

## Report of QC Chairman to FIDE Council December 2020

QC's day to day work continues to be dominated by the effects of the Covid virus on the chess world. However, we are greatly looking forward to our first full meeting since 2018 ( on Zoom of course ), scheduled for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Federations will have the opportunity to discuss in detail all of the new Title and Rating Regulations and it is possible that some refinements will emerge from that meeting which can be put to the next Council meeting in early 2021.

There have been very few title applications in recent months. This is in one way fortunate, since it is increasingly difficult to find historical information on the website. I hope these problems can be resolved before the return of a full tournament schedule.

There is at present great confusion regarding events disrupted by the pandemic. We have in many cases no idea of which events have been paused, abandoned or never happened. A “cleanup” operation will be required, but this will inevitably require a large amount of work to be done by the Elista office. QC will make an appeal for federations to provide all the information they have, and I suggest the process should start as soon as the Congress work is completed.

We have allowed norm tournaments which have been paused to be extended beyond their nominal time limit. However, we have also received requests for other concessions, such as the weakening of foreign player requirements or faster time controls, and these have not been approved. Such exceptions, once granted, are very difficult to remove.

There have been encouraging developments relating to Hybrid Chess, which we hope will lead to some of these events being FIDE rated. This has been theoretically possible since 2014, but only now are appropriate Laws being developed. A minor amendment to our Rating Regulations will be required when these are finalised.

QC Councillors have also provided input to the new Laws for Online Chess.

FID status remains a difficult issue. It is in practice being treated as a safe haven for players whose relationship with their own federation has become untenable, but this can happen for a variety of reasons and the same treatment does not work for all. It is my view that, failing an entirely new overall structure, players should be encouraged to find a new federation as quickly as possible. This may mean that federations in their new countries of residence should be encouraged to accept them.

The final point, and the most difficult, relates to time controls for rated games. These were changed four years ago, but we have never been able to produce the systems to implement them correctly. This will presumably require a significant amount of

work, which QC can help to specify, but I hope this task can be pushed towards the top of the pile of outstanding issues.

Nick Faulks  
QC Chairman

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