

ICCF CONGRESS 2009

Leeds, England

13th September to 19th September 2009

The ICCF Congress 2009, in conjunction with meetings of the Executive Board and Management Committee, took place in the Village Hotel, Headingley, Leeds, England from 13th to 19th September 2009.

The Congress was arranged and hosted by the British Federation for Correspondence Chess (BFCC) and facilities in the Congress Hotel and the local amenities were very good. The opening banquet, hosted by BFCC, was held in Weetwood Hall and was most enjoyable. There was a presentation by Tim Harding (IRL), describing his research project and forthcoming book on the history of correspondence chess in Britain and Eric Ruch (FRA) presented an illustrated story about the first international CC match between London and Paris 175 years ago.

Participants of the Congress and accompanying persons were offered excursions to York and Harewood House and there was a well organised programme for the accompanying ladies and families to Harrogate and other attractions. There was a chess match with a Yorkshire Chess Team and a traditional ICCF blitz tournament.

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

Maigonis Avotins (LAT) as delegation member

Dr. Fritz Baumbach (GER) as delegate, as World CC Champion XI and with proxy for Hungary

Ulrich Baumgartner (SUI) as delegation member

Dr. Guy José Bendaña Guerrero (NCA) as delegate

Gerhard Binder (GER) as delegation member and Ratings Commissioner

Raymond Boger (NOR) as delegation member and Services Director

Alan P. Borwell (SCO) as delegation member, as Honorary President, Honorary Member and with proxy for Australia and India

Dr. Guido Bresadola (ITA) as delegate

Petr Buchniček (CZE) as delegate and with proxy for Croatia and Slovakia

Marco Caressa (ITA) as delegation member and Title Tournaments Commissioner

Duncan Chambers (ENG) as delegation member

Andrew Dearnley (ENG) as delegate

Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP) as delegate

Artis Gaujens (LAT) as delegate

Guntis Gerhards (LAT) as delegation member

Peter Gibbs (ENG) as delegation member

Sergey Grodzensky (RUS) as delegate

Richard Hall (ENG) as delegation member

Tunc Hamarat (AUT) as delegate and as World CC Champion XVI

Tim Harding (IRL) as delegate

Dr. Ole Jacobsen (CIV) as Zonal Director (Africa-Asia)

David Jarrett (ENG) as FIDE Executive Director

Kim Jensen (DEN) as delegation member

Colin Kidd (ENG) as delegation member

Everdinand Knol (RSA) as delegate

Alfonas Kupšys (LTU) as delegation member

Ron Langeveld (NED) as delegation member and Qualifications Commissioner

Ervin Liebert (EST) as delegate

Neil Limbert (ENG) as delegation member

Morten Lilleøren (NOR) as delegate

Austin Lockwood (ENG) as delegation member

Iain Mackintosh (SCO) as delegation member

Michael Millstone (USA) as delegation member and Direct Entry Commissioner

Ing. Josef Mrkvička (CZE) as delegation member

Michael Nicholson (ENG) as delegation member

Esko Nuutilainen (FIN) as delegate

Søren Olsen (DEN) as delegation member

Kevin Paine (SCO) as delegation member

Søren Peschardt (DEN) as delegate

Ian Pheby (ENG) as delegation member

George D. Pyrich (SCO) as delegate and Finance Director

Alan J.C. Rawlings (ENG) as delegation member

Nol van 't Riet (NED) as delegate and Honorary Member

Olavi Riikonen (FIN) as delegation member
Marijonas Ročius (LTU) as delegate
Merike Rõtova (EST) as delegation member
Eric Ruch (FRA) as delegate and ICCF President and with proxy for Romania and Ukraine
Kuvay Sanli (TUR) as delegate
Leonard Schakel (USA) as delegate, Zonal Director (NAPZ) and with proxy for Canada
Marjan Šemrl (SLO) as delegate
Auno Siikaluoma (FIN) as delegation member
Per Söderberg (SWE) as delegate, as Rules Commissioner and with proxy for Iceland and Israel
Uwe Staroske (GER) as delegation member
Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) as delegation member, Honorary Member, Zonal Director (Europe) and with proxy for Algeria and Luxembourg
Luz Marina Tinjaca' Ramírez (ITA) as delegation member
Georg Walker (SUI) as delegate
Gerry Walsh (ENG) as President of the English Chess Federation and English Delegate to FIDE

Opening the Congress, the ICCF President Eric Ruch (FRA) replied to the warm welcome of GM Richard Hall and much appreciated the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Judith Elliott and her kind words of welcome. He expressed pleasure that an ICCF Congress was being held in England, for the first time since Richmond 1989.

England was probably the country with the longest and richest history in CC. The first ever CC match between two chess clubs, had been played between London and Edinburgh Chess Club between 1824 and 1828 and the first ever international CC match between London Chess Club and "Le Cercle de Philidor" of Paris, took place 175 years ago.

Not only England but also Leeds had a very long tradition in CC. In 1825 Leeds defeated the Liverpool Chess Club and were again victorious in a 4 game match against the Liverpool Club at the end of the 1830s. One of the first national correspondence chess associations was founded in England in 1906 with the British Correspondence Chess Association and the British Correspondence Chess Championship has been played since 1921 without interruption. In 1952 the first British Correspondence Chess League Championship and, in 1954, the first British Correspondence Chess Team Championship were started and have been held consecutively ever since.

In 1962 the BPCF (British Postal Chess Federation) was formed as the governing body for Great Britain and since 1991 had represented England internationally. In 1999, BPCF was replaced by the BFCC (British Federation for Correspondence Chess) acknowledging that post was no longer the sole way of playing CC.

British and English teams have been very successful in the ICCF Olympiads: 3rd places in Olympiad V (1965-68), Olympiad VII (1972-76) and Olympiad VIII (1977-82). In 1987, the last British team to play in an Olympiad event (afterwards separate English, Scottish and Welsh teams participated in Olympiads) won the 9th Olympiad in 1987.

The ICCF President acknowledged the great work of the late Reg Gillman who had been delegate for the federation representing Great Britain and subsequently England and Rules Commissioner of ICCF for many years before his untimely death in 1997 and also to Alan Rawlings, who had succeeded Reg as delegate for England and was an excellent General Secretary of ICCF from 1999-2003.

The ICCF President then referred to all CC friends who had passed away since the last Congress and mentioned, in particular, Erik Larsson (SWE) founding member and only recipient of an ICCF Lifetime Achievement Award for over 60 years service to international correspondence chess; Robin Smith (USA), Tournament Organiser and Arbiter for many events, Alexander Alpert (RUS) and Carlo Alberto Pagni (ITA) chess historian and publisher of several books on CC History and a member of ICCF's Historical Research Committee.

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

The ICCF President welcomed new friends attending a Congress for the first time and all delegates, partners and families for coming to England and he wished them a very happy time in Leeds. He also referred to absent friends who had not been able to come to the 2009 Congress

Since last year's Congress, several Executive Board members had resigned, including President Med Samraoui, and also the ICCF Auditor. They had all done excellent work for ICCF and should be thanked for their achievements. He sincerely hoped that the elections and other appointments to be made during the Congress would be the last until the current Executive Board's mandate would expire in 2011.

The 2009 congress would be particularly important in setting foundations of the new CC World Championship cycle. We should never forget the ICCF motto of: "Amici Sumus" (we are friends), all having a common passion for CC. We sometimes have diverging views and heated discussions amongst us, but we all love CC, and that is our only guide.

ICCF was the worldwide organisation for CC and its major tasks were to continue to attract more new players and member federations, develop closer relationships with other clubs and organisations and work closely with FIDE. The ICCF President declared the ICCF 2009 Congress, Leeds, England duly opened and asked all to stand while the ICCF Anthem was played. There followed some lively traditional entertainment by Leeds Morris Dance group.

The ICCF President then made his introductory remarks before the start of the 2009 Congress meetings, describing plans for dealing with agenda items and an amended agenda was described/displayed. He informed Congress that ICCF Honorary President, Alan Borwell, had agreed to carry out the duties of 2009 Congress Secretary.

1. Proxies for 2009 Congress

The Congress Secretary reported proxies for the Congress as shown in the participants list.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2008 Congress

Minutes of the 2008 ICCF Congress, Pleven, Bulgaria, had been published on the ICCF website and after a few minor modifications, they were approved unanimously. The final version would be placed on the ICCF website.

3. Membership Matters

The ICCF President referred to the General Secretary's Report and described the action which had been taken with the suspension from 1/1/2009 of 7 member federations which had not paid long outstanding fees, namely Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kenya, Turkmenistan, Tunisia and Venezuela. Chile had not paid its old debts by 31/12/2008, but had promised to pay them in full in early 2009, which they did, and the Executive Board decided not to activate their suspension. Ecuador and Tunisia also subsequently paid their old debts and an application according to ICCF Statutes paragraph 2.2 had been received from Ecuador and their re-admission was approved by the Congress. The President would contact Tunisia to determine whether they wished to seek re-admission to ICCF membership.

A formal application had been received from Cape Verde (CPV) but it was noted that it was not a FIDE member and therefore should not be granted full membership (Statute 2.1), but could be offered membership as an affiliated club (Statute 2.9) but without voting, nomination or team entry rights.

The ICCF President reported that a membership form had been designed for new applications (**see Appendix B**).

4. Bertl von Massow Awards and other awards

The ICCF President outlined the background and criteria which applied for Bertl von Massow awards:- "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, for Zonal organisations or as a Tournament Director, or as Team Captain of a winning or highly placed team in an Olympiad or Continental (Zonal) Team Tournament".

The ICCF President then announced the names of officials which the ICCF Executive Board had agreed should receive Bertl von Massow awards in 2009. 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:

Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP)

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

Carlos Cranbourne (ARG)

J. Franklin Campbell (USA)

Yoav Dothan (ISR)

Artis Gaujens (LAT)

Josef Mrkvička (CZE)

Tim Runting (AUS)

Guillermo F. Toro Solis de Ovando (CHI)

The traditional World Correspondence Chess Champion's engraved Plate was presented to the delegate for Norway for **Ivar Bern**, winner of **World Correspondence Chess Championship XVII**, as had been announced in Pleven.

Medals and certificates were also presented for the runner up in **World Championship Final XIX** **Frank Gerhardt (GER)** and third placed **Aleksey Lepikhov (UKR)**

The ICCF President presented medals and certificates to the **Norway** team, which had won the **Olympiad XV** Final.

5. ICCF Accounts to 31/12/2008

Former Finance Director Søren Peschardt (DEN) reported his activities since the 2008 Congress until 30.01.2009 and emphasised that he had carefully implemented Congress decisions made in Mumbai 2004 and Plevn 2008. Several inherited financial issues and problems had been solved and he reported only one remaining issue which concerned fees for "Support for Africa". Congress accepted his proposal not to charge the German Federation for fees relating to this tournament. Søren gave the reasons for his early retirement as Finance Director to Congress and expressed sincere thanks to (also retired) Auditor, Carlos Flores (ESP) for (once again) rescuing the financial status of ICCF by completing the 2008 accounts. 2008 figures were presented to Congress and no questions were asked. Søren also reported about the problems of prompt access to the ICCF central bank account in Switzerland.

6. Audit Report

The ICCF President intimated that because the position of Auditor had been vacated and that Carlos Flores had kindly prepared the ICCF accounts for 2008, it had been necessary to ask someone else to carry out the audit of the 2008 accounts. Honorary President, Alan Borwell volunteered to do this and his offer had been gratefully accepted.

Alan Borwell reported that he considered the 2008 ICCF Accounts had been prepared accurately and in accordance with supporting cash books, journal and ledgers and the final figures represented a true summary of ICCF finances. It had not been possible to verify all expenditure items due to the absence of supporting vouchers, which was a consequence of changes in Finance Directors during 2008 (and other years). A surplus for 2008 of CHF 12'067.44 and bank balances CHF 142'749.35 with a further CHF 85'821.99 receivable from member federations revealed a strong financial position for ICCF. Although the market value of investments at 31/12/2008 had fallen to CHF 17'260 (cost CHF 31'477), due to adverse market conditions, they had recovered to CHF 19'493 just prior to Congress. He recommended that a review of banking arrangements and investments be conducted by the new Finance Director with the ICCF Finance Committee. The 2008 ICCF Accounts and Audit Report were then approved unanimously.

7. Executive Board mid term elections

The ICCF Honorary President, Alan Borwell addressed the Congress and referred to the Electoral Regulations for Mid Term Executive Board vacancies which had to be used for 3 positions since the 2008 ICCF Congress in Plevn. Following the nominations processes, it had been necessary to conduct only one ballot by Email and this had taken place for ICCF President. There had been two excellent candidates and as the ICCF Auditor position had become vacant, the Honorary President, assisted by two other Honorary Members had acted as scrutineers. As a result of the ballot, **Eric Ruch (FRA)** had been elected by a substantial majority and thereby became **ICCF President** on 20th May 2009. He formally reported this outcome and Mr. Ruch's appointment was generously acclaimed by Congress.

The ICCF President then reported the appointments made by the Executive Board for **Services Director** (effective 1/12/2008), **Raymond Boger (NOR)**, and **Finance Director** (effective 1/1/2009) **George Pyrich (SCO)** and these were both formally approved unanimously by the Congress, with acclamation.

The ICCF President then referred to the vacancy which had arisen for Marketing Director, when he had vacated that position on being elected President. Nominations had been sought before 1st September, according to the required procedure, with the election to take place at the 2009 ICCF Congress. Only one nomination had been received and Uwe Staroske (GER) was invited to address Congress with an outline of his ideas for fulfilling the marketing duties. Congress agreed that a secret ballot was not needed and **Uwe Staroske** was elected unanimously to the position. It was also agreed that the Marketing Committee was the forum for discussions about new marketing concepts.

Discussion Group

On the Sunday afternoon, there was a discussion group (plenary) on World CC Championship arrangements and, afterwards, there was a special meeting of the Webserver Development Steering Committee.

8. Other Financial Matters

New ICCF Finance Director, George Pyrich (SCO) reported that difficulties had been experienced with the ICCF bank account with Credit Suisse, Switzerland, in arranging authorisations to operate the account and also ease of access. Consequently the Finance Director was unable to provide 100% assurance that payments lodged recently by member federations had been recorded correctly. He reminded delegates of the obligations of ICCF members to arrange payment of fees promptly and levies, as agreed by previous Congresses, would be added for late payment.

Any federation which had not yet paid its fees would have levies applied and any with unpaid fees for 2007 or earlier at 31/12/2009 would be automatically suspended and any member federation with unpaid 2008 fees, at the same date, would lose voting, nomination and team entry rights and not be able to start tournaments on the webserver.

However if fees (and levies) are subsequently paid in full, the FD with EB approval was authorised to lift sanctions.

Any federation with unpaid fees from 2007 or earlier by the time of the 2010 Congress would cease to be a member and would have to re-apply for ICCF membership through the same procedure which applied for new members.

All of these proposals were agreed unanimously by the Congress.

The Finance Director answered questions about facilities for the payment of fees, including using credit cards and federations were asked to contact him for assistance, where required. George Pyrich expressed his gratitude to Søren Peschardt and Carlos Flores for their valuable work and helpfulness in the accounting handover process.

Financial Planning

The ICCF President then introduced the discussion on financial planning by referring to the world tournaments plan, which had been updated and would be available on the website with all ongoing main tournament dates and it was an essential requirement in the financial planning process. He invited Alan Borwell to present the updated Financial Plan for the period to 2011. Alan indicated that it was proposed to use a “rolling” planning period, whereby another year (2012) would be added after 31/12/2009, with the actual figures included for 2009 and with year 2007 deleted. Alan explained that headings for income and expenditure had been revised for the webserver age, whereby it was no longer necessary to subdivide tournament fees and expenses between postal, Email and webserver, as hitherto. The total actual figures for 2007 and 2008 compared quite closely overall with the estimates, although the individual items showed significant variances which were useful for ongoing planning purposes. He indicated that estimates for ongoing years would not be changed, as doing so would rather negate the value of budgeting and financial planning. It was agreed that financial plan information was sensitive and should only be shown at Congress and not published.

Direct Entry

Direct Entry Commissioner, Michael Millstone (USA) presented his comprehensive report which included a summary of direct entries, for the entire period since the inception of the DE scheme in April 2006. The average number of daily applications being processed was more than double the number in the first year (now averaging 2+ per day). He outlined the benefits to member federations in participating in the scheme, particularly in attracting new players and 220 had been signed up since the scheme began. Direct payment facilities were also being used by federations.

	2006*	2007	2008	2009**
DE Applications	389	728	822	560
Average Applications per day	1.44	1.99	2.25	2.65
Open Class	174	324	313	183
Higher Class	39	56	88	102
Master Class	41	66	63	36
WCCC - Preliminary	3	6	23	5
WCCC - Semi-Final	1	2	5	0
WCCC - Candidates	1	6	11	2
Grandmaster Norm	4	6	8	5
Master Norm	9	16	22	12
Thematic	10	30	14	5
Money Prize	0	113	169	70
World Cup	46	0	0	95
Veterans World Cup II	0	0	0	28
Blitz	0	0	7	7
Rapid	0	0	4	10
2nd Webserver Open	61	0	0	0
1st Junior World Cup	0	0	6	0
Champions League		103		
3rd Webserver Open	0	0	89	0

* From 05.04.06 - 31.12.06

** From 01.01.09 - 31.07.09

The DE Commissioner also made proposals for items to be discussed elsewhere in the agenda and he was thanked and commended by the President and Congress for his valuable and outstanding work for ICCF.

ICCF Auditor

The ICCF President was delighted to report he had received an offer from **Ing. Josef Mrkvička (CZE)** to become ICCF Auditor and this appointment was approved unanimously, with acclamation, to take effect from 1/1/2009.

9. Qualifications

Qualifications Commissioner, Ron Langeveld (NED) presented his report. Title awards for players and arbiters with applications under Rules 8.4(d), 8.5(c), 8.6(e), 8.7(d) and 8.9(c) were discussed and all were agreed. Approved new 2009 title awards have been listed under Item 14. Title Awards.

10 Webservice Matters

ICCF Services Director, Raymond Boger (NOR) presented his Webservice report and detailed the main changes to the webservice which had occurred over the past year, and problems which had arisen. There was a suggestion that ICCF should look into a safer/better backup solution using two hard drives and it was agreed to make arrangements.

The Email address for the Webservice Help Desk would be moved to a host outside the Email facility on the server. 467 questions had been submitted to the Help Desk during the last 10 months, a decrease from the 723 questions received in the previous 12 months. The Services Director had excellent back-up from Dr. Jason Bokar (USA) and system programmer, Martin Bennedik had once again been most helpful and efficient with all webservice matters.

There had been 155 free unrated 2-game matches organised in the last 10 months (214 in previous year). Many players had requested several free matches, but the limit was set at 4 free matches and this should be continued.

Alan Borwell, Chairman of the Webservice Development Steering Committee (WDSC) reported that the period since the last Congress had been used to complete already agreed enhancements to the system (listed in WDSC Report).

With changes in Services Director, President and Finance Director, it had been prudent to have a pause in making new development plans and the WDSC meeting preceding the Congress had discussed important ongoing matters relating to webservice sustainability, improving screen designs/flexibility and inter-relationship with the new website. As the main development phase with the webservice could now be considered to have been successfully completed, he recommended that WDSC should be replaced with a co-ordinated Services Committee, under the ICCF Service Director's chairmanship, to deal with future operations and enhancements of the webservice, in accordance with the principles decided by the 2008 ICCF Congress.

This plan was supported by the President and agreed by Congress.

11. Website and Internet Matters

Services Director, Raymond Boger (NOR) presented the website report on behalf of Michael Blake (ENG). Michael had been asked to produce a new ICCF website by December 2008 but unfortunately due to a number of reasons, work on the new website was still in progress. Following a recommendation of the Executive Board, it was agreed by Congress to give Michael Blake a final chance to deliver a new website and publish before 1st November 2009. If this was not achieved, then alternative arrangements would be made concerning design of ICCF's main website.

It was reported by several delegates that basic information about ICCF office bearers, delegates etc. had not been properly updated and two year's title awards had not been added and it was emphasised that Senior ICCF officers had responsibility for ensuring that basic website information was kept up to date, ie those having access facilities. Any ICCF webmaster could not be expected to carry out all information updating. It was essential to have important ICCF information updated on the current website, so it would be correct on transfer to the new website. Accordingly, it was agreed unanimously that the General Secretary should be required to arrange this before 15th October 2009.

12 ICCF Archives

George Pyrich reported that work had continued throughout the year to provide game scores from postal and server events for download via www.iccf.com and also games databases for Telechess articles for ChessBase Magazine, as ICCF sponsor. Every effort was being made by the archivists to provide a complete record of all games in ICCF international postal and email events. However, the archivists, whilst appreciative of the efforts of some Tournament Directors, regretted to note that a substantial number of other TDs continued to have failed to fulfil their obligations for providing game scores at the completion of postal events.

It was again reported that no progress had been made since the last Congress on a revised Games Archive, which would provide an indexed Archive of all games as completed on the ICCF webservice, and therefore they had limited their activities to extracting and providing non-archived files containing game scores from server events. Congress expressed its grateful thanks for the dedicated work of George Pyrich (SCO) and Laurent Tinture (FRA). Following his election as Finance Director, George Pyrich asked to be replaced in his responsibilities as Games Archives and Ron Langeveld (NED) agreed to succeed him as ICCF Games Archivist, primarily dealing with webservice games.

13 Marketing and Publications Matters

The ICCF President reported on marketing matters, for which he had been responsible before his election as President. He had formed a new Marketing Commission after the 2008 Congress and thanked members for their commitment and work performed throughout the year in their various responsibilities :- Michael Blake (ENG), Laurent Tinture (FRA), Michael Millstone (USA), Petyo Marinov (BUL) and Luz Marina Tinjaca' (ITA).

In addition to this core team, Pierre Ruiz Vidal (FRA) has been involved in production of the brochure distributed by ICCF Liaison Officer to FIDE, Alan Borwell (SCO) during the 2008 FIDE Olympiad and Congress in Dresden and he also thanked the Zonal Directors in the development of marketing activities in their respective zones.

Marketing

Whilst implementing contracts, some difficulties had been experienced and listed hereunder are several areas for improvement and ideas for the future ICCF Marketing Director to implement:

Better coordination was needed to be achieved between Tournament Offices (and Tournament Directors) and the Marketing Director so that the necessary advertising could be made at the start of a tournament in order to attract more players but also to fulfill ICCF commitments towards its sponsors.

Tournament Directors must be informed by Tournament Offices about sponsorship conditions and then notify the Marketing Director when winners/runners-up of each tournament are known so that players received their prizes in due time. TDs may not be aware of their responsibilities in this area and it should be a task for the ACO to include it in revisions of the Arbiter Manual concerning TD responsibilities.

A sponsorship agreement normally implied that ICCF should display the logo of the sponsors on the relevant start document distributed at the beginning of the tournament and on tournament games/tables pages on the webserver. It seemed that keeping server pages updated had proved difficult and complaints had been received from sponsors.

Advertising on the main website and the server for such tournaments had been rather poor, eg. a new player would hardly know that there were prizes for winning promotional tournaments and thematic tournaments. ICCF should not forget that advertising of sponsored tournaments was a good way to attract more players to ICCF.

Current Sponsors

ICCF Telechess articles had been published in ChessBase Magazines in most bi-monthly editions in the past year. The President thanked Michael Blake (ENG) and Laurent Tinture (FRA) for producing articles and collecting games. A future objective would be to publish ICCF Telechess on a regular basis in the bi-monthly ChessBase Magazines. ChessBase is sponsor of the 2008 and 2009 World CC Championship tournaments (as announced just before the 2008 Congress in Pleven), although no written agreement could be found. There was a need to increase links with ChessBase and New In Chess, but it could only be done if ICCF was able to offer them a return on their investment eg better visibility of their logos on iccf.com and the server; timely delivery of articles etc.).

Game of the Month

Game of the Month was another feature that had suffered from the unavailability of the new website. In addition to former World Champion Fritz Baumbach (GER), who was willing to continue his contributions, the President had been able to obtain a promise of future contributions from another former World Champion Mikhail Umansky (RUS). This should enable at least six annotated top games to be featured, as soon as the new website was ready for use.

Marketing Documents

The Marketing Committee had produced and/or updated several documents for advertising and promotion purposes:

The Marketing Portfolio intended for new sponsors.

The ICCF Brochure (to be sent to potential new Member Federation)

The ICCF leaflet (produced with the help of Alan Borwell (SCO) and Pierre Ruiz Vidal (FRA) and kindly printed by the BdF) distributed to the FIDE Delegates during the FIDE 2008 Olympiads in Dresden 2008.

Marketing Budget 2009 - 2010

Congress approved unanimously a budget allocation of CHF 15,000 for 2009/10, as shown in the Financial Plan. Newly elected Marketing Director Uwe Staroske (GER) presented his ideas for Marketing actions for the next year.

14 Title Awards

According to tradition, the title awards ceremony was the first item on the agenda for the third day of the Congress.

The ICCF President began by making personal awards to those new titleholders attending the Congress and then presented all other medals/certificates to delegates, proxy holders or Zonal Directors for the respective countries.

Correspondence Chess Grandmaster (GM)

Barnsley, Anthony R. (ENG)	Lohse, Martin (DEN)
Brodda, Wolfgang (GER)	Moll, Reinhard (GER)
Bubir, Alex Nikolaevich (UKR)	Napalkov, Vladimir Aleksandrovich (RUS)
Bücker, Jürgen (GER)	Oliveira, João Carlos de (BRA)
Chacon, Paulo Edison Terres (BRA)	Pauwels, Christophe (BEL)
Cipolli, Antonio Carlos Rodrigues (BRA)	Serradimigni, Robert (FRA)
Cruzado Dueñas, Carlos (ESP)	Silva, António Augusto M. C. (POR)
Duliba, Dr. Edward P. (USA)	Stern, Dr. Werner (GER)
Jacquín, Roberto Juan (ARG)	Strautinš, Vilnis (LAT)
Knoll, Hermann (AUT)	Tiits, Tõnu (EST)
Kribben, Dr. Matthias (GER)	Vošahlík, Jiří (CZE)
Kühnel, Günter (GER)	Vrkoč, David (CZE)

Correspondence Chess Senior International Master (SIM)

Alfredsson, Olle (SWE)	Mielke, Klaus (GER)
Auch, Stefan (GER)	Mortensen, Vilhelm (DEN)
Badolati, Sérgio (BRA)	Muñoz Moreno, Francisco Javier (ESP)
Beecham, C. Richard (SCO)	Muschalek, Ingo (GER)
Bergquist, Rune (NOR)	Oliveira, João Carlos de (BRA)
Berlinger, Gerson (GER)	Ollmann, Hans-Paul (GER)
Bösenberg, Egbert (GER)	Percze, János (HUN)
Brinkmann, Prof. Dr. Wilhelm (GER)	Perry, Dan (USA)
Bubir, Sergei (UKR)	Pessoa, Francisco Azevedo (POR)
Burne, Nigel G. (ENG)	Petrolo, Mauro (ITA)
Cincă, Daniel (ROM)	Peuraniemi, Pertti (FIN)
Degterev, Pavel (UKR)	Pivinsky, Evgeny Grigorievich (RUS)
Eschenko, Vadim (UKR)	Pommerel Brouwer, Wim H. (NED)
Fischer, Wolfgang (GER)	Ponomarev, Aleksandr Anatolievich (RUS)
Gindl, Erich (AUT)	Reis, César Roberto da Silva (BRA)
Goncharenko, Georgy (UKR)	Rost, Detlef (GER)
Hansen, Knut V. (NOR)	Saenko, Oleg (UKR)
Hirr, Rudi (GER)	Scherer, Rolf (SUI)
Hynes, Wayne (CAN)	Schmitzer, Klaus (GER)
Joppich, Ulrich (GER)	Schön, Antoni (POL)
Karachurin, Sagit Anasovich (RUS)	Schüppel, Ralf (GER)
Karasalo, Juhani (SWE)	Stalmach, Kamil (CZE)
Kiss, Attila (HUN)	Stöckert, Mario (GER)
Kochemasov, Andrey Leonidovich (RUS)	Straka, Ing. Zdeněk (CZE)
Kolesar, Marek (SVK)	Sukhodolsky, Alexandr (UKR)
Krajnc, Leon (SLO)	Tulfer, Paul M. (NED)
Lindh, Stefan (SWE)	Turati, Pierangelo (ITA)
Mantovanelli, Marco (GER)	Židů, Jan (CZE)
Martí Pericot, Juan Manuel (ESP)	Ziese, Gerhard (Leipzig) (GER)

Correspondence Chess International Master (IM)

Akdag, Murad (TUR)	Markytán, Vladislav (CZE)
Andriuschenko, Nikolay (UKR)	Moreno Carretero, Carlos (ESP)
Baum, Hansjürgen (GER)	Murden, Clive (AUS)
Benlloch Guirau, Alvaro (ESP)	Myakutin, Valery Igorevich (RUS)
Berlinger, Gerson (GER)	Nilsson, Sebastian (SWE)
Bjazevic, Pavao (ECU)	Nogga, Uwe (GER)
Brinkmann, Prof. Dr. Wilhelm (GER)	O'Hare, Ciaran (IRL)
Cimicki, Dariusz (POL)	Pereverzev, Aleksey Rosti (RUS)
Civitillo, Alfredo (ARG)	Peschke, Uwe (GER)
Davidov, Alexandar (BUL)	Pessoa, Francisco Azevedo (POR)

Diaz, Sergio (ARG)	Pivinsky, Evgeny Grigorievich (RUS)
Dibley, Shane (AUS)	Pöhr, Adolf (AUT)
Eschenko, Vadim (UKR)	Pommerel Brouwer, Wim H. (NED)
Galanov, Sergey Igorevich (RUS)	Popelka, Miloslav (CZE)
Gindl, Erich (AUT)	Ringsborg, Allan (DEN)
Gonzalez, Bolívar Ribeiro (BRA)	Romm, Mikhail Yakovlevich (RUS)
Graudinš, Ilmars (LAT)	Rook, Detlef (GER)
Hirr, Rudi (GER)	Saglione, Eduardo (ARG)
Idler, Frank (GER)	Salmi, Ilkka (FIN)
Karachurin, Sagit Anasovich (RUS)	Schramm, Alexander (GER)
Keršič, Matej (SLO)	Schulz, Volker (Übach) (GER)
Kindbeiter, Fred (GER)	Simakhin, Aleksey Konstantinovich (RUS)
Kochemasov, Andrey Leonidovich (RUS)	Sochor, František (CZE)
Kozlov, Vadim Yakovlevich (RUS)	Steiger, Walter (SUI)
Kozłowski, Waldemar (POL)	Sukhodolsky, Alexandr (UKR)
Lauk, Ülar (EST)	Talpak, Tõnu (EST)
Learte Pastor, Tomás (ESP)	Valeinis, Janis (LAT)
Lindh, Stefan (SWE)	Welzenheimer, Rudi (GER)
Lins, Thomas (GER)	Zainetdinova, Svetlana (EST)
Makowski, Tomasz (POL)	Zhak, Boris Milhailovich (RUS)
Mantovanelli, Marco (GER)	

Correspondence Chess Lady Grandmaster (LGM)

Hartmann, Laura (GER)	Zainetdinova, Svetlana (EST)
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Correspondence Chess Lady International Master (LIM)

Seidel, Sandra (GER)

International Arbiter (IA)

Alpert, Aleksandr Lazarevich (RUS)	Peschardt, Søren (DEN)
Boger, Raymond (NOR)	Pheby, Ian M. (ENG)
Dubko, Vladislav Cheslavovich (BLR)	Pyrich, George D. (SCO)
Myakutin, Valery Igorevich (RUS)	Silfver, Tomas (SWE)

The ICCF President presented medals and certificates to the delegates of the medalists of the **6th European Team Championship - 1st Germany, 2nd Lithuania, 3rd Czech Republic**

He then presented medals and certificates for Zonal winners :

CADAP XVII - Guillermo Toro Solís de Ovando (CHI),
 8th Afro-Asian Zonal Ch. Winner - Nejdet Esen (TUR)
 9th Afro-Asian Zonal Ch. Winner - Mark F. Noble (NZL)
 63rd European Champion - Klaus Weber (GER)
 64th European Champion - Andrej Loc (SLO)
 PATT V - silver Combined AUS/NZ and bronze USA), (gold was presented to Canada at 2008 Congress)

The ICCF President thanked retiring Qualifications Commissioner, Ron Langeveld (NED) for his excellent work throughout the last year and for the preparation of certificates and title awards for presentation at the Congress. The ICCF President announced that **Neil Limbert (ENG)** was willing to be his successor, as **Qualifications Commissioner**, and his appointment was agreed unanimously by Congress, with acclamation.

15 Tournaments

ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner, Marco Caressa (ITA) presented the report of World Tournament Director Frank Geider (FRA) and referred to the Tournament Plan, to be placed on the ICCF website and kept up to date. Zonal Directors were asked to keep the WTD informed about tournament plans and to avoid clashes of start dates.

The WTD proposed that regular Webchess Opens should be started in alternating years from ICCF World Cups and this was agreed unanimously. Congress also approved renewal of previous Congress decisions that each member federation be eligible for one free tournament (up to 105 games) starting on webserver before the 2010 Congress.

Title Tournaments

Marco Caressa then presented the report of the Title Tournaments Commissioner. He proposed that only 9 qualified teams should play in the Final of the 16th Olympiad (Postal). However, after some discussion, Congress decided by a substantial majority, that 13 teams should play in the Final. The three medallists from Final 13 would qualify for Final 16 and, as each of them was amongst the three top teams in the Preliminaries, each in a different section, it was agreed that 4th placed teams from each section should also progress, plus the next best team (on percentage). It was also agreed that the Preliminary of the 19th Olympiad (Postal) should begin 6 to 9 months after the start of the 16th Final, providing that at least 18 teams apply.

It was agreed that the Final of World Cup 12 (postal) should be eligible for title norms, despite there being more than the normal quota of players from one country, as it was a staged event with an initial international spread of entrants.

World Correspondence Chess Championship

The Chairman of the Working Group for developing proposals for future World CC Championships, Gerhard Binder (GER), presented the Report and conclusions reached in the plenary discussion group, on the Sunday afternoon.

The following **Rules Changes** for the World Correspondence Chess Championship were all agreed unanimously:-

- Change Qualification Regulations as shown in **Appendix C** (with tiebreak mandatory)
Qualification from World Cup same as for a WC-SF
Qualification from Zonal Championship of category IX and higher same as for a WC-SF
Qualification from Zonal Championship of category VIII and below same as for a WC-PR
- Final has normally 17 players; CT, SF, PR have normally 13 players with the possibility for the TTC to extend them to 15 or 17 players if appropriate in special situations.
- All WC sections of the same level shall start on the same day – CT, SF, PR once per year; Final every 1½ years. CT is normally limited to 4, SF to 18, PR to 30 sections per year; exceptions at the disposition of the TTC.
- Qualifications for Finals have to be used in the next or next but one starting Final after the end of the tournament in which the qualification was reached – except for former World Champions.
- Qualifications for CT, SF and PR are only valid within 3 years after the end of the tournament in which the qualification was reached. Special arrangement for multiple qualifications to the same level: one additional year for every additional right.
- Remove rule 1.3.1 (g): wildcards to CT for SM.
- Change rule 1.3.1 (h) to: GMs with at least 5 GM-norms, independent from rating.

The Tournament Rules Commission was charged with the responsibility of producing revised draft rules to be approved by the Executive Board before 1st January 2010. All the qualification requirements will take effect for Preliminaries, Semifinals and Candidates Tournaments which start on 1/1/2010 and thereafter.

The following interim **temporary regulations** were agreed unanimously (except as otherwise indicated) :-

- Final 25 will start on 10/12/2009 with postal players using nodes.
- Final 26 will start in 2010, final 27 will start in 2011, final 28 will start in 2012, all preferable in June. Final 29 is scheduled for December 2013 based on the new structure, with use of postal nodes, as required.
- Reconsider the situation in 2012 with the aim to have a two-yearly cycles for Finals (2014, 2016)
- All current qualifications for CT have to be applied for till 30/06/2010 to be used in 2010 or 2011 (preferable following the wishes of the players but at the disposition of the TTC).
- Concerning the change of rules 1.3.1 (g+h) - wildcards to CT - those rights will exist until 31/12/2009 and have to be applied for till this date to be used in 2010 or 2011 (preferable following the wishes of the players but at the disposition of the TTC).
- To avoid damage to the new structure in 2010 and 2011 five CT-sections with 17 players may be provided (66 additional places). If this was not sufficient (rather unlikely) the TTC could decide that only the first place would have a guarantee for a final qualification (this was agreed by a substantial majority)
- All current qualifications for SF and PR will expire at 31/12/2012.
- The TTC shall provide a list with all old qualifications for CT, SF and PR to send it to all concerned delegates, who have to inform their players accordingly.
- Those players who gave up or lost their right for a final in 2009 shall be entitled to enter a CT when they want to return before 2012. If there are vacant places for 2010-2012 finals, EB to decide to whom they shall be offered.

At the conclusion of these discussions, Gerhard Binder expressed his hearty thanks to the members of the group for committed, serious and constructive discussions. Although not always agreeing about details, the outcome was sound and hopefully appreciated by Congress and the majority of CC players in ICCF.

The ICCF President expressed sincere thanks to Gerhard Binder and his Working Group and Congress expressed appreciation and thanks with a standing ovation.

Non Title Tournaments

The Report of ICCF Non Title Tournaments Commissioner, Valer Eugen Demian (CAN) was received and progress with Webchess Opens and World Cups were described. It was reported by Alan Borwell (SCO) that the Second Veterans World Cup, organised by the Scottish CCA, had begun on 1st September, with 273 players in 21 groups.

Detailed proposals for the Champions League were discussed and some modifications were agreed unanimously by the Congress (registration to be open from 1/10/2009 until 15/12/2009, games to start early January 2010 with closing date 31st October 2011, with the next cycle to start early January 2012 and with two yearly cycles thereafter). More volunteers were needed to help with the organisation of the Champions League- contact Valer Eugen Demian.

The Report of the Postal Tournaments Office Commissioner and Thematics Tournaments Office were received with thanks and appreciation. There was a discussion about whether thematic tournament games should be secret and it was decided that half of the themes for 2010 should be designated "secret", with others allowing access to games. It was also agreed to provide some new thematic tournaments featuring most frequently played openings with groups of six players, with preliminaries and final groups, with entries either via member federations or through direct entry.

Rapid and Blitz Tournament entries were discussed and it was decided to discontinue them in their current format. However Fast Money Prize Tournaments (direct entry only) would be introduced immediately, with a rate of play of 10 moves per 15 days. These tournaments would be organised by DE Commissioner, Michael Millstone (USA).

Andrew Dearnley (ENG) reported on the successful completion of the four prototype Schools Tournaments and that the participating schools and pupils had enjoyed them. Options for further and more extensive schools tournaments for consulting teams of pupils were discussed, including hemispherical issues, and it was agreed that Alan Borwell and Andrew Dearnley would design and issue a circular to all member federations containing tournament proposals. It would be important to work closely with the Marketing Director in the promotion of schools, junior and university correspondence chess, using the benefits of webserver play to encourage younger players to become CC players.

Interzonal Tournaments

Interzonal Tournament Organiser, Dinand Knol (RSA) reported on the interzonal team tournaments and future plans were discussed by Congress. It was agreed that a new interzonal should be started every second year and Dinand Knol agreed to discuss the format and detailed arrangements with the four Zonal Directors.

The ICCF President thanked Dinand Knol for his work with these tournaments and Congress acclaimed his efforts and also Tournament Director, Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP), who had been TD for all of the five interzonal events.

Tournament Arrangements

A proposal was made by the ICCF President that all federations be offered 3 webserver tournaments, in each of three consecutive years, with a 25% discount, with a limit of not more than 30% of the players from one country but it was rejected by a significant majority, because it was thought it would be only of real benefit to larger federations.

The following invitation and open individual and team tournaments had been submitted for approval to the World Tournament Director by member federations/organisers, according to the required procedure and all were approved.

Henry Southwell Memorial (ENG)

Webserver

Cat. VI-VII

15 players

Start date 15th March 2009

Invitational tournament to mark the first anniversary of the death of SIM Henry Southwell

Bogoljubov-120 Memorial (GER/UKR jointly, 50/50%)

Webserver

Section A

Cat. X-XII

13 players (or 7-8 players double-round-robin)

Start: November 2009

TD: BdF

Section B

Cat. V-VI

13 players

Start: June 2009

TD: Nikolay Andriuschenko (UKR)

Invitational tournaments. The events above to be organised to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the birthday of famous grandmaster Efim Bogoljubov, who was known for his analytical contributions to chess theory and played correspondence chess on several occasions.

Chessfriends Rochade 5171 20th anniversary invitational team tournament (GER)

Websserver

13 teams at 10 boards by ICCF Server.

All players at the same board play each other - 12 games per player.

International teams of the Zones:- Africa/Asia, Latin America, Europe, North America/Pacific

National teams: Czech Republic, Russia, Sweden, USA, Netherlands, Germany

ICCF All STAR team, 2 Rochade teams

Charles Warburton Centenary Memorial (ENG)

Websserver

Cat. IV or V

15 players

Start date: 20th July 2009

TD: Andrew Dearnley (ENG)

Invitational tournament

Ernst Nielsen Memorial (DEN)

Websserver

15 players

Rating <2200

No title norms

Start date: 1st December 2009

Invitational tournament

Aleksandr Alpert Memorial (RUS)

Websserver

Cat. XI+

15-17 players

Start date: January – February 2010

Invitational tournament

Aleksandr Alpert (1948-2009) - International Master ICCF, Master FIDE, vice-president Russian Correspondence Chess Association.

Aleksandr Alpert Cup (RUS)

Invitational tournament by Websserver for all comers.

Tournament will be organised in three stages

Preliminary groups (11-13 players), the Semi-finals and Final.

The winner of Final will receive special cup trophy Russian CCA.

Start date: January-March 2010

RCCA-Gold 2009 (RUS)

Websserver

Cat. X-XII.

15-17 players

Start date: December 2009

Invitational tournament.

RCCA-Silver 2009 (RUS)

Websserver

Cat. VII-IX

15-17 players

Start date: December 2009

Invitational tournament.

RCCA-Bronze 2009 (RUS)

Websserver

Cat. IV-VI.

15-17 players

Start date: December 2009

Invitational tournament.

Dusan Krisko Memorial (SVK)

Websserver
Cat. VIII-IX
13 players
Start date: February 2010
Prize fund: 1000 EUR
TD: IA Karel Glaser (CZE)
Main organiser: Milan Manduch (SVK)

Dusan Krisko (1944-1995) was a strong Slovak correspondence chess player. He won the 5th Championship of Slovakia in 1982 and the 9th Czechoslovakia Cup in 1989. In the Finals of the XXII and XXIII Czechoslovakian Championships in 1987-88 and 1989-90, he finished in 4th place. 2010 will be the 15th anniversary of his sudden death. Slovak chess players would like to commemorate him by organising an international invitation tournament.

Richard Brix Memorial (SVK)

Websserver
Cat. XII-XIII
15 players
Start date: February 2010
Prize fund: 3000 EUR
TD: IA Karel Glaser (CZE)
Main organiser: Milan Manduch (SVK)

Richard Brix (1906-1980) was an important organiser of correspondence chess tournaments both in Slovakia and Czechoslovakia. He was born in Kelc (Czech Republic). In 1932 he married a Slovak woman and moved to Bratislava (Slovakia) where he started to organise correspondence chess competitions. His efforts included the organisation of the 1st and 2nd Slovakian Championships in 1941-45. After World War II his organisational activities covered all Czechoslovakia. From 1950 until 1963, he was main organiser of correspondence chess competitions. He significantly contributed to the development of correspondence chess in Slovakia and in 2010 it will be the 30th anniversary of the death of Richard Brix. Slovakian chess players would like to commemorate him by organising an international invitation tournament.

175 years London - Paris Match A (Organization BFCC – AJEC)

Websserver
Cat. IX-XI
13 players
Start date: December 2009
Invitational tournament.
Commemoration of the 175 years anniversary of the first international Correspondence Chess match played between the London Chess Club and the Paris Chess Club in 1834.

175 years London - Paris Match B (Organization BFCC – AJEC)

Websserver
Cat. V-VI
13 players
Start date: December 2009
Invitational tournament.
Commemoration of the 175 years anniversary of the first international Correspondence Chess match played between the London Chess Club and the Paris Chess Club in 1834.

Memorial Pierre Giraudet (FRA)

Websserver
Cat. I-II
13-15 players
Start date: November 2009
Invitational tournament.

Dr.Georgi Popov Memorial (BLG)

Websserver,
15 players,
Cat. XII-XIII,
Start in April, 2010.
Invitational tournament in memory of Georgi Popov (1934-2008),
Bulgarian grandmaster of ICCF, first champion of Bulgaria, winner of first table and silver medal from VII Olympiad.

Ilja Hristov Memorial (BLG)

Webserver,

15 players,

Cat. VII-VIII,

Start in June, 2010.

Invitational tournament in memory of Ilja Hristov (1955-2005), Bulgarian SM of ICCF, chess organiser

Vsevolod Rauzer Memorial tournament (UKR)

Webserver,

13-15 players,

Cat.: VI-VIII,

Start date: March-April 2010,

TD: Nikolay Andriuschenko,

Nikolay Vsevolod Rauzer (1908 – 1941) from Kiev was one of the most creative masters of 1930s. He played by correspondence since 1927 on a few occasions. Rauzer is famous for his analytical skills and seminal contributions to opening (Sicilian, French, etc.) and endgame (Bishop) theory.

25 Years Swiss CC association SFSV (SUI)

Webserver, 13-15 players, Cat. 12, start: 2.11.2010

25 Years Swiss CC association SFSV (SUI)

Webserver, 13-15 players, Cat.10, start: 2.11.2010

22nd Icelandic Corr. Championship held in Memory of Sverrir Norðfjörð

Webserver, 13 players, 4-5 foreign players, Cat. V-VI

Start in the first half of the Year 2010.

TD IA Per Söderberg (SWE)

16 Playing and Tournament Rules Commission proposals

The ICCF Rules Commissioner, Per Söderberg (SWE) introduced his report and firstly referred to the **Playing Rules** and discussions which had taken place in the Commission, leading to two proposals for webserver rules changes, although both were more of clarifications, rather than fundamental alterations to existing rules :-

Playing Rules Webserver 3b)

3b *When a player is sent a final reminder after 35 days of response time, he/she must either move or report to the Tournament Director and to his/her opponent, the intention to continue the game, within 5 days of that reminder. If a player does not move or otherwise report his/her intention to continue, during the 40 days of response time for the same move, the game may be scored as lost by the Tournament Director.*

TEAM: When a player is sent a final reminder after 35 days of response time, he/ she must either move or report to the Tournament Director, via the Team Captain, and to his/her opponent, the intention to continue the game, within 5 days of that reminder. If a player does not move or otherwise report his/her intention to continue, during the 40 days of response time for the same move, the game may be scored as lost by the Tournament Director.

The Congress accepted this proposal by a substantial majority.

Playing Rules Webserver 6bcd) to one 6b)

6b *Playing time is accounted for in whole days (24-hour periods). A player will have 24 hours of reflection time to respond to a move before one day of time is charged against his/her clock by the ICCF Webserver. Time charged against a player in responding to a move will be the whole number of days reflection time used by the player, up to 20 days, plus twice the whole number of days of reflection time used beyond 20 days, for any single move. For instance, a player who used at least 23 days of reflection time, but not 24 days, will be charged 26 days against his/her clock. Time remaining on a player's clock, when reaching a time control, is carried forward. Both response time and reflection time are stopped during a valid leave.*

6e will then be 6c and 6f will be 6d.

The Congress accepted this proposal by a substantial majority.

The Congress gave the Playing Rules Commission (PRC) the task of formulating guidelines for Webserver Rules in the same kind of presentation which is used for the current Postal Rules, to be presented to the 2010 Congress..

Before arriving at Congress, a proposal from the Spanish CC Federation which suggested that ICCF should deviate from the FIDE Laws of Chess regarding the 50-move draw rules. The reason being that with the aid of Table Base, it can be proven that a game could be won, even if 50 moves without a pawn move or capture were exceeded. It was agreed that this would need to be investigated and Congress decided by substantial majority to postpone a decision in order to have the subject and consequences discussed thoroughly in the PRC.

Congress thanked the Rules Commissioner and all the PRC members for their dedicated work in the Commission.

The Chairman of the **Tournament Rules** Commission, Duncan Chambers (ENG) reported on the Commission's work and two aspects which had been discussed during the year. There was then a lively discussion in Congress.

Promotional Tournaments - Congress asked the TRC to develop eligibility criteria for promotion tournaments, primarily based on ratings, but also taking into account results achieved. Entry criteria and status of entries from member federations should also be reviewed. Promotion Tournament eligibility criteria should also be suitable for application in Zonal Tournaments.

Tie Breaking - Congress asked the TRC to revise the wording of Section 5 of the Tournament Rules to make it clear that ICCF tie breaking rules were applicable for all ICCF correspondence chess tournaments, unless specifically excluded in the tournament announcement.

17 Ratings

After the significant changes to **Rating Rules** in Pleven the Ratings Commissioner, Gerhard Binder (GER) had no important news to report concerning the Rating System. The new rules were implemented with the first rating list in 2009. So far there were no problems or difficulties with the changes. As announced in 2008, three lists appeared and, after only short delays, up-to-date versions of Eloquery were made available. He reported problems with some player symbols on the webserver (not available in programme) and hoped to add the previous forecasting facilities. The ICCF President and Congress thanked the Ratings Commissioner for his very valuable work with ICCF ratings.

18 Other Rules matters (Code of Conduct, Appeals, Arbitration etc.)

The Chairman of the **Appeals Committee (Playing Rules)** Ragnar Wikman (FIN) reported that with the predominance of webserver player and discontinuation of Email events, the number of appeals had reduced. There had been one case where it had been concluded that webserver programming was not complying with the rules but changes had been made to the webserver and intimated on the webserver news at the end of April. The Congress thanked the Committee Chairman and members for their dedicated work throughout the past year.

The Chairman of the **Appeals Committee (other ICCF Rules)**, Alan Rawlings (ENG) reported that one appeal had been processed in the past year, regarding a tournament entry issue. Whilst the appeal had been rejected because the action taken had been in accordance with rules, the Committee had made two "best practice" recommendations but it had been disappointing that no response had been received from the WTD or the Executive Board. It was also disappointing that the appellant had launched an emotive attack on the Committee's ruling on the ICCF Forum, which had been answered with the posting of the ruling on the Forum.

Revised regulations for the Committee were presented to the Congress and these were adopted, after discussion. The new regulations are contained in **Appendix D**

Proposals regarding the membership of the Committee had been made to, and agreed by the Executive Board.

The ICCF President and Congress thanked the Chairman and all Committee members for their dedicated work.

The Chairman of the **Arbitration Committee**, Richard Hall (ENG) reported a quiet year, with referrals dealt with according to the spirit of "amici sumus" and the mutual satisfaction of all concerned. The Chairman and Committee were thanked for their dedicated work.

19 Arbiter Committee matters

The Report of the Arbiters Committee Chairman, Dmitry Lybin (BLR) had referred to some contradictions between tournament rules and the Arbiter Manual and also the inadequacy of criteria for the assessment of IA title awards. There was uncertainty because of lack of publication of the Arbiter Manual since the 2005 Congress and that little ACO work had been done since then, with a need now to relate guidance and contents more to the webserver age. The Congress therefore asked the Committee to comprehensively review the ICCF Arbiter Manual, with a particular need to provide help for webserver tournament direction, mentor organisation and development of IA award criteria.

The ICCF President and Congress thanked the Chairman and Committee members for their work in the past year.

20 Africa/Asia Zone

The Zonal Director (Africa/Asia), Ole Jacobsen (CIV) presented his report, which focused mainly on West Africa and he emphasised the need for help, support and finance to develop correspondence chess throughout the Zone. He made a presentation about youngsters learning to play chess in the Ivory Coast and the Chess Academy which had been established and reinforced with a visit by WC Fritz Baumbach. In response to questions about FIDE members in Africa and Asia, the Zonal Director agreed that closer relationships with them could be productive for ICCF, but thought that presence "on the ground", was the best way to promote chess and CC within the local communities.

21 Europe Zone

Zonal Director, Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) reported on the progress of individual and team events and that Christophe Pauwels (BEL) was the 65th European Champion and Carlos Cruzado Deuñas (ESP) was confirmed 66th European Champion, since his written Zonal report to Congress. The next EU Semifinals would start in Nov/Dec 2009 with the 67th Final to begin in Spring 2010. He also reported that in future, European Team Championship Semifinals would be started in alternate years to the CC Olympiad Preliminaries. Individual Promotion tournaments were going well and webserver tournaments had been particularly successful led by Leonardo Madonia (ITA). It had been decided to organise a European Postal Cup for teams of 4 players, to start at the beginning of 2010. The Harro Otte Memorial Final would start in Autumn 2009, with 9 qualified teams. The European Zone funds were very healthy.

22 Latin America Zone

The written Report of the Zonal Director (Latin America) was available to delegates and referred to more than 16 years of continuous work in CADAP by Carlos Cranbourne (ARG), the Zonal Director. There was a list of running events in CADAP and confirmation of the winner of CADAP XVII Zonal Final, Guillermo Toro Solis de Ovando (CHI). The Zonal Director especially thanked TO Controller Juan Alberto Martello (ARG) and Tournament Director Márcio Barbosa de Oliveira (BRA) and recorded special appreciation for the work of Juan Carlos Pérez Rodriguez (ARG).

23 North America / Pacific Zone

The Zonal Director (NAPZ), Corky Schakel (USA) reported that the 11th North American CC Championship had started in 2008 and was ongoing and that NAPZ teams were competing in the Interzonal 2008 and that USA and NAPZ teams had been entered into the Rochade 20th Anniversary tournament. Pacific Area Team Tournament V had been completed with Canada as winners, Australia/New Zealand second and USA in third place.

The ICCF President thanked all Zonal Directors for their reports and all zonal organisers and tournament directors for the continuing excellent work in the four zonal tournament offices of ICCF.

24 Other General Secretary Matters

There were no matters from the General Secretary's Report, other than those dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.

25 External matters

The ICCF Liaison Officer to FIDE, Alan Borwell (SCO) reported on the FIDE Congress and Olympiad, Dresden 2008 and mentioned some points which had arisen during the 3 days at which he attended plenary Congress meetings. New ICCF titles had been sent to FIDE according to normal practice and had been noted by FIDE in the usual way.

Amongst the interesting points was a decision to restrict new countries/organisations as Olympiad participants only to countries which had full IOC status. Therefore any ideas of an ICCF team participating would be a non starter. There were opportunities to work more closely with FIDE on matters of mutual interest, including schools/junior chess, marketing in collaboration with Global Chess and ICCF gaining more member countries via FIDE members. It was an objective of FIDE to have 200 teams from member countries/organisations in the 2012 Istanbul Olympiads.

Alan had excellent discussions with many FIDE officials/delegates and the specially designed leaflet (mentioned elsewhere) was distributed to all FIDE officials/delegates/press room and was made generally available within the Congress Hall. Grateful thanks for printing and distribution was afforded to BdF and the German Chess Federation.

Alan Borwell said that he hoped to attend the 2009 FIDE Assembly in Greece in October, but the ICCF President indicated that he was sorry not to be able to be there this year because he had a business commitment in SE Asia.

Austin Lockwood of Schemingmind.com then gave a very interesting slide presentation about his organisation, its relationships within BFCC and outlined ways whereby closer relationships with ICCF might be mutually beneficial.

His presentation was subdivided into three sections:-

1. Three possible tiers of affiliation – Champions League, NF Membership or Direct Affiliation
2. Advantages of NF membership included local members having full access to MF and ICCF events, participation and voting in NF affairs, advantages to ICCF in being a source of new players and members and technical and games related innovation
3. Unclear advantages of direct affiliation to ICCF eg working group could be convened to consider.

It was emphasised by ICCF officials that ICCF Statute 2.9 was flexibly worded deliberately, whereby each affiliation agreement was negotiable in terms, rights and duties. Negotiations were possible with any interested organisation. It was agreed to form a small group, under the President's chairmanship, to consider relationships between ICCF and any interested external CC organisation. Austin Lockwood and Dr. Ole Jacobsen offered to be members and others would be added.

26 Internal Matters

Report of the Historical Research Committee

The Report by the Committee Chairman, Ivan Bottlik (HUN) informed that the Committee had been working on the collection and editing of the CC Bibliography. Unfortunately, in the last year, Prof. Carlo A. Pagni (ITA) had passed away. He was one of the main collaborators who had organised for the printing of the first booklet. Others who had contributed significantly during the past years were: Eric Ruch (FRA), Tim Harding (IRL), J. Ken MacDonald (CAN), Egbert Meissenburg (GER), Roald Berthelsen (NOR), Sergey Grodzensky (RUS), Mátyás Berta (SER), Hendrick Chervet (NED), Peter Marczell (SLK) and Yakov Zusmanovich (USA). The Historical Research Committee's next goal would be to collect all individual round robin CC tournaments from the 19th Century (and also from the period 1901-1914) and publish cross tables together with the Bibliography, as a chapter of the ICCF Diamond publication.

Erik Larsson Memorial

To honor the memory of Erik Larsson, the only recipient of the ICCF Lifetime Achievement Award, the Swedish Correspondence Chess Federation SSKK and ICCF decided to jointly organise Erik Larsson Memorial tournaments.

The proposed tournaments will be the following:

- Memorial A, 13 players, with top rated players with a category as high as possible, played on the server.
- Memorial B, 13 players, Category 12, played on server.
- Memorial C, 13 players, Category 12, played by post.
- Open groups - to friends of Erik Larsson (arranged by rating strength)

The arrangements will be as follows:

- The invitation for these tournaments to be distributed by SSKK and the selection list to be reviewed by the ICCF Executive Board.
- The tournaments to be played on the ICCF server and the cost for these tournaments will be borne by ICCF.
- A prize fund of 1500 € will be provided by ICCF. SSKK will look for sponsors to complete the prize funds.

Subsidy for Congress Host Federations

Congress approved the proposal made by the President, whereby CHF 2,000 should be provided as a subsidy to host federations of Congresses, to take immediate effect from the 2009 Congress in England. Congress also agreed that the Finance Committee should review Congress financial arrangements, including levels/range of subsidies.

ICCF 60th Anniversary

Congress approved the creation of a Working Group which should present proposals for celebration tournaments to the 2010 Congress. The members of this Working Group would be Pedro Hegoburu (ARG) Chairman, Frank Geider (FRA), Michael Millstone (USA), Eric Ruch (FRA), Uwe Staroske (GER)

Some ideas to consider would be :-

- open event/s;
- invitational event for top 15 rated players, with money prizes;
- invitational events for players nominated by Nat. Feds.;
- events for officials/delegates;
- general marketing/advertising
- sponsorship;
- others (e.g. 2-game match between an ICCF player and a top FIDE player);

ICCF Diamond Book

Congress agreed with the proposal for a web book (possibly with a CD/DVD) to be developed located on "iccf.com" based on the ICCF Gold Book but updated for the Diamond Year and ideally thereafter, to provide a comprehensive ongoing history of ICCF tournaments, games, memorabilia, CC personalities (national and international) etc. This should be taken forward in conjunction with Marketing, Services and Webmaster and a small group would be formed under Chairmanship of Honorary President, Alan Borwell to begin work immediately, for completion for 2011.

Electoral Regulations

During the past year, the procedures for mid-term elections had been used on two occasions and it was agreed unanimously that the provisions in Schedule C Section 5 should be refined so that member federations would have enough time to consider candidates and then to register votes, which could require more than one ballot by Email. The following additional paragraph 5.2 was agreed, with next paragraphs renumbered 5.3 & 5.4 (see Appendix E)

"5.2 For mid term elections to be completed within three months, nominations should be required within 2 months of the date of the notice to member federations and 2 weeks should be allowed for registering of votes for each ballot".

27. Future meetings

A very interesting and informative illustrated presentation was made by Kuvay Sanli (TUR) on behalf of the Turkish Chess Federation and CC organisation with an offer to host the 2010 ICCF Congress in Kemer, Antalya, Turkey from 2nd to 9th October 2010, at the Limra, Limak International Hotel & Resort, providing details and room prices. This offer was enthusiastically received by delegates and accepted unanimously, for the ICCF Congress 2010.

The Turkish organisation also proposed that the 2012 ICCF Congress could take place in Istanbul to coincide with the ICCF Olympiad and Congress, but they would need to know not later than the 2010 ICCF Congress if this offer would be acceptable. There was considerable interest shown by ICCF delegates as it was thought the combination with a FIDE Congress/Olympiad would be a very attractive and beneficial concept.

Mr. Sanli and the Turkish organisation were thanked for the offers and Tunc Hamarat's help was much appreciated.

The Zonal Director (Africa/Asia) then expressed interest in hosting an ICCF Congress in West Africa and gave an illustrated presentation of the proposed location in Winneba, Ghana. He had intended to offer to host the 2012 Congress but realised the attractiveness of Istanbul and linking with the FIDE Congress/Olympiad, so he suggested that 2011 could be a possibility. He would provide details about Congress location, hotel etc., to the 2010 Congress.

It was emphasised that other offers for 2011 and 2012 could be received and therefore final decisions on all future Congress locations would need to wait until the 2010 Congress, but bids could be made via the Executive Board. Of course, one other factor to be considered for the year 2011 was that it would be a four year election Congress.

28 Congress Minutes

It was intimated that a first draft of the Minutes should be available a few days after the end of the Congress and would be sent to all delegates/officials and published on the ICCF website. When the draft has been released, delegates and officials attending the Congress should consider it and propose any changes/additions before 30/10/2009 to the ICCF President and Honorary President/Congress Secretary and the final version would be available by 1/12/2009, in readiness for formal approval by the 2010 Congress.

In closing the ICCF Congress 2009, the ICCF President, Eric Ruch (FRA) thanked the BFCC host federation and all those who had helped with the Congress and particularly main organisers, Andrew Dearnley and Neil Limbert. The Congress venue and all arrangements had been excellent and they were accorded a standing acclamation.

The ICCF President then thanked all ICCF officials for their reports for the 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 of his first Congress.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the ICCF Honorary President, congratulating the ICCF President on his work and excellent chairmanship of the 2009 Congress and the delegates gave him a very warm and standing ovation.

In declaring the Congress closed, the ICCF President expressed hope that all would meet again in Turkey in 2010.

Eric Ruch
ICCF President

Alan P. Borwell
ICCF Honorary President & Congress Secretary

ICCF Commissions/Committees (updated as at 1/12/2009)

Tournaments Commission

Frank Geider (FRA), (Chairman), Gerhard Binder (GER), Tunc Hamarat (AUT), Leonardo Madonia (ITA), George Pyrich (SCO), Gian-Maria Tani (ITA).

Playing Rules Commission

Per Söderberg (SWE), (Chairman), Leo Lahdenmäki (FIN), Nikolay Poleshchuk (RUS), Ragnar Wikman (FIN), Ralph Marconi (CAN), Duncan Chambers (ENG), George Pyrich (SCO), Kenneth Reinhart (USA), Kristo Miettinen (USA), Wim van Vugt (NED), David Lafarga (ESP).

Tournament Rules Commission

Duncan Chambers (ENG) (Chairman), Gerhard Binder (GER), Carlos Cranbourne (ARG), Sergey Grodzensky (RUS), Leonardo Madonia (ITA), Ralph Marconi (CAN), George Pyrich (SCO), Gian-Maria Tani (ITA), Leo Lahdenmäki (FIN), Per Söderberg (SWE).

Rating Rules Commission

Gerhard Binder (GER), (Chairman), George Pyrich (SCO), Nol van 't Riet (NED), Jo Wharrier (ENG), Ragnar Wikman (FIN), Valery Myakutin (RUS).

Note: The ICCF President and the General Secretary are *ex-officio* members of the above Commissions

President's Council (PC)

Eric Ruch (FRA) (Chairman), Alan P. Borwell (SCO), Josef Mrkvicka (CZE), Ragnar Wikman (FIN), George Pyrich (SCO).

Finance Committee (FC)

George Pyrich (SCO), (Chairman), Alan P. Borwell (SCO), Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP), Josef Mrkvicka (CZE), Søren Peschardt (DEN), Michael Millstone (USA), Eric Ruch (FRA).

Marketing Committee

Uwe Staroske (GER), (Chairman), Luz Marina Tinjaca' Ramirez (ITA), Eric Ruch (FRA), Pierre Ruiz Vidal (FRA), Petyo Marinov (BUL), Laurent Tinture (FRA), Ole Jacobsen (CIV), Michael Millstone (USA), Neil Limbert (ENG), Andrew Dearnley (ENG), Clive Murden (AUS).

Arbiters Committee (ACO)

Dmitry Lybin (BLS) (Chairman), Alan P. Borwell (SCO), Eric Ruch (FRA), George Pyrich (SCO), Frank Geider (FRA), Per Söderberg (SWE).

Historical Research Committee (HRC)

Ivan Bottlík (HUN), (Chairman), Tim Harding (IRL), Eric Ruch (FRA).

Services Committee (SC)

Raymond Boger (NOR), (Chairman), Alan P. Borwell (SCO), Gerhard Binder (GER), Ambar Chatterjee (IND), Frank Geider (FRA), Eric Ruch (FRA), Per Söderberg (SWE), J. Franklin Campbell (USA), Marco Caressa (ITA), Austin Lockwood (ENG), Clive Murden (AUS).

Appeals Committee (Playing Rules)

Ragnar Wikman (FIN) (Chairman), Leo Lahdenmäki (FIN) (Secretary), José Amorim Neto (BRA), Ian Brooks (ENG), Marco Caressa (ITA), Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP), Cecilio Hernáez Fernández (ESP), Ralph Marconi (CAN), Wes Underwood (USA)

Appeals Committee (Other ICCF Rules)

Alan Rawlings (ENG), (Chairman), Artis Gaujens (LAT), Pablo Salcedo Mederos (CUB), Tim Runting (AUS), Dinand Knol (RSA).

Arbitration Committee

Richard V.M. Hall (ENG) (Chairman), Nol van 't Riet (NED), Alan P. Borwell (SCO), Ragnar Wikman (FIN), George Walker (SUI).



THE INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRY/APPLICATION

We are interested in considering possible membership of ICCF on behalf of the Correspondence Chess players in our country.

COUNTRY: _____

IS THE COUNTRY MEMBER OF FIDE: _____

NAME OF ORGANISATION: _____

IS THE ORGANISATION AFFILIATED TO THE OTB FEDERATION: _____

NAME OF MAIN CONTACT PERSON: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

_____ Tel. _____

NAME OF ALTERNATIVE CONTACT PERSON: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NATIONAL CHESS/OR CC WEBSITE: _____

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF CORR. CHESS PLAYERS: _____

LEADING CORRESPONDENCE CHESS PLAYERS (eg Titled players in country)

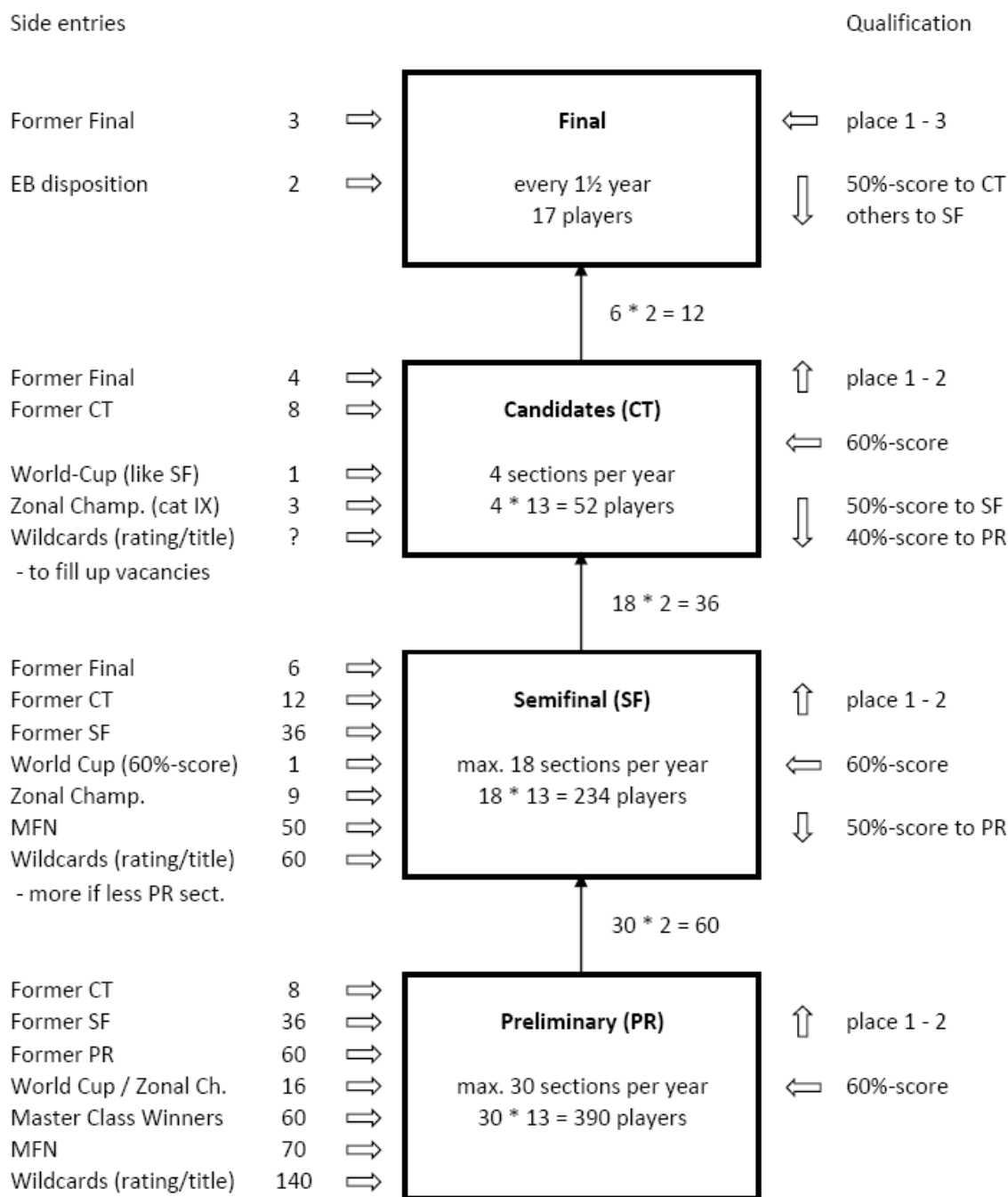
OTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS _____

Submitted by _____

Date: _____

Please send this form duly completed by Email to:
ICCF General Secretary: Pedro F. Hegoburu at pfhegoburu@iccf.com
with a copy to the ICCF President: Eric Ruch at eric.ruch@iccf.com

Structure for future World Championships



World Cup Final is considered to have the same promotion rules as SF (every 2nd year)

Zonal Championships with category IX and higher are considered like SF (1½ per year)

Zonal Championships with category VIII and below are considered like PR (2 per year)

Basic Principles for the New Structure of future World Championships

Finals:

- every 1½ year starting with Jun, 2012.
- played on webserver with 17 players; postal players can participate using nodes.
- Qualification: 3 from previous final, 6 * 2 from CT, 2 free places at the disposition of EB.
- These qualifications can be deferred only once (except for former Worldchampions).
- Promotion: 3 for a further final (with tiebreak), score of 50% to CT, others to SF.
- Vacancies: filled with unlucky tiebreakers (subject to confirmation by EB).
- In 2012 it shall be investigated if the cycle maybe can prolonged to 2 years.

Candidate Tournaments:

- 4 groups per year, starting together at a fixed date.
- played on webserver and if possible with a postal section every other year, otherwise postal players can participate using nodes.
- normally 13 players per group, may be extended to 17 if appropriate, 52 - 68 participants.
- Qualification: ~4 players from a former final (50%-score), ~8 players from former CTs (60%-score), 36 players from max. 18 SF-groups, 4 additional qualifications from Worldcups and Zonal Tournaments.
- Promotion: 2 for final (with tiebreak), ~2 for a further CT (60%-score, at least those with equal score to place 2), 50%-score to SF, 40%-score to PR.
- Those rights are valid only for three years, starting with the end of the tournament.
- Vacancies: filled with unlucky tiebreakers (subject to confirmation by EB) or wildcards.

Semifinals:

- max. 18 groups per year, starting together annual at a fixed date.
- played on webserver and in postal groups, using nodes is not provided.
- normally 13 players per group.
- Qualification: current rules including wildcards.
- Promotion: 2 for CT (with tiebreak), others as before, valid only for three years.

Preliminaries:

- all groups starting together annual at a fixed date.
- played on webserver and in postal groups, using nodes is not provided.
- normally 13 players per group.
- Qualification: current rules including half qualifications and wildcards, adding 60%-rule.
- Promotion: 2 for SF (with tiebreak), others as before, valid only for three years.
-

Appendix D

Regulations for the ICCF Appeals Commission (Other Rules)

1) The Appeals Commission (Other Rules)

- a. ICCF Statutes establish the Appeals Commission (Other Rules) for the purpose of resolving appeals concerning the application of the ICCF Tournament Rules and any other ICCF Rules not covered by another appeal body. In particular, the Commission does not have jurisdiction over Playing Rules matters, nor over possible breaches of the ICCF Code of Conduct.
- b. The Chairman and the members of the Appeals Commission (Other Rules) should be experienced ICCF workers, and should not be current ICCF or Zonal officials.
- c. The members and the chairman are appointed by the ICCF Executive Board, subject to the approval of Congress. The chairman of the Commission may co-opt new members to the Commission with the approval of the ICCF Executive Board.
- d. The Appeals Commission (Other Rules) is independent in its judgements.

2) Appeals procedure

- a. Appeals with regard to ICCF Rules (except ICCF Playing Rules) should be submitted to the chairman of the Appeals Commission (Other Rules). Appeals may be submitted by ICCF Delegates, or by any aggrieved person with the support of the national delegate concerned.
- b. Upon receipt of any appeal, the chairman shall acknowledge receipt of the appellant's claim whilst simultaneously arrange to forward details of the appeal to the other members of the Commission. Following initial consideration and evaluation of the appeal, the chairman shall then contact other parties concerned with the circumstances of the claim, requesting them to provide submissions to the Commission.
- c. Depending on the complexity of the appeal, the chairman, in consultation with other members of the Commission, shall decide upon the procedure for dealing with the appeal.
- d. In order to avoid any perceived conflict of interest, the individual members of the Commission will stand down from any appeal where the appellant or other party significant to the appeal is of the same nationality of any member of the Commission. In cases where it is considered appropriate that the Chairman should stand down then he shall appoint one of the members of the Commission as his Deputy.

3) Limitations of the Appeals Commission (Other Rules)

- a. Under normal circumstances the Appeals Commission (Other Rules) shall consider only if the decision or conduct of the Tournament Director or ICCF Official or player has been formally correct under the ICCF Rules and associated Guidelines.
- b. Appeals against the judgement of Tournament Directors or ICCF officials are rejected unless the Commission finds that the decision is either unreasonable (for example, arbitrarily bringing forward an entry deadline) or inconsistent (for example, excluding one late entry while accepting another received later).

4) Relation with other ICCF entities

- a. The Appeals Commission (Other Rules) shall submit a written Report annually to the ICCF Congress. This Report, whilst providing a summary of the work of the Commission during the preceding year, may, where the Commission consider appropriate, also contain recommendations with regard to ICCF Rules and Guidelines.
- b. Based upon the experiences of the Appeals Commission (Other Rules) the chairman may also send recommendations and submissions to ICCF officials and other ICCF bodies, and to Congress.

5) Extent of the Appeals Commission (Other Rules)

- a. The Appeals Commission (Other Rules) holds jurisdiction for all ICCF title, qualification, promotion and special events, including those events held under the auspices of ICCF Zonal Tournament offices.
- b. As provided in the ICCF Statutes, the decisions of the Commission are final and binding, and not subject to further appeal either within ICCF or to a court of law or other outside body.

ICCF Voting Regulations and Electoral Procedures

1. General Provisions

1.1 Each voting member has one vote. A simple majority vote is required to decide any resolution unless it is defined or agreed otherwise.

1.2 Voting normally is by show of hands but a secret ballot will be held if this is requested by at least two thirds of voting members present at Congress.

1.3 For the purpose of all voting, abstentions will be ignored.

1.4 Elections of persons will be exclusively by secret ballot. Where an Email ballot is necessary, the voting procedure will be according to agreed established practice and will be announced by the Executive Board.

1.5 In the event of equal votes on any matter other than for the election of persons, the President will have a casting vote. In the event of a tie in an election of persons, a further ballot will be arranged after which, if still producing an equal result, the President will have a casting vote.

2. Executive Board elections – Normal 4 yearly election procedures

2.1 Nominations for the office of:

- President
- General Secretary
- Finance Director
- World Tournaments Director
- Marketing Director
- Services Director

must reach the ICCF General Secretary at least two months before the opening of the Congress where the elections are to take place.

2.2 To be elected, each candidate shall be nominated by their Member organisation.

2.3 It is the right of each Member organisation to nominate candidates for any of the above six positions, providing:

- a) the nominee is a current member of their organisation, and
- b) the nominee has confirmed his / her willingness to be nominated.

2.4. The Member organisation of the candidate shall send the letter of nomination to the ICCF General Secretary by Email, with a copy to the ICCF Auditor. The ICCF General Secretary shall confirm receipt of this letter by Email, with a copy to the ICCF Auditor.

Each nomination shall include a written declaration from the candidate indicating his/her willingness to be nominated, along with a personal statement (if wished) giving information in support of his/her candidature.

2.5 When all nominations have been received, the information shall be issued by the ICCF General Secretary to all Member organisations at least one month before the start of the Congress where the elections take place, to enable them to consider all the candidates and decide upon voting preferences, prior to the respective ICCF Congress.

3. Electoral Procedures

3.1 Marked ballot papers shall be prepared for elections, with names of the candidate(s) nominated for each office. Ballot papers shall be distributed to all voting members by the ICCF General Secretary at Congress, before the respective elections.

3.2 It is allowed that the same candidate can run for more than one position in the Executive Board.

3.3 If one and the same person puts his / her candidacy for more than one office in the Executive Board, the order of elections shall be:

- President
- General Secretary
- Finance Director
- World Tournaments Director
- Marketing Director
- Services Director.

As soon as a candidate is elected to one office, his/her candidacy for other office(s) becomes null and void.

3.4 To secure a fair and impartial electoral process, three scrutineers, a chairman and two members, shall be appointed for elections. Normally the ICCF Auditor (as chairman) and two non voting ICCF Honorary Members, shall act as these scrutineers.

No scrutineer can be, at the same time, a candidate for an office in the Executive Board.

3.5 Completed ballot papers will be returned to the scrutineers, for secret scrutiny and declaration of the result announced by the ICCF Auditor.

Should the ICCF Auditor not be present at Congress, then the ICCF Honorary President will act on his behalf as chairman. In his absence, the Executive Board will propose other present and respectable person who will be approved by Congress.

Should only one or no Honorary Member be present at the Congress, then the Executive Board will propose other suitable person(s) who will be approved by Congress.

3.6 If three or more persons are nominated for the same offices or office, any candidate who receives more than 50% of the votes cast, is elected on the first ballot.

Thereafter, the candidate receiving most votes on the second ballot is elected. In case of a tie, a new ballot is held between the candidates who tied, as described in 1.5.

4. Zonal Directors Elections

The election of Zonal Directors is arranged within each Zone, normally, immediately following the respective Congress. Procedures for Zonal Director elections shall be agreed within each Zone, with advice available from the ICCF President and/or General Secretary, as required.

5. Executive Board elections – Mid term vacancy election procedures

5.1 Where a vacancy occurs in the Executive Board during the normal 4 year cycle, then a mid term election will be arranged by Email with Member organisations, to be completed within three months, with the exception that where a vacancy occurs within three months of the start date of a Congress, when the election procedure will be according to normal procedure and the election will take place at the Congress.

5.2 For mid term elections to be completed within three months, nominations should be required within 2 months of the date of the notice to member federations and 2 weeks should be allowed for registering of votes for each ballot.

5.3 For mid term elections, nominations should be made according to paras 2.2 to 2.4.

5.4 The voting procedures for mid term elections will be arranged to ensure validation of voting eligibility and secrecy of voting. Elections will be scrutinised by the ICCF Auditor and two Honorary Members invited by the ICCF Auditor to assist him in the process.

6. Final Provisions

6.1 Personal statements of candidates shall not be published in commercial magazines / internet sites, etc. until after they have all been circulated by the ICCF General Secretary to the official delegates of Member organisations. These statements will also be published on a special election page on www.iccf.com.

6.2 Election campaigning/soliciting for votes, etc. shall not take place until after the complete list of candidates, accompanied by their personal statements, has been officially released by the ICCF General Secretary, as indicated in 2.5.