpretation. Does the mover intend that the women's championship and Olympic team be eliminated or does he intend that they be funded in an identical amount and manner. To recognize the differences between men and women is only to state the obvious. To treat people inequitably because of their differences (whether sexual, racial, or otherwise) is discriminatory. In almost every sporting competition imaginable men and women compete separately. This is hardly considered discriminatory. The real problem in Canada is the wide disparity in participation rates as between men and women in chess. A Canadian women's chess federation would not be able to support these activities out of its own resources if constituted by the present women's membership. The question is whether they should be left to their own devices. The present wording in the constitution as it relates to the funding of the Olympic team is really not all that objectionable in the circumstances.

David Ottosen: Again, I am in favor. I once was supportive of Women's events, but the results were (and are) disheartening. No new women players are being attracted by the chance of winning a women's event, and the few that are held do not attract many people. By encouraging women to reach this (easier) goal, women set lower expectations of themselves (witness Manon Leger's interview in EP a few years back; "I couldn't possibly compete with the big guys"), and as with anyone who sets low expectations, they never fail to live down to them.

Peter Stockhausen: Yes - Let's discuss it

Brad Thomson: Mr. Cabañas comments with respect to 98-3 are appropriate and correct. There is no point in expending a great deal of time and effort in working out a motion to abolish sexism unless a consensus is reached to the effect that we should. And there are indeed, as the President has correctly pointed out, many ramifications that I had not considered, but that would have to be dealt with. If the general opinion of the assembly is in favour of abolishing sexism, then I shall seek a seconder for an appropriate motion.

OTHER COMMENTS

Grant Brown: I agree with Brad Thomson that all CFC dealings must be open. Accountability to the membership is a more important reason than legal requirements for this; but either reason is decisive.

I disagree with the idea of allowing the four Olympic Team members who are selected by rating to pick the other two members. There should be objective criteria in

place for all selections; at the very least, the selection criteria should be announced by whoever does the selecting.

I strongly urge the organizers of future Canadian Opens to hold a sectional tournament, even a sectional tournament with only 2 or 3 sections as opposed to the present format. It just makes no sense to be playing people 350 or more points out of one's own rating range, either higher or lower, half the time or more. Those A-class players who want the cheap thrill of playing a GM should take up sky-diving or race-car driving instead of chess.

I am much in favour of Jonathan Berry's idea of establishing a Chess Futures Committee. One specific suggestion I have is to find ways of rewarding organizers better than we presently do. Chess thrives when competent organizers can be found; it disappears when nobody takes the initiative to make chess attractive to old and prospective members alike.

Although most of Mr. Berry's response to my initial comments was flattering, I object to one comment: "Much of Grant's fiscal criticism is not much different from bashing the school system for losing money..." That was not the point at all. Rather, the point was that the average member pays over \$42 per year to the CFC just to cover overhead expenses. This is not a great deal. The cost relative to benefits received could very well be inhibiting potential players from joining the CFC, especially now that the FQE and Chess 'n' Math provide potentially more cost-effective alternatives. Cost is something we need to look at, I think.

Francisco Cabanas: There are various comments from Mr. Thomson that need to be addressed. First the suggestion of waiting until the FIDE world championship is over before planning the Canadian Closed and Zonal for the next cycle is a prescription for disaster. Why? Because with a two year cycle you allow for barely six months to plan the event in order to hold it in the Summer, to avoid winter travel, and before the FIDE deadline for the next cycle. One year lead time is the minimum with two years or more optimal.

The question of the attendance of governors at the CFC AGM is an important question, and apathy in the Assembly is a problem, but to ask for a resignation from governors that participate in the Canadian Open on the sole grounds that they were not present at the AGM is entirely inappropriate. First no consideration was given to the participation of these governors in the letters during the year. I know for a fact that one of the governors that Mr. Thomson refers to in his comments was actually very active in the discussions during the year. Holding the AGM during the first days of the Canadian Open is very stressful to any governor that also participates in the tournament; particularly when combined with two rounds on the Sunday and the jet lag of travelling to the event. Jet lag is a far greater problem when travelling east and is particularly a problem for players from the Pacific Time Zone (British Columbia and Yukon) playing in National Canadian Events. Jet lag when travelling east before a chess tournament in Canada is something a player who lives in Ontario seldom gets to experience. We must also keep in mind that the current format for the AGM keeps the governors from attending many of the side events at the Canadian Open. I have a personal experience in this regard at the 1994 Canadian Open, where I could not attend the lecture of a

Grandmaster who was analyzing my own game! Moving the AGM to the two days before the Canadian Open (the format used in Vancouver in 1982) was actually preferred by a majority of the governors that were present at the AGM. I respectfully suggest that before asking for the resignations of any governor or governors we actually take the time to look at all the issues involved. This is not as simple as it seems at first sight.

Lyle Craver: Given the demise of motion 97-10 due to non-action by the FQE it would seem any similar motion in response to action by the FQE would be a completely new motion of the Governors to be voted on the usual way. In general my read of the BC Governors is that such an action would be welcome though its passage would not be automatic by any means.

I agree with Mr. Thomson that more governors need to take part in discussions. I would point out that distribution of this particular Governors' Letter was badly flawed. I do not know whether this was due to the postal strike or some other reason, but I only got my copy by e-mail the day before the deadline. Hopefully this is a one-time only occurrence.

I also agree with Brad that holding the AGM before the Open is a terrible idea. As someone who has never been able to attend an AGM in the six years I have been a Governor and is looking forward to doing so in 1999 (when the Canadian Open is scheduled for Vancouver) I think such a move would be calculated to reduce rather than increase attendance at the meeting. I fail to see how this could be considered a good thing.

Alex Knox: The governors' letter makeup is poor compared to how it used to be. I resent having to decipher it, (spelling and grammar). Who actually is responsible for this?

Peter Stockhausen: 1, Brad comments re: governors attending Canadian Open but not annual meeting. One can understand Brad's dislike for the above happening. However, after playing in the 1997 Canadian Open, attending three days of Governors Meetings and one and a half days of Executive committee meetings I have lot of sympathy for those governors. Come to think of it, I might try this myself.

2, Brad comments on financial support by the CFC to the 1999 Canadian Open. It is very easy to make sweeping comments such as: "...I oppose the payment of any money at all to the organizers including concession fees for the CFC store on site..." "The CFC cannot afford such luxury." "The Canadian Open is our "showcase" event." "...ought it not to make the CFC money, rather than bankrupt it?" "It would be better to have no event than to lose money on it." It is quite something else to marshal coherent arguments to support the above statements and to outline alternative proposals on how the CFC can better invest it's funds to promote chess at large. If so, where should the money be spent?? For example, who should pay for the space rental for a CFC store at a Canadian Open?? If, as Brad proposes, the CFC should invest absolutely nothing in the Canadian Opens, why should it reap any potential benefits?? If the Canadian Open is a "showcase" event, what constitutes "showcase"? Is it the name of the event only or are there qualitative and

quantitative benchmarks to be met before the term "showcase" applies? Maybe Brad can share with us his business plan including a detailed rationale and budget on how a "showcase" Canadian Open can make money for the CFC. I would be particularly interested in hearing his proposed approaches to potential corporate advertisers, government agencies, etc. Brad, in your mind if we had a Canadian Open in which players from all or most Canadian provinces compete, in which f class players are as represented as GMs, an event which attracts newcomers to the CFC, an event which gives chess another boost in the community in which it is held, an event in which many chess players of other countries participate and have only praise for that chess event, an event in which the CFC store sells+-\$10,000 worth of material mainly to local participants and prize winners, if that event were to cost the CFC say \$2,000 after all debits and credits are accounted for, would this be a poor investment in your opinion? If so, how could the CFC better invest the \$2,000 given it's constitutional mandate??

3, Single Section Canadian Open, Jonathan Berry's comments The 1997 Canadian Open did not produce a norm. Mr. Berry's explanation of this fact, in my opinion, is incomplete, misleading and dishonest. So lets complete the list of reasons : -there where only 3IMs competing. Far too few. One should have about the same # of GMs and IM's. - there where only 5 or 6 FM's. Again, way too few. - a number of the strong players took a bye in the first few rounds or lost/drew a game in the first few rounds. -I am not sure we "maximized" our pairing opportunities in the early rounds. In particular Mr. Sashikiran in round 3, Mr. Nickoloff in round 4 and Mr. Hergott in round 3. Maybe somebody (Phil are you there??) can do a forensic on this. Because if we missed some legal pairing opportunities there, we can learn from them and hopefully prevent them from occurring in future events. -too few FIDE rated experts and masters participated. I do not know what the ratio of "norms made" vs. "norm opportunities" is. Maybe 5:95, maybe even less. If so, making "a norm" is a statistical anomaly or "fluke", anywhere, anytime. So North Bay had 1 norm and 1 almost norm in two attempts. Winnipeg had 0 norm and 1 almost norm (Ben Finegold '94) in two attempts. What is your point?? It is probably more likely to make a norm in a closed or restricted event than in an open event.

Jon's next comment makes no sense. How can a clause in a contract between two parties constitute "tantamount to false advertising"? The term used in the contract is actually a correct legal description of what the organizers attempt to do. If the same term would be used in an advertising piece, it would actually be correct and legal as well. Jonathan, do your homework.

Regarding your next question, let me assure you Jonathan that this Organizing Committee will leave no rock unturned to devise the most illogical, illegal, unusual and counterproductive pairing system ever devised. We will go out of our way to make sure that whatever happened in 1976 in whatever tournament will be exceeded by far. We have a whole historical committee working on it full-time. Under no circumstances will any committee, august or not, be advised in advance of our efforts. In order to make this perfectly fair to everybody, everybody will be equally surprised. I trust this will reassure you:)

Why, in your mind, are norms a "motherhood" issue? What actually is a "motherhood" issue? The CFC is here to promote chess. 98% of its current and future members will never come close to a "Norm". The CFC should use 98% of it's resources, fiscal and human, to the segment rated below 2200.

You obviously have not read the budgets and actual expenditure listings of the 1994, 1997 and 1999 Canadian Opens. If you do, you will discover that whatever the CFC contributed (s) to these events is insufficient to even attract 3GMs, let alone 10 or 11.

The CFC's contribution tends to go to securing a good site, pay for the store rental, defray advertising and rating costs. These contributions benefit all players.

I would love to see a detailed business plan by Jonathan Berry on how to run annual Canadian Opens that produce a profit for the CFC. Again, I am left wondering why anybody would think that the CFC is entitled to benefit from an event that in their mind, the CFC should not support?

Brad Thomson: With respect to the President's Message(s) in the previous GL, I would like to make the following observations:

It comes as no surprise that the FQE has done nothing with respect to 97-10, and that the deadline has expired. This, sadly, is quite typical of the manner in which the FQE has treated the CFC over the years. I do not feel it to be appropriate for another vote on the issue to take place. We did our part in good faith, and once again the FQE has lied to us. They are a rival, hostile, separatist organization and we ought to treat them as such. Their pattern of behaviour has not changed. I would also question the judgment of the President when he informed the FQE that the CFC would be prepared to vote on the motion again. The motion is dead and gone. It should have to be reintroduced and go through the normal period of discussion. Since when are motions, regardless of whether they are similar or identical to a previously voted upon motion, voted upon without due process? Given the fact that the FQE has once again bargained in bad faith, and the fact that the President chooses to continue with his illegitimate attempt at the implementation of 97-10 nonetheless, I feel obliged to reveal a heretofore unpublicized fact concerning the matter.

Shortly after the meeting in which the initial agreement was worked out, I received a call from Mr. Bérubé. He stated that the agreement, as described in the minutes of the meeting that I kept, was in error. During discussions, the FQE agreed to do their utmost to encourage all Quebec organizers to have all of their events rated CFC. This was documented by Tom O'Donnell at the meeting, and was read by the FQE representatives before the meeting was adjourned. When Mr. Bérubé called he stated emphatically that this had not been part of the agreement. In short, he lied. I immediately called President Cabañas and informed him of the conversation that I had had. I asked him if I should indicate in the GL that the FQE had performed this about-face. I was instructed to ask the other CFC representatives who were at the meeting if they had the same recollection as I, which recollection was shared by the President. Maurice Smith, Tom O'Donnell and Troy Vail all had the same recollection. I was also instructed by the

President not to inform the assembly of this fact unless it was gotten in writing. Subsequent to this, I spoke again with Mr. Bérubé and asked that their version be provided in writing. As it was not forthcoming, I respected the wishes of the President, and did not reveal this act of bad faith on the part of the FQE to the assembly. In light of all of this, I would like to ask the President if he still intends to go ahead with an attempt at implementing 97-10, and if the answer is to this question is yes, then I would like to ask him why.

I commend the President for attending the FIDE meeting in Kishinev. Phil Haley has done a tremendous amount to make Canada a well-respected voice in international chess, and the presence of our President at the meeting is very encouraging.

With respect to the matter of the 1996 Closed and Zonal, I accept the President's contention that I should have addressed the question to Mr. Farges, who was President at the time. Therefore, I ask Mr. Farges, who voted on the issue, and what were their votes? I applaud the President for indicating that he will address the issue after Mr. Farges has had a chance to comment. I trust that this means Mr. Cabañas will comment regardless of whether or not Mr. Farges avails himself of the opportunity. I must say however, that the point of my initial concern has been lost in the shuffle. It was neither my intention to beat a dead horse, nor to criticize any specific individual. It was rather to object to the current President's previous statement that some matters must remain confidential. Openness and accountability are necessary in our executive, and I have brought forth the example of the 1996 Closed only to demonstrate what can happen (specifically the expenditure of \$6500 to line people up to represent Canada internationally) when an open and fully accountable executive is not present, or even required. If I may speculate, I suspect that at the time Mr. Farges obtained a positive vote from Mr. Cabañas and from Mr. Quiring. Along with his own vote he had totaled three out of the possible five (notwithstanding the existence of the past-president), meaning that the issue would carry even if the other two (three?) members of the executive cast negative votes. For this reason, I suspect, Mr. Farges did not bother to consult the other two (three?) members of the executive. This would also explain why then-governor Mr. O'Donnell's request for the vote to be made known in the GL was not forthcoming. The 1996 Closed, then, would have gone ahead regardless (?), but the manner in which the dealings took place is quite underhanded. If it were mandatory that all executive votes be recorded in the GL, then such a debacle could not take place. I request their opinions on this from all current executive members, and I ask them further if they intend to be publicly accountable for their decisions?

Can we get an update on the status of the 1998 Canadian Open please?

There was no Business Office Report in the last GL. I am of the opinion that there should be one in each GL.

I would like to thank and commend Jonathan Berry for his comments with respect to norm possibilities at the Canadian Open. As usual his logic, though generally expressed somewhat tersely, is quite impeccable. To denude the Open of the opportunity for all of us to get a game with a grandmaster so as to allow for such very scant norm possibilities, is not in my view, a good idea. To be sure one

of the drawbacks is, as Mr. Berry so eloquently puts it, the "yo-yo" effect, but so be it. Given Mr. Berry's immense expertise on these matters, I would like to ask him the following question. Is there any way to overcome the yo-yo effect, and yet still maintain the one-section philosophy that allows all of us a chance to get a game with a grandmaster?

With respect to the entire notion of a "Certificate Program," it stinks! The argument that the chess-playing abilities of the players should be recognized does not carry any weight when the simple fact of the matter is that the vast majority of the players don't care about it in the first place. Apart from this, the monetary costs, man-hours and administrative nightmares that such a program would cause are far beyond any minimal benefits that would result. If a player really wants a certificate, then there is already a mechanism in place for him or her to obtain one. This is sufficient. To automatically provide one to everyone is an utterly absurd idea, and belongs in the bottom of the garbage pail, where most of the certificates would end up anyway, if such a program were to be fully introduced. Let's reject this idea once and for all and get on with more important chess matters.

NEW STRAW VOTE TOPIC:

98-4 (Gordon Taylor) Moved that with each new Governors' Letter, the CFC Executive be required to report to the Board of Governors on all motions passed by the Executive.

Discussion:

In GL#2 Brad Thomson wrote: "All Executive votes ought to appear in the Governors' Letter. Accountability must be maintained. And the laws that govern the land must be adhered to."

I'm not sure what was meant by the last sentence but I am in full agreement on the first two.

Last year I went to some effort to obtain a response from the Executive to a number of questions that had been "taken under consideration" at the 1996 Annual Meeting. After four GLs and no mention of these, I made my request explicit in GL#5 (March 1997) and finally got a response with GL#6 (May 1997). What then surprised me was that our Secretary, John Quiring, also gave us a complete(?) list of all the matters that had been considered by the Executive. This was most welcome, though unexpected. It showed that quite a number of decisions had been made by the Executive that the Board of Governors had not been informed of (until then). For me that was quite troubling. The Executive should not be conducting their business in secret and the Governors have a right to learn of all matters passed (if not considered) by the Executive in a timely manner. What do you think?

[illegible]

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES IS February 28th, 1998

CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER FOUR 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

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 if interested.

Deadline for next Governors' Letter is April 19th, 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this message I will begin by addressing the CFC - FQE question. First I will inform the Assembly that FQE has chosen not to ratify 97-10. The second development is the "Future of Chess in Canada" document that the FQE has circulated to the members of the Assembly. It is first important to clarify the current policy of both the CFC and FIDE with respect to the central proposal of this report namely the concept of a separate FQE as a federation in FIDE while Quebec is a province in Canada. The official position of the CFC is clear from reading the Letters Patent of the CFC (page 2-1) of the CFC handbook. The answer to this document has to be NO. Any changes to this policy require as a minimum the amendment of the Letters Patent of the CFC and many other sections of the Constitution. I do not recommend any such changes. The position of FIDE is also clear from reading both the comments in this letter and the FIDE report in EP #147 (December 1997) of Mr. Haley. I will repeat them here for further clarification: "It should be noted that to be accepted as a FIDE member one of the following criteria must be met...(a) be a member previously recognized by FIDE; (b) be a member of the International Olympic Association or (c) be a member state of the United Nations". Since Quebec does not meet any of the above criteria the answer from FIDE has to be NO. It goes without saying that if Quebec were to become an independent nation state separate from Canada then the answer in both cases would be YES. The question that now arises is where do we go from here? The answer is really quite simple. As far as the FQE is concerned the only logical course of action is to agree to disagree. As far as policy towards Quebec is concerned the best course of action is to follow our constitutional mandate while being open to cooperation with the FQE. We must recognize that there is large potential for the CFC in Quebec without competing with the FQE! The Championnat Ouvert de L'Outaouais rated both CFC and FQE in all sections is a perfect example. If this tournament were only to be CFC or FQE rated it would have a fraction of its current attendance. There are many services that the CFC provides in which the FQE has no interest and vice versa. There is no need to spend endless time and energy on never-ending negotiations or in attempts to extract funds from Quebec chessplayers as has been tried for nearly a quarter of a century with little or no success. This time and energy is better spent on promoting chess in ALL the provinces and territories of Canada.

I will now address some common misconceptions regarding the AEM. First it is by no means the only Scholastic Chess Organization in Canada. There are parts of Canada where scholastic tournaments are CFC rated and have been for years. There is actually no justification for a separate rating system for children. This is a needless duplication of resources that only causes confusion among young chessplayers. We must also keep in mind that there are other areas where major scholastic tournaments are run that are neither CFC nor AEM rated. London Ontario is a perfect example. Over 1600 players in one tournament. Secondly this is an organization that says one thing and then does something entirely different. For example: Anyone who reads *Échec plus* numbers 118 (number 118 is the most recent issue referred to in the Business Office report) and

114 must wonder why an organization that is supposedly dedicated to scholastic chess takes over the Ligue d'Échecs de Montréal. This is an adult league that accounts for approximately 50 % of the FQE's membership. The business side of this organization has been well covered in the business office report but there is a lot more to the AEM that meets the eye. It is very important that we get the answers to many questions first before engaging in any serious negotiations with the AEM. My final comment on this subject is that I would welcome any comments position papers etc from the AEM for distribution to the Assembly since this might provide some answers to many questions.

The next item is the Woman's Team. The executive has passed a motion that we will not be sending a Woman's Team to the upcoming Chess Olympiad in Russia. This is due to financial considerations under section 1202 of the handbook. I must emphasize that it is my strong recommendation that the Assembly make a clear policy regarding the Woman's team for subsequent Olympiads.

My final comment in this message is that I will not be running for a third term as President. This is due to my personal time commitments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I must advise the members of the Assembly that Mr. Phil Haley has recently been seriously ill. He has had multiple heart bypass surgery. The good news is that he seems to be recovering well now. I am sure the members of the Assembly will join me in wishing Phil a speedy and complete recovery.

ANSWERS TO MEMBERS

I will address Mr. Thomson's allegations. What I find most disturbing is that he offers no proof and yet is quite prepared to call me a liar. The reality is that his allegations are entirely without foundation. If he simply takes the time to actually read the report he wrote when he was an employee of the CFC, compare that report with the wording in motion 97-10 and then compare, both with his comments in both GL #3 and GL #4 he will find the following. That wording in 97-10 regarding the FQE's commitments are faithfully represents the wording in his report. That what he said the FQE agreed to in GL#3 regarding these commitments is quite different from his original report. Finally the most bizarre fact of all is that what he said the FQE agreed to GL#4 differs from both what he said they agreed to in GL#3 and his original report. Unlike Mr. Thomson I am prepared to offer proof of my statements. The proof will consist of quoting all the relevant passages. First I offer the reader the excerpt from Mr. Thomson's report on the FQE - CFC meeting. This is from GL #4 1996 -97. This is form what Mr. Thomson calls the "draft agreement"

"4) The FQE agrees to rate 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."

Rate above refers to CFC rating this was never disputed. I now include the relevant excerpt from 97-10. This is also from GL#4 As the reader can see this reflects faithfully the provisions of the draft agreement.

“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.”

We now enter into the land of the bizarre. According to Mr. Thomson in GL# 3 1997-98 the FQE agreed to something quite different.

“Shortly after the meeting in which the initial agreement was worked out, I received a call from Mr. Bérubé. He stated that the agreement, as described in the minutes of the meeting that I kept, was in error. During discussions, the FQE agreed to do their utmost to encourage all Quebec organizers to have all of their events rated CFC. This was documented by Tom O'Donnell at the meeting, and was read by the FQE representatives before the meeting was adjourned. When Mr. Bérubé called he stated emphatically that this had not been part of the agreement”

It is quite obvious that “recommend” and “do their utmost” have very different meanings in this context. Furthermore the FQE never agreed to rate CFC all the sections of their events as Mr. Thomson implies, only the top sections. In this governor's letter Mr. Thomson provides a yet different wording as follows:

“Secondly, the draft agreement had a clause in it which did not appear in the motion, or in the explanation of it, that being the initial stipulation on the part of the FQE that they would encourage all of their organizers to rate all of their events CFC”

I can only conclude that Mr. Thomson imagined that the FQE said something very different from what they actually said at the meeting and has then proceeded to make wild accusations of dishonesty when the facts turned out to be different from his imagination. It goes without saying that there is nothing in his unfounded accusations that would justify me making any apologies or taking any other such action.

With respect to Mr. Bowerman's comments I must state that it is not justified at all for him to resign over his lack of attendance at the 1997 AGM. It is Mr. Thomson who has acted very inappropriately in calling for his resignation without even having the decency in this case to mention Mr. Bowerman's name.

STRAW VOTES

I respectfully remind the members that 98-2, 98-3, and 98-4 are straw vote topics. As such I urge the members to consider the general principles as opposed to very specific wording issues when considering your votes. If the response to one or more of these topics is favorable then a formal

motion or motions for inclusion in the handbook can be presented.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

In this report from the business office, I will address the recent problems with Chess'n Math, or more importantly the existing misconceptions. Firstly, let me make one point clear, there is NO PRICE WAR with Chess'n Math from the vantage point of the business office. The 1998 CFC Catalogue had many reduced prices. This was nothing more than passing onto our members the benefits of efficiencies in our operations. Better supplier deals and other cost saving measures were being passed along to our membership. Our prices have historically been equal to and for the most part lower than that of Chess'n Math. Why would the CFC (as many people seem to think) lower our prices to compete with a company whose prices were already higher than ours? There is no logic in this perception. CFC prices are based solely on internal factors such as the cost to us, recommended retail price and inventory carrying costs. In short, if Chess'n Math were to disappear from the chess scene tomorrow, our prices would not change.

From the Chess'n Math side of the fence, there appears to be a very large movement in effect to either destroy or hurt the Chess Federation of Canada. They have released a catalogue specifically to CFC members with some prices reduced to the point that they are likely below costs, after taking into account operating expenses. Why have they done this? Simply to punish the CFC for entering into what Chess'n Math deems as their territory (the school market). Even though the CFC's program doesn't employ teachers like Chess'n Math does or advertise directly to Chess'n Math customers, we are considered to be “competing” with them. If anything, the CFC's program opens up an entirely new market to Chess'n Maths instructors. The CFC is initiating the process with the basic training manual. As students progress beyond the manual they may well look for more advanced teachings. Even when armed with this information the Chess'n Math organization still prefers to adopt a heavy-handed approach for its perceived view of the CFC's encroachment into what they consider their sovereign market.

Historically, we see a very different picture of reactions from the Chess Federation of Canada to Chess'n Math. When Chess'n Math started carrying books such as *Mastering the French* or *The Giuoco Piano*, books that are clearly aimed towards stronger tournament players, the CFC did not react. When Chess'n Math, an organization that proclaims its market is junior chess, starts selling at CFC rated events that are primarily adult tournaments the CFC did not react. Some people might think that no reaction to these occurrences was a mistake and they may right, but it was our belief that if someone was promoting chess in Canada without severely undermining the CFC then it was good for chess.

Larry Bevand commented in the most recent issue of *Échec Plus* that his price strategy is no different than when a gas station sells at one price in a city to combat a competitor, while others in the same chain sell higher throughout the rest of the country. This is Larry's philosophy, but I can be sure that any member of the CFC

would object to paying \$69.95 for a chess clock, while the CFC is selling the same item for \$42.50 in Montreal so we can battle another organization. It would mean that we were gouging our members to fund putting a competitor out of business. Most governors would agree that this is a very distasteful and unacceptable practice and it gets worse. If someone walks into the Toronto Chess Shop to buy the above-mentioned clock, it'll cost them \$69.95 unless the specifically mention the CFC, then it will cost them \$42.50, so it isn't even consistent from the same location! I think this proves that if the CFC were to stop selling books and equipment, Chess'n Math would instantly increase their prices.

The preceding information clearly indicates that the commonly held belief that there is a price war is simply a myth. The CFC is doing business as usual and doing everything in its power to fulfill its mandate, while Chess'n Math has clearly launched an attack on this organization. Our hope is that our members will remain affiliated with an organization that offers a complete gamut of services to everyone on an equal basis, regardless of what part of the country you live in.

You may be aware, the Ontario Chess Association recently permitted the Chess'n Math catalogue to be mailed out to CFC members within the province of Ontario. The ramifications of these actions on the CFC resulted in overall decreased sales in the province of Ontario of over 12% since the beginning of December. I find it very disturbing that one of the CFC's own affiliated organizations has led directly to the loss of revenue and I am wondering if the governors are of the same opinion.

As always, I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Troy Vail
Executive Director

VOTE ON MOTION 98-1

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".

Yes: Ron Langill, Terry Fleming, Alex Knox, Herb Langer, Brad Thomson, Glenn Charlton, Hugh Brodie, Jacques Blanchette, Phil Haley, Miles Obradovich, Roger Langen, Richard Martin, Gordon Taylor, Ford Wong, Jonathan Berry, Francisco Cabanas, Lyle Craver, David Kenney, Denis Allen, Deen Hergott, Dan Majstorovic, Maurice Smith, David Ottosen, John Puusa, Vojin Vujosevic.

No: Peter Stockhausen

Abstain: J.Ken MacDonald, Walter Watson
Motion fails due to lack of quorum.

Denis Allen: The result of having sometimes a 6 person executive is not satisfactory if it results in possibly deadlocked positions. It is not sufficient to say that a motion fails on a tie vote. I.E. if there is a question of which of two players may qualify for something, a decision must be reached. Should the success of a "motion" depend on how it is expressed, i.e. in a positive or negative way? So this aspect should be considered further. I suggest two possibilities. One is that when there is a six person

executive, some other officer, perhaps the junior co-ordinator casts a decisive vote. My preference would be that on a tie vote, the vote of the president is decisive.

Bob Bowerman: This seems useful in terms of maintaining continuity.

John Puusa: I see no reason not to support this motion. A good housekeeping measure by Governors Taylor and Burgess.

Walter Watson: I'm more concerned about the practice of giving former Presidents a lifetime position as governor. Many of the former Presidents contribute largely to CFC business but some don't, and those that do contribute should be chosen yearly the same as everyone else. Apart from leaving some deadwood in as governors, the current practice produces provincial inequities. Some provinces have fewer governors in total than other provinces have sitting as former Presidents.

2ND DISCUSSION OF STRAW VOTE 98-2

98-2 (Brad Thomson) Moved, that the following section be added to the CFC Handbook:

817. Dress Code

All participants, the Tournament Director, persons assigned to demo-boards and any other individuals visibly associated with the competition during the playing of games shall dress in a proper manner. Running shoes, jeans, shorts, T-shirts and any tattered or unclean clothing are not proper. Suits are preferable, while neat, clean casual wear is the minimum acceptable standard.

The Tournament Director shall ensure that proper dress standards are upheld. If a player is improperly attired, he or she will be asked to change. The rules in place for dealing with a player who arrives late shall be in effect for a player told to leave and return only when properly attired.

Brad Thomson: The President has suggested a revision of the motion which I generally consider to be better, since it represents a clear improvement based upon the legitimate points that he and others have raised. But I would like to offer one further amendment. The motion might now run as follows:

817 Dress Code

All participants, the Tournament Director, persons assigned to demo-boards and any other individuals visibly associated with the competition during the playing of games shall dress in a proper, businesslike manner. A proper businesslike manner shall refer to the typical dress standards for the employees in an office environment of the sponsor(s) or potential sponsor(s) of the event. Or, if the sponsor(s) or potential sponsor(s) should so choose, it shall refer to the requirements for dress mandated by the sponsor(s) or potential sponsor(s) of the event.

The Tournament Director shall ensure that proper dress standards are upheld. If a player is improperly attired, he or she will be asked to change. The rules in place for dealing with a player who arrives late shall be in effect for a player told to leave and return only when properly attired

I will now turn my attention to some of the specific comments. The President is correct when he suggests that it

is impossible to legislate style. And he is correct to resist a specific list of what is and what is not to be allowed, and to suggest that there could be discrepancies between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law if things aren't worded carefully. I applaud his use of the term, *businesslike*, and his definition of it. But I have chosen to add another sentence, which would give sponsors the right to decide what they want the players to wear, if such does not coincide with what their employees wear when they show up to work. Concerning Deen Hergott's comments, all ironies aside, "the more basic issues of tournament site, playing conditions, accommodation, prize fund, etc." are not at all likely to come about without corporate sponsorships existing in the first place, and the motion is designed to better avail ourselves of the opportunity. Lyle Craver and Alex Knox express concern that the code not be made too harsh. I believe that the new wording now addresses that concern adequately. Finally, I thank all governors for their valuable comments.

Denis Allen: Potential sponsors should be protected from seeing open tournaments, where the general state of dress is appalling. I agree that for the Closed, some dress code is desirable. Perhaps the motion should permit the bidder for the Closed to include a dress code, worded in a way they think is enforceable, in the bid.

Jonathan Berry: No. I would consider a motion which would allow the organizers of a Canadian Closed to specify the attire of the players, providing the organizers provided or paid for the clothes, or provided each player with an appropriate appearance fee.

Jacques Blanchette: I agree if this is limited to the Canadian Closed, but would strongly disagree if it would include all CFC events as it would surely result in players not showing up for tournaments.

Bob Bowerman: I am not sure if this would have the desired effect of increasing corporate sponsorship or not. Sponsors are attracted to high profile events -- the Canadian Chess Championship is regrettably not of general interest to the public at large who are generally unable to appreciate chess at this level. This is why golf tournaments attract all kinds of sponsors and chess tournaments do not.

There are many golfers who can appreciate and enjoy watching a golf tourney in person or on T.V. but there are not so many tournament chess players who can do the same. It would be a different matter if there were 100,000 or even 50,000 tournament players. If one really wants to attract corporate sponsors then you need to increase CFC membership. This being said it is true that a bunch of scruffy looking chess players is certainly a turnoff to the suits that tend to run corporate Canada. I would welcome the opinions of our elite players who are after all those most effected by such a code -- is it worth the trouble? I would tend to abide by the consensus among those most effected.

Hugh Brodie: I agree with what Miles Obradovich said in the last GL. He said "I think it somewhat askance to ask the players to abide by certain standards but not impose similar conditions concerning the tournament hall, playing

conditions, organization of publicity, the welfare of the players during the tournament etc."

Definitely we cannot apply a "double standard" here. Maybe the players would voluntarily agree to some sort of dress code if the event were held in appropriate surroundings.

Lyle Craver: No - no comments to add beyond what I said last time.

David Kenney: If this motion applies only to the Canadian Closed Championship, then I would be inclined to give my support for the establishment of some form of a dress code. However, if a formal dress code was proposed for local tournaments then I would have serious concerns about this issue. The actual wording of this motion may have to be changed somewhat in order to provide flexibility in changing dress standards.

Alex Knox: Moderation is acceptable for dress code. Too high standards discourage. Organizer/TD discretion on scene can prevail in this matter.

Phil Haley: Although the intent of this motion is clearly good and should be supported in general terms I would suggest that any motion going to vote on this subject should provide for only a warning the first time a person arrives improperly attired rather than telling the player to leave and return only when suitably dressed. Asking the player to leave and return only when properly attired should only be done if the same player arrived for a subsequent round improperly attired after having received a warning in the previous round. Note that at the World Championship knockout event in Groningen, all of the players were neatly clothed but this did not mean that they were wearing a suit or even a tie.

Roger Langen: I concur with remarks made by Alex Knox and Miles Obradovich: that a dress code be the responsibility of the tournament organizers and/or bidders. I therefore oppose the Motion.

Herb Langer: Abstain. It is wrong to discriminate on the basis of dress -- however, the right to impose a clearly defined minimum standard is not only allowable, it is expected. The CFC should set a standard and allow TD/Org the right to impose it. The CFC should also provide the means to procure a minimum standard of dress by selling the products that are acceptable... is this the direction we want to go in? (I like Mr. Cabanas suggestion)

Dan Majstorovic: Yes, if the mover will agree to the friendly amendment which would state the proviso that only the most important tournaments would be considered. I would leave it to the Assembly to decide which these are. I would add that for a long time now I have been a very strong supporter of this idea, as chess indeed needs to earn a much more favourable image in the eyes of the public, and more importantly, in those of the potential sponsors.

I wish to warmly thank the governor for keeping this in mind while recognizing a delicate nature of this matter. The best way, as usual, is to lead with our own

examples and influences that start in our clubs with people we know. A change of attitude takes sometimes a long time to occur.

Richard Martin: In major tournaments where corporate funding is present, I think it would be most appropriate for a standardized dress code: but you cannot leave this to the determination of the participants or the subsequent interpretation by tournament officials. For an example, look at the PGA Golf Tournaments: do players decide how they should be dressed? Of course not – sponsors provide clothing, which is deemed appropriate, and the players are obligated to wear it. Tiger Woods, for example, receives millions of dollars to wear Nike adorned apparel and thus his dress code is already determined – he can choose which one of the hundreds of sweaters made available he would like to wear. Thus, his dress code is already set. Perhaps in the future, this could be a consideration when talking to corporate sponsors – if they are concerned about the appearance of players and how it might affect their corporate image then they (the sponsor) should consider providing suitable clothes, as mutually agreed upon by them and the tournament officials. It would be the responsibility of the tournament officials to ensure player compliance.

John Puusa: I commend Governor Thomson for his good intentions but feel that 98-2 is too harsh and authoritarian. I feel that common sense should prevail and that tournament directors/organizers should set out the dress code in their tournament advertising. The only exception, perhaps, might apply to the Canadian Closed and the Canadian Women's Championship since these are CFC-controlled national championships. Some organizations do have dress codes. The former North York Public Library in the new City of Toronto implemented a dress code as part of its Rules of Conduct requiring that "Shoes and shirts must be worn" in the library.

Peter Stockhausen: Yes.

Gordon Taylor: I don't think I can support this proposal. The intent is good, and since it would be added to Section 8 of the Handbook, it would only apply to National Championships, which I take to mean only the Men's and Women's Closed Championships and not the junior events. However, I think this matter is better left to the event organizers and the players. Even then it would be bad to give the organizers carte blanche. The way things are going we could have a Closed with a \$100 total prize fund but a formal dress requirement. The only participants would be local players who already owned a tux. On the other hand, if some sponsor can be found who guarantees \$50,000 in prizes and wants the players to dress well, and this is presented to the players as a pre-condition, then I believe the players can oblige. But to install this "question of good taste" in the Handbook seems to me to be rather heavy handed.

Vojin Vujosevic: Dress Code should be a guideline and left to the organizers to enforce.

Walter Watson: I'd like to know whether prospective Canadian Closed players feel that dress restrictions would be worth the prospect of attracting sponsors and increasing the prize fund. After all, they're mostly the ones affected. Also, it's possible that some impoverished Closed entrant might have trouble meeting a dress code. At the Alberta Closed level, this could certainly be a factor.

Ford Wong: I assume that this pertains only to the Canadian Closed and am in agreement if this is so.

2ND DISCUSSION OF STRAW VOTE 98-3

98-3 (Brad Thomson): Moved, that the CFC cease and desist from sexual discrimination, and that all distinctions between the sexes be removed from the Handbook.

Brad Thomson: I commend the President for having done considerable thinking on this issue. I would like to address the seven questions that he asks, since they are quite insightful and will help to clarify matters, but first shall quote rule 2230 as it *actually* reads, since it will provide assistance in the answering of his questions.

2230. Support for Other International Events

Where there are no rules in place for selection to a particular event, the President may approach the highest rated player eligible to participate and determine if that player wishes to take part at his/her own expense.

The President first asks, with respect to international events, do we wish to deny only funding or do we wish also to deny participation? As 2230 indicates, we deny only funding. If our top-rated female wants to play internationally then that's fine. But we aren't paying. If our top four women all want to pay their own way to the Olympiad, then that's fine too. But again, we aren't paying. And if our top female under the age of twelve wants to play in the World Youth Chess Championships, then the same reasoning applies.

The President then asks the same question with respect to national events. The answer is simple. If the CFC ceases and desists from discrimination based solely upon sex, then it no longer sanctions events that are open only to women. Of course, if any organizer wants to hold an event and invite only women to play, then we'll still rate it and treat it in the usual manner. But we will not recognize it as any sort of national championship.

The third question asks if we are prepared to provide a structure for qualification to international events? I submit that 2230 does just that, in clear and unequivocal language.

Fourth, the President asks if the CFC shall provide any minimal assistance to individuals wanting to participate in women's events worldwide, specifically, for example, issuing tax receipts for donation to a women's fund? This is a more difficult question to answer. 2230 demonstrates some minimal assistance, and of course, pursuant to this, the business office would do the paperwork involved in entering these persons into the international events. The CFC should not, however, pay the entry fee, or anything else. This would amount to condoning sexism. One might argue here that the offering of any minimal assistance at all is sexist, but I would disagree. If one of our players wants to pay their own expenses to compete in an international event, then the

mandate of the CFC is to help them. Organizers in Canada, and all over the world are free to run women's only events. Our goal is to avoid being sexist ourselves, but we cannot legislate for others. With respect to the notion of tax receipts for a hypothetical women's fund, why not?

The fifth question has already been answered. Yes, we will rate gender based events. But we will never fund them, nor sanction them as any kind of national championship.

The sixth question asks if we are to be prepared to apply to FIDE for gender based titles? Of course, but we don't pay, the player does. Again, we cannot legislate sexism out of chess internationally, nor out of the minds of some of our players nationally. But we shall not sanction and condone such activity by spending money on it.

Finally, the President asks about a bid from Canada for a FIDE event that is gender based? This question has already been answered. Organizers can do what they want to, and FIDE can do what it wants to. But the CFC offers no financial support, because it will not condone sexism.

The President concludes with valuable comments, though he states that he has no strong feelings on the issue. But he makes it clear, and I agree, that we should either fully support or fully reject a women's program, rather than leave it in a state of half hearted limbo. But the fact remains that the entire notion of men being better at chess than women is absurd. Hence to discriminate is sexist. And sexism should be abolished.

(There is also the secondary argument that we cannot afford to have a fully supported women's program. We have less than one hundred female members and the scant revenues generated from them is not sufficient to run the current programs, let alone what we would deem to be full ones. This means that some of the funding comes from the men's side of the equation. So now the men are being discriminated against simply and only because there are not enough female players to support a female program on the revenues obtained from females. While tenable, these sorts of arguments neglect to treat the higher issue, which is simply the proposition that discrimination based upon sex is wrong. Plain and simple.)

I will now address some of the other members' comments. Lyle Craver expresses the concern that we will tie the hands of organizers who may wish to hold gender based events. These concerns have been addressed. Deen Hergott suggest we consider addressing FIDE and other federations on the issue. No. We can only legislate ourselves, and we ought to take the high road irrespective of whether or not anyone else does. Herb Langer wonders if we might cause problems to our relationship with FIDE if we were to abolish sexism? Not given the considerations outlined above. FIDE does not and cannot legislate ourselves. Whether or not to have a women's program is up to us. Ron Langill voiced concern that the abolishment of sexism would prevent any women from representing Canada internationally. But we have learned that this would not be the case.

To conclude, I again commend the President for his work with respect to this motion. It has provided me with the opportunity to better understand what I was suggesting, to address the issues carefully, and to clarify them. I look

forward to the next round of commentary. All governors who took the time to comment are to be thanked.

Denis Allen: This motion is ill conceived since the C.F.C. does not practice "sexual discrimination." "Affirmative action" programs can be discriminatory if they displace persons who would otherwise qualify. For example, a rule which said that one or more places in the Closed must be given to female players would be discriminatory. That is similar to the former rule about one place on the Olympic team being for a young player. Such rules can sometimes be justified, but on the surface they are discriminatory. A completely separate program does not operate in this way. I recall someone at the 1995 AGM stating that since he could not play on the womens team, he was the subject of discrimination, but let's not waste time on nonsensical arguments like that.

Brad's own commentary to his motion, re inherent capability, is very much to the point. In 1983 Nava wrote an article for *En Passant* which cited an exhaustive study by John Hopkins of 35,000 children which showed that there is a clear difference between the sexes in brain functioning. Males are stronger in functions controlled by the right side of the brain and females are stronger in functions controlled by the left side, in particular verbal skills. The purpose of Nava's article was to explain why women's programs should be supported. The same issue arose at the 1995 AGM and I provided copies of the article to all present. Since 1993 I have seen the results of further studies. One three part program on CBC TV confirmed the John Hopkins results. It demonstrated examples where males and females performed the same task, but using opposite sides of the brain to do so. Another interesting facet is that it demonstrated that the brain functioning of male homosexuals was similar to that of women. That reminded me of Rueben Fine's *Psychology of a Chess Player*, written decades ago, where he explained the apparent lack of female chess ability in Freudian terms, and went on to comment that there was only one example of a homosexual chess master. Of course he also explained that in Freudian terms. Now of course many of Freud's ideas are properly discredited, but his observation of the lack of homosexual chessplayers is interesting, and I would say holds true today. I have also over the years discussed with knowledgeable casual acquaintances the idea of right-left brain differences and if appears not to be the subject of dispute. That does not mean that women cannot play chess, and certainly does not mean that men can play chess! But it does mean that strong female players will not be common. And that accords with observable facts. Anyone who teaches chess to children quickly finds that girls more quickly lose their initial interest, and that those who continue rarely progress as quickly as the boys. At the highest level Judit Polgar is the only woman to ever reach even the top 100 in the world. Compare that to the performance of women in backgammon or contract bridge, both in numbers and in results; the difference to chess is remarkable. So please don't tell me that it is a question of societal attitudes or some such rubbish.

Look at Georgia, where women chess players are really encouraged, have dominated internationally for decades, but still don't compare to Georgian men. Judit is a remarkable talent, raised in practically laboratory conditions;

her success is likely to remain isolated. Compare her two sisters, and Pia Cramling, where early promise, and full-time chess careers, have provided reasonable success, but nothing comparable to their male colleagues.

Having explained once again what most member seem unable or unwilling to understand or accept, the question remains, should we subsidize womens chess? The number of women members will never support the expense, although we must do what we can to improve the numbers. The reason we should support womens chess in my view is that the appearance of women in chess events provides both the appearance and fact of a more normal, civilized activity. The general appearance of chess tournaments in North America is not attractive. The standard of dress is bad and contributes to the inference that chess players are largely social misfits. Our now rapidly growing number of juniors helps, particularly as they are often accompanied by parents. Anyone who has been to a chess olympiad, where women appear in almost equal numbers to men, appreciates the more civilized atmosphere. The same observation applies to the World Youth Championships.

I therefore support a middle approach. We should support what we can, with a womens closed and Olympic team being the minimum. Other events require a realistic weighing of the financial implications.

And to women chess players, I would say this: before you complain that not enough is done to support womens chess, be prepared to say what you personally have done to encourage other women. I believe that our women players, particularly the top ones, must compete regularly, if they expect the subsidies to continue.

Jonathan Berry: No. Vive la difference! I would support a motion which replaced all our current women's programs with an annual investment of \$x,000 in an interest-bearing trust fund which would go to the first woman citizen(s) (whose CFC strength was not higher than 1800 when entering the country) who achieved a CFC established rating of 2450 or higher.

Jacques Blanchette: I agree.

Bob Bowerman: I am not sure that "sexism" is really the issue. As pointed out by another governor the CFC already 'discriminates' in favour of young players in order to encourage greater participation. In principle I see nothing wrong with doing the same for women. The real issue for me is the appropriate allocation of a scarce resource ie. money. If funding is not having the desired effect of increasing female membership then perhaps it is time to stop or to look at more effective ways of spending our limited funds.

Lyle Craver: No - no comments to add beyond what I said last time.

Phil Haley: I am opposed to this motion. I believe we should continue to support all women's chess activities in the same manner that we have in the past. I know of no other FIDE member that is considering taking such action. Not only in chess but also in bridge and curling neither of which require physical strength, women's championships are well

recognized and popular events. It should be noted that IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch recently stated that only sports that include women's events will be eligible for the Olympics. As you know, FIDE president Kirsan Iljumzhinov is actively working to have chess accepted as an Olympic sport. I believe that we should make every effort to continue to support women's chess events including sending a women's team to the Chess Olympiads.

David Kenney: I would support the general thrust of this motion. However, if there is a legitimate reason for making a distinction between the sexes in the Handbook (FIDE conventions), then we may not be able to remove, nor would we want to remove, the distinction from every section.

Alex Knox: If anyone on planet earth has proof positive that any sex (female or male) is mentally superior, come forward please and produce it. The laws of nature do not discriminate! Correct.

Roger Langen: It does not require a Motion that the CFC not discriminate, as discrimination is against the law; the CFC enjoys no particular privilege with respect to this law. It may be an issue whether the CFC Handbook does indeed discriminate, and a Review Committee (or lawyer) might well look into it. Such review might start with the question whether distinguishing between the sexes alone constitutes grounds for a discrimination complaint. If so, I am individually guilty, as I have, in the past, restricted my marriage possibilities to women and women only.

Herb Langer: Abstain – still.

Dan Majstorovic: No, because of the wording. I do, however, agree with the basic idea. We also have our hands tied so long as FIDE remains on the same path.

John Puusa : I commend the eloquence of President Cabanas on the issue of the women's chess program. President Cabanas and Governor Hergott correctly place the blame for any "sexism" at the door of FIDE. President Cabanas raises some serious questions that merit serious responses. Some may see supporting women's tournaments as "special status" or "special treatment". Yes, some of the results associated with women's events have been disheartening, as Governor Ottosen has said but do we simply throw in the towel and say, "Enough is enough! Let's play to our strengths!" I think that it is time to see the big picture that women make up over half of Canada's population and maybe, just maybe, some of them might be inclined to play tournament chess if it were to be promoted properly. No, I don't know have all the answers. Yes, it is fair to say that all women would be inclined to give chess a try but the same could also be said for the male side of the species. Personally, I don't see women's events as sexual discrimination but as a way to encourage women to play. Granted, this hasn't worked well in the past but instead of playing with semantics, let's find some solutions collectively. If women chess players were to say that the current practice constituted sexual discrimination, then I would say fine, let's change it! How many female players have said that to any of you? Opposed.

Peter Stockhausen: No.

Vojin Vujosevic: Must we be the only country in the World doing this? Must chess be the only "sport" in this country and anywhere eradicating all distinctions between sexes?

Walter Watson: I would not favour eliminating women's events unless I were convinced that they could not fulfil their purpose of attracting women players. So far I'm not convinced.

Ford Wong: Financially, it is hard to justify the support. Cutting back on funding may be better. However, I agree with Herb Langers and Grant Brown's comments.

1ST DISCUSSION OF STRAW VOTE 98-4

98-4 (Gordon Taylor) Moved that with each new Governors' Letter, the CFC Executive be required to report to the Board of Governors on all motions passed by the Executive.

Jonathan Berry: I agree wholeheartedly with Gordon Taylor. I would add the name of the person (Secretary?, President?) responsible for putting in the Executive results, and perhaps specify that the exact vote be recorded.

A constitutional amendment a few years ago passed powers from the Governors to the Executive. I opposed the amendment, but the governors should have the right to know.

Jacques Blanchette: Strongly agree.

Bob Bowerman: Yes. All discussions/motions etc that are decided upon by the executive should be transparent and should be reported in a timely manner.

Hugh Brodie: I agree. The Governors should be aware of what's happening at the Executive level.

Grant Brown: When it comes to the authorization of the expenditure of CFC money by the Executive, there should be no question that the vote of the Executive is recorded and reported at the earliest opportunity. I would move to impeach any Executive member who opposed this practice, in fact. I strongly support this motion.

Francisco Cabanas: I find some aspects of this straw vote topic very troubling and if it were passed as a motion could well lead to less rather than more accountability in the CFC and Canadian Chess. It effectively prevents the executive from dealing with confidential material. The CFC has to live in the real world and this means that there is information that the executive and the office have access to that needs to be kept confidential. This can range from personal matters dealing with the staff to business and planning information of great value to a competitor, to legal requirements etc. The governors are just too large and diffuse a body to expect the level of confidentiality required in many cases. The danger here is obvious. Many of these matters would be handled by the President alone or the office and not go to the executive

resulting in much less accountability and control that is presently the case.

For non confidential matters; however a regular reporting to the Assembly is appropriate. This should be handled on a systematic basis by the Secretary. We must keep in mind however that we are dealing with volunteers and that the reason for the delays was that the Secretary was very busy. Furthermore the reporting was done with plenty of time for the governors to raise questions at the AGM.

This straw vote topic raises a broader issue. It is important that the Assembly trust the people that are elected to hold office. The answer here is to choose your officers and directors wisely not tie up their hands with endless bureaucratic procedures. The CFC governors have in the past in many cases responded to problems by creating or attempting to create endless regulations and procedures. The danger here is that you paralyze the CFC while at the same you allow other organizations with little or no accountability, but that are prepared to take action, to take control over National Programs. The result is little or no accountability over those national programs. In many cases it is better to make the "wrong" decision than to make no decision at all.

Lyle Craver: Yes - I'm all in favor of the Governors' being made privy to motions of the Executive subject to the usual caveats in areas touching on currently ongoing personnel and legal matters as well as incomplete negotiations with third parties. (Given the semi-public nature of the GL I can see real problems for the CFC if motions touching on our negotiating positions be made public to other parties in these cases.)

David Kenney: I believe the Governors should be advised of the motions passed by the Executive on a regular basis. Therefore, I would probably support this motion.

Alex Knox: Something is amiss here, (if what Gordon Taylor says is factually true), surely the CFC Executive has always been morally and constitutionally obligated to reveal all motions passed, to the Board of Governors, and if not, why not?

Roger Langen: I am prepared to see this Motion discussed.

Herb Langer: I will second Mr. Taylor's motion, if required.

Richard Martin: I am in agreement and would support it.

Dan Majstorovic: Yes, absolutely.

John Quiring: Accountability and confidentiality. A few governors, including in particular Brad Thomson and Gordon Taylor, have made comments on this topic. To address first Mr. Thomson's speculation about the 1996 Closed funding, I was contacted about increasing the CFC's expenditure to \$6500 and voted in favour of it. I do not know who else was contacted or what the final vote was.

Both Brad and Gordon have expressed the desire that "all Executive votes should be published". My view is that "almost all" votes should be

Maurice Smith: I am all for openness and good communications between the C.F.C. Executive and the Governors. Therefore, generally speaking I would be in favour of this motion. However, Executive motions sometimes deal with confidential matters. Salary of office staff immediately comes to mind. Is it either necessary or desirable that these kind of items be published to all the Governors, go on the Internet and then on to the world? I don't think so.

Therefore I can't support 98-4 with the phrase "all motions" without any restrictions. Perhaps a motion that ends with "all motions not considered confidential passed by the Executive" could be more acceptable. I know the main objection will be that the Executive still decides what is confidential. However, you have seven people on the Executive from various parts of the Country who have often served the C.F.C. for many years. If you can't trust their judgement on confidentiality who can you trust? So

the bottom line is to have the Executive report decisions wherever possible, but still have the right to decline when other persons privacy and confidentiality should be respected.

Peter Stockhausen: Qualified yes. Confidential matters to be excluded.

Brad Thomson: Yes, obviously.

Vojin Vujosevic: Yes, by all means let us know what is going on. Do publish all the CFC Executive motions passed between the GL's.

Ford Wong: I agree. Ideally, all motions passed by the Executive should be reported to the Governors. This would provide some accountability and enable others to be aware of the kinds of problems that the Executive deals with. However, there may be decisions of a sensitive nature and perhaps discretion could be made by the Executive as to whether it should be made public to the Assembly. Would it be possible to add an additional clause that "Decisions of a very sensitive nature can remain private at the discretion of the executive?"

GENERAL COMMENTS

Jonathan Berry: One-Section Canadian Open

Peter Stockhausen stated in GL # 3 that: "The 1997 Canadian Open did not produce a norm. Mr. Berry's explanation of this fact, in my opinion, is incomplete, misleading and dishonest." That means "fraudulent, knavish, insincere". Thank you.

He blames the lack of norms on his TD's failure to fiddle with pairings x and y in the third round. That can look good afterwards, but maybe the tournament would have turned out so that you should have fiddled pairing z instead. He says another problem was that there were only 3 IMs. He made a format that was unattractive to IMs, so they stayed away. Peter closes the paragraph with: "What is your point?? It is probably more likely to make a norm in a closed or restricted event than in an open event." Exactly. If the Canadian Open is held as a single section event, it is far less

likely to produce a norm than if it is a multi-section event. Far less likely. So Mr. Stockhausen agrees with me.

In the next paragraph Peter refrains from ad hominem attacks, but he does patronize. "Jon's next comment makes no sense. How can a clause in a contract between two parties constitute 'tantamount to false advertising'?" The term used in the contract is actually a correct legal description of what the organizers attempt to do. If the same term would be used in an advertising piece, it would actually be correct and legal as well. Jonathan, do your homework."

If you structure your event in such a way that norms are extremely unlikely (i.e., a one-section event), and you know that norms are unlikely (as Peter admits), then to say that you will make your best efforts to provide norm opportunities is--well--dishonest. And it's advertising because the agreement was published in the CFC Governors' letter, as Peter intended. Governors are not only consumers, they are also opinion leaders. You might as well have a clause in the contract that "every effort will be made to obtain the participation of Garry Kasparov", knowing that his fee would be far too high for the budget.

Part of the reason that CFC gave money to the 1994 and 1997 Canadian Opens was the chance of norm opportunities. I have pointed out repeatedly that these are remote. Instead of dealing with the issue, Peter has chosen to attack the messenger.

Norm opportunities are a "motherhood issue". It means that just about everybody is in favour of them. Other motherhood issues include "full employment" and "happiness and prosperity for all", "corporate sponsorship" and "bigger prizes". So by mentioning norms in advertising or contracts, Peter is tweaking the motherhood receptors in all chess players. When Jayson Gonzalez and Oleg Linskiy achieved IM norms in North Bay, the chess players who were capable of understanding that were pretty excited for them, no matter what their ratings. Does Peter Stockhausen not believe it "good" for Canadian chess that Kevin Spraggett and Alexandre Lesiege have the grandmaster titles? Would Alexandre have been interviewed for 20 minutes on national CBC radio if he had been "obviously" of GM strength, but had played an unrated opponent in the third round, so, too bad, wait for Bermuda 1999?

Peter continues: "The CFC is here to promote chess. 98% of its current and future members will never come close to a "Norm". The CFC should use 98% of its [sic] resources, fiscal and human, to the segment rated below 2200." Nonsense. Following that advice could be the excuse for all sorts of knavery. Let's see, 10 of the 11 GMs at Winnipeg 1997 were foreigners, not CFC members in a contributory sense. According to Peter's nonsensical precept, he should rather have paid Canadians of any rating to show up. Maybe he'll claim that the GMs were paid for by non-CFC sponsorship money. But it's all one big pot.

In the question at hand, offering norm chances doesn't cost extra. Nor does running the tournament in such a way that most of a player's opponents are within 200 points.

Brad Thomson in his comments, and Peter Stockhausen in a phone call to me, both indicated that it is a great attraction to the 1800-2000 players in the Canadian Open to be able to play against a Grandmaster. Yet these

same players stay away in droves when a Grandmaster gives a simul. When GM Tony Miles came to Ottawa years ago, he gave a simul to a group that, in his words, was smaller than would turn out at a small English hamlet.

When the 1800-players actually do play a GM at the Canadian Open, they like to have a photo of it. This should not be surprising, they're making the best of the situation. Asking "Father, take this bitterness from my tongue" of the TD wouldn't help, especially when the TD so obviously could never be anybody's father.

Please forgive the hyperbole.

Peter then brings up the red herring of finances. It doesn't make any difference to finances whether the tournament is held in one section or several. The business plan for a multi-section event is better, because it will be more newsworthy, have more publishable games. And since he offered, yes, Peter, I'd like to see the balance sheets of the 1994, 1997 and 1999 [sic] Canadian Opens. Please submit them to the Governors' Letter so that we can all benefit.

"Again, I am left wondering why anybody would think that the CFC is entitled to benefit from an event that in their mind, the CFC should not support?" Peter Stockhausen has it backwards. CFC support for an event should not exceed the extent that the event furthers the goals of the CFC.

Brad Thomson asked "Is there any way to overcome the yo-yo effect, and yet still maintain the one-section philosophy that allows all of us a chance to get a game with a grandmaster?" The one section of the Canadian Open comes down to us from the days when not a lot of people entered, when the accuracy of ratings was in doubt, and before the age of norms. It allows anybody who enters the tournament to win, which I think is admirable, or at least it was then. I think the game-with-a-grandmaster idea is a crock.

It was an answer to questions like Brad's that I was trying to get from Peter Stockhausen with my remarks in GL #2. We saw in GL #3 that his answer was not yet ready.

In general, you can warp pairing systems so that they fulfill goals other than the primary one (to find a fitting winner for the tournament), but you risk unforeseen circumstances that force you to improvise or see the tournament wrecked (e.g. the hyper-acceleration system of the 1976 Canadian Open).

Ray Kerr, an Expert and tournament director in BC, came up with some useful innovations in the early 70s, but his spearheading of Vancouver 1975 (6 sections, 320 players) showed his conclusion about the best system for large events. Whether some variation of Kerr pairings could help with norms, I don't know. That would take work: modelling and simulation. FIDE might also reject your event if they don't like the pairings, but I'm not sure they have ever done so.

To summarize: I have nothing against a one-section Canadian Open. The organizer has the right to choose the form of competition. But I do object to pretending that norms are a realistic possibility. When the CFC spends all its national promotion money for a year on a one-section Canadian Open, the governors should not kid themselves.

When I moved to Ottawa in 1975, I was put off by smoking at tournaments. I told organizers that I would not play in tournaments where smoking was allowed. The

organizers responded that they, too, were annoyed by the level of smoking, but they hadn't considered that somebody would stay away because of it. They banned smoking, and within a few years, like it or not, you couldn't smoke at any CFC-rated tournament. I've been staying away from one-section Canadian Opens. It hasn't made a difference yet. But I think that I am not the only one who stays away because of the pairing system.

Bob Bowerman: : As one of the governors who did not attend the CFC meeting I have to say I have no regrets. I play chess because I like it but I am a governor only because no other Yukon member wanted to do it. Placed in the same situation I would make the same decision -- I would not want a CFC meeting to hinder either my vacation or my enjoyment of the Canadian Open which is the only over the board 'slow' tournament I play in all year. If this is a problem I would be happy to tender my resignation.

Grant Brown: Francisco Cabanas raises a lot of interesting questions about the internal workings of the AEM and the FQE, about the relationships between the CFC and the AEM and FQE, and about the relationship between the AEM and the FQE, but most of these questions are completely beside the point. The fundamental point is that the AEM and the FQE exist and indeed have flourished in the past 10 or 20 years because they have filled various niches for Canadian chessplayers which the CFC has always serviced poorly. What should concern us as Governors of the CFC is only that which is within our control. Specifically, we need to decide whether we are able and willing to recover these niches by doing a better job of chess promotion within them than the other organizations are currently doing.

While I don't know much about the FQE, it would seem that the only service it provides chessplayers in Quebec which the CFC doesn't provide (better) is a French-language chess magazine specializing in Canadian, and especially Quebec, news. It seems to me we have two options here:

The first option is, for a start, to produce a dual-edition magazine which satisfies the average francophone chessplayer in Quebec as well as the current publication serves the average anglophone chessplayer in Canada. This would involve, at a minimum, hiring someone to produce a translation of the current English edition, and probably to add Quebec content as well. This alone might make the CFC only equally attractive to the average Quebec chessplayer as the FQE, and so something more would doubtless have to be done to fully recapture this niche. What that "something more" might be is not clear to me, but it would probably have to involve some form of re-affiliation of the FQE to bring Quebec players into the CFC rating system, or barring that, the systematic infiltration in Quebec of CFC event organizers. Frankly, I think that the option of fighting head-to-head with the FQE to recapture the francophone niche in Quebec is beyond the financial and organizational abilities of the CFC at this time, and so we should settle for the second option.

The second option is to make our peace with the FQE, cede the francophone niche to them, and work diligently at improving our relations with them in areas where cooperation could be helpful to us both (e.g.

merchandising) and where it is necessary (e.g. representation at national and international events, and the funding thereof). Given that the FQE exists and therefore has a bureaucracy with a self-interest to protect, relations will always be unhappily political to some extent. I am therefore not optimistic that the CFC will be able to achieve those objectives which would be to the advantage of all chessplayers in Canada - harmonizing the rating system and securing adequate and fair funding for Quebec players to national and international events - but we should look at the arsenal of carrots and sticks available to us to see if we can't make progress on that front. The current situation is unsatisfactory to all concerned.

The special niche of the AEM, on the other hand, is junior chess promotion, in both French and English. The CFC has ceded this niche to the AEM for the past 15 years or so, and the AEM has done us a service by doing what we were not willing or able to do. Before I could endorse going head-to-head with them to recapture that niche, I would again have to be satisfied that we could do a better job of it. If we can't or aren't prepared to do a better job of organizing junior events and championships, publishing a junior chess magazine, and establishing a network of coaches for juniors throughout Canada, then we should not mess things up by sticking our noses into that area. Again, the sensible option would be to find areas in which we might have common cause and could profitably work together (e.g. promoting chess in schools; developing a chess magazine for juniors), and agree to go our separate ways in other endeavors (e.g. hiring organizers and coaches; merchandising).

The AEM and the FQE are both competitors and cooperators in the promotion of chess in Canada. If we take the attitude that our mission is to crush them out of existence, we will undoubtedly fail and probably lose much of their specific expertise in the niches they have been servicing well these many years. We need to find an efficiency-enhancing division of labour between the various chess organizations in Canada, rather than arrogantly or stupidly bring about a destructive duplication of efforts. We must recognize that all organizations have self-interests at stake, and at least in the near term, we must try to promote our own interests in such a way as to leave the interests of these other organizations intact. Rather than ask the CFC Board of Governors a host of questions which none of us has answers to, why doesn't Mr. Cabanas initiate executive-to-executive meetings with M. Bevand and M. Beaudoin, with the objective of trying to establish a mutually favourable division of turf, and report back to us what the other organizations want and can offer in exchange?

P.S.: With regard to the school program initiated last year by the CFC, and further to the suggestion made by J. Berry to establish a Chess Futures Committee, I would like to offer the following proposal. We could be much more effective in the long run reaching teachers and grade-school students with a chess program if we were to attack the problem at the source. I suggest that we send a copy of O'Donnell's new teaching manual to the Dean of every education faculty in Canada. (I can probably obtain a list fairly easily.) A covering letter would make the following points: outline the scholastic benefits of chess as an extra-curricular activity; note that aspiring teachers these days need to have a special skill that they can promote as an

extra-curricular activity to enhance their chances of being hired; give permission for the Dean to copy and distribute the teaching manual to any of the faculty's students who might be interested in promoting chess in school after they graduate.

2. I don't think we need a hard and fast rule about whether the CFC should support Canadian Open bids financially, although I am personally opposed to the practice. I don't think we need a hard and fast rule about whether the Canadian Open should be one section of more than one, although I personally much prefer a multi-section tournament (and positively avoid Canadian Opens in part for this reason). Can we not leave these decisions up to those who will be organizing future events and those who will be voting on future bids, and move on to more pressing matters faced by the CFC?

Lyle Craver: By now most of us governors have received the missive from the FQE which decisively rejects any notion of a revived 97-10. In my view it takes the FQE's previous position and takes their demands to a previously unknown extreme. And THIS is what we're supposed to concede BEFORE negotiations are opened! Certainly there is no evidence in the FQE's letter that there is any FQE motion currently on the table that we as Governors need to respond to. I suggest we treat their letter with the silence it deserves while remaining open to serious discussions rather than the blustering one-sided demands we've received so far.

In any case for a BC governor, the AEM/CnM is certainly a more relevant matter for concern than the latest extreme demands from an FQE executive that is clearly out of touch with national realities outside Quebec. Mr Cabanas fairly represents the position of the BCCF Executive at the February 1997 meeting with Mr Bevand (I took the minutes at the meeting in question). Judging by Mr Bevand's reaction to our proposal that all his BC events should be CFC-rated (he in fact made no reaction at all and never even responded to our proposal) one must wonder if his intention was to obtain the secession of the BCCF along the lines of the situation in 1968-75. (In light of the FQE missives it's worth pointing out that the BCCF's case for FIDE membership is every bit as strong as the FQE's) In any case, at the 1997 meeting he was asked for ** and promised to deliver to the BCCF president ** AEM/CnM financial statements. This promise has not so far been kept.

[I'm quite surprised at the mailing done with the cooperation of the OCA - some three years ago one of our people made our provincial membership list available to the Washington State Chess Federation without permission and caused quite a tempest.]

At present I'd say the best CFC policy is to concentrate on providing the best service in Canada to chess players from coast to coast. That has always been our mandate and despite Mr Bevand and the FQE remains our mandate. The USCF has survived Chess Digest and others - I see no reason why we cannot do likewise.

In any case, the President is in error when he says the CFC has recently started a school program - while I understand what he's referring to, it's only fair to point out that similar programs have been ongoing in BC for nearly 30 years and were in fact what brought me into the game.

Phil Haley: Letter from Stephane Beaudoin, FQE president.
...discussion

It should be noted that to be accepted as a FIDE member one of the following criteria must be met...(a) be a member previously recognized by FIDE; (b) be a member of the International Olympic Association or (c) be a member state of the United Nations.

Note that at the 1997 FIDE Congress in Kishinev, Moldova, the Isle of Man Chess Association submitted their application for FIDE Membership. The minutes state " Mr. E. Omuku informed Central Committee that the Steering Committee had recommended not to include the Isle of Man application in the Agenda and that the FIDE Secretariat should forward only applications which comply with the Statutes. On recommendation of the Central Committee, General Assembly deleted this item from the Agenda."

I would suggest that if the FQE wants to become a member of FIDE that they should concentrate their efforts on becoming a member of the International Olympic Association.

Roger Langen: 97.12 There was much favorable discussion of my Motion, seconded by Vojin Vujosevic, that the CFC introduce a title & certificate system to the rating classifications, primarily as an honorific device, but with some useful secondary purposes as well. As there is an element of complexity in the Motion as originally proposed, and some confusion, too, I think, about its meaning, I shall be re-presenting the Motion as a series of smaller motions for discussion and resolution in the not too distant future.

For the moment, let me say, as regards the President's concern that the Canadian rating system needs some downward adjustment, that a title & certificate system need not be correlated with such an adjustment.

That is, it may proceed before or after such adjustment, since 1) the proposed scheme does not intend to replace ratings with "norms", but simply adds "honors" or recognition based on sustained ratings values; and 2) insofar as ratings inflation is a concern, the proposed scheme, in effect, "corrects" it by introducing the Candidate Master category (2200-2299) as a buffer separating Expert from Master. In other words, it lessens the claim both of new entrants and stable residents alike in this class to be Masters, the latter being Candidate Masters, the former but norm-holders for this distinction. The designation of Master (or Canadian Master as I styled it) is thus "upgraded" to the 2300-plus group.

Part of the complexity of the Motion involves the question of how to define and manage the qualification criteria. So I take the President's advice and plan to make haste slowly.

RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As President of the Greater Toronto Chess League, I have recently expressed to Maurice Smith, CFC Vice-President, my opposition to the CFC attitude to Chess & Math. Through concern over book sales, the CFC blinds itself to an outstanding opportunity for developing scholastic chess in Canada.

Chess & Math is a business. It has a right to sell books. It also has a demonstrated interest in developing scholastic chess in Canada. The CFC, on the other hand, is a

service organization with a mandate to promote chess in Canada. It serves a largely adult membership who are ratings conscious and want to be informed of events. The ground for a constructive collaboration can hardly be missed. What comes immediately to mind is a shared-income arrangement (on the business side, primarily books & equipment) in exchange for the cultivation of large numbers of young players for CFC membership.

Chess & Math is prepared to release its database for players who attain a certain rating and, I believe, for players who reach a certain age (or grade). Constructive means, including a rating conversion, could be found for making the transition to the CFC relatively easy for scholastic players. One-day actives might serve as a useful device for introducing such players to the CFC. The point is to get talking. Any potential business arrangement, as with the points above, would be subject to regular review, but it is clear that both parties stand to benefit tremendously.

Here is an example. The Greater Toronto Chess League will this year dispense 16 chess scholarships of \$50 apiece to students throughout Toronto. Next year we expect that number to double. The bulk of the funding, as well as the database management and telephone work with the schools, comes from Chess & Math. Adult players contribute through a \$1 levy at weekend tournaments. The GTCL decides on the recipients and writes the cheques. In this way, we are able to reach the community of schools with the message of chess in a way we could never hope to do without Chess & Math's considerable organization.

Another benefit of having a dedicated scholastic tournament provider is that school league players can also obtain ratings, from kindergarten to grade 12. Until now, schools with homegrown chess traditions were generally unrated and therefore unattached to opportunities for play outside the leagues. This is an important population since it exists within school culture, whereas the majority of students attending Chess & Math's monthly tournaments have so far had to rely on their parents.

The GTCL, which is interested in promoting CFC play and membership in its area clubs, works closely with the Toronto school leagues. One result will be the rating of all scholastic play, once again through Chess & Math. Clearly, it is easier for a chess-interested young person to join a rated tournament (outside his school context) if he already has a rating in tow.

So it is inconceivable to me - and I ask the Governors who may not be very familiar with the CFC-Chess & Math problem to follow my line - that a friend of chess, with a decided power to organize and develop interest in the grade 1-8 population, should offend our national organization.

When Alexandre Lesiege obtained his final GM norm, Chess & Math made him a travel gift of \$2000. Over the last ten years, Chess & Math has subsidized the travel of children to CFC-sanctioned and other international events to the tune of \$45,000. Had that been IBM, would the CFC not have been generous in its praise?

Let's focus, folks. A destructive price war is under way between two organizations which have everything to gain through a little cooperation and good will. I recommend we get a committee together and begin working out the

framework for a comprehensive deal for shared management of the current chess opportunity.

Dan Majstorovic: As usual, the presidents message has given everyone a lot of food for thought so here are a few reflections on my part.

Historically speaking the CFC has not become involved in scholastic chess until the 1993 Canadian Open that took place in London with a modest group of 40 students in all. I will gladly stand corrected on this as my knowledge in this area is somewhat scant.

It seems to me that ultimately it is not important what the situation is with or within the AEM. Rather, I have always felt that it was up to the CFC to assume the leadership role it has inherently had since day one of its existence. This not only in the eyes of our players and the public, but also with regards to its international status. My comments have never been directed AGAINST the AEM but rather toward the CFC actually following its mandate. I'm afraid that we have fallen far behind the AEM in this respect and it won't take a just a year or two to get caught up. I am eagerly waiting to see what is being planned. After all, what, if anything, were the benefits for the CFC coming from the AEM? Our membership has not increased in any significant way as a result of its initiatives.

On the other hand, I would like to salute the presidents wise financial decisions to which I was privy during my "term in office", as it were.

Despite its non-profit status, my impression of the AEM is that it is much more stringently ran as a business rather than an organization (association)

Having said this, it is (maybe not so widely) known that the AEM did A SECOND mailing using the information on the OCA membership without ANY knowledge or consent from the OCA. We are still asking the question: "How was this possible since they did NOT get the information from the OCA?" I urge the president to do a little investigating on this important matter.

As far as the concern of having been taken advantage of by the AEM, I would like to turn the question in a different direction and comment that if we truly were in the leadership role I mentioned above, our question would have been: "How can we more efficiently use outside resources at minimal, if any cost, in order to promote and further advertise our cause?" Once again, wherever the AEM got its information for the SECOND mailing, it did not get it from the OCA.

On a similar note, I think that it is credit to our integrity to have done away with all the discriminatory items re FQE. Now, if anything is to happen, let's let the FQE take the next steps. In the meantime, let's also do what we have to do for better chess in Canada and not worry about things out of our control.

John Quiring: CFC vs. Association Echecs et Maths (AEM)

There is increasing tension between these two organizations, a seemingly inexorable movement toward outright warfare. Is it inevitable? If the CFC does its job, the answer is probably "yes". After all, the CFC's mission statement is to "promote and encourage" chess, which includes chess for kids. This is an area which AEM

apparently has bequeathed to itself, exploiting the CFC's appalling lack of initiative. But, led by our intrepid office staff and their excellent Scholastic Program, we are now bellying up to the table. No doubt AEM sees this as encroachment into their territory, but it certainly falls entirely within the CFC's sphere of responsibility. Is competition good? Yes, usually it is; and in this case it will definitely be good for kids' chess (as long as we don't wear out our volunteers).

Canadian Open in Sections?

Never. An A-class player getting a chance to play a GM is dismissed by Grant Brown as a "cheap thrill", but I have to wonder how an Albertan can be so poorly informed. I'm an A-class Albertan who played 500 rated games before getting a crack at an IM a year ago, and here's a news flash-it was a thrill, nothing cheap about it. (Teplitsky got lucky; that's my story and I'm sticking to it). Should I ever get a chance at a GM, that will be an even bigger thrill, and that chance is an integral part of the too-long, too-expensive, beloved dinosaur tournament, the Canadian Open.

Peter Stockhausen: Comments Re Canadian Open - Norm Opportunities - Financial Support, and other such matters. Jonathan was kind enough to supply me via e-mail his answers to my comments from GL 3.

1, " He blames the lack of norms on his Td's..." Re-read my comment. I did not blame anybody. I raised the issue that " we may have missed maximizing pairing opportunities" . Note that I used the word "we". I cited some examples. I asked for input and advise to make future events better. You know full well that pairings are routinely adjusted in tournaments to preserve norm possibilities. You are experienced in these matters. I asked for constructive input. Please provide it.

2, "...that there were only three IMs". Obviously!! If there would have been a dozen IMs, chances would have been better. Even you may understand this.

3, "...a format that was unattractive to IMs, so they stayed away." Did these IMs tell you this We actually thought that we offered the Canadian IMs quite an interesting "format". a, Free Entry b, hotel accommodation c, some travel subsidy d, the opportunity to make some money via lectures or simulms e, an almost ideal playing site. But rather than speculate I will canvass our IMs well before the 1999 Open and hear what they have to say.

4, "...far less likely" etc. It is probable that chances for norms are higher in restricted events. But we speculate. We have no substantial hard data to support this. But at least a comparison with the North Bay results point in that direction. My agreement with this is not the issue. What is at issue is that norm possibilities are in existence in an open event. These possibilities can be increased if the organizers work at it and make "best efforts". The analysis of comparable likelihood's was never at issue.

Many clauses of the bids for 1997 and 1999 were hotly debated. That one did not get debated. Of course if the

majority of governors had asked to delete this clause, we might have done so. It would save the organizing committee a tremendous amount of work.

Interesting that you raise Kasparov's name. Quite a debate took place in the organizing committee as to what key players we might invite for 1997. One member of our committee was particularly keen on investigating Kasparov. So he did. It turned out that with months of efforts he could not even get his phone calls returned. So we then tried Karpov. Much faster reply.

Unfortunately he only had about 48 hours for Winnipeg as he was sandwiched between two events, Dortmund and Biel if memory serves right. The fee and the travel expense was high, but not totally out of reach. But it was relatively late in "the game" and one major sponsor had made his contribution "purpose specific" so those funds were not available for a Karpov or Kasparov. So we abandoned the idea. But it was closer than you think and I might just make you eat your words yet:).

But of course playing against either would be of no interest to you since the rating differential between you and either of them is above your desired 200 point margin.

5, "...attack the messenger". And all along I thought I was defending myself against the accusation of practicing "false advertising".

6, Thank you for explaining "motherhood" issues. I am in favor of the ones you mention. How "good" is it for Canadian Chess that Kevin and Alexander are GMs, I have no idea. How many Canadians are interested and play chess because these two are GMs, again I would not have a clue. Unfortunately I have not met Alexander yet. I have however known Kevin for almost 20 years now. As such I had the opportunity to observe him under various circumstances, in various tournaments and matches, from Candidate tournament and matches to church basements in the far reaches of rural Quebec. Never have I heard him commenting on the desirability or undesirability of opponents in terms of rating. He seems willing to play anybody, anywhere. He seems to give his time freely for analysis and post mortems regardless of the opponents' strength.

Matter of fact, I have observed that he is rather far more generous in post mortems and analysis with the lower rated opponent, particularly in case of juniors. Somehow like giving a free lesson gladly and graciously. The conduct does not vary, win, lose or draw. Maybe it is this kind of ambassadorship that promotes chess more than the actual title. His lectures are strictly SRO and his simulms are packed.

7, "...98%..." I was actually quite serious. We might want to simply abandon this "subsidy" business and conduct the Canadian Open on an equal basis. No privileges for anybody, GM IM or FM. You come, you pay your way, and if you win, good for you. Simple as that.

Same for our overall business strategy. What if we spent our efforts strictly according to good business practices. Who knows, doing this consistently for a number of years might put chess further ahead than we think.

8, Thank you for telling me why 1800 rated players wish to have their picture taken when playing a GM. This was news to me. How many 1800 players expressed those views to you, I wonder.

9, "...red herring of finances." Why red herring. It is just finances. You collect money from various sources and you expend it on various activities.

Hopefully one does not go broke doing this. I am happy to hear that you have comparable business plans for us to review. Please do share them with us. I have observed that few chess things in Canada are newsworthy. Most have to do with "contrast" i.e. youngster (preferably female and blond) playing older, much older male player, and preferably beating him. It helps if the older chap is champion or ex champion of something or other. Also computers playing humans is still newsworthy. Chess for and with children can get some coverage. If Kevin or another Canadian got to the world championship final, that would definitely make the news. Please explain what publishable games contribute to the business plan.

10, "...since he offered, yes, Peter, I like to see the balance sheets...."

Re-read my paragraph. I offered no such thing. I never mentioned the term "balance sheet". The budgets for the 1997 and 1999 events are part of the respective GLs. You can look them up. To make things a bit more interesting I will publish 1994 Actual vs. Budget, 1997 Actual vs. Budget and the 1999 Budget side by side in the next GL. (It is already Feb 28 as I am writing this and I have to retrieve 1994 and 1997 from Winnipeg) I will also provide a bit of commentary to them and I look forward to receiving meaningful input from any governor. Any Accounting "101" type book will enlighten you as to the differences between a "budget" and a "balance sheet".

11, "...has it backwards." Backwards, forwards makes little difference to me.

I agree with Jonathan, the CFC should not support a Canadian Open that does not benefit the CFC.

12, "...yo-yo effect and...playing a Grandmaster". Sorry I did not answer this. The simple fact is that I am not competent in this matter. While I have a reasonable understanding about the swiss system, my understanding is insufficient to even take a guess at that one. Jonathan and Phil come to mind who might have an answer to this.

On the other hand I do not feel that there is anything particularly wrong with participating in a tournament where one gets opponents which have a variety of strengths. I always thought that variety is fun.

Brad Thomson: With respect to the *President's Message*, there can be no question that it is in the best interests of Canadian chess to have a cordial relationship in place between the CFC and Larry Bevand. But it takes two to tango.

Concerning the matter of the approval of the 1996 Closed and Zonal, we have not heard from Mr. Farges, who was President at the time. I ask that Mr. Cabañas now live

up to his commitment and relate to us what he knows about the incident, now that Mr. Farges has been availed of his opportunity. Mr. Cabañas, did you participate in an executive vote with respect to whether or not to hold the 1996 Closed and Zonal? I would also like to readdress the same question to Mr. Quiring. Previously, I took the liberty of speculating that Mr. Farges, having secured the votes of Mr. Cabañas and Mr. Quiring, did not bother to consult the remaining members of the executive. But I now suspect that the President consulted no one and simply stated to the business office that it was to go ahead with its part in the running of the event, based upon the absolute lie that an executive vote had taken place. This interpretation might well explain the silence of the above mentioned individuals, and the fact that a request from a governor at that time to have the vote made public was not granted. As a result, I would like to ask Mr. Farges, did you lie to the business office when you told it that a vote had taken place? Or, did you only consult with some members of the executive? Why was then-governor O'Donnell's request for the vote to be made public denied? Finally, if you used the presidential power that you are fully entitled to use to mandate the event, then why didn't you just tell the business office and the assembly that this is what you had chosen to do in the first place?

May I state that it is quite disconcerting that I have to keep asking these questions over and over again. It is even more troublesome when no responses are given by *any* of the parties involved. And apart from a very appropriate straw vote motion from Gordon Taylor, no other governor has expressed any opinion on all of this, either implicitly or explicitly. Does anyone other than Mr. Taylor and myself care? Is anyone else concerned with the shady and underhanded dealings that have taken place? Or shall we just sweep these things under the carpet? Please be advised that this is not a personal vendetta, nor a witch hunt. Our principle hope is to prevent these things from happening again in the future. Openness and accountability are paramount in the running of a democratic organization. Would the honourable members choose rather, a dictatorship? And further, one apparently bent upon the notion of bankrupting the organization through wild and inexplicable spendings?

I will now turn my attention to the various comments of the President. First, I shall deal with the matter of 97-10, that being the ratings deal with the FQE. The President begins his comments by agreeing that the motion would have to be fully reintroduced, and changes his view from the idea that we could simply vote on it again, without due process. This is proper and the President has made the correct decision. Next, the President reminds the member that the motion did *not* allow for Presidential discretion with respect to implementing only some portion of said motion. Again, the President is correct. There was no clause in the initial agreement for a line-item veto. But this is precisely my contention, and I thank the President for spelling it out so eloquently. Now, given the fact that there was no such discretionary power involved, why did the President then choose to exercise it anyway, by drawing up a motion which did not conform to the initial draft agreement, and follow through with it, after the Quebec representatives had verbally unilaterally rescinded a portion thereof, which

portion of course, was that which the President did not include in the actual motion itself? Without the line-item veto that the President points out did not exist, the entire deal ought to have been scrapped as soon as the FQE sought to change it one iota, indeed it *had* to be scrapped. Or, it had to go through as *initially* worded, without the verbally rescinded changes, which had not been gotten in writing. Indeed, as the President admits, had the changes been gotten in writing, the full deal would have been negated entirely. For the deal could not, according to the President, be altered, since there was no provision for such discretion in the first place. No line-item veto.

To continue with the President's comments, he next states that any questions will be answered by reading the motion itself. This is not correct. For the President only drew up the motion subsequent to the fact, sometime after the meeting and the initial draft agreement which resulted from it, had taken place. The initial agreement, which led to the drawing up of the motion, contained a distinct clause which was verbally unilaterally rescinded, and it is this document and its ramifications that is at issue here. The fact remains that the President himself admitted to me that he agreed that Quebec had verbally extracted a portion of the initial agreement. Maurice Smith, Tom O'Donnell and Troy Vail also concurred.

This renders astonishing the President's next statement, which is worthy of a full quote. He states, "I will also respectfully remind the member that the wording in 97-10 regarding the FQE's commitments was the wording I verified with the other CFC representatives present." This is disingenuous on two counts. First, the wording of 97-10 could not have been verified before it was even written in the first place. But secondly, and more importantly, the President is either suffering from a peculiar memory disorder which recalls events other than those which actually took place, or he is blatantly telling a lie. For indeed, the draft document (not the motion which hadn't been written yet) was verified by all CFC representatives present, but that which was unanimously verified contained a clause which was later verbally unilaterally rescinded. And all parties present, including the President, shared the same recollection regarding the existence of a verbal agreement to the clause that was later withdrawn, this apart from the fact that the clause was there in writing, and this writing was not only verified by all CFC representatives, but by the two FQE representatives as well.

Thus, even if it is argued that a language barrier caused the FQE to agree to something that they did not understand, the fact still remains that due to the lack of a line-item veto, as the President states, the agreement could not go through in a changed format. And yet the President *did* change it and went through with it anyway, doing so precisely to conform to what the agreement would have looked like if the verbally rescinded clause had not been included in the first place. And ironically, in doing so, he allowed the FQE as well as himself the very line-item veto powers that he correctly insists were not available.

By way of information, the clause itself was suggested by the FQE, and not the CFC. In other words, the FQE clearly understood what it was doing, bargained in bad faith and later changed its tune. Both Troy Vail and Tom O'Donnell will be able to verify this, as will or at least

should, Maurice Smith. And so the point remains that the President went ahead with the implementation of 97-10, based upon a draft document that had a portion of it verbally unilaterally rescinded, and did so while instructing one of the business office employees not to reveal this fact to the assembly unless it be gotten in writing, which it was not. This despite the fact, that as the President now admits, it was an all or nothing deal, since there was no line-item veto in effect for either side.

Now, this presents another flaw in the President's position, and it also exposes a scandalous bit of conduct. First, he has stated that the written version of 97-10 was that which was verified at the meeting. This has been demonstrated to be false. The draft agreement was included in the minutes of the meeting and sent to the President, and it is from this, or rather from a *portion* of this, that he worded the actual motion itself.

Secondly, the draft agreement had a clause in it which did not appear in the motion, or in the explanation of it, that being the initial stipulation on the part of the FQE that they would encourage all of their organizers to rate all of their events CFC. So the President *did* in fact utilize the line-item veto that he admits was not allowed, and I dare say he in all likelihood did so without notifying the FQE that he was violating the letter of the agreement. Again, as noted, this violation was performed so as to omit any mention of the clause that the FQE improperly withdrew. Further, the President chose to hide all of this from the assembly.

One might, and in fact must go so far as to conclude that the entire deal should have been dropped when the Quebec side sought to change it after the fact, this being the case because there was no line-item veto. Again, by the President's own admission, it was an all or nothing deal. But one must surely agree, also, that the President should not have restricted this fact from the attention of the members of the assembly, and he should not have gone ahead with an alleged agreement which had *not* been agreed to, or with an agreement that had been rendered null and void by the FQE side, at least verbally. If he was to go ahead at all, it had to be, by his own admission, with the *initial* agreement as documented, since only this agreement was not alleged, but actually agreed to.

Thirdly, by stating that he would only inform the assembly of the unilateral rescinding if it was gotten in writing, which writing would only have nullified the entire agreement, he is guilty of a grievous double standard when he prepares the exact wording of 97-10, and the explanation of it, while choosing to *exclude* a part of it that *did* in fact exist in writing. In other words, the President did not develop the motion and its explanation from the *entire* draft agreement, as by his own admission he was obliged to, but from *only* that part of it that was not verbally unilaterally rescinded. And yet, by his own contention, he should have drafted the motion and its explanation *with* the unilaterally rescinded clause, unless the revoking of it was gotten in writing, which it was not, and in which case the deal is dead anyway. Or, he should have gone ahead with it as *initially* worded.

To repeat, we have noted that the President's own position is that the deal should not have gone through in the first place due to the absence of a line-item veto, unless it was to go through as it appeared in its *original* form. The

absence of a line-item veto for either side demanded that the *entire* agreement be scrapped and that both parties would have to go back to the drawing board if further negotiations were to be decided upon. Or, if the President was intent upon continuing, he was obliged to go ahead with the *initial* agreement, verbally rescinded clause included, since the revoking of the clause was not gotten in writing, which writing, again, would have terminated the entire process, and which revoking he was not entitled to implement, again, by his own admission.

This would have produced the subsidiary benefit of exposing the FQE for what they are. But what the President in actuality did, instead, was to prepare the motion and its explanation as if the clause didn't exist, or as if it had been legitimately rescinded, neither of which was true, one of which was impossible, and thereby choose not to expose the FQE for what they are, but rather adopt in the process their own pattern of operating in bad faith, insofar as he altered a non-alterable agreement, just as they had illegitimately done. Again, the clause was there in writing, staring him in the face. The President deliberately withheld this information from the assembly and by his own admission went ahead unlawfully, by putting forth a perverted version of the agreement, rather than rejecting the agreement completely based upon the verbal rescinding of a portion thereof, or by putting forth the motion as it was *originally* outlined in the draft agreement, without perversion.

I shall not speculate as to the motivations of the President in this matter. The members, if interested, are more than capable of doing this for themselves. What is to the point is his conduct. Which conduct was a shameful disgrace.

All of these allegations can be easily demonstrated to be true by simply going to the files and pulling the appropriate documents, or by questioning the relevant persons. Unless, of course, respectively, they were to mysteriously go missing, and lose their memories. But I shall have little further concern with the matter, since it was brought forth initially only in an effort to induce the President to fully reintroduce motion 97-10 if it was to be given further consideration, which he has in fact now stated that he will do. I would, though, implore the assembly to consider the FQE's actions and those of the President, before voting. But I would like to make the following suggestion. The next time, if there is one, that a draft agreement is prepared with the FQE, put the entire agreement in the GL, and if subsequent to this, the FQE unilaterally rescinds a portion of it, put this fact in the GL too, and thereby allow the assembly to assess the merits of the motion in question with all of the facts of the case present to their capacities of reasoning, so that they can make the best choice for Canadian chess. In furtherance to this, I would suggest that the President attempt to be honest from this point forward, both with respect to his dealings in his capacity as President, and in his explanations to the assembly when questions relating to his conduct arise.

Finally, the President chastises me for calling for the resignations of governors who refused to attend the annual meeting, but who were present and able to do so. By way of rebuttal, I observe the fact that one of the governors in question took me up on my suggestion. I commend him. Given his blatant dishonesty and general disregard for the

assembly, as demonstrated by his attempt to put through an agreement with the FQE that they verbally reneged upon combined with his instructions to the business office that this fact not be revealed, and his subsequent inept and appalling efforts to obfuscate the matter, not to mention the fact that he has admitted that he had no justification to act in the manner that he did in the first place in the absence of a line-item veto, I now call for the resignation of the President. Or is this is not forthcoming, at the very least an apology is in order.

In his general comments, the President argues that six months is not enough time for our national champion to prepare for the world championship tournament. I would have to agree, but I must reiterate the point that we cannot afford to be lining people up to represent Canada internationally in an era when FIDE is in such disarray. There should have been no Zonal in 1996. Kevin Spraggett won the Zonal in 1994 and it was not until late 1997 that he finally played in the FIDE cycle. Having won in 1996, Spraggett became eligible to play in two cycles in a row, which was ridiculous. At the earliest, he will expend his second opportunity late this year. It would be nonsensical to hold another Zonal until after this opportunity has taken place. Indeed, if FIDE runs another world championship tournament in late 1998, then in 1999 we will require a Zonal, and the winner may only have six months to prepare if FIDE manages to hold a third consecutive yearly world championship tournament at the end of 1999. But so be it. Until and unless FIDE can be trusted to run this event yearly, something that only time will demonstrate, we cannot possibly consider lining people up in the hopes that they will only have to wait a year and a half for their opportunity. Spraggett had a wait of more than three years as a result of winning in 1994, and will wait, at the very least, more than two years as a result of having won in 1996. Now, should FIDE demonstrate that they can be reasonably expected to put on an event every year, then the merits of a six month wait, versus an eighteen month wait can be assessed. But let's not waste any more money lining people up! It would be nice, possibly, but it's simply a luxury we cannot afford.

Peter Stockhausen is correct when he points out that I made a variety of opinionated statements concerning the funding of the Canadian Open, without really supporting the statements, and without offering alternative proposals. My principle argument was simply that the CFC cannot afford to be throwing money around generally speaking, and cannot afford a Canadian Open that costs it money. This is why I am opposed to grants, the waiving of ratings fees, and a concession on sales. I would allow, though, for the CFC to cover the costs of the sales rooms on site. This seems perfectly reasonable. I do not suggest that the CFC invest nothing in the Canadian Open, but I do emphatically hold that unless it gets a return on its investment, then the investment was illogical in the first place. The CFC must get back more than it puts in. And due to our precarious financial status, which is always the case, the returns must be viewed only in terms of immediate dollars gained. Arguments to the effect that there are other farther reaching potential returns, such as good will and publicity, are only valid when we have enough money to survive in the meantime. But we don't.

The reference to the term *showcase* event, was not my own. It was the contention of others. My view is that the so-called *showcase* event, if it is as such, ought to make us money. If our *showcase* event ends up costing us, we're in big trouble.

As for my ideas with respect to corporate advertizing and fundraising, these were amply expressed to both the current President and the current vice-president when I was a business office employee. They were also fully articulated to Mr. Thaler, and Mr. Majstorovic, who were on a fundraising committee at the time. All of my preparations and plans went unnoticed, or at least un-dealt with. If there is a sincere effort on the part of the CFC to reopen these discussions, I shall be happy to test my powers of recollection.

Finally, Mr. Stockhausen asks if I am of the opinion that a loss of \$2000 would be a poor investment on an otherwise utopian Canadian Open? Yes, a loss of \$2 would be. The money could be better invested in the bank, in an effort to ensure that we do not bankrupt ourselves. May I very respectfully state, that of all people, the treasurer should be aware of the precarious nature of our financial picture, and concerned about how truly vulnerable we are if the trend of liberal spending practices, which has been the policy of the current and previous administrations, is to continue unabated.

Ford Wong: Peter Stockhausens comments about financial support by CFC to 1999 Canadian Open.

This is a sore point with me, but since the last AGM agreed to it, I decided that I would leave the issue alone. However, Peters comments in the last GL have gotten me perturbed.

First the amount in question is \$4,000 and not \$2,000.

At the last AGM, I recall that the discussion of \$4,000 had nothing to do with a fee for giving the CFC a concession. Peter does mention that this is a small price to pay for the potential gross sales of \$10,000 and possible \$2,000 profit. Great, but I personally feel that it would be an honor to help the CFC out as much as possible and let them set up the concession for free. As far as I am concerned, this is just "seed" money for the organizers. If you look at the contract between the BCCF and the CFC, it explicitly states that "The BCCF undertakes to provide for an adequate room for the CFC store at no expense to the CFC". When really there is an expense stated further down in the contract (\$4,000). Of course, it looks good to potential sponsors that the National organization is prepared to throw in some financial support. Compared to the budget proposed (\$83,000) \$4,000 is quite trivial. At the AGM, Peter adamantly stated that the bid was a take it or leave it situation. It would be withdrawn if they did not get the \$4,000. When Troy mentioned that the CFC has a serious cash flow problem, the organizers of Canadian Open were willing to modify their original proposal so that the CFC could pay them the money in installments (they were willing to budge on this). I was also somewhat surprised in that, knowing the "tight" financial situation that the CFC was in, that the organizers would ask for this funding. It can be setting a dangerous precedent for other future Canadian Opens.

I feel that the organizers of the 1999 Canadian Open held the CFC AGM for ransom on this issue. Peter is a great organizer and I wish him the best in hosting the 1999 Canadian Open however I still disagree with providing \$4000.

Vojin Vujosevic: Comments re: President's Message:

What caught my eye were these lines: "The next issue of Echec Plus may prove to be quite interesting. My most significant concern here is that this will lead to conflict between the CFC and the OCA."

Well now, why should there be a conflict between the OCA and the CFC? We too are CFC, in fact its major part. Or is the intention of the CFC to start some sort of action leading to this conflict? If I did not know better I might think that the G. Taylor's letter to editor in the EP, that came out at about the same time, was somehow a shot at the OCA.

Here, an uniformed although perhaps well-intentioned player criticized the organizers and implicitly the OCA over the organization of the Ontario Closed. True, there are some problems with holding of any tournament and some of the criticism may be valid. We should and will improve this important event. The major point is that the OCA followed its own constitution. The player in question was asked and said no to participation. The regional league may have been late in contacting him but that was not the fault of the OCA. There are other things incorrect in the letter.

Did the editors contact the OCA to get the other side of the story? No. Did they check the facts? No. So now for at least two months there is an opinion in front of the entire CFC membership to see and judge but the OCA gets no opportunity to give the facts and its side of the story in the same issue.

Now, back to the Echec Plus. I read "the next issue" because the TIO 98 ad is on the back page of that issue. Quebecers let us have the space that the EP has denied us. We cannot ever buy the back page in the EP for a Toronto tournament it seems, either in this year or in the years to come.

Furthermore, the Echec Plus had the letter from a CFC Office employee to the readers regarding the price war between CFC and Chess'n Math. And right next to it C&M answer, something our magazine did not think of offering the OCA.

And finally who is the CFC? Is it just the executive? I don't think so. Is it the CFC Office. I guess not, they are the paid employees who should do their job and get paid and that's that. It appears the CFC is much more than the two categories I mentioned.

NEW STRAW VOTE TOPICS

98-5 (Brad Thomson): Moved, that substantial revisions be made to By-Law Two, section 17, of the Handbook, along with a slight revision of item 4 of By-Law Three.

Comments: Let us begin by looking at By-Law Two, section 17, as it now stands. It reads:

17. REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT

When a President consistently fails to carry out the duties of his office, the Vice-President upon giving the President two weeks notice of his intention to do so, may present to the

Board of Directors, a written motion to replace the President by one of the other members of the Board of Directors. This motion will only become effective if the vote to replace the President is agreed to unanimously in writing by all of the Board members, except the President. Upon replacement the President shall remain a member of the Board of Directors unless he resigns or is removed by a vote of the assembly.

With respect to the first sentence, we observe that only the Vice-President is empowered to instigate impeachment proceedings against the President. This notion is seriously flawed. For if the Vice-President is himself without gumption, or if he is himself incompetent or inattentive, or if he is himself conspiring in some manner with the President, then there is no longer a mechanism in place to deal with a defective President. To rely solely upon the Vice-President who may be just as worthy of replacement as the President himself, then, is not in the best interests of the CFC. We have, therefore, a situation in need of change. This argument alone is sufficient to refute the tenability of section 17 as it now stands. The section needs to be re-written.

I propose the following:

At any time, a governor may put forth a seconded motion calling for a vote of non-confidence in the President. The motion, and any explanatory comments on its behalf, shall be sent to the Business Office and published in the next Governors' Letter, provided that it does not arrive after the deadline, in which case the subsequent Governors' Letter shall publish the material. The motion and any commentary shall also be sent to the President directly, by registered mail, and must be received by him at least seven days prior to the deadline of the next Governors' Letter, otherwise the matter shall be settled in the immediately following Governors' Letter. The President shall be permitted the opportunity to defend himself against the motion by offering his own response. In that same Governors' Letter in which the motion, any commentary and any response by the President are published, the assembly shall be asked to vote on the matter. The President, as well as the mover and seconder of the motion shall not be allowed to cast a vote. In order for the motion to pass, at least half of the governors must cast votes, and at least two thirds of the votes cast that are not abstentions must be in favour of the motion, for it to take effect. When a President is removed from office, the rules in effect for cases when he for any reason is no longer in office shall take effect, and shall do so on the day immediately following the date of the deadline of the Governors' Letter that contains the vote. The Business Office shall inform the President alone of the results of the vote, if the motion has been defeated, but shall inform both the President and the Vice-President if the motion carries. A deposed President shall no longer be a member of the Executive or of the Board of Directors, though he shall retain his status as a governor.

Let us now examine the proposed new wording. First and foremost, we will no longer be at the mercy of the Vice-President, as any governor who can find a seconder may instigate the impeachment proceedings. A sensible set of procedures for informing the President of such a motion and its publishing to the assembly is provided, along with a timely schedule for resolving the issue. The President,

naturally, is entitled to defend himself, something strangely absent from the wording of the regulation as it now stands. And to discourage frivolous attempts at impeachment, a two-thirds vote is required, apart from abstentions, with at least half of the assembly being required to cast a vote. Finally, what to do once the votes have been tabulated is explained.

We may now turn our attention to item 4 of By-Law Three. It reads in part:

The President shall have full power to take such action in the name of the Federation, as he may in his sole discretion decide.

We see that the President can do whatever he wants to. This means that he can reject or nullify the current mechanism in place for his own impeachment. In other words, he is currently unimpeachable. As a result, regardless of whether or not the regulations regarding the impeachment process are revised, we must, to ensure any possibility of impeachment as the rules currently stand, add the following sentence to item 4.

The one exception being any matters pursuant to By-Law Two, section 17, over which he shall have no authority.

98-6 (Martin Jaeger – Brad Thomson): Resolved that the Assembly of Governors regrets that the CFC-generated list of CFC-OCA members was made available for use in the mailing of the sales catalogues of a rival sales organization.

Martin Jaeger: In December 1997 the OCA made the use of the CFC-OCA membership list available to Chess and Mathematics for the mailing of the Chess and Mathematics catalogue. Material provided by the OCA and the Greater Toronto Chess League was also included in the mailing.

This use of the list has implications for the CFC finances. The OCA executive includes Messrs. Knox, Majstorovic and Vujosevic, who respectively have been CFC Vice President, Treasurer and Treasurer and are therefore in position to appreciate the effect of the mailing on CFC finance. Discussion of the resolution will provide an opportunity for them to present their views.

Governor support of the resolution would provide the CFC Executive a mandate for a policy change that would prevent a repetition. It would also provide a mandate for a change to the CFC bylaws and agreements with the provincial organizations aimed at preventing a repetition.

98-7 (Jonathan Berry): To restructure CFC finances so that:

- 1 -- a portion of each CFC membership is credited to the Provincial Association of the province in which the member resides;
- 2 -- CFC no longer pays for national championships or international expenses from general revenues, but from entry fees (to the Canadian Junior, Cadet, Closed, Women's Championship, Olympiad Teams, Interzonals etc)
- 3 -- That provincial associations be encouraged to pay for (2) with (1).

Discussion: The present system does not work because Provincial Associations did (BCCF) and do (FQE) profitably drop out of the CFC membership scheme.

This could lead to, say, a \$500 entry fee to the Canadian Junior, but it might (should) be entirely paid for by

the province out of revenues from (1). The provinces which have opted in might even band together to form an insurance partnership like Lloyd's: having a couple of players from PEI on the Olympiad team in Yerevan could have bankrupted them without it!

I introduced this straw vote topic a couple of years ago, but withdrew it to leave the field clear for a hoped-for reconciliation with Quebec. The current system is better if all the provinces opt in.

CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER FIVE 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

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 if interested.

Deadline for responses is June 30th, 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this governor's letter you will find the financial statements and auditor's report. We have had this year a significant loss. This is largely due to a very substantial drop in member sales of approximately \$30,000.00. There are two major factors. The first is the mail strike, which came at the worst possible time for anybody in the mail order business. This is outside the control of the CFC. The second factor was the AEM mailing in Ontario. Although this has been covered already I must respectfully remind the assembly that the reason this mailing was so harmful to the CFC is that AEM can use its profits from Quebec, where it does not face any substantial competition from the CFC, to sell at extremely low margins in Ontario. In one particular case an item was sold in Ontario by the AEM for less than half the Quebec price. The bottom line is that the CFC cannot expect to remain in the book and equipment business, no matter how competitive our prices, unless we are also prepared to compete in the Province of Quebec. We must have a strong enough presence in the Quebec market to prevent any competitor from using the Province of Quebec as a base from which to launch a form of economic warfare on the CFC. I must also respectfully remind the assembly that it is the AEM and not the FQE that is the real concern in this area.

In view of the economic situation the executive has taken a series of measures to ensure the economic viability of the Federation while maintaining basic commitments. We will not be sending a woman's team to the Olympics and we will only send a five player National team to the Olympics. The restructuring of the office to only one staff member (this is a temporary measure) and the contracting out of EP was also made necessary by the financial situation. I must add that there are measures, which also must be taken by the governors. In particular we must remove the requirement that players in Quebec purchase a magazine in English in order to obtain members rates for the purchase of books and equipment or the participation in tournaments. Tournament memberships have been very well received in Quebec and have resulted in an increase in CFC tournament activity in Quebec; however as the number of CFC rated tournaments in Quebec increases we will need an annual membership solution. It is for these reasons that I am proposing a new membership category. We must also assert the right of the CFC to be the national chess federation in ALL the provinces and territories of Canada, and for players of ALL ages. I am very concerned about some of the proposals in this letter in which the CFC abandons the Quebec market or the junior market. It is precisely these kinds of policies that have allowed the AEM to compete with the CFC in Ontario with the full knowledge that the CFC will not compete with them in Quebec. Unfortunately in 1998 the results of allowing the AEM to grow in Quebec for well over a decade without any competition from the CFC can be seen in the CFC financial statements.

As I have stated before we must remain faithful to the provisions of our constitution and not allow short-term practicalities to interfere with our fundamental purpose as an organization.

Francisco Cabañas

EXECUTIVE MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To pay 50% of Richard Berube's airfare as a second for Charbonneau (Cadet) and Hua (Under 18) at the world championship.
- 2) To grant the 1998 Canadian Open to Ottawa (Burgess et al).
- 3) To hire Stephanie Powers as an employee of the CFC.
- 4) To award the 1998 Canadian Junior to the Hensons in Manitoba.
- 5) To award an additional \$500.00 to the Canadian Junior organizers.
- 6) To award the Canadian Cadet to Jill Koshinsky in Saskatchewan.
- 7) To provide \$600.00 to sponsor two Cuban GMs to play in Canada in 1998.
- 8) To award \$500.00 to the Canadian Open 1998 organizers.
- 9) To send a 5-player national Olympic team, four by rating and one by selection committee, and to not send a woman's Olympic team.
- 10) To restructure the CFC office, terminating Tom O'Donnell's employment.

VOTE ON STRAW VOTE 98-2

98-2 (Brad Thomson) Moved, that the following section be added to the CFC Handbook:

817. Dress Code

All participants, the Tournament Director, persons assigned to demo-boards and any other individuals visibly associated with the competition during the playing of games shall dress in a proper manner. Running shoes, jeans, shorts, T-shirts and any tattered or unclean clothing are not proper. Suits are preferable, while neat, clean casual wear is the minimum acceptable standard.

The Tournament Director shall ensure that proper dress standards are upheld. If a player is improperly attired, he or she will be asked to change. The rules in place for dealing with a player who arrives late shall be in effect for a player told to leave and return only when properly attired.

Yes: Denis Allan, Lyle Craver, Martin Jaeger, David Kenney, Brad Thomson

No: Jonathan Berry, Alex Knox, Roger Langen, Ron Langill, Ari Mendrinos, David Ottosen, John Puusa, Gordon Taylor, Robert Webb

Abstain: Francisco Cabanas, Maurice Smith

Motion Fails

Francisco Cabanas: I am changing my position on this from yes to abstain in the light of Mr. Haley's comments. If a motion is presented that deals with these concerns then I would then be prepared to vote Yes.

Lyle Craver: My main objection to 98-2 concerns enforcement. I understand and favor what the goal is but wonder about players' reactions. I'd vote yes for the Canadian Closed; I'd probably vote yes for provincial championships and FIDE-rated sections generally.

Certainly I'd support it for TDs and demo board operators - hopefully this already happens rather than having to be legislated.

David Ottosen: I don't believe that players should be forced

to dress in an appropriate manner regardless of whether or not the organizer/s have acquired any sponsors. While I support giving the organizer the right to specify a dress code, I do not support putting it in the handbook and making it an ironclad rule.

John Puusa: My comments in GL#4 (p.6) still apply to my position.

Maurice Smith: I find that this motion is at least a positive step to try and improve C.F.C. tournaments. This is in direct contrast to most of Brad's other motions and comments which have been very negative in nature and seemed designed to just hack away at current and past Executives. Therefore I would really like to support this motion, but the timing seems wrong. Dress standards have been declining rather rapidly in North America over the last several years. When I first started office work, the standard for men was jacket and tie and most women wore dresses. This gradually changed until we had "Casual Fridays" where people would come into work looking like they had just slept under a bridge. Now every day is casual day. The motion would try and make tournament chess players look like office workers {the way they were}. Meanwhile, office workers are dressing like chess players!

So although I would like to see an improvement in the impression you get from the clothes that the players wear, I think that the enforcement of a dress code would be quite difficult. Nevertheless, I applaud the intent of the motion, and would like to see more positive motions in the future.

Robert Webb: As has been stated we cannot legislate style or good manners. Jeans, cutoffs, T-shirts, no socks etc. don't bother me but may bother others. I happen to dislike the wearing of sunglasses – as I cannot see the fear in their eyes...

VOTE ON STRAW VOTE 98-3

98-3 (Brad Thomson): Moved, that the CFC cease and desist from sexual discrimination, and that all distinctions between the sexes be removed from the Handbook.

Yes: Alex Knox, Brad Thomson, David Ottosen

No: Denis Allan, Jonathan Berry, Lyle Craver, Martin Jaeger, David Kenney, Roger Langen, Ron Langill, Ari Mendrinos, John Puusa, Maurice Smith, Robert Webb

Abstain: Francisco Cabanas, Gordon Taylor

Motion Fails

Lyle Craver: I don't agree that separate Women's events discriminate against men any more than junior events discriminate against their elders. I strongly disagree with Mr Thompson that my previous objections have been addressed in any serious way whatever. My own thinking lines up with Mr Allen who covers what I consider most of the salient points. Therefore I'd vote no to 98-3.

David Kenney: After reviewing the comments provided by other Governors on this issue, I have decided not to support this motion. Therefore my vote is No!

David Ottosen: Now that I am satisfied with my only concern (how representatives to Women's championships

would be chosen, if they were willing to pay their own way), I wholeheartedly endorse this straw vote, and would be willing to help go through the Handbook to identify all such sections. As to Governor Allen's comments, there is nothing in this study (from what I understand) that says that women are incapable of accomplishing the same things as men; just that they accomplish them in a different way. Even so, I wonder how far an employer being sued for gender discrimination would get with by trying to defend himself with this study. Not far, I'd wager.

John Puusa: I applaud Governor Allan's comments in GL#4 (pp.7-8). Let's find a way to encourage women to play and let's encourage active women chessplayers to encourage other women to play. Governor Berry's trust fund concept (GL#4 p.8) merits further examination.

VOTE ON STRAW VOTE 98-4

98-4 (Gordon Taylor) Moved that with each new Governors' Letter, the CFC Executive be required to report to the Board of Governors on all motions passed by the Executive.

Yes: Denis Allan, Jonathan Berry, Martin Jaeger, David Kenney, Alex Knox, Roger Langen, Ron Langill, Ari Mendrinos, John Puusa, Gordon Taylor, Brad Thomson, Robert Webb

No: Francisco Cabanas, Lyle Craver, Maurice Smith, David Ottosen

Abstain:

Straw Vote Passes

Denis Allan: I would expect that a formal motion would consider carefully the need for some matters to be kept confidential. Even then I think the Governors should be advised as fully as possible of the fact that the Executive has dealt with confidential matters, and generally of their nature.

Jonathan Berry: If the CFC Executive like this motion, can't we see an "Executive Motions" section *now*? Somebody in the Executive must record the votes. It would take little effort to fax or email those results to the Business Office for inclusion in the GL. In fact, it would take less effort than debating motion 98-4, which would not have been proposed had there been systematic reporting. And still in April 1998 we have no assurance that the reporting is any less selective than it was before.

I think that every executive motion should be reported, omitting the confidential material, and summarizing failed motions. For example:

Salary of Executive Director (confidential) Passed

Preparation H free to tournament directors Failed

The reason is that there is a natural tendency for the top of the pyramid to consider as confidential lots of things that we governors wouldn't.

Francisco Cabanas: If the issue of confidentiality is addressed then I will consider changing my position.

Lyle Craver: As worded I have to agree with Mr Cabanas concerning confidentiality. Assuming these objections are dealt with by clear criteria for what is to be kept confidential I'd vote for 98-4 in a second. I'd consider the areas

mentioned by Mr Cabanas (personnel, ongoing business & legal negotiations) to be legitimate exclusions. In my opinion the USCF has a good balance particularly with the issues commonly discussed by USCF Treasurer Tom Dorsch and others in rec.games.chess.politics on the Internet.

Martin Jaeger: Cramer's comments are bang-on. However it should be noted that Cabanas has done a generally good job in keeping the governors informed (1996 Closed is an exception). The concrete complaints largely refer to the previous president. A rule on disclosure would be useful.

David Ottosen: While I am in favor of more communication between the Executive and the Governors, I think that for the most part, the action that the Executive takes is fairly clear, and therefore, it can be inferred what decisions have been made. Reporting all executive votes would simply result in the Governors second guessing every decision made by the executive and doubling the size of the GL. Every summer, the Governors have the opportunity to hold the Executive accountable for it's actions. Making all votes immediately public would likely result in a lame duck executive, unwilling to make controversial decisions for fear of immediate reprisal.

John Puusa: The Board of Governors should be in the know as to what is going on as a matter of principle, not just as an automatic rubberstamp. Addressing President Cabanas' concern of confidentiality in certain areas, he makes some interesting comments. He and the current executive should draw up a list of criteria (based on his examples - GL#4 p.9) whereby an override clause could be enacted in exceptional cases to ensure confidentiality. In general though, the Governors must be kept in the know. As for the Executive being by-passed and matters being handled directly by the President alone as a matter of course, this diminution of democratic accountability would be counterproductive and likely lead to an incumbent President's ouster at the following Annual Meeting. If exceptions have to be made, let's spell them out in a manner which is obvious and reasonable. Kudos to Governor Taylor for suggesting 98-4.

Gordon Taylor: There have been a number of comments that so-called "confidential" motions by the Executive should not be communicated to the Board of Governors. If we agree on this then the intent of the motion is obliterated. Any decision by the Executive that is at all controversial will be classified as "confidential" and we'll only learn of the most banal decisions. The only situation where I can see this position as justifiable is with regard to salaries of Business Office employees. But these should be decided upon not by the Executive but by the Management Committee. It is the mandate of the Management Committee to negotiate these matters with the Business Office employees, and the "confidential details" can be left there. An Executive Motion in this regard should be simply to accept or reject the recommendations of the Management Committee. I would only expect to be informed that new salaries or other terms of employment had been decided upon by the Management Committee and the employees, not the specific details (which need not be part of the Executive Motion). In any case, I don't see a valid objection here.

Brad Thomson: Several individuals make a very good point when they suggest that certain matters must remain confidential. But executive votes pertaining to, say, the decision to expend more on a Canadian Closed than the rules call for, or whether or not to send a women's team to the Olympiad, and the like, must be made public. It is not sufficient for the President to call one member of the business office and tell him that a vote has taken place, and that \$6500 are to be spent, only to have that employee hear from two other members of the executive that they had never been asked to participate in such a vote.

Robert Webb: We are discussing a 'dress code' to make a more business like/professional relationship with a sponsor. Seems to me this is a step towards an 'ethics code' – and is more substantial and important.

1ST DISCUSSION OF STRAW VOTE 98-5

98-5 (Brad Thomson): Moved, that substantial revisions be made to By-Law Two, section 17, of the Handbook, along with a slight revision of item 4 of By-Law Three.

17. REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT

At any time, a governor may put forth a seconded motion calling for a vote of non-confidence in the President. The motion, and any explanatory comments on its behalf, shall be sent to the Business Office and published in the next Governors' Letter, provided that it does not arrive after the deadline, in which case the subsequent Governors' Letter shall publish the material. The motion and any commentary shall also be sent to the President directly, by registered mail, and must be received by him at least seven days prior to the deadline of the next Governors' Letter, otherwise the matter shall be settled in the immediately following Governors' Letter. The President shall be permitted the opportunity to defend himself against the motion by offering his own response. In that same Governors' Letter in which the motion, any commentary and any response by the President are published, the assembly shall be asked to vote on the matter. The President, as well as the mover and seconder of the motion shall not be allowed to cast a vote. In order for the motion to pass, at least half of the governors must cast votes, and at least two thirds of the votes cast that are not abstentions must be in favour of the motion, for it to take effect. When a President is removed from office, the rules in effect for cases when he for any reason is no longer in office shall take effect, and shall do so on the day immediately following the date of the deadline of the Governors' Letter that contains the vote. The Business Office shall inform the President alone of the results of the vote, if the motion has been defeated, but shall inform both the President and the Vice-President if the motion carries. A deposed President shall no longer be a member of the Executive or of the Board of Directors, though he shall retain his status as a governor.

Add the following sentence to item 4.

The one exception being any matters pursuant to By-Law Two, section 17, over which he shall have no authority.

Denis Allan: I am curious as to what the motivation for this motion might be. It is much too broad, allowing for impeachment proceedings that are simply vexatious, The

existing By-law, if not perfect, at least clearly sets out the grounds for replacement and limits them. A By-law which would allow for an impeachment discussion purely on policy or personal differences would be clearly wrong. An annual vote is quite sufficient to deal with differences of that nature.

Jonathan Berry: No. We have had zombie Presidents maybe 3 times in 50 years, but a common symptom was: no Governors' Letters. That would defeat Brad's idea. Brad, aren't you taking this too far? If we elect a zombie as President (one without his act together enough to sign a letter of resignation), and a zombie as Vice President, we can wait for the next annual meeting.

Lyle Craver: I'm not opposed to this motion but it needs to be re-worked into a formal proposal. The overall idea seems sound.

Roger Langen: I am not in favour of this change. The passage of 98-4 would help address the concern expressed in this Motion. But I am opposed for two reasons. The first concerns the interpretation of By-Law 3, Item 4, where it is supposed by the mover of the Motion that the President's "full power" to take action in the name of the Federation is unrestricted. But surely what is meant is executive action consistent with established policy, not the power to make new policy. This executive ability is a perfectly normal (and necessary) enablement to the office of president of an organization.

My other concern touches on a more general problem. As Berry-Stockhausen, Cabanas-Thomson, CFC-A&M, CFC-FQE (and now perhaps CFC-OCA) all attest, there seems to be a general lack of decorum and good will in our communications with each other. Perhaps the speed and efficiency of e-mail has made our first thought (or feeling) our only thought. We have time to reach a second person with another first thought, but not enough time to give the first person our second, and perhaps better, thought. The thickness of the Governors Letter these days seems due more to earnest yammering and insults than to careful discussion under the weight of business. In these circumstances, the passage of 98-5 would promote multiple impeachments of the President in every term.

But even in a more temperate environment: should we allow any Governor to move impeachment of the President? Or is By-Law 2 satisfactory as it is, giving the Vice-President that special power? I like the latter. Presumably the Vice-President would be acting on behalf of a concert of disaffection with a non-performing President, so that the appearance of an impeachment proceeding would depend on the building of a consensus. This is a more "contained" approach, giving to this process an air of seemly discretion, and to the offending President an opportunity to reform.

Ron Langill: I see no problem with improving the wording - hopefully we will never need to use these rules but it is important that the matter is covered should it be necessary. I stress that this is a response directly to the motion proposed and is in no way tied to the current allegations Mr. Thomson has raised concerning Mr. Cabanas.

David Ottosen: I do not think it is reasonable for each governor to have the power to call the President on a non-confidence vote. The governors see only a certain amount of what the President does, and the decisions made. I feel only a fellow member of the Executive could propose a reasonable non-confidence vote, because only a fellow member of the Executive has the ability to judge all the factors involved in the President's performance.

John Puusa: Governor Thomson has proposed an initiative which allows for increased input from and improved accountability to the Board of Governors. Were Governor Thomson's proposal to be enacted and used responsibly, it would become an important component of the checks-and-balances between the President, Vice-President, Executive and the Assembly (Board of Governors). I would be very interested to read other Governors' thoughts on the Thomson initiative.

Robert Webb: Same idea as in 98-4. Mr. Thomson's wording is well thought out and explained.

1ST DISCUSSION OF MOTION 98-6

98-6 (Martin Jaeger – Brad Thomson): Resolved that the Assembly of Governors regrets that the CFC-generated list of CFC-OCA members was made available for use in the mailing of the sales catalogues of a rival sales organization.

Francisco Cabanas: I am in favor of this motion. A strong support of this motion will also send a clear message to those people who are in positions of responsibility in the CFC (and that includes governors) that they have a duty to protect the interests of the CFC when dealing with other chess organizations. I must also add that in this particular case we are dealing not just with "a rival sales organization" but rather with an organization led by an individual who has had a long history of hostility towards the CFC dating back to the 1970's.

Lyle Craver: While I do not categorize the CFC or AEM as a "sales organization" it is clear that the rules of confidentiality that have been spelled out to the BCCF since the days nearly 10 years ago (when we received our list on 5.25" diskettes - it wasn't a free service in those days either!) were not spelled out to the OCA.

Certainly any time the BCCF has gotten our list it has always been clear that the list was for the exclusive use of our Executive and under no circumstances was the list to be released freely or for financial gain to third parties. (This was re-emphasized amidst much ranting and raving when a past president - who knew the rules - gave our list to the Washington State Chess Federation some years back) It is with astonishment I find the OCA did not get the same speech from the Business Office! I'm not sure whether the OCA Executive or the Business Office most deserves censure but there's no doubt the whole affair has been regrettable.

The second AEM mailing to the Ontario membership is clearly something of interest to both the CFC and OCA and I hope they are able to get to the bottom of this and report to the Governors exactly what happened.

So - an unqualified yes to 98-6 despite my misgivings about the use of the term "sales organization" which I do not believe either the CFC or AEM fundamentally is.

Roger Langen: As the OCA President, Dan Majstorovic, has made clear, the OCA was not involved in the dispatch of the OCA mailing list to (via an individual party) Chess & Math. The source was none other than the CFC itself. The Business Office might wish to query the individual party concerned, but as there was no official breach at any level - CFC, OCA, GTCL - I am not sure an official regret, let alone a "policy change", is required.

I might add that the precise details of what actually did occur was communicated to a member of the CFC Executive in January. Why is this a concern in April?

David Ottosen: I am not sure. While the mailing would have a negative impact on the CFC book selling business, the fact that a mailing from the OCA and GTCL was included would likely have a positive impact on CFC membership and tournament participation. It seems as though the OCA was working in conjunction with the AEM to get some "free" advertising; I would hope that since the CFC is providing a superior level of service that the CFC would not mind the short term impact on book sales, while welcoming the longer term impact of membership and activity growth.

John Puusa: I think that Governor Jaeger has eloquently expressed the problem at hand and I support his initiative. As a non-profit organization, the CFC must be concerned about the state of its finances. I look forward to comments from Governors Knox, Majstorovic and Vujosevic respectively.

Robert Webb: This is news to me. I did not receive said mailing, and I am a life member of the OCA and on the executive of the EOCA. Hmmm.

1ST DISCUSSION OF STRAW VOTE 98-7

98-7 (Jonathan Berry): To restructure CFC finances so that:

- 1 -- a portion of each CFC membership is credited to the Provincial Association of the province in which the member resides;
- 2 -- CFC no longer pays for national championships or international expenses from general revenues, but from entry fees (to the Canadian Junior, Cadet, Closed, Women's Championship, Olympiad Teams, Interzonals etc)
- 3 -- That provincial associations be encouraged to pay for (2) with (1).

Francisco Cabanas: I am opposed to this. This is in fact an attempt to revive a policy that has failed miserably. The first question here is whether Canada is a country? If the answer is yes then the CFC has both responsibility for all Canadian Chess Players and the right to organize and promote chess anywhere in Canada. If we choose not to organize and promote chess to a significant degree in any particular part of Canada (a practice that is very questionable), that does take away our responsibilities. There is little point in setting

up insurance syndicates between organizers in Prince Edward Island and the Yukon Territory in order to avoid following our constitutional mandate.

Lyle Craver: I'd be interested in seeing what Mr Berry has in mind with this straw vote. At first blush it appears to be advocating a return to the CFC-FQE wars of the 70s and 80s which knowing Mr Berry's views seems improbable. Let's get some more details. I don't remember anything remotely like this during BC's non-affiliation period yet it didn't stop Biyiasas from becoming Canadian Champion.

CERTAINLY the current system is better if all the provinces opt in - but Mr Berry of all people should know the current situation and how things came to this pass. (Which in my view owes far more to Quebec nationalism than anything that has ever taken place at the Governors or in the Business Office either in Mr Berry's time there or subsequently)

Martin Jaeger: With the 1996 Annual Meeting papers a Governor expressed the view that my expressed views on CFC finance were a barrier to reaching an agreement with the FQE. I have not expressed my views in the Governors' letter since then but unfortunately the sought after agreement has not been reached. I hope that under these circumstances the Governor will not object to me commenting on 98-7

The idea of transferring expenditure from the CFC to the provincial associations as a means of generating a better balance of support and benefits is a good one. I would suggest however that collecting funds as a proxy for the provincial associations is not as good an idea as leaving "tax room" and letting provincial associations do as they like.

This said, the solution leaves a problem unsolved. How does one obtain fair representation at national championships where there is not a fully integrated rating system? Given that FIDE has abandoned the round robin interzonals and that the FIDE championship playdowns are now matches, I believe that we should reform our system to provide a preliminary Swiss (open to all with a reasonably low threshold and allowing entry based on FQE ratings) with the top four finishers entering a match series (2 games in semifinals, 4 in finals) to determine the Canadian Champion.

Such a format could also serve as a trial for team eligibility. The top 4 would all be eligible for the team and the next 4 finishers would play a double round robin to determine order of eligibility. The recommended format would take no longer than the present Closed, would eliminate problems of eligibility and would eliminate also runs after one week rather than 2, just as does the world championships. I believe further that concurrently with the second week matches the CFC should run a FIDE rated futurity so that players who came to the Closed wanting to play 2 weeks would be accommodated.

Note that under this suggestion the organizer of the Closed would no longer be responsible for lodging but should I think make an effort to facilitate billeting.

In line with Berry's recommendation we would no longer have people being chosen as Canadian representatives. Rather they would become eligible to be the representative and funding would still have to be found from their provincial federation and from donors. I would suggest that the Olympic fund would still be conducted but now

donors could choose to designate (if they wished) the province to which the donation should flow.

It is now 4 years since the CFC took the path of funding all players regardless of support by their province. CFC dues levels are now 32% higher than they were before the decision and even so the state of CFC finance is such that we will not fund a women's team. I also fear that the failure to publish a 6 month income and balance sheet statement is ominous. These facts and the failure to reach an agreement with the FQE demonstrates the timeliness of the Berry proposal.

Roger Langen: There is a good deal of complication and politics in this Motion, and I look forward to the discussion it will generate. It appears rational with respect to requiring the FQE to pay its fair share of costs for players mandated to Canadian and international events.

Some questions arise: Would it not perhaps be simpler to stipulate that a province that has "opted out" of the CFC must pay for its right of representation at national/international events? Is a structural change affecting all provinces necessary? How feasible is an insurance scheme for "opters in"?

My other hesitation is that the measure proposed has the appearance of trying (fairly) to inconvenience Quebec. Do we want to continue this direction in our, so far, continuing unhappy attempts to mend the CFC-FQE split? I responded to the FQE "Future of Chess in Canada" document with the suggestion that, while anglophone support for a separate Olympic team for Quebec was a non-starter, support for the recognition of the FQE as a parallel Canadian chess authority (covering all francophone Canada, not just Quebec) was worth a look. This would resolve the above and other funding concerns (and some psychological ones as well) in quite a different way, both more positive and more realistic. As matters stand, the FQE is self-sufficient and strong; the attempt to reduce it back to mere provincial status (except where representation at national events is concerned; no different from Ontario in that regard) is doomed. The reason is language, not sovereignty aspiration. Canada is "bi-national" in this sense, with dual organizations to meet legitimate other-language needs in most spheres of activity. Why not - in cooperation - chess also?

Still, I believe that the Motion proposed has merit, independent even of the FQE concern.

Ron Langill: Let's fix the problem, not the blame. I see no reason to dwell on what has already happened and whether we regret it or not. Instead of looking for a mandate for another motion, why not just propose a solution now as a straw vote and see how it flies?

David Ottosen: If I understand this idea entirely (and it is not clear to me that I do), this changes the current system of the larger provinces subsidizing smaller provinces to each province being left to fend for itself, with the possibility of "perhaps banding together". While this might be beneficial to a large and financially healthy province like Alberta, I think the long term effects would be to kill any and all national participation from provinces with smaller CFC membership bases (such as the Maritimes, Saskatchewan, or

Manitoba) if they did not form this partnership. If this is the case, then I am against this idea.

John Puusa: Governor Berry has presented an interesting alternative funding system which merits serious debate and discussion. It sounds great in theory but would all the provinces opt in?

Robert Webb: As Alf used to say on T.V. "interesting concept". Will look forward to others comments before saying more.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Lyle Craver: President's Message: Given the FQE missive it is clear the FQE has not only implicitly rejected 97-10 by their failure to accept it but explicitly by their letter to the governors re-iterated their original discredited demands. Much as I hoped something good would come of this approach, it is now clear that there is no good faith intention on the FQE's part to reach a deal.

Accordingly let us with a minimum of recriminations move on to fulfill the CFC's mandate in all 10 provinces and both territories.

[The Cabanas / Thompson feud doesn't really interest me since regardless of whether Mr Cabanas presented to the Governors the deal authorized by the CFC and FQE Executives, the FQE has utterly rejected it. End of story.]

As for the AEM we in BC has never stopped fulfilling our mandate towards the juniors. The President DOES make a good point concerning the AEM involvement in the Ligue d'Echecs de Montreal. We in BC are still waiting (after more than a year) for Mr Bevand to show us the financial statements he promised us.

To Mr Berry: I'd be interested in getting more details on Ray Kerr's pairing system. To the best of my knowledge, FIDE has NEVER failed to rate any event for reasons relating to pairings (and very seldom for any other reason). Certainly I do not know of any otherwise-qualified North American event refused rating by FIDE for any reason over the last 25 years.

Mr Brown seems unfamiliar with past dealings with the FQE and the AEM. I don't think anyone really wants to "crush" anyone, but vast amounts of Governor time and effort have gone into dealings with these organizations through the years at the expense of our main mandate. The FQE currently refuses negotiations except on a basis of abject surrender BEFORE negotiations and a refusal to acknowledge their involvement in the negotiations that led to motion 97-10. (Can the President confirm my belief that no definitive French-language text of the 97-10 agreement was EVER produced by the FQE? This was after all one of the things they agreed to in Hull) Similarly Mr Bevand sought to buy the CFC's book and equipment business on terms any CFC Executive would be impeached if they ever accepted it.

In other words, the meetings Mr Brown would like with Messrs Beaudoin and Bevand have indeed already taken place. I'm not opposed to further meetings with either but I'm not aware either wishes meetings at present.

Mr Langen suggests Larry Bevand is prepared to release their database for "players who attain a certain rating". This appears to be a new development given his previous antagonism to running events rated both by the CFC and AEM. Can he provide details of what the 'certain rating' is? While I'd be in favor of a ratings merger, I'd be opposed to a business relationship at least on anything like the terms previously proposed by Mr Bevand. I do think Mr Langen is being naive in his suggestion that AEM's interests simply involved children in grades 1-8; I'd additional point out he is being naive in equating the two agendas of AEM and IBM. Deep Blue notwithstanding, it's insane to claim chess is anywhere near as important to IBM as it is to AEM.

Martin Jaeger: Re Canadian Open Sectioning question. As Berry suggests Hyperacceleration is a means of increasing the number of games (as compare to non hyperacceleration) played between strong players and so facilitate the earning of a norm consistent with the elegance of a one section tourney. The system was used (as Berry points out) for Toronto 1976 and did generate many high level games.

Briefly put, the system involved giving segments of the entrants 3, 2, 1 and 0 shadow points and removing them after the fourth. This of course shielded players who received low shadow points but had perfect records from playing the top players before round five. (One player, I recall had a rating in the 1400 range and over the first 4 rounds had a performance rating over 2200!) The tendency for such things to occur is of course greater for a large money tournament and it should be recalled that the 1976 event had (in 1998 dollars) an aggregate prize fund approaching \$50,000.

This level of shielding is undesirable and I think should be counteracted by adjusting shadow points assigned upward for rounds 3 and 4 for people who have beaten or drawn with a higher shadow pointed player. I also believe that "fish feeding" should occur in round 5. That is, any player who has a perfect score but was originally shadow pointed less than 3 should in round 5, play a person who was shadow pointed 3 originally.

A further finesse that should be employed is in my view, that for round 2 only those who draw in round 1 should be paired as an integral part of the full point group beneath. (This eliminates the possibility that top shadow pointed players knocking themselves out in round 2.)

This system will work and bring about the earning of norms. However the Canadian Open will still suffer in attendance because of its length and the consequent expenses of participation for out-of-towners as compared to a 3 or 4 day event. This too can be countered – but that is another story.

Ron Langill: As far as Chess N Math goes, I think we should focus on what WE are doing since we have no control over what they do. Any good salesman knows that success comes not from putting down a competitor but from promoting yourself.

In regards to the 12% Ontario sales decrease, is this compared to pre-Christmas sales (not a fair comparison) or compared to the same period last year (a fair comparison)? This number is relative to what kind of sales across Canada?

The biggest question is if the CFC prices are so competitive, how can the distribution of one flyer cause the decrease it is implicated to have caused? I think the answer lies in one word - marketing. I personally know of a gentleman who in the past offered both C&M and the CFC free distribution of a one page flyer. C&M responded positively and insisted on picking up some of the cost - my understanding is the CFC either didn't respond or responded negatively. When the Ontario Open was held in Kitchener, C&M had a booth there - no such request came from the CFC. Loyalties aside, when a player sees an interesting book on the table, immediately available, he is not going to take the time to go home and compare prices or check availability from another location. Again, this is not meant to point out blame, but to put forth the idea that we have to look at what the CFC can do to promote itself. Can flyers be sent to clubs every so often? Can the CFC be a presence at more of the major tournaments? McDonald's didn't get to be #1 through the taste of their burgers, but through advertising and good locations. While I realize we don't have the budget to be really aggressive, I think we should look for opportunities and keep some kind of promotional material handy for any organizers who request it.

Maurice Smith: Comments on Roger Langen's response to President's Message

Roger mentioned my name in his comments about the C.F.C. and Chess N'Math. It is true that that we had been corresponding on this issue, but our views are nowhere near the same. In their rush to embrace Chess N'Math there are a few Toronto area Governors who conveniently forget two key points. The first one is that Chess N'Math is a direct competitor to the C.F.C. The second one is that the Governors ARE Governors. To explain the first point further, every time that Chess N'Math sell a book or equipment it is less money for the C.F.C. The two organizations certainly have a right to compete, but the Directors of one organization should not support the other organization at the expense of its own. Which brings us to the second point. The Governors of the C.F.C. decide on policies and procedures, define its constitution and make decisions of major importance. Therefore, they are in effect very similar to a Board of Directors. They have a direct responsibility to support the C.F.C. and this responsibility should not be turned on and off like a tap whenever it suits them. Any Governor who supports a competitor at the expense of the C.F.C. is guilty of a conflict of interest.

The C.F.C. is trying to expand and become a full service organization for all its members. One way is to offer fair prices for all its products and the same prices right across the Country. The other organization does not do this. We are now developing a scholastic program after many years of people saying that the C.F.C. should be in junior chess. These programs should be encouraged and supported by all its members and of course especially our Governors.

I must emphasize that most Toronto Governors are aware of their responsibilities and do fully support the C.F.C. I believe that even those that have been outspoken in their support for Chess N 'Math will realize that as a Governor, aiding the competition only hurts your own organization, and is a stab in the back for the volunteers that

have worked so hard over the years to build it into a National chess organization for all people in Canada.

Gordon Taylor: Discussion of Motion 98-1: Naturally I was disappointed to see this motion fail for lack of a quorum. Disappointed but not surprised. Otherwise, I was pleased to see the almost unanimous support it received. The present reality would seem to be that the Governor's Letter is not effective as regards amendments to the CFC Constitution or By-Laws. It seems that the only way this motion can be passed is at the Annual Meeting. Accordingly I here now give notice that I wish to have this same motion brought before the Outgoing Assembly of the Board at the next Annual Meeting, as per section 3 (a) of By-Law Number Three:

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

The difference, you see, is that at the Annual Meeting this motion will only require a two-thirds vote of those Governors represented (either in person or by proxy), as opposed to two-thirds of the 70 odd actual Governors.

As an aside, I really don't know why the "at least one-half of the number of votes eligible to be cast has been received" appears in section 3 (b) of By-Law Number Three. The forum of the Governors' Letter seems to be doing a good job of reaching all the governors. So if we have a motion to amend the constitution or by-law it will receive their attention. If such a motion gets a two-thirds majority why should it not pass? If less than half the governors vote it is probably because those who didn't vote considered the amendment to be inconsequential. I hardly think it possible to "sneak" an amendment past the Board when it is presented in the GL!

Brad Thomson: With respect to the *President's Message*, does it come as any surprise that the FQE has chosen not to ratify their equivalent of our motion 97-10? We have yet another example of this rival, hostile and completely dishonest federation's typical pattern of behaviour, which pattern has existed for years and years. The simple truth of the matter is that the FQE refuses to bargain in good faith. They cannot possibly be trusted. As a result, the CFC shouldn't even consider giving them the time of day, let alone anything related to chess. Thus, I am in full agreement with Mr. Cabañas when he states that he is opposed to abetting in the FQE's attempts to achieve independent nation status within FIDE. I do disagree, however, when the President states that we should remain "open to cooperation with the FQE." I also disagree with his contention that there is a large potential for the CFC in Quebec. The Outaouais tournament is small potatoes. It must be recognized that the region across the river from Ottawa is the only significantly populated area on the entire Ontario-Quebec border, and further, that it is a region wherein separatist sentiments run very low. Perhaps modest inroads could be accomplished by having more than one such event per year, but apart from this, the CFC has little capacity for influence in the province of Quebec. Our potential, then, is quite limited. Until such time as a complete altering of attitudes on the part of the

FQE is demonstrated, we should stop wasting our time on them and concentrate more of our energies upon the loyal member provinces who are far more deserving of our attention.

It is pleasing to see that the current executive has abided by section 1202 and decided not to send a women's team to the next Olympiad. And the President is absolutely correct when he suggests that we require a clear policy in this area. For it will be recalled that a women's team was sent to the 1996 Olympiad, despite the written suggestion of the business office, which was unanimously supported by the employees, to the effect that we couldn't afford it at the time. Indeed, our current financial picture would not be so wretched had the executive been in possession of the wisdom to listen to the business office opinion, which was (and always will be) more educated than their own.

The issue of what I deem to be the President's irresponsible behaviour with respect to 97-10 has been bandied about considerably, and I shall not labour upon it further. I accused him of being a liar and he denied it. Ultimately it's my word against his, since it is unlikely that the CIA secretly recorded the phone conversation in question. But on a related matter, while I am pleased that Mr. Quiring has revealed the fact that he was contacted and did vote on the matter of the 1996 Closed, I am equally dismayed that the President has not done so, despite the fact that he said he would, once Mr. Farges was given a chance to comment. Since Mr. Farges has had not one, but two chances, and since we have yet to hear from Mr. Cabañas on the issue, then, unless I completely misunderstand the definition of the term liar...

On another matter, the President accuses me of not having the decency to mention the name of Mr. Bowerman when I called for the resignation of governors who were playing in the Canadian Open, not working, and yet chose not to attend the annual meeting. I thank Mr. Cabañas from the bottom of my heart for mentioning the name of Mr. Bowerman, for I had no idea that he too fit into this category. The only persons I was aware of before this time were Mr. Neven, who has resigned, and Mr. Huczek, whom to my knowledge has not. It had been my intention to keep the names of these individuals anonymous, just in case they had a very good excuse for their lack of attendance, but since the President has not seen fit to exercise such discretion, I have been left with no choice but to mention the names of the other parties involved. For it would not have been fair to Mr. Bowerman to have the President babble out his name, and then leave the identities of the others unrevealed.

Finally, with respect to the President, I wish to thank him for putting in two years at the helm of the CFC. It is a difficult and often thankless task. People are always willing to criticize, but are rarely forthcoming with praise when due. I have certainly been vocal in my assaults against Mr. Cabañas, but I have also seen fit to praise him when I felt him to be doing something proper and beneficial. Despite my attacks, he has carefully considered my straw vote motions with respect to women, and a dress code. His thoughts were well intentioned and added considerably to the clarification of the issues. It is clear that the President and myself do not see eye to eye, and neither of us are without our faults, but chess is a difficult business and I trust

that both of us continually have our hearts in it, if not always our intellects.

Should 97-3 fail, I would be prepared to second Jonathan Berry's suggestion that all women's programs be replaced with a financial incentive for the first women to achieve a rating of 2450 or better. And speaking of the eloquent Mr. Berry, I must say that I am in agreement with all of his comments with respect to norms at Canadian Opens, and the misleading nature that the advertizing of such norms can have. But I adamantly disagree with Jonathan when he suggests that the fact that players don't show up for simul with a grandmaster is an argument that they wouldn't like to play one in a real game. You see my dear fellow, deep, yes very deep inside the feeble and foolish aspirations of we mortals lies the faintest of absurd and improbable hopes that we might just take the dude off, or perhaps fluke out a draw. But the point is, who cares if we do this when the guy's playing thirty people at once? I was fortunate enough to beat Deen Hergott in a simul a few years back, and I once beat Nickoloff in a blitz game - but so what? Do it in 40/2 and you've got something to brag about! And even if we lose, which we almost certainly will, the fact remains that we played a *real* game with a grandmaster, and not an exhibition match.

NEW MOTION

98-8 (Dan Majstorovic – Roger Langen) That the mandate and powers of the Olympic selection committee be reviewed; and should these be found redundant to, or in conflict with, the rules which exist for Olympic selection, that the Olympic selection committee be abolished. If, on the other hand, it is agreed that the committee is compliant with the rules, yet useful in overseeing their application, then let that be clear.

Roger Langen: A concern has been raised in our Ontario group over the prerogative power of the Olympic selection committee. Therefore, in the interest of obtaining clarification about the need for this committee where clear rules already exist for Olympic selection, I will be seconding a Motion by Dan Majstorovic.

NEW MOTION

98-9 (Francisco Cabañas-Hugh Brodie) Moved That the following changes be made to the CFC handbook.

Replace 714b with the following

714 b)

For players with established ratings the new rating is

$$R_n = R_o + 32 \times (S - S_x)$$

In applying this equation to players of 2199 or over, change 32 to 16. For players who start an event below 2199 and then in the event go above 2199 the gains are computed normally,

namely with 32 in 714b and then the increase over 2199 is cut in half.

Where

R_n is the post event (new) rating before the application of bonus or participation points

R_o is the pre event (old) rating

S is the score

S_x is the expected score. This is determined by the following table to two significant figures (a more accurate determination of the expected score may be used in the actual calculation):

Rating Difference	Expected score per game	
	High	Low
0--3	.50	.50
4--10	.51	.49
11--17	.52	.48
18--25	.53	.47
26--32	.54	.46
33--39	.55	.45
40--46	.56	.44
47--53	.57	.43
54--61	.58	.42
62--68	.59	.41
69--76	.60	.40
77--83	.61	.39
84--91	.62	.38
92--98	.63	.37
99--106	.64	.36
107--113	.65	.35
114--121	.66	.34
122--129	.67	.33
130--137	.68	.32
138--145	.69	.31
146--153	.70	.30
154--162	.71	.29
163--170	.72	.28
171--179	.73	.27
180--188	.74	.26
189--197	.75	.25
198--206	.76	.24
207--215	.77	.23
216--225	.78	.22
226--235	.79	.21
236--245	.80	.20
246--256	.81	.19
257--267	.82	.18
268--278	.83	.17
279--290	.84	.16
291--302	.85	.15
303--315	.86	.14
316--328	.87	.13
329--344	.88	.12
345--357	.89	.11
358--374	.90	.10
375--391	.91	.09
392--411	.92	.08
412--432	.93	.07
433--456	.94	.06

457--484	.95	.05
485--517	.96	.04
518--559	.97	.03
560--619	.98	.02
620--734	.99	.01
735 and over	1.00	.00

The other changes are as follows replace 714c with the following

714c) Except for players with provisional ratings or players who meet the conditions for applying Regulation 716, bonus points are awarded in tournaments with 4 or more rounds actually played according to the following rules.

Definitions:

- i) Rl is 24 points for 4 rounds and 2 points higher for each additional round
- ii) $Rt = (Rn - Ro) - Rl$
- iii) Rk is the peak rating before the tournament
- iv) Rp is the performance rating determined by Equation 714a

The number of bonus points Rb is calculated as follows:

- i) $Rb = 0$ if Rn is greater than or equal to 1999 or if $Rn + Rt$ is less than or equal to Rk
- ii) $Rb =$ the lesser of: Rt , $1999 - Rn$, $Rp - Rn$, $Rn + Rt - Rk$.

Delete 714d, e and f (714g has already been deleted) and add a new 714d as follows:

714d) In addition, participation points, Ra1 and Ra2, are awarded as follows:

- i) $Ra1 = 0$ if $Rn + Rb$ (or Rp for provisionally rated players) is greater than or equal to 1799
- ii) $Ra1 =$ The lesser of: $1799 - (Rn + Rb)$ [or $1799 - Rp$] and 1 point per game played against an opponent who is a junior, and unrated player, or a provisionally rated player. If the opponent is both a junior and either an unrated or provisionally rated player 2 points per game
- iii) $Ra2 = 0$ if $Rn + Rb + Ra1$ (or $Rp + Ra1$ for provisionally rated players) is greater than or equal to 1599
- iv) $Ra2 =$ The lesser of $1599 - (Rn + Rb + Ra1)$ [or $1599 - (Rp + Ra1)$] and 1 point per game played against an opponent who is a junior, an unrated player, or a provisionally rated player. If the opponent is both a junior and either an unrated or provisionally rated player 2 points per game

Delete "Exception: when regulation 716b is applied, equation 714a is used" from 715

Add 716a), 716b), and 716c)

716a) If a post tournament player's rating (including any participation and bonus points) is less than 800, and the player had a permanent rating before the tournament greater than 799, the player is entered in the rating list at 799.

716b) If a post tournament player's rating (including any participation and bonus points) is less than 800, and the player had a permanent rating before the tournament less than or equal to 799, the player is entered in the rating list at the greater of the player's pre and post tournament ratings.

716c) If a post tournament player's rating (including any participation and bonus points) is less than 200, the player is entered in the rating list at 200. This applies to both provisional and permanent ratings.

Replace "1200" by "800" in 717

Discussion (Cabañas) The main purpose of this motion is to bring the CFC rating system in line with the formulas used by FIDE, the USCF and the FQE. We must first look at CFC bulletin number 1 (November-December 1973) in the report of Dr. Malcolm Collins the CFC rating auditor at the time. The current CFC system corresponds to the solid line in his report while the FQE, USCF and FIDE systems correspond to the dashed line in his report. I will reproduce the following quote from his report:

"It would be possible to use a rating system based on the dashed line in the figure, but it would take much longer for the statistician to perform the calculations so that the cost of running the system would be greatly increased (perhaps doubled). Only if the CFC goes to the use of a computer to calculate ratings would it become a practical proposition to use the dashed line for calculations"

The decision at the time to use an approximation was a cost saving measure in order to save staff time since the ratings were then calculated by hand. This is no longer appropriate since the ratings are now calculated by computer.

I have also included changes to address the following issues:

Remove inflationary policies for strong players by removing bonus point for experts (keep in mind that the masters "feed" on inflated experts particularly in sectionalized events) and removing the rule where a player does not lose rating points if s/he come first.

Minimizing the fluctuations for all masters not just those over 2300

Preventing the gain of bonus points by the simple fluctuation of a player's rating without an increase in strength over time.

Targeting participation points to players who play opponents who are statistically underrated.

Preventing the situation where a player with a lower rating can end up ahead of a player with a higher rating after the same performance. This is actually possible now in very long events (15 -20 rounds etc).

Address the problem of negative ratings (this actually happened in BC! One player ended up with a rating of -19)

Recognizing the fact that there are many players below 800 (particularly juniors) who improve just by experience. This is a very significant deflationary pressure.

Delete a rule 711.3, that has no real purpose today.

NOTICE OF COSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

98-10 Moved (Cabañas-Brodie)

To add section 10 to Bylaw 1 of the constitution as follows:

LANGUAGE MEMBERSHIP

10. Any person resident in a province or territory of Canada where the laws of that province or territory do not recognise as an official language any of language(s) in which the magazine is published may join the CFC at the at a rate 50% of the ordinary membership rate. Such a member will enjoy all rights and privileges of CFC membership except that they will not receive the magazine.

And to renumber the existing sections 10 through 16 of bylaw 1 of the constitution as sections 11 through 17.

Discussion (Cabañas). This motion currently only applies to residents of the Province of Quebec, since Quebec is the only Province in Canada recognizes French as the sole official language for the Province, while the other Provinces and Territories recognize English as one of their official languages, and the CFC currently only publishes the magazine in English. It could in the future also apply for example to Nunavut if English is not recognized as an official language there by the territorial government. If the CFC were to publish a French or a Bilingual English and French magazine in the future then this membership would also not apply to Quebec. There is little point in the CFC requiring players in Quebec to purchase a magazine in English as a condition of obtaining other services from the CFC such as for example books and equipment, or participating in tournaments at members rates.

CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA
Balance Sheet
as at April 30, 1998

ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS	1998	1997
Cash	\$15,883	\$31,068
Accounts Receivable (Note 3)	7,752	8,330
Inventories (Note 4)	<u>93,819</u>	<u>88,539</u>
	<u>117,454</u>	<u>127,937</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Land & Building (Note 5)	110,607	115,215
Furniture & Equipment (Note 5)	<u>10,521</u>	<u>14,886</u>
Total Depreciable Assets	121,128	130,101
Other (Library Donation)	<u>2,790</u>	<u>2,790</u>
	<u>123,918</u>	<u>132,891</u>
Total Assets	<u>241,372</u>	<u>260,828</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$17,016	13,223
Special Funds (Note 6)	6,429	3,702
Unearned Revenue (Note 2)	<u>43,472</u>	<u>46,811</u>
	66,917	63,736
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	<u>174,455</u>	<u>197,092</u>
	<u>241,372</u>	<u>260,828</u>

CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA
INCOME STATEMENT AND RETAINED EARNINGS

For the Year Ended April 30,1998

REVENUE	1998	1997
Sales of Books and Equipment	\$206,967	217,160
Less Cost of Goods Sold	<u>(141,408)</u>	<u>(142,695)</u>
Gross Profit	65,559	74,465
Membership Revenue	85,622	84,314
Interest from Foundation	7,142	4,979
Rating Fees	21,487	25,674
Other Interest Earned		217
Other Revenue	<u>13,651</u>	<u>9,949</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	193,461	199,598
EXPENSES		
General & Administrative:		
Salaries & Benefits	79,438	78,874
Building & Equipment Expense	20,240	19,650
Office Expense	48,932	41,243
Other Executive & Admin. Expenses	<u>2,836</u>	<u>3,031</u>
Total General & Admin. Expenses	151,446	142,798
Program Expenses		
Publications	36,373	35,286
International Programs	11,372	20,216
National Programs	<u>16,907</u>	<u>10,536</u>
Total Program Expenses	64,652	66,038
Total Expenses	216,098	208,836
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	(22,637)	(9,238)
RETAINED EARNINGS BEGINNING OF PERIOD	<u>197,092</u>	<u>206,330</u>
RETAINED EARNINGS END OF PERIOD	<u>\$174,455</u>	<u>\$197,092</u>

1. BACKGROUND

The Chess Federation of Canada was Incorporated without Share Capital under part II of the Canada Corporations act. The Chess Federation of Canada is registered with Revenue Canada as a Charitable Organization.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and reflect the following policies:

INVENTORY

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and realizable value.

FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets are valued at cost, net of accumulated depreciation, calculated on a declining balance.

UNEARNED REVENUE

Unearned revenue represents the unexpired portion of membership fee paid during the fiscal period.

3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	1998	1997
Total Receivable	\$8,153	\$11,886
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	<u>(401)</u>	<u>(3,556)</u>
Net Receivables	<u>\$7,752</u>	<u>\$ 8,330</u>

4. INVENTORY

	1998	1997
Books	\$29,843	\$35,506
Equipment	\$60,614	\$48,236
Computer & Software	<u>\$3,362</u>	<u>\$4,797</u>
	<u>\$93,819</u>	<u>\$88,539</u>

5. FIXED ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated	Rate	1998	1997
	DEPRECIATION			NET CAPITAL	NET CAPITAL
Building	\$162,852	\$52,245	4%	\$110,607	\$115,215
Furniture & Equipment	19,845	16,475	20%	3,370	4,213
Computer Equipment	<u>45,831</u>	<u>38,681</u>	33%	<u>7,150</u>	<u>10,673</u>
Total Furniture & Computer	<u>65,676</u>	<u>55,156</u>		<u>10,520</u>	<u>14,886</u>
	<u>\$228,528</u>	<u>\$107,401</u>		<u>\$121,127</u>	<u>\$130,101</u>

6. SPECIAL FUNDS

	1998	1997
Donations	\$770	\$634
Olympic Fund	\$5,580	\$3,068
Pugi Fund	<u>79</u>	<u></u>
	<u>\$6,429</u>	<u>\$3,702</u>

The Olympic Fund was established to raise monies to provide financial support for participation of Canadian representatives in the International Chess Olympiads. The Pugi Fund was established to provide travel assistance for juniors to improve their chess skills.

7. CHESS FOUNDATION OF CANADA

The Chess Foundation of Canada was organized in 1960 as a mechanism to generate a stable source of revenue for the Chess Federation of Canada. Its capital comes from life memberships in the Federation. Money accumulated is never spent. However, all interest earned from investments is turned over to the Federation at the end of each fiscal year, April 30th. The Unearned Revenue portion represents an estimate of the liability of the Federation to its current members.

**Auditor's Report
For the year ending April 30, 1998**

May 22, 1998

To the Governors of the Chess Federation of Canada

1. Opinion on Financial Statements:

I am satisfied that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the CFC.

This opinion is based on testing and reviews that I considered necessary in the circumstances. Once again I have left my original working papers at the office for reference purposes. One test that is normally done is to have bank confirmations done. I have rejected this because I considered a review of the bank reconciliations adequate.

I attended the inventory count this year and was satisfied that the count was taken accurately.

Overall I was very happy with the state of the records and had a trouble-free audit. I would like to bring the following matters to your attention and discuss certain items in more detail.

2. Report on Other Matters:

I reviewed the past years Governor's Letters as part of my background work. I shall try to respond to everyone's questions in the body of this report.

Am I the Chess and Math Auditor also? (P. Haley GL-1)

I am not nor was I ever the Auditor for Chess and Math. Larry Bevand asked me if I was interested once, but after I quoted my rates, nothing further happened. However, I have been working for Chess and Math as a chess instructor for the last five years.

"...we could become slaves to the budget.." (G. Taylor GL-1, page 9)

Well hopefully not! The budget is basically a planning tool. An organization must be aware of its resources (or the limitations of) and have an idea of the consequences of its actions. Budgeting gets a bad rap as it's painful and dreary (and often associated with accountants).

This is good lead-in to my first topic,

Project Evaluation (a budgeting subplot)

Let's consider the practical side to budgets using this example project. I would like to illustrate a method of project assessment.

Sample project

The Governors allocated \$4,000 (AGM July 15, 1997: Item 11, Other Business) to the "Abe Yanofsky book" project. If I were being asked to vote on this project, I suggest that the following format be used to present information.

Project Name:	Abe Yanofsky Book
Fiscal Year:	1998-99
Financial Impact:	
Revenues:	\$2,000
Cost:	<u>\$4,000</u>
Net Financial Impact:	(\$2,000)
Other CFC Resources required:	None
Project Proposer:	Yves Farges (Sorry Yves, I'm not picking on you. It's just an illustrative example)

I've paraphrased what I read in the GL a bit and added some **fictional content**.

Description:

\$4,000 is requested for the completion of a book covering the career of Abe Yanofsky. The book is needs substantial editing work before it will be ready for printing.

Discussion:

Per Francisco Cabanas, Yves Farges has agreed to guarantee the cost of printing provided he can choose the printer.

Pros: The topic is of historical importance.

Cons: The book has limited commercial appeal and will likely lose \$2,000 over a two-year time period.

Financial Impact:

Assumptions:

Unit sales price of \$20

The Most likely units sales are for a 2-year period and are estimated by Tom O'Donnell. The Pessimistic estimate is give by myself.

	<u>Pessimistic</u>	<u>Optimistic</u>	<u>Most Likely</u>
Expected Sales (Units):	50	250	100
Expected Sales(\$):	1,000	5,000	2,000
Cost(\$):	4,000	4,000	4,000
Profit/(Loss)	<u>\$(3,000)</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>\$(2,000)</u>

How should this project be evaluated?

The following questions should be an integral part of the evaluation process.

1. What's the financial condition of the CFC?
2. What's our unallocated free balance for 1998-99, the year in question?
3. What's our outlook in the immediate future, 2-3 years?

For step 2, we need a budget! Let us suppose we have an unallocated free balance of \$50,000 (we don't), this project looks like a shoo-in. However, what if we have an Olympiad on Mars(just imagine here) that will cost \$60,000 in 1999-2000, then of course this project becomes problematic.

At the start of each operating cycle, Governors need to aware of

1. The actual financial condition of the CFC. (The Treasurer's role)
2. The free balance that's available for discretionary spending, (The budget)
3. What's coming up in the future. Sales trends, Olympiads, Zonal tournaments etc...(An intermediate term plan.- The Treasurer and Executive Director's roles)

If there is no general consensus about the CFC's financial strength (as a minimum), the result will be chaos. Take for example the proposed junior program for which I was asked to comment on.

Someone went to a lot of trouble to put this idea in motion. However, when considering the CFC's financial position (among other factors), I recommended rejecting this promising initiative. This looks like a good lead in to my next topic.

THE FUTURE: PLANNING, BUDGETING AND THE LIKES

The CFC is at a major turning point. Financial results have not been encouraging and they do not look to be improving.

	Net Income
1996-97	\$ (9,000)
1997-98	\$(22,600)
1998-99	A likely loss with the Olympiad.

There are simply not enough resources to fund everything that the CFC wants to do. It's time to establish some funding priorities for the big ticket items, Olympiads, National Championships (men's, women's, junior etc) and to budget out the scarce resources.

The CFC's working capital position is:

	1997-98	1996-97
Current Assets (cash, A/R, Inventory)	117,500	127,900
Less: Current Liabilities (A/P)	<u>17,000</u>	<u>13,200</u>
	<u>100,500</u>	<u>114,700</u>

It's easy to see that at the current rate of working capital drainage, the CFC will not be able to operate in a few years. Drastic action, like selling the building, may be needed to raise working capital. This situation is a convenient lead in to the next topic,

The Treasurer's Report 1997 (GL One, page 20): Response to Various Questions

1. "...I strongly welcome (the) auditor's recommendations with regards to Olympiad and other national expenses."

Troy Vail asked me comment on the proposed Junior Program during the course of the audit and my comments caused some negative reaction because of my ties with Chess and Math (AEM). The Governors should resolve whether this real/appearance of a conflict of interest poses any problem before I go any further here.

I can, however, make some general comments. From reading the Governors Letters, the responses to the financial information questionnaire and the questions from the Treasurer, the state of the CFC's finances is on a lot of people's minds.

The CFC is not in a strong financial position. There are no more cash reserves (there used to be about \$20,000 held in short term securities), working capital is diminishing and projected overall sales are not expected to improve (Troy can give his reasoning here.) . Each year more money flows out than in. I think the first priority is to stabilize the losses. We must establish a breakeven budget immediately. It is time to realize that the CFC simply cannot fund every activity or project no matter how deserving it is. Every program must be reviewed and prioritized. It is clear that given the size of the CFC's recent losses,

	Net Income
1996-97	\$ (9,200)
1997-98	\$(22,600)
1998-99	Another loss is likely due to the Olympiad.

Something big (or a lot of smaller things) has to be dropped. The first task is to establish the 1998-99 free funds balance before discretionary program expenditures. A budget is a must.

The next step will be painful. It is clear that something(s) must be cut. I reviewed and rejected a promising proposal for a national junior championship program largely due the CFC's lack of financial strength (among other factors). This is a tragedy as junior development is a promising growth area. Surely, something else was a lower priority and should have been cut before. However, this is an area for the Governors to decide. Whatever decisions are taken, they should be taken quickly because time is running out.

Some Ideas:

- Do we really have to go to all the Olympiads? (They're just too expensive)
- Do we really need the women's cycle? (Warning: I'm biased here)
- Can we contract out any part of the office work, like magazine production perhaps?
- Can we use the website more effectively to promote chess to non-members and kids?
- Can we ask for general donations from members instead of just Olympiad related donations?
- Can we ask for donations for specific projects (the junior program for example)
- Can we sell advertising on our website? (I think it's a long shot)

2. Long range planning, setting aside funds for major expenditures in a separate account

The use of a separate account may or may not be useful. The real problem faced by the CFC is that there are no funds to set aside. This is because more funds are being spent, allocated or committed than are being generated.

Questionnaire Responses

Thanks to everyone who responded to the survey (Rick Martin, Robert Bowerman, Yves Farges, John Puusa, Lyle Craver, Grant Brown.) I'm a bit surprised at the low response rate, however Yves Farges deserves a prize for the fastest response!

1. I don't really care about financial info

Agree	(1)	Robert Bowerman
	(2)	
	(3)	
	(4)	
Disagree(5)		Rick Martin, Grant Brown, Yves Farges, Lyle Craver

2. I'm really into the numbers but

I don't want any more information

I want to know more, specifically,....

Agree	(1)	Robert Bowerman
	(2)	

(3)
 (4) Rick Martin
 Disagree(5) Grant Brown, Yves Farges, Lyle Craver

(Lyle Craver) wanted to know more about,

1. The Breakdown of Merchandise Inventory

If you need an item by item breakdown, Troy Vail can provide a complete list. It's too long for me to reproduce here.

2. Planning for non-annual events (Olympiads and Zonals)

Good Point. I raised the point of multi-year planning in my last management report. The uneven clumping of major events has a way of skewing the planning process and making the evaluation of the CFC's financial position a tricky prospect.

I have touched on the issue again this year. See "The Future, Budgeting and the Likes" section of my report on other matters. The keys will be to have

1. A good grasp of the CFC's current financial position
2. A clear idea of what major events are coming up in the next 2-3 years.
3. Clear funding priorities for major projects.
4. A multi-year forecast of the CFC's financial position based on current trends
5. A sound method of evaluating funding proposals. This has been described at length in my current report.
6. A good follow-up mechanism for funded projects. Yves Farges brought this up as part of his response to the questionnaire. I will address this point in more detail a bit further on.

3. Membership information

A breakdown has been given in past Governor's Letters. If you need something specific, Troy Vail will be able to provide to you.

4. Formula used to calculate unearned membership revenues

Unearned revenue is calculated by taking the amount of time left on memberships in months * (Cost of membership/12). Example John Smith is a adult member that expires 1998/09/01. On 1998/05/01 John Smith will have 4 months left in his membership $4 * 33 \text{ (for adult member)}/12 = \11 in unearned revenue. *[TV-Troy Vail]*

5. Is there a seasonal pattern?

The tournament season tends to follow the school year, starting up in September and ending in June. As such most new members start in September so September and October have the most number of expiry dates where as July and August have the least number of expiry dates. *[TV]*

6. How are life members accounted for?

Life members are included in the Chess Foundation and do not apply to unearned revenue. *[TV]*

(Yves Farges: Program Evaluation on a cash flow basis)

Bang-on! I should have thought of this before. I think we need this. Information in the following format would be useful for assessing projects.

Project	Revenues	Expenses	Net	Comments
Schools Program	\$25,000	\$13,800 (direct costs) + Cost of Sales	\$11,200-Cost of Sales	Associated gross sales have been estimated by Troy Vail. Expenses consisted of the production and shipping of the Teachers' Manual.
Yanofsky Book	\$2,250(*)	\$4,000	\$(1,750)	(*) The revenue is a made up number for illustrative purposes.
Project 3 and so on...				

Of course some projects will have indirect effects on revenues and some will have none. However when a project is intended to generate revenues, this format is very informative. The Yanofsky book project would be a perfect example for this type of reporting mechanism. It's meant to generate revenues and direct costs are readily measurable.

(Grant Brown)

“What’s included in the following expense categories?”

1. **Building and Equipment**
2. **Office**
3. **Other Executive and Administration**
4. **Publications**
5. **International Programs**
6. **National Programs**

My financial statement overview contains a more detailed explanation of the financial statement contents. Office Expenses, International Programs and National Programs are covered in more detail there.

	1998	1997
	(\$)	(\$)
<u>Building and Equipment:</u>		
Utilities	2,602	2,264
Municipal Taxes	3,504	3,478
Office Insurance	1,949	1,533
Maintenance	3,210	2,152
Depreciation-Building	4,607	4,800
Depreciation-Equipment	843	1,002
Depreciation-Computers	<u>3,522</u>	<u>4,419</u>
Total	20,240	19,650

The increase in maintenance was due to furnace repairs.

<u>Other Executive and Admin:</u>		
Annual Meeting	1,458	728
CFC Handbook	534	
Other Executive expenses	250	206
Governor’s Letter	62	356
Other Admin	<u>1,065</u>	<u>1,206</u>
Total	2,836	3,031

Other Admin expenses include expenditures on the alarm system (\$240), payments to Deen Hergott for editing and general work at \$10/hour (\$160), advertising for a new position ultimately filled by Stephanie Powers and the cost of her business cards (\$260). Annual Meeting expenses includes the cost of the room and refreshments (\$872!). The room and refreshment costs were shocking to Troy and Francisco. This year cheaper alternatives will be sought. \$300 was for travel for Troy Vail and Tom O’Donnell.

Publications:

En Passant	44,303	42,985
Advertising Revenues	(5,704)	(6,075)
Newsstand Sales	<u>(2,227)</u>	<u>(1,624)</u>
Total	36,372	35,286

En Passant expenses include printing (\$30,000), payments to contributors (\$7,000) and mailing makes up the balance.

Is the building owned free and clear of any encumbrances? Does it include land?

The building is owned free and clear. It is not a separate free standing building, it is a condominium unit in an industrial park so we have joint ownership of the common areas and shared access to the service road. Technically we “own” a share of the common areas. I hope this answers your question.

How much of employee time bought with “Salaries and Benefits” is spent on the following tasks-by percentage?

Merchandising	40%
En Passant	40%
Other duties	20%

(%s were estimated by Troy Vail.)

3 I’m happy with the way things are

Agree (1) Robert Bowerman

(2)
(3)
(4) Rick Martin
Disagree(5) Grant Brown, Yves Farges, Lyle Craver

THE NEW ACCOUNTING PROGRAM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The new system did affect the 1997-98 audit. This year, with the new program in mind, I performed only those tests on the program which directly affect the 1997-98 financial statements. I did not perform a formal system review. I did an extensive review of the program's documentation and made comments and suggestions to Troy. Also, I did a brief test of the program. The new software looks like a nice piece of programming work so far.

Software documentation is an extensive undertaking. The review of the manual will likely be continued next audit.

I hope my comments and suggestions will be more helpful than the plain "I think everything is OK" type of audit report.

Yours truly,
Michael Yip.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES IS June 30th, 1998

1998 Annual Meeting of the CFC

PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES

**6:00 p.m. -10:00p.m. July 9th 1998, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. July 10th 1998, and 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
July 11th 1998**

Ottawa, Ontario

AGENDA FOR OUTGOING ASSEMBLY OF GOVERNORS

1. Registration of Proxies
2. Introduction and Opening Comments from the Chair
3. Minutes of the 1997 Annual Meeting
4. Reports:
 - A. President
 - B. Vice-President
 - C. Past President
 - D. Secretary
 - E. FIDE Representative
 - F. Treasurer
 - G. Rating Auditor
 - H. Junior Coordinator
 - I. Women's Coordinator
 - J. Masters' Representative
 - K. Auditor's Report
 - L. Executive Director
 - M. Office Manager
 - N. Chess Foundation
 - O. Kalev Pugi Fund
 - P. National Appeals Committee
 - Q. Canadian Correspondence Chess Association
 - R. Other Formal Reports
5. Motions and straw vote topics for discussion and vote
 - 98-1 Motion (Constitutional) re introduction since motion failed due to lack of quorum
 - 98-5 Straw vote
 - 98-6 Motion
 - 98-7 Straw Vote
 - 98-8 Motion
 - 98-9 Motion
 - 98-10 Motion (Constitutional)
6. Bids for 1998 Events
 - 1998 Canadian U20 (Junior)
7. Any Other Business
8. Decision of the Assembly as to a Donation to the Chess Foundation of Canada

1998 Annual Meeting of the CFC
Ottawa, Ontario
AGENDA FOR INCOMING ASSEMBLY OF GOVERNORS

1. Registration of Proxies
2. Election of Governors from Provinces (Territories) without an Affiliated Provincial (Territorial) Association
 - A. North West Territories (1)
 - B. Nunavut Territory (0)
 - C. Quebec (3)
 - D. Yukon Territory (1)
3. Re-Registration of Proxies
4. Introduction and Opening Comments from the Chair
5. Election of Officers
 - i) Board of Directors
 - A. President
 - B. Vice-President
 - C. Secretary
 - D. Treasurer
 - E. FIDE Representative
 - F. Rating Auditor
 - ii) Officers not on the Board of Directors
 - A. Masters' Representative
 - B. Women's Coordinator
 - C. Junior Coordinator
 - D. Other Officers pursuant to section 18(f) Bylaw #2 of the Constitution
6. Appointment of Auditors
7. Appointment of Chess Foundation of Canada Trustee
8. Appointment of Committee Members
 - A. Kalev Pugi Fund
 - B. National Appeals Committee
9. Motion and/or discussion re proposed changes to Canadian Closed and Zonal Rules
10. Motion and/or discussion re proposed changes to Canadian Youth Championship Rules.
11. Bids for 1999 and later Events
 - A. Canadian Open
 - B. Canadian Closed and Zonal
 - C. Canadian Woman's Closed
 - D. Canadian U20 (Junior)
 - E. Canadian U18
 - F. Canadian U16 (Cadet)
 - G. Canadian U14
 - H. Canadian U12
 - I. Canadian U10
12. Any Other Business
13. Location and time of 1999 AGM
14. Adjournment

Proxy Form
Annual Meeting of the C.F.C. Ottawa 1998

I, _____ of _____,
a member of the **Incoming Assembly** of Governors of the Chess Federation of Canada, hereby appoint
“ _____ ”

as my proxy to vote for me and on my behalf in the same manner as I could if personally present at the Annual Meeting to be held in Ottawa on the 9th to 11th of July, 1998, or at any adjournment thereof.

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____ 1998.

Witness _____ Signature of Governor _____

Instructions to Proxy

Nominate For:	President	_____
	Vice-President	_____
	Treasurer	_____
	Secretary	_____
	FIDE Representative	_____
	Rating Auditor	_____
	Women's Coordinator	_____
Vote For:	President	_____
	Vice-President	_____
	Treasurer	_____
	Secretary	_____
	FIDE Representative	_____
	Rating Auditor	_____
	Junior Coordinator	_____
	Women's Coordinator	_____

Instructions to Proxy:

Proxy Form
Annual Meeting of the C.F.C. Ottawa 1998

I, _____ of _____,
a member of the **Outgoing Assembly** of Governors of the Chess Federation of Canada, hereby appoint
“ _____ ”

as my proxy to vote for me and on my behalf in the same manner as I could if personally present at the Annual Meeting to be held in Ottawa on the 9th to 11th of July, 1998, or at any adjournment thereof.

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____ 1998.

Witness _____ Signature of Governor _____

Instructions to Proxy: