

Report of QC Chairman to FIDE Council

September 2020

First of all, I was very pleased to see that Sabrina de San Vicente had been raised to the position of QC Councillor. She had been hard working as a Member and will certainly prove valuable in her new role.

For the past six months the chess world has been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is pleasing to see that in many federations OTB chess is returning, a trend which I hope continues. Meanwhile, FIDE has led the way in promoting official online events.

QC has not had a large part to play in the development of online activity, besides confirming that we shall produce regulations for and oversee any rating systems that are required. The structure should be simple, but care will be needed in the reporting of results. Separately, several of our members are working within a group to produce regulations for online chess, as well as acting in senior arbiting positions. We believe we have the expertise to handle whatever issues arise.

In our work, the greatest controversy in recent months has been in the area of Registration, Licensing ( if that concept still has a use ) and Transfers of players. There have been high profile cases which may or may not have set precedents, but overall it is clear that the traditional structure, in which a national federation invariably stands between FIDE and individual players, is no longer working satisfactorily.

QC produced draft revisions to all of these regulations in 2019 and reviewed them earlier this year. They are an attempt to make the existing system work more smoothly. However, recent events cause us to ask whether FIDE's intention is to consider more radical changes. We have attempted to test opinion in the chess world, but with limited success.

I must stress that the approach of using FID status as a catch-all in difficult cases is not a permanent solution. Furthermore, it is not possible to separate the issues of Registration and Transfers. They are two sides of the same coin.

One area where we do find widespread dissatisfaction is in the Financial Regulations, where they affect QC's area of responsibility. The current rules relate to a bygone era and need to be updated. We have twice submitted proposals for revisions and hope these can be considered. They were produced at a time when there was a general policy of reducing fees, and I do not know whether that is still tenable, but it is primarily the shape of the fee structure rather than the quantum which needs to be reviewed.

I am pleased that we have been given dates, well in advance, for the next ( online) General Assembly. QC will arrange a meeting shortly before this and it should be possible to avoid the inevitable clashes with other meetings which beset traditional Congresses. We shall be sending all federations explanatory papers relating to the revised Regulations which were approved at the last FIDE Council meeting and I anticipate a very good attendance.

We must also liaise with Arbiters Commission, who have to educate their own members. I really

should have started this process already, and it is now urgent.

There have been fewer Title Applications than usual, for obvious reasons, and we have increased the number of members involved in checking them. This work depends heavily on experience, so we should be well prepared for a return to normal, and ever increasing, levels.

There is one outstanding issue, relating the the 2020 Gibraltar tournament. There was a question relating to the pairings, where in one case weight was given to avoiding a politically unacceptable clash. I believed it must be left to FIDE Council to decide whether this nullified norms from the event, and the IM title for Ritvars Reimanis ( 11602988 LAT ) was marked as “Pending info”.

I now believe that it is intended to allow norms from this event, in which case this title should be approved. Please note that there is an application in the current list, WGM Pradyusha, which relies on a norm from the same event.

Nick Faulks  
QC Chairman

16.9.20