

ICCF CONGRESS 2007

Benalmádena, Spain

20th October to 26th October 2007



The ICCF Congress 2007, in conjunction with meetings of the Executive Board and Management Committee, took place in the Hotel Alay, Benalmádena, Spain, from 20th to 26th October 2007.

The Congress was arranged and hosted by the Correspondence Chess Federation of Spain (AEAC). The facilities in the Congress Hotel were excellent and the location and amenities were outstanding.

Participants of the Congress and accompanying persons were offered an extensive programme of events, which included excursions to Granada and The Alhambra and to Gibraltar, and there were guided tours for accompanying ladies and families to Malaga and Mijas. There was a chess match with Malaga Chess Club and a traditional ICCF blitz tournament.

Congress participants (memberships of Commissions/Committees are listed in Appendix A)

Sultan Mohammed Al-Kuwari (QAT) as delegate
Heikki Arppi (FIN) as delegation member
Maigonis Avotins (LAT) as delegation member
Marcio Barbosa de Oliveira (BRA) as delegate and with proxy for Argentina
Dr. Fritz Baumbach (GER) as delegate and as World CC Champion XI
Ulrich Baumgartner (SUI) as delegation member
Guy Bendaña-Guerrero (NCA) as delegate
Witold Bielecki (POL) as delegate and with proxy for Croatia and Belarus
Gerhard Binder (GER) as Ratings Commissioner
Raymond Boger (NOR) as delegation member
Alan P. Borwell (SCO) as Honorary President, Honorary Member, as delegation member and with proxy for Australia and India
Ivan Bottlik (HUN) as delegate
Petr Buchniček (CZE) as delegate
Osvaldo Buraschi (ARG)
Annemarie Burghoff (GER) as delegation member
Marco Caressa (ITA) as delegation member and Title Tournaments Commissioner
Andrew Dearnley (ENG) as delegation member
Adrian de Blois (ESP) as delegation member
Ruth Ann Fay (USA) as delegation member and as Zonal Director (North America / Pacific)
Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP) as delegation member
Artis Gaujens (LAT) as delegate
Frank Geider (FRA) as delegation member and World Tournaments Director
Guntis Gerhards (LAT) as delegation member
Sergey Grodzensky (RUS) as delegate
Richard Hall (ENG) as delegation member and Chairman of the Arbitration Commission
Tunc Hamarat (AUT) as delegate with proxy for Turkey and as World CC Champion XVI
Dr. Jan Helbich (SVK) as delegate
Hans-Jürgen Isigkeit (GER) as delegation member and Finance Director
Dr. Ole Jacobsen (GHA) as delegate with proxy for Burkino Faso and Togo
Everdinand Knol (RSA) as delegate and as Zonal Director (Asia/Africa)
Alfonso Kupsys (LTU) as delegate
Ron Langeveld (NED) as delegation member
Ervin Liebert (EST) as delegate
Morten Lilleøren (NOR) as delegate
Petyo Iordanov Marinov (BUL) as delegate
Gianni Mastrojeni (ITA) as delegate and with proxy for Romania
Josep Mercadal Benejam (ESP) as delegate and with proxy for Malta
Michael Millstone (USA) as delegation member and Direct Entry Administrator
Antonio Moura (POR) as delegate
Ing. Josef Mrkvička (CZE) as delegation member
Michael Nicholson (ENG) as delegation member

Esko Nuutilainen (FIN) as delegate
Vytas Palciauskas (USA) as delegation member and as World CC Champion IX
Søren Peschardt (DEN) as delegate and with proxy for Ivory Coast
Indulis Petersons (LAT) as delegation member
Donatas Pilinkus (LAT) as delegation member
George D. Pyrich (SCO) as Deputy President and Development Director, as delegate and with proxy for Ireland
Algirdas Rauduve (LTU) as delegation member
Alan J.C. Rawlings (ENG) as delegate
V. Olavi Riikonen (FIN) as delegation member
Horst Rittner (GER) as Honorary Member, as delegation member and as World CC Champion VI
Nol van 't Riet (NED) as Honorary Member and delegate
Marijonas Rocius (LTU) as delegation member
Merike Rotova (EST) as delegation member
Eric Ruch (FRA) as delegate and as Qualifications Commissioner
Pablo Salcedo Mederos (CUB) as delegate
Mohamed Samraoui (GER) as ICCF President and with proxy for Algeria and Tunisia
Henk Sarink (NLD) as delegation member and as ICCF Auditor
Leonard Schakel (USA) as delegate and with proxy for Canada and Singapore
Marjan Semrl (SLO) as delegate
Auno Armas Siikaluoma (FIN) as delegation member
Per Söderberg (SWE) as delegate and with proxy for Iceland and as Rules Commissioner
Achim Soltau (GER) as delegation member
Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) as delegation member and as Zonal Director (Europe)
Mart Tarmak (EST) as delegation member
Luz Marina Tinjaca Ramírez (ITA) as delegation member
Guillermo Toro Solis de Ovando (CHI) as delegate with proxy for Mexico
Georg Walker (SUI) as delegate

Opening the Congress, the ICCF President Med Samraoui responded to the warm welcome of AEAC President, Josep Mercadal Benejam and Mr. Cirilo Gutiérrez, President of the Malaga Chess Federation, and he expressed pleasure that an ICCF Congress was being held in Spain for the first time in ICCF's history.

He referred to the famous Andalusia tourist area on the Costa del Sol (the sunny coast) and said he had an affinity with the area, as he was currently preparing a publication for the Cordoba Foundation, which was promoting peace and tolerance between religions. He provided an interesting summary of the social, cultural, intellectual and spiritual history of Andalucía and that the region had been a pioneer in the renaissance of the modern Europe.

Many famous sporting teams and celebrities had come from Spain and he mentioned, in particular, Pablo Picasso and Antonio Banderas, who were natives of Malaga. Chess in Andalucía had a great reputation and cities like Sevilla and Linares had hosted world championships and many prestigious tournaments with the participation of the greatest players on the planet.

The ICCF President acknowledged the work of the late Carlos Ros Miró, who had been ICCF delegate and President of the CC Commission with the Spanish Chess Federation for over 35 years. The AEAC was created in 2002 by Carlos Flores Gutiérrez and Cecilio Hernández and CC in Spain had progressed with great success with players achieving many new titles, including Spain's first three Grandmasters! The AEAC had been one of the most enthusiastic collaborators with the ICCF Webserver system and Spain had the highest number of webserver players, with all of its national tournaments on the system.

He then made special reference to the outstanding work of Carlos Flores Gutiérrez as ICCF Treasurer from 1995 until 2003, for developing its excellent accounting system and for coming to ICCF's rescue by preparing accounting statements and ICCF Accounts for 2006. Carlos had been the inspiration in bringing an ICCF Congress to Spain and he was congratulated and thanked for his initiative.

The ICCF President referred to all dear CC friends who had passed away since the last Congress and mentioned, in particular, GM Ernst Eichhorn (SUI), André DeVriendt (CAN) and William Roach (CAN).

Delegates then stood in silence to the memory of all departed CC friends.

The ICCF President welcomed new friends attending Congress for the first time and all delegates, partners and families for coming to Spain and he wished them a very happy time in Benalmádena. He also referred to absent friends who had not been able to come to the 2007 Congress and made special reference to the sad circumstances of Dmitry Lybin, who had been refused a visa to attend.

He hoped that elections to the new Executive Board would enable him to continue plans he had when appointed in 2005. Some tasks had been very demanding, like webserver issues, the organisation of World CC Championships and finance matters – where reaching consensus had proved to be difficult.

However, excellent progress had been made with the new cycle of the Champions League, where Valer-Eugen Demian and his collaborators were to be congratulated. Fantastic work was being done by Marketing Commissioner, Michael Blake with ICCF Amici, CBM articles, ICCF Forum and updating and further improving the ICCF website. Alan Borwell, Gerhard Binder and Gino Figlio had made very good progress with the webserver and the Finance Committee and particularly Carlos Flores, had improved financial matters and ICCF finances and funds were very healthy and in capable hands.

Congress would need to discuss important issues like the World CC Championships and some Rules matters and there would be discussion groups in the afternoon on these topics.

The ICCF President then declared the ICCF 2007 Congress, Benalmádena, Spain duly opened and asked all to stand whilst the ICCF Anthem was played. There was then an enjoyable musical and traditional dancing performance provided a local band/folk group.

The ICCF President then made some introductory remarks at the beginning of the Congress meetings describing the plans for dealing with agenda items and an amended agenda was described/displayed. He informed Congress that the Deputy President & Development Director, George Pyrich, would perform the duties of Membership & Services Director (who was unable to be in attendance), for the duration of the 2007 Congress.

1. Proxies for 2007 Congress

The Deputy President & Development Director reported proxies for the Congress as shown in the participants list.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2006 Congress

The 2006 ICCF Congress Minutes, as already published on the ICCF website, were approved.

3. Membership matters

The Deputy President & Development Director reported, on behalf of the Membership and Services Director, that the federations from Togo and Ivory Coast had applied for ICCF membership. Following consideration, the applications were approved by the Congress and the federations from Togo and Ivory Coast were welcomed as the 68th and 69th members of ICCF.

4. Bertl von Massow Awards and other awards

The ICCF President, on behalf of the Executive Board, proposed that ICCF Honorary Membership be awarded to

Gian-Maria Tani (ITA)

in recognition of his substantial contribution to ICCF and international correspondence chess for 30 years. The proposal was carried unanimously and with acclamation by Congress.

A certificate and medal was presented to the delegate for the Netherlands in respect of new

World Correspondence Chess Champion XXI - J.J. van Oosterom (NED)

Congress acclaimed the new World Champion and noted that the traditional trophy would be prepared, following completion of the tournament, and presented to the new World Champion at the 2008 ICCF Congress.

The ICCF President outlined the background and criteria which applied for Bertl von Massow awards:- "These medals in Gold and Silver were awarded respectively for 15 and 10 years of faithful service to ICCF as the Delegate of a National organisation, as member of the Executive Board, Management Committee or Commissions, of Zonal organisations or as a Tournament Director, as well as Team Captains of winning or highly placed teams in Olympiads or Continental (Zonal) Team Tournaments".

The ICCF President then announced names of officials which the ICCF Executive Board considered should receive Bertl von Massow awards in 2007. Each recipient (or their respective delegate) came forward to receive medals and certificates, with the acclamation of Congress.

In Gold, for 15 years meritorious work for ICCF to:

Sergey Grodzensky (RUS)
George Pyrich (SCO)
Hendrik Sarink (NED)
Lembit Vahesaar (EST)

In Silver, for 10 years meritorious work for ICCF to:

Sultan Mohammed Al-Kuwari (QAT)
Dario Biella-Bianchi (PER)
Ian Brooks (ENG)
Marco Caressa (ITA)
Duncan Chambers (ENG)
Ruth Ann Fay (USA)
Frank Geider (FRA)
Gerard van den Haak (NED)
Antonio J. Macchia (URU)
Søren Peschardt (DEN)
Jo Wharrier (ENG)

5. ICCF Accounts to 31/12/2006

The ICCF President introduced ICCF Finance Director, Hans-Jürgen Isigkeit (GER), but then asked Carlos Flores to present the Accounts to 31/12/2006, which he had kindly prepared earlier in 2007.

Carlos Flores reported that he had been able to construct the 2006 member federation accounts using information provided by Ruth Ann Fay (USA) and also very useful tournament entry statistics from the system created by Søren Peschardt (DEN). He then reported on the ICCF Accounts for the period to 31/12/2006 and said that he had been able to complete these as accurately as possible, from all the documents provided.

Whilst there had been a deficit arising from previous years of CHF 2,869, there was an operating surplus for the year to 31/12/2006 of CHF 11,839 and a profit had been realised from the sale of ICCF investments amounting to CHF 14,227. Therefore there had been an overall surplus at 31/12/2006 of CHF 23,197.

He thanked all delegates and officials in helping him by supplying requested information and for their support and also Søren Peschardt and Stefan Salzmann (in Switzerland) for their excellent assistance.

The ICCF President expressed his gratitude to Carlos Flores for his invaluable assistance to ICCF.

6. Auditor's Report

The ICCF Auditor, Henk Sarink (NED) reported that he had received the 2006 Accounts in good time and he had verified all the figures and documents provided for the year 2006 and that the financial position at 31/12/2006 had been correctly recorded and reported correctly. However, he reminded the Congress of his reports for previous years 2004 & 2005 which he had been verified only "as far as possible".

7. Election of Executive Board members and Appointment of ICCF Auditor

Introducing the Election process, the ICCF President provided an explanation of the revised structure of the ICCF Executive Board, in particular the decision to create two new posts to fulfil the important functions of Marketing and Membership Services. The ICCF President also provided an explanation of the reasons for the previously long established concept of ICCF General Secretary being restored to achieve better delivery in the areas of prompt and efficient communications including with external organisations, efficient and accurate preparation of Congress and other Minutes, provision of accurate and up to date ICCF Address Lists for use by all ICCF officials and maintenance of ICCF records and archives.

The Deputy President & Development Director then outlined the procedures to be followed for the elections and it was agreed that he and the ICCF Direct Entry Administrator should assist the ICCF Auditor with counting of votes.

Following the completion of the voting procedure, the ICCF Auditor advised Congress of the numbers of votes cast (including those previously intimated by written declarations) and the outcome was:-

ICCF President:	Med Samraoui (GER)	(unanimous)
General Secretary:	Pedro Hegoburu (ARG)	28 votes (<i>elected</i>)
	Josef Mrkvička (CZE)	23 votes
Finance Director:	Hans-Jürgen Isigkeit (GER)	(by substantial majority)
World Tournament Director:	Frank Geider (FRA)	(unanimous)
Marketing Director:	Michael Blake (ENG)	(by substantial majority)

Services Director:

Gino Figlio (PER)

(by substantial majority)

The Congress then confirmed unanimously the appointment of **Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP)**, as ICCF Auditor from 01.01.2008. The current **ICCF Auditor, Henk Sarink (NED)** kindly agreed that he would be prepared to perform the audit of the ICCF accounts for the current period to 31.12.2007 and he was thanked for his valuable work and for his willingness to audit the 2007 ICCF Annual Accounts.

Discussion Groups On the afternoon of Sunday there were concurrent discussion groups (both plenary sessions) on World CC Championship arrangements and on Rules proposals

8. Financial Matters

The ICCF President expressed his wish that the Finance Committee should be continued for another year in view of the transition with regard to financial responsibilities in order to help and support the new Finance Director and this was agreed by the Congress.

ICCF Finance Director, Hans-Jürgen Isigkeit (GER), reported that he was gradually assuming his responsibilities and he could confirm that ICCF's financial position continued to be very good, with reserves of around CHF 270,000. He suggested that perhaps there could even be some reduction in tournament fees in the future but the Finance Committee should first consider possibilities, bearing in mind ongoing financial, tournament and other plans which may come from the new Executive Board.

The Finance Director thought it would be helpful to have written description of rules/arrangements and it was agreed that the Finance Committee should give this proposal due and urgent consideration.

It was indicated that ICCF had a few bank accounts (in addition to the Central Account in Switzerland) and it was agreed they should be closed before 31/12/2007. However, it may be necessary to open an ICCF bank account in Germany, to facilitate transfers of PayPal transactions to/from ICCF, and it was agreed it should be progressed by the Finance Director and DE Administrator, referring to the Finance Committee/Executive Board as necessary.

Although it was confirmed that member federations should only receive annual statements, after the end of each calendar year, it was normal that membership fees were due from the start of each year and therefore should be included in that year's statements. Therefore (for 2008 only) there would be two membership fees included (ie for the year's 2007 and 2008) in member federation statements but that tournament fees would continue to be payable "in arrear" in statements prepared at the year end.

It was likely webserver costs (especially development fees) should reduce in future years, but it was considered prudent not to reduce tournament fees, until savings could be calculated and evaluated.

A final proposal by the Finance Director was agreed whereby CHF 1,000 should be provided as a subsidy to host federations of congresses, to take immediate effect for the 2007 Congress in Spain.

At this point, the ICCF President had to leave the Congress very quickly and unexpectedly. In his absence Deputy President & Development Director, George Pyrich took over as Chairman.

ICCF Direct Entry Administrator, Michael Millstone took the floor and reported that the direct entry system was a resounding success and the number of entries continued to increase during the current year.

He reported that a disproportionate amount of his time had been used in handling DEs from those countries which had opted for "standard DE" and it had been counterproductive. He proposed that it would be better if participation in ICCF DE continued to be optional for member countries but that ICCF should have one "DE Programme", rather than having the current arrangement with two definitions.

Following a discussion, Congress agreed the proposal unanimously and supported the DE Administrator's ideas for improving marketing, DE facilities and wider system usage and evolving player/organisation performance standards. The DE Administrator was congratulated on his outstanding work in this most important ICCF development area.

The ICCF Honorary President, Alan Borwell, then reviewed the ICCF Financial Plan for the period 2003-2007 comparing actual figures with estimates and referred to the main fluctuations, although overall results had been remarkably close to the targets, with a healthy overall 4 year achievement.

He referred to the structure of the 2003-2007 plan and indicated that the next Financial Plan would need to combine income and expenditure for the different transmission methods as it would not be meaningful to continue with financial breakdowns for postal, email and webserver tournaments.

When tournament plans had been formulated for the 2008-11 period, a new Financial Plan would be prepared by the Finance Committee, discussed with the Executive Board and then submitted to the 2008 Congress.

9. Webserver Matters

As WDSC Chairman, Alan Borwell then moved to activities of the Webserver Development Committee and reported that most of the tasks identified in the Phase 4 Plan, for completion before the Congress, had been achieved and he hoped delegates and players appreciated enhancements which had been made to the system.

Ratings Commissioner, Gerhard Binder was the project leader for all rating and related webserver development tasks and was congratulated and thanked by the WDSC Chairman for progress achieved and that the time was approaching when quarterly ratings lists entirely produced on the webserver, would be a reality!

It was requested that Team Captains should be able to see all games for their team members to check progress and that they should be copied with time limit warnings, to try to forestall exceeding time limit claims. These proposals should be considered by appropriate Rules Commission(s) and with the WDSC.

There were requests for further improvements to cross-tables (especially for team events) and it was generally thought the "default" setting for cross tables should be "results", rather than start list, order. However both were needed and maybe each user should be able to set their own default preference.

There was another discussion about conditional moves, including them being visible, but there was not much support for making conditionals the default for important events. Indeed, on the contrary, it was thought players should have to decide only "one move at a time" for webserver play as for OTB chess.

Several other suggestions were made for further enhancements to the webserver system and the WDSC Chairman asked delegates and anyone who had a proposal, to send it to him urgently (with copy to Webserver Commissioner) as items/priorities for possible inclusion in the Phase 5 Plan would soon be discussed and decided by the WDSC.

A Webserver Development Budget of CHF 10,000 was agreed for 2008, but it was hoped it would not need to be fully used. Questions about ongoing system programming and resourcing and provisions for system hosting and back up were raised and would be followed up by ICCF officials/committees.

Webserver Commissioner, Gino Figlio, had provided a very helpful report to Congress on Service Activities and Maintenance, which was much appreciated. A large number of questions had been received by the Help Desk and Gino and his helpers were commended for the speed and quality of their responses. The Webserver Commissioner and the test team/bugtrackers had done important work and Franklin Campbell (USA) had been of great assistance.

The Commissioner, and all others who were involved with the webserver system, was thanked by Congress and the professionalism and task delivery of Systems Programmer, Martin Bennedik, was also greatly appreciated.

10. Qualifications, including Rules Proposals

Qualifications Commissioner, Eric Ruch (FRA) presented his usual excellent report. Title awards for players with applications under Rules 8.5 and 8.6(e) were discussed and agreed. There was a proposal that the wordings of these rules should be amended so that approval would be more automatic but this was not agreed, although it could be considered in the 2008 rules proposals.

All approved new 2007 title awards have been listed under Item 15, Title Awards. The ICCF Qualifications Commissioner was highly commended for his excellent work and thanked by Congress with warm acclamation.

11. ICCF Archives, including Gamescore Databases

Deputy President & Development Director, George Pyrich reported that good progress was being made with the creation of a permanent ICCF games archive, using the webserver system, and that there would soon be many more completed games added to the games downloading facilities via the main ICCF website. Care had to be taken that ICCF fulfilled obligations in providing game databases to publishers, such as CBM, and with other sponsors. Some webserver system refinements may be necessary but agreement of a user specification, identifying changes required, would be finalised shortly. Congress expressed appreciation of the important work being done by George Pyrich and Games Archivist, Laurent Tinture (FRA), in making games available to sponsors, players and the chess public.

12. Working Group on remunerated work

Josef Mrkvička (CZE) presented the working group report which recommended that all ICCF positions should remain on an honorary basis. However if paid expertise did become essential, it should be arranged using a contract/fee

basis, rather than ICCF becoming an employer, which would have tax/employment implications. As well as technical IT programming, aspects of a future marketing agenda could be an area where outside expertise became necessary. Congress accepted the group's reasoning and its conclusion.

13. Marketing and Publications Matters

The new ICCF Marketing Commissioner, Michael Blake (ENG) provided Congress with a comprehensive report on his work since his appointment at the beginning of 2007. Both ICCF Amici and ICCF Telechess articles in CBM have been re-activated, the ICCF Forum is already a tremendous success and plans are well advanced for the upgrading of the ICCF main website and achieving a better co-ordination with other sites.

Contributions are required for ICCF Telechess, with interesting articles and annotated games from players and officials and the Marketing Commissioner would be delighted to hear from any potential contributor(s).

The ICCF Press Office is becoming established, but it was noted there was a vacancy for Latin America.

Congress unanimously approved a Marketing budget of CHF 5,000 for 2008 and further amounts could be allocated, on recommendations by the Finance Committee and with the approval of the Executive Board.

The Marketing Commissioner (soon to be Director) was congratulated on his tremendous initiatives and excellent work in the first nine months of his appointment and encouraged to continue progress in 2008.

The ICCF President had referred in his opening speech about the possibility of ICCF publishing an ICCF Diamond Jubilee (60 years) book in 2011 and had asked Alan Borwell if he would manage such a project. There was some discussion about the idea of a book and/or DVD and Alan indicated that he was willing to produce a possible project outline and distribute it to all federations, to see whether it would be viable.

Ivan Bottlik (HUN) had been working with a Historic Research Committee on a CC Bibliography and good quality printed versions of this publication were available from Prof. Carlo A. Pagni (ITA) for 5€ plus postage. The next goal of the Committee is to collect details of all individual CC round robin tournaments played in the 19th Century and early 20th Century (pre first world war). Hopefully some of the material could be included in a Diamond Book.

Dr. Fritz Baumbach (GER) informed Congress that his book on "Who is the Champion of Champions" is almost ready for publication and he acknowledged the help he had received from Rolf Knobel (SUI) and Robin Smith (USA) and from all the World CC Champions themselves who had provided many annotated games.

14. World Tournament proposals

World Tournament Director, Frank Geider (FRA) introduced his report and proposals to the Congress.

There were discussions about the next World Cup 17 which was planned possibly to start in January 2009. Offers from member federations to organise this tournament and future World Cups would be greatly appreciated.

It was agreed to organise a 3rd Webchess Open Tournament starting in March 2008, to be arranged by Non-Title Tournament Commissioner, Valer-Eugen Demian and TO Controller, Guido Bresadola.

On the recommendation of the WTD, it was agreed to form a Working Group to analyse and decide on the future structure of the Champions League (and arrange outstanding points re the new season just started). The WG would be led by Valer-Eugen Demian (CAN), with Gino Figlio (PER), Michael Millstone (USA), Laurent Tinture (FRA), Josep Mercadal (ESP), Alan Rawlings (ENG) and Witold Bielecki (POL) as WG members.

A question was raised about when money prizes in respect of the previous seasons Champions League would be paid and the ICCF Finance Director Hans-Jürgen Isigkeit was asked to arrange for all the payments urgently.

The WTD asked Congress to acknowledge the efforts of Valer-Eugen Demian, Gino Figlio and Michael Millstone in arranging the completion of CL season 2 and starting up CL season 3 so efficiently and the delegates responded by according a resounding appreciation of their outstanding work.

The ICCF Suspension list was introduced two years ago and had been regularly updated by the WTD, but TDs were reminded to report all cases of withdrawals/disqualifications to WTD and Ratings Commissioner, according to Tournament Rule 6.3. Some TD's were managing events but not performing to the standards required and suspension of players who violate rules is an important responsibility of every TD. There was discussion about the need to improve standards of tournament direction, as envisaged in Arbiters Manual. There was a need to activate the Arbiters Committee as had been established by the 2005 ICCF Congress.

It was agreed that the ICCF suspension list should be incorporated into the ICCF webserver as soon as possible, primarily to assist TO's/TD's and for access by the DE office – suspended players would be automatically identified when tournaments were being set up through the webserver system. There were some doubts expressed about whether names/details of suspended players should be published and this would be reviewed, as a possible extension, in the future.

It was agreed by Congress that each member federation should again be eligible for one free national tournament on the ICCF server (up to 105 games) to start in the period before the opening date of the 2008 ICCF Congress. The Report on **Thematic Tournaments**, provided by Leonardo Madonia (ITA) was accepted, with appreciation.

Title Tournaments, including World Correspondence Chess Championships

ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner Marco Caressa (ITA) presented his Report to Congress and pointed out that, whilst almost all types of events had proceeded successfully through the year, the situation with postal Grandmaster norm tournaments had been unsatisfactory for some considerable time. The last event had started in 2004 and since then only 7 new entries had been received. In view of this situation, the Congress agreed reluctantly to the proposal that there be no new postal Grandmaster norm tournaments and that the Title Tournaments Commissioner should endeavour to obtain suitable title norm opportunities in other events for those players awaiting new events.

The Congress then noted progress with the arrangements for World CC Championship Finals following the 2006 Congress. In particular, it had been announced during the year that the World CC Championship Final 22 had been scheduled to commence on 31.12.2007 with 36 participants playing exclusively on the ICCF server and using an adaptation of the Silli pairings system. Additionally that it was planned to commence (postal) World Championship Final 23 during 2008 and (email) World Championship Final 24 during 2009.

It was also noted that no provision had been made with arrangements to accommodate postal players, by the use of nodes to transmit details of moves to and from server players. A number of Congress delegates expressed strong dissatisfaction with the arrangements and, following a very lengthy discussion, the Congress agreed, by a substantial majority that the arrangements as announced by the Title Tournaments Commissioner should be abandoned and that future World CC Championship Finals must be held under the round robin (all-play-all) system.

Additionally the Congress approved by substantial majority that the following revised arrangements be made:

- (i) World CC Championship Finals 22 & 23 would be 17 player round robin events and that they should commence simultaneously at the earliest opportunity (likely 31.12.2007). These two events would be played exclusively on the ICCF webserver by the server players who had already entered the planned World Championship Final 22, with priority being given according to their dates of qualifying. Should it not be possible to accommodate any entrant in these two events, their entry would be deferred to a later Final in which they would have top priority.
- (ii) The members of the Rules Commission and the Webserver Development Committee would arrange, without delay, the preparation of a set of Playing Rules which would provide arrangements for the accommodation of postal and email players in server events using nodes for the receipt and delivery of the details of moves and also detail rules for time recording and other conditions for those postal and email players.
- (iii) World CC Championship Finals 24 & 25 would also be 17 player round robin events and would start during the 2nd half of 2008. Both events would be played on the ICCF server but would contain postal and email players using nodes and playing under the conditions provided by the Rules Commission.
- (iv) If required, World CC Championship Final 26 would also start during 2008 and would be held under the same arrangements as Finals 24 & 25.

It is anticipated that the adoption of these measures should reduce substantially the currently very large list of players holding finals qualifications and awaiting opportunities to participate in World Championship finals.

Additionally, the Congress approved the recommendation of the WTD that there would be further discussions during the coming year on Tournament Rules which govern qualifications for World CC Championship Finals amongst the members of the Tournament Rules Committee and that the outcome of these discussions would be presented to delegates at the 2008 ICCF Congress.

The arrangements for the Final of the 8th Ladies WCC Championship were questioned; particularly the decision to announce that it would be played on the webserver, with no provision for any other forms of transmission. As most of the qualifiers had reached the final playing by post or email, it was suggested that the players should have been asked about their preferred method of play and the Title Tournaments Commissioner agreed to contact all of the qualifiers and take account of the consensus regarding method of play.

The WTD expressed his sincere thanks to TT Commissioner Marco Caressa (ITA), NTT Commissioner Valer-Eugen Demian (CAN) and all TO's and TD's for their support and important work and he recorded a special appreciation to retiring TD's George Stibal (AUS), Jim Skeels (USA) and Rudolf Hofer (AUT) for their contributions over many years.

15. Title Awards

According to tradition, the title awards ceremony was the first item on the agenda of the third day of the Congress and the ICCF Deputy President & Development Director began by making personal awards to those new titleholders attending the Congress and then presented other medals/certificates to delegates, proxy holders or Zonal Directors for all the respective countries.

Correspondence Chess Grandmaster (GM)

David Beaumont (ARG)	Klaus Kögker (GER)	Heikki Pigg (FIN)
Dr. Jason Bokar (USA)	Jacques Kuiper (NED)	Kiyotaka Sakai (JPN)
Jalil A Davletov (RUS)	Dr Fred Kunzelmann (GER)	Tamás Sasvári (HUN)
P. Drake Diez de Rivera (ESP)	Morten Lilleören (NOR)	Marjan Semrl (SLO)
Chris Fenwick (AUS)	Zdeněk Nývlt (CZE)	Jannis Serafim (GER)
Jan-Olof Forsberg (SWE)	Sakae Ohtake (JPN)	Christophe Spitz (FRA)
Alvar Kangur (EST)	Vladimir V. Perevertkin (RUS)	Hans van Unen (NED)

Correspondence Chess Senior International Master (SIM)

Stefan Andéer (SWE)	Alexander Horvath (SVK)	Giuseppe Poli (ITA)
Olegs Batakovs (LAT)	Roberto Juan Jacquin (ARG)	Daniel Povchanič (SVK)
Manuel J. Bescós Anzano (ESP)	Joop Jansen (NED)	René C. H. Raijmaekers (NED)
Uri Blass (ISR)	Christophe Jaulneau (FRA)	Mauricio Rebord (ARG)
Aleksandr M. Borzenko (RUS)	Miroslaw Jaworski (POL)	Kenneth M.Reinhart (USA)
Albert Bost (GER)	Tor Arne Klausen (NOR)	Vincenzo Rezzuti (ITA)
Jürgen Bücken (GER)	Danilo Korze (SLO)	Eros Riccio (ITA)
Miguel Ángel Cánovas Pordomingo (ESP)	Wolfgang Kund (AUT)	Jon Rørosgaard (NOR)
Claudio Cesetti (ITA)	Alexej Lelenko (SVK)	Guillermo Santana Peñate (CUB)
Jocelyn Cote (CAN)	Ervin Liebert (EST)	Thomas Scherk (GER)
Vincenzo Dell'Isola (ITA)	Prof. Ante Ljubcic (CRO)	Theo Schmidt (GER)
Alberto Dosi (ITA)	Øystein Lorentzen (NOR)	Miron Sferle (ROM)
Miloš Drugda (SVK)	Rüdiger Löschnauer (AUT)	Mikhail I. Shablinsky (BLS)
Raivo Dzenis (LAT)	Jan Lounek (CZE)	António Augusto Silva (POR)
Pavol Eiben (SVK)	Jozef Lubas (POL)	Sérgio Luiz de Souza (BRA)
Manfred Genzmann (GER)	Lubomir Machýcek (CZE)	Dr. Rene-Reiner Starke (GER)
Virginijus Grabliauskas (LTU)	Jari Mannermaa (FIN)	David Vrkoč (CZE)
Helmut Grill (GER)	António J. Brito Moura (POR)	Jos de Waard (NED)
Ole N. Hansen (DEN)	Jacek Oskulski (POL)	Christopher C.Williams (ENG)
Ján Helbich (SVK)	Jon Ostriker (USA)	Dr. Thorsten Winkler (GER)
Dr. Stefan Heise (GER)	Philippe Pansier (FRA)	Slawomir Wojtyra (POL)
Hertmut Höbel (GER)	Giuseppe Pezzica (ITA)	Peter Žebre (SLO)
Rudolf Hofer (AUT)	Rafael Pierzak (POL)	

Correspondence Chess International Master (IM)

Olle Alfredsson (SWE)	Joel Ibarra Padrón (CUB)	David R. Myers (USA)
Tadeusz Baranowski (POL)	Štefan Jandek (CZE)	Mike L. Nicholson (ENG)
Rufino Bocanegra Moreno (ESP)	Peter J.J.de Jong (NED)	Eric Nylander (SWE)
Marco Cattani (ITA)	Attila Kiss (HUN)	Daniel Perry (USA)
Wálter Cornejo (ARG)	Stane Korošec (SLO)	Aleksandr A. Ponomarev (RUS)
Francis Cottégne (BEL)	Štefan Korošec (SLO)	Friedrich Rattinger (AUT)
Ján Csjernyik (SVK)	Stefan Lakatos (ROM)	Les Rowley (AUS)
Nico Daubenfeld (LUX)	Valery Ivanovich Lebedev (RUS)	Henry Southwell (ENG)
Armel Fernandez Bellon (PER)	Chiedu Maduekwa (ENG)	Witoslaw Szczepankiewicz (POL)
Secondo Genga (ITA)	Jan Mašek (CZE)	Zbigniew Szczepanski (POL)
Matthias Gleichmann (GER)	Roger Mayer (SUI)	Jan Willem van Willigen (NED)
Gilles Guidici (FRA)	Uwe Mehlhorn (GER)	Vladislav C. Dubko (BLS)
Åke Hellström (SWE)	Francisco J. Muñoz Moreno (ESP)	Albert Hebels (NED)
David Hernández Molina (CUB)	Heinrich Muri (SUI)	Antoni Schön (POL)

Correspondence Chess Lady International Master (LIM)

Maria de los Angeles Ynchausti Leyva (CUB)

16. Tournament arrangements

The World Tournaments Director provided a schedule of tournaments which he had approved under his delegated powers since the last Congress and these were confirmed by Congress, as follows:

"BdF-Bronze" (GER)

Webserver, 15 players (7 German Players, 8 non German Players), Cat. VI,
Start date: 15 March 2007,
Prize Fund 600 €,
Invitational tournament.

"BdF-Gold" (GER)

ICCF-Webserver, 15 players (7 German Players, 8 non German Players), Cat. XI,
Start date: 15 August 2007,
Prize Fund: 600 €,
Invitational tournament.

"BdF-Silver" (GER)

Remote Schach-Server, 15 Players (7 German Players, 8 non German Players), Cat. VII-IX,
Start date: 15. December 2007,
Prize Fund: 600 €,
Invitational tournament

Herrmann-Heemsoth Memorial (GER)

Email, 15 Players (7 German Players, 8 non German Players), Cat. XVI – XVIII,
Start date: 21. January. 2008,
Prize Fund: 8000 €,
Invitational tournament

BFCC-45 (ENG)

Webserver, 15 players, Cat.V,
start date: September 2007,
Invitational tournament to mark the 45th birthday of BFCC.

II Nordic Club Team Championship (FIN)

Web server, Team tournament, 12 teams, 4 boards, 48 players, Category III-VII,
Start date: 20 April 2007,
Not an invitational tournament (The Federations nominated the teams),
No prize fund.

Luciano W. Camara memorial A (ARG)

(Approved by the 2004 Congress in Mumbai)
Webserver, 13 players, category XIII,
Start date: 30 September 2007.

Luciano W. Camara memorial B (ARG)

(Approved by the 2004 Congress in Mumbai)
Webserver, 13-15 players, Category X,
Start date early 2007.

3rd SPORT FOR ALL Invitational (3rd SFAI)

Ladies tournament
Group A : Category Tournament (Rated players with fixed rating),
Group B : Rated players with not less than 12 rated games,
Group C : Unrated and new players,
Webserver, Minimum 9 players, maximum 14 games for each player,
No entry fee as it is a promotional tournament,
Prizes : Medals to first three in each group, sponsored by "SPORT FOR ALL",
eventually book prizes, certificates to all participants,
Start date : 1st October 2007.

2nd GHCCF Championship (GHA)

Webserver, Players from Ghana, Burkina Faso or Ivory Coast + special invited players,
Minimum 9 players, maximum 14 games for each player,
No entry fee as it is a promotional tournament,
Prizes : Medals to first three in each group, sponsored by "SPORT FOR ALL",
eventually book prizes, certificates to all participants,
Start date : 1st October 2007.

2nd West African Championship (2nd WAAC)

Webserver, Players from Ghana, Burkina Faso or Ivory Coast + special invited players,
Minimum 9 players, no maximum,
Maximum 12 games for each player,

Prel. Groups if more than 13 players,
No entry fee as it is a promotional tournament
Prizes : certificates to all participants,
Start date : 1st September 2007.

2nd African Club Team Championship (2ACTC)

Webserver Invitational tournament for ladies from chess clubs all over Africa.

Conditional upon the number of teams, but these are the goals for now:

Team: 4 players at each team,

Groups: If 13 teams or less = 1 group,

If more than 13 teams = 2 groups by toss,

Teams from same club can not play in same group,

Conditions: The 2 best teams in each group might qualify for a coming African Asian Club Team Champ.,

Prizes: Eventually book prizes, certificates to all players and teams,

No entry fee as it is a promotional tournament,

Starting date: 1st December 2007

III. Danube Cup – Paul Darmogray Memorial (SVK)

Webserver, 13 teams (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany I, Germany II, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine),

6 players in each team,

Start date: 1st February 2008,

Invitational team tournament,

TD: IA Karel Glaser (CZE).

Main organizer: Milan Manduch (SVK).

Mare Nostrum III (FRA)

Webserver, Team tournament, 9 teams, 4 boards, 36 players.

Teams: CRO, ESP, FRA (2), ITA, ISR, MLT, SLO, TUR,

Start date: November - December 2007,

Not an invitational tournament (The Federations nominated the teams),

No prize fund,

TO: Eric Ruch (FRA).

CADAP 40 Years invitation tournament "A" (ICCF Zone 2)

Webserver, 13-15 players,

Expected category XI+ (average ELO 2501+),

Start date: June-July 2008,

(Since these are Zonal events, no fees are payable to ICCF - events from Zone 2 and 4 are subsidised by ICCF).

CADAP 40 years invitation tournament "B" (ICCF Zone 2)

Webserver, 13-15 players,

Expected category 7+ (average ELO 2401+),

start date: June-July 2008,

(Since these are Zonal events, no fees are payable to ICCF - events from Zone 2 and 4 are subsidised by ICCF).

AEAC-5 (ESP)

Invitational tournaments in commemoration of the first 5 years of the life of Spanish CCA (AEAC),

GROUP AEAC-5 - ALCAZABA: Webserver, 15 players, Cat. XII,

GROUP AEAC-5 - ALHAMBRA: Webserver, 15 players, Cat. XII,

GROUP AEAC-5 - ALCÁZAR: Webserver, 15 players, Cat. VIII,

GROUP AEAC-5 - MEZQUITA: Webserver, 15 players, Cat. VIII,

Start date: 10. September 2007,

TO: Cecilio Hernández (ESP).

TDs : Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP) and Adrián de Blois Figueredo (ESP).

2nd Swiss friends (SUI)

Section "A": Webserver, 13 players, cat. VII – VIII,

Section "B": Webserver, 13 players, cat. VII – VIII,

Start date: Summer 2008,

Invitational tournaments.

Len Goide Memorial (ENG)

Webserver, 15 players,

target category 3 – untitled players only,

start date : 15 March 2008,

TD : Neil Limbert (ENG).
(Len Goide: a keen international player and TD in World Cup XI Preliminaries; died early 1998).

Slade Milan Memorial (ENG)

Webserver, 15 players,
target category 8,
start date : 15 August 2008.
TD : Alan Rawlings (ENG).
(Slade Milan: many times British CC Champion; died 2007).

Norman King Memorial (ENG)

Webserver, 15 players,
target category 5,
start date : 15 October 2008,
TD : Andrew Dearnley (ENG).
(Norman King: BFCC President for several years, and a founder of BFCC in 1962; died September 2007).

Slovenia Member of ICCF 15 Year anniversary Open Tournament (SLO)

Webserver,
2 stages: preliminaries and final,
7-11 players in each group at preliminary stage,
Number of participants at final stage will be defined at the start of tournament,
Prize fund: 1500 € for 5 top finishers at final stage,
Entry fee: 5 € for each player at preliminary stage,
Start date: 15th March 2008.
TD: Dr. Danilo Korže.

SLAV CUP III Team Tournament (SLO)

As winner of tournament Slav Cup II, Slovenia will organise the tournament Slav Cup III.
The right for participation: All Slav nation countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. Considerable effort was also being made to try to enlist new countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia to take part in the tournament,
Webserver,
11-13 teams, 6 boards,
Start date: 15th June 2008.
TD: Dr. Danilo Korže.

Ragozin Memorial (RUS)

Webserver, 15 players,
Cat. XII-XIII,
start in 2008.
(Vyacheslav Ragozin (1908-1962), grandmaster of FIDE and ICCF, the second World Champion in the history of ICCF).

Korolev Memorial (RUS)

Webserver, 15 players,
Cat. X-XII,
start in 2008.
(Sergey Korolev (1937-2007), grandmaster of ICCF, winner ICCF Olympiad).

RCCA-15 (RUS)

Webserver, 15 players,
Cat. X-XII,
start April 2008,
(RCCA was founded in April 1993).

FINJUB 45 - Finals (FIN)

(Approved by the 2005 Congress in Angostura)
Webserver final, 15 players, Cat. VII, Start date: 1st September 2007,
Postal final, 13 players, Start date: 1st December 2007

Baltic Sea Team tournament (RCCA)

Websserver, 15 teams,
DEN, EST, FIN, GER, LAT, LIT, POL, RUS, SWE
11 boards,
Start in 2008

17. Other Tournaments

The Report of the Working Group for **Money Prize Tournaments** was discussed and it was agreed by the Congress by a substantial majority, to implement these tournaments immediately with Direct Entry only and open to all players. The Congress decided that results should be subject to rating (unrated players allocated provisional 2000 rating) and that ICCF title norms should be available (subject to the conditions in the ICCF Tournament Rules being met) without restriction on number of sections entered and with 9 players in each section. The DE entry fee is to be CHF 40 with 1st Prize CHF 200 and 2nd Prize CHF 100 (CHF 3 per entry to be credited to the appropriate member federation). The games to be played on the websserver with a time control of 10 moves in 30 days. The tournaments would be arranged via Non Title Tournaments office, with Søren Peschardt (DEN) as the Tournament Organiser.

Congress discussed proposals for a **Veterans World Cup** (players over age 60) and a **Junior World Cup** (players under age 20). Consideration was given to making them Championships, rather than Cups, especially for veterans, but it was agreed they should be started as cup tournaments to assess their popularity and evaluate impact/options. The Veterans World Cup (VWC) would be organised by the Czech CCA "In Memoriam Stanislav Folgar", starting on his birthday 11th April 2008 and the Junior World Cup (JWC) would be organised by BFCC, the English Federation, starting in 2008. The entry fees for these events to be established by the Finance Director with the Executive Board.

ICCF Honorary President, Alan Borwell, reported on the starting of the **Schools Prototype Tournaments** on 29th October 2007, with 28 schools from countries in the Northern Hemisphere playing in seven player groups with two groups for Primary Schools (under 12) and two for Senior Schools (under 17). Schools are being encouraged to play at least one move per week and to use the websserver message facilities to exchange information with other schools. The planned completion date is June 2009 and the TD for all groups would be Andrew Dearnley (ENG). There would be a small "reviewing" team of Alan Borwell, Andrew Dearnley and Marjan Semrl (SLO), who would obtain feedback from all the schools and initiate plans for further schools events – it is hope to start some similar tournaments in the Southern Hemisphere and then to initiate global schools websserver tournaments.

18. Africa/Asia Zone

Zonal Director, Dinand Knol (RSA) referred to his report to Congress, which listed many new tournaments which had been started since Dresden and also those which had been completed. He mentioned in particular that Mark Noble (NZL) had won the 4th Asian Continental Championship and the 5th Afro/Asian Server Open, Dinesh de Silva (SRI), won the 3rd Afro/Asian Server Open, Ron Opperman (RSA), the 7th Afro/Asian Server Open, Philip Horchler (TOG), the 1st West African Regional Championship and Wajdi Chouari (TUN), the 4th African Continental Championship Farit Balabaev (KAZ) had won the 7th Afro/Asian Championship Final, and thereby had become Zonal Champion. Two African national federations, Ghana and Togo, were becoming ICCF members which were very encouraging..

He thanked Iain Smuts (RSA) and Dr. Ole Jacobsen (GHA) for their outstanding work in the zone and webmaster Giorgio Laderchi and Dr. Gian-Maria Tani for their work/usage of the website.

Dr. Ole Jacobsen then gave a colourful presentation to the Congress, in which he described the problems and the opportunities in West Africa for promoting chess and referred to Chess Foundation Africa and Sport For All activities in the 8 participating countries. He referred to the many initiatives and new tournaments/events he was planning.

Alan Borwell had proposed earlier that a box of ICCF Gold books (18 copies) be offered for use as prizes for West African tournaments and this was agreed by Congress, with thanks being expressed by Dr. Jacobsen (GHA).

19. Europe Zone

Zonal Director, Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) presented his report and thanked all of his helpers, TO Commissioners and Tournament Directors. He announced that Germany was assured of becoming 6th European Team Champions and that Klaus Weber (GER) was 63rd and Andrej Loc (SLO) the 64th European Champions. The Harry Otte Memorial for national teams with lower ratings had been very popular, with 29 countries participating and was a great success.

At a Zonal meeting held earlier in the Congress, it had been agreed that the 7th European Team Championship Final and the 8th Semi-finals should be started before the end of 2008, with a possibility of node postal play being included. Draft European Zone Regulations had been discussed/agreed at the Zonal meeting.

20. Latin America Zone

Guillermo Toro (CHI) introduced Marcio Barbosa de Oliveira (BRA) to Congress, who then presented the CADAP report, which had been prepared by Carlos Cranbourne (ARG). He referred to the various tournaments which had started in 2007 and were planned for 2008, including Latin American Zonal Tournaments XXII, XXIII and Final XIX.

He thanked CADAP helpers and gave special thanks to Juan Alberto Martello (ARG), Gustavo Paz y B (PER) and Juan Carlos Perez Rodriguez (ARG). Carlos Cranbourne had also expressed thanks to Marcio Barbosa de Oliveira.

21. North America / Pacific Zone

The Zonal Director, Ruth Ann Fay (USA) presented the report and intimated she would be retiring at the year end. She gave special thanks to Deputy NAPZ Director, Jason Bokar (USA), all TDs and NAPZ Delegates and Franklin Campbell (USA) and Ralph Marconi (CAN) for their maintenance of tournament cross-tables and archives

The Report referred to progress of Pacific Area Team Tournament V and the 4th NAPZ Championship, which had resulted in co-champions, Tim Murray (USA) and Takanori Tomizawa (JPN), with Jason Bokar (USA) in 3rd place.

A special presentation was made to Ruth Ann Fay by the new ICCF-US Delegate, Corky Schakel, in recognition of Ruth Ann Fay's outstanding contributions for more than 10 years with ICCF-US, NAPZ, and as ICCF EB member, and she was given a standing ovation in recognition of her dedicated voluntary services to correspondence chess.

22. Other Membership & Services Director proposals

There were no substantive proposals in the Membership & Services Director's Report, as was provided to Congress. other than those included under item 4 Membership matters or covered elsewhere.

23. ICCF Rules

The ICCF Rules Commissioner, Per Söderberg (SWE), introduced consideration of Rules matters by expressing his appreciation of the dedicated and successful work of Gerhard Radosztics (AUT) over many years and the Congress accorded its appreciation. Per also expressed his appreciation of the excellent work during the year of the other members of the Rules Commission which was also accorded appreciation by the Congress. Per had been deputy in the Playing Rules Commission and succeeded, as its Chairman.

Playing Rules proposals

The Playing Rules Commission Chairman, Per Söderberg (SWE) introduced the discussion by emphasising that the next comprehensive review of all ICCF rules was due to be conducted at the 2008 ICCF Congress and therefore any changes decided in Benalmadena should really be limited to minor issues or a tidying up of ambiguous wordings etc. The discussion group on the Sunday afternoon had considered some major issues, such as time limits and slow play but it was decided that proposals should not be made to the 2007 Congress on these issues, but held over to 2008.

A minor change was agreed to Webserver Playing Rule 3b, where the spelling of "maybe" was changed to "may be".

There was a discussion in the Congress about changes to Playing Rule 6, including the doubling of reflection days where a player had not moved say for 14 days and arrangements for server reminders, limiting of carryover days etc. but Congress decided these ideas (and others) should be further considered by the Playing Rules Commission prior to the next Congress. It was noted that webserver systems changes may be required, so prior notice would be required so that rules changes could be activated from 1/1/2009. The Commission should start work immediately. It was also recommended that all substantive changes as considered by the Commission should be reported to the 2008 Congress, with definitive proposals being made by the Commission being highlighted in its report to Congress.

It was agreed by Congress that, in team events, the leave already used up by an outgoing player should be carried forward to the replacing player, although the Tournament Director could grant extra leave, if considered necessary. A change to the operation of the webserver system may be needed for this to take effect for calendar year 2008 etc.

There was a discussion about "rapid play or blitz" tournaments on the webserver, but Congress was reminded of the importance to ICCF's identity enshrined in Statute 1.2 that CC "playing time is normally counted in days per move" It was agreed that the Executive Board should form a Working Group to "consider all aspects of CC play at faster time limits and report, with proposals, to the 2008 ICCF Congress.

After consideration of the implications of faster time limits (e.g. for money prize tournaments and national federation postal events), it was decided by Congress that the **minimum rate acceptable for ICCF rating of games should be set at 10 moves in 20 days for postal events and 10 moves in 30 days for electronic transmission events.**

Tournament Rules proposals

The Chairman of the Tournament Rules Commission, Witold Bielecki (POL) presented proposals as set out in the report submitted to Congress. It was agreed that a sentence be added to paragraph 1.0.7 of Tournament Rules, stating that qualifications achieved “can be only used once each calendar year at the appropriate level or stage”.

A proposal concerning paragraph 1.4.3 was held over until next year, pending further clarification of future World CC Championship arrangements and perhaps a further review of entry qualifications for World CC Championship Finals. There was a suggestion that expiry of qualifications should be defined in “years” rather than the number of finals etc.

There were some “cosmetic” changes agreed to paragraph 6.7b and 8.1, as had been contained in the TRC Report. A proposal to add a new paragraph 8.12, to ease the work of the Qualifications Commissioner, Member Federations and Congress, was not fully supported and any change was deferred for further consideration during the next year.

There was a discussion about a proposal in the Title Tournaments Commission Report suggesting the possibility of fixing start dates for World CC Championship Tournaments to say 30th June and 30th December each year to try to achieve a more even categorisation (norm levels), but it was decided to carry this idea forward to the 2008 review.

There was a discussion about Player Eligibility (rule 10) and that this should be reconsidered re “player transfers”.

24. Ratings, including Rules Proposals

The ICCF Ratings Commissioner, Gerhard Binder (GER) reported that after very careful testing, the ICCF webserver would be ready to carry out the calculation of the next ICCF Rating List, which would be the fulfilment of his dream!

Players and organisers could see ratings online and all selection features which were on Eloquery were available via the webserver and selective lists could be downloaded by everyone and the search facility is much appreciated. The tournament index had a flexible structure which could be updated without need for any additional programming.

Some further work needs to be done, including perfecting of cross-tables (including Silli System and Scheveningen), correction procedures for changed results, forecasting facility as in Eloquery and displaying players rating history. The Ratings Commissioner hoped that he could consider rating rules during the coming year in conjunction with the Rules Commissions, to include reconsideration of start ratings and tournament levels. He also hoped to be able to move to production/publication of quarterly rating lists (as with FIDE) as processing time is considerably shortened.

Some member federations had already indicated they would like to have all of their national tournaments processed through the ICCF webserver system and would like to abolish their national ratings. The Ratings Commissioner felt the implications needed to be carefully considered by the Commission, to be able to specify technical requirements

For example, the following criteria could be considered:-

“On request of a national federation:-

- all national tournaments could be included into the ICCF rating system
- provided that they were administrated on the webserver
- and that they were played according to the ICCF rules of play

For players without an established ICCF-rating, national CC ratings could be transferred and used as provisional ratings, with no affect to the expected ICCF rating, for which at least 12 new games would be necessary.

Details must be agreed between the Member Federation and the Ratings Commissioner”.

The ICCF Ratings Commissioner was thanked for his tremendous work and Congress accorded him “acclamation”!

25. Arbiter Committee, Appeals and Arbitration Committees

The Reports of the Arbiter's Committee, the two Appeals Committees and the Arbitration Committee had been received and their contents were noted and the respective Chairmen and their Committees were thanked for their valuable work.

26. External matters and FIDE Relationships

There had been exchanges of messages between senior ICCF officials and the proprietor of SchemingMind.com about a possibility of some form of affiliation which might be of mutual benefit to the respective organisations. It was agreed that the ICCF President and Executive Board should take forward those discussions and explore possible benefits. It was noted that there had been contact between SchemingMind.com and BFCC and that SchemingMind.com were now affiliated to BFCC. Alan Rawlings (ENG) asked to be kept informed.

A draft proposal for a possible agreement had been received by ICCF from Chess Publishing Ltd., but in the absence of the ICCF President and Marketing Commissioner, it was not known at what stage the discussions had reached and there was no definitive proposal available to be discussed by the Congress. It was agreed to refer this possibility to the Executive Board, with power to progress, should such an agreement be considered as being beneficial to ICCF.

ICCF Liaison Officer to FIDE, Alan Borwell reported that relationships with FIDE were good and very recently he had contact with FIDE Executive Officer, David Jarrett (ENG) who had hoped he might be able to come to Benalmadena. Alan reported that the ICCF President had asked him if he could attend the forthcoming FIDE Assembly, in Antalya, Turkey, from 14-17 November. He had made arrangements to do this and would report back to the Executive Board. He hoped to make personal contact with delegates from many countries, which were not currently ICCF members.

27. Internal Matters

Delegates attending the Congress expressed great concern about the unfortunate position of their elected President and asked to be provided with full information about the reasons for his detention and also his current circumstances etc. Unfortunately, it had not been possible to obtain any reliable information, except that he had been taken to Madrid.

Bearing in mind the uncertainty, the Executive Board had unanimously agreed **an emergency contingency plan** to cover all possible eventualities re the ICCF Presidency and the following proposal was agreed, unanimously, by the Congress:-

- “During the absence of the ICCF President, the Deputy President and Development Director should deputise for the President until 31/12/2007.
- In the event of the situation not being resolved by 31/12/2007, the current Deputy President should continue to deputise for the ICCF President, until the situation had been clarified.
- Should the position of ICCF President be vacated, the provisions of the ICCF Statutes and Electoral Regulations (Section 5) should be activated and an election initiated and completed within three months”.

Appointments

The ICCF Congress unanimously confirmed the appointments of :-

Marketing Commissioner: Michael Blake (ENG)
Rules Commissioner: Per Söderberg (SWE)

Michael Blake was confirmed as Chairman of the Marketing Commission and Per Söderberg was confirmed as the Chairman of the Playing Rules Commission. Alan Rawlings (ENG) was appointed as Chairman of the Appeals Committee (Other ICCF Rules). It was considered that the minimum number of members for Appeals Committees should be five, to allow flexibility and cover where appellants were from the same countries as Committee members. Chairpersons of the respective Committees should arrange to fill vacancies by approaching appropriate volunteers.

After the new Executive Board has considered the required Management Committee/Commissioners structure, the Finance Committee should review and recommend proposals for all Congress Allowances for decision by the 2008 ICCF Congress. It was proposed that any changes/increases should take effect for 2008 Congress attendances.

28. Future meetings

The ICCF Delegate for Bulgaria, Petyo Jordanov Marinov, addressed the Congress and confirmed his federation's offer to host the next Congress in Pleven from 20th – 26th September 2008. Details of the Congress venue/hotel would soon be available on a special website www.corrchessbg.com. Mr. Marinov then showed two informative historical and informative videos of Pleven. Congress accepted the Bulgarian offer with acclamation and the Deputy President thanked Mr. Marinov and said that ICCF looked forward very much to the 2008 ICCF Congress in his country.

The ICCF Delegate for England, Alan Rawlings, intimated that England would be very interested in hosting the 2009 Congress in Northern England and invited his successor as ICCF delegate, Andrew Dearnley, to say some words about likely arrangements. Details would be sent to ICCF and all delegates well before the 2008 Congress and it was very much hoped that a suitable location, with good amenities and at a reasonable cost, would soon be found.

The ICCF Delegate for Finland, Esko Nuutilainen, advised Congress that although there had been doubts as to whether Finland would be able to sustain its offer to host the 2011 Congress, he thought that it could still be a

possibility and therefore would like to keep Finland's option for that year. It was suggested that 2010 could be a year when the ICCF Congress was next held outside Europe and interested countries should inform ICCF officers if they could be interested in being hosts in 2010. Dr. Ole Jacobsen (GHA) thought that it might be possible for Ghana to host the Congress, but he would look into it further and contact the ICCF President.

29. Other matters

Michael Millstone (USA), DE Administrator, asked delegates to send him any ideas they had for widening and promoting Direct Entry and Direct Payment facilities. A question was asked about provision of grants to assist countries to attend ICCF Congresses (as had happened in earlier years with Kenya and India) and the Executive Board should consider possible candidates for 2008 and future years. Dr. Ole Jacobsen (GHA) expressed the view that greater assistance could be provided by the Marketing Commission to West Africa. He was asked to link up with the Marketing Commissioner (Director) to consider options, bearing in mind overall marketing objectives/budgets.

30. Congress Minutes

It had been indicated that it was hoped (as in Dresden) to have a first draft of the Minutes available for the Closing Banquet, but this might not be possible in view of the unexpected events of the week. However, when a draft was released, delegates and officials attending the Congress should consider them and propose any changes/additions before 30/11/2007 to the ICCF Deputy President & Development Director and a final version would be available by 31/1/2008 in readiness for approval by the 2008 Congress.

In closing the ICCF Congress 2007, on behalf of the ICCF President, the ICCF Deputy President & Development Officer, George Pyrich, thanked all the ICCF officials for their reports for the Benalmadena Congress and for their tremendous work on behalf of ICCF throughout the past year. He had greatly appreciated the way in which everyone had participated so well in the demanding work of the Congress throughout the week and thanked delegates for the quality of their contributions and friendly presentations, which had made his role much easier as Chairman. Votes of thanks were proposed by the ICCF Honorary President and the delegates gave the hosting AEAC President and the ICCF Deputy President, very warm and standing ovations.

In declaring the Congress closed, the ICCF Deputy President expressed hope that all would meet again in Bulgaria.

Mohammed Samraoui
ICCF President

George D. Pyrich
ICCF Deputy President & Development Director

ICCF Commissions/Committees

Tournaments Commission

Frank Geider (FRA), (Chairman), Roald Berthelsen (NOR), Witold Bielecki (POL), Gerhard Binder (GER), Tunc Hamarat (AUT), Leonardo Madonia (ITA), George Pyrich (SCO), Gian-Maria Tani (ITA), A. Alpert (RUS)

Tournament Rules Commission

Witold Bielecki (POL) (Chairman), Dario Biella-Bianchi (PER), Gerhard Binder (GER), Carlos Cranbourne (ARG), Sergey Grodzensky (RUS), Tim Harding (IRL), Leonardo Madonia (ITA), Ralph Marconi (CAN), George Pyrich (SCO), Josep Mercadal Benejam (ESP), Eric Ruch (FRA)

Playing Rules Commission

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