

ERIC RUCH CANDIDATE FOR ICCF PRESIDENT

Most of the National Delegates know me very well and I have met many of you during the last 20 years, but for those who do not know me I give some brief bio data:

I have started my correspondence chess activities thirty years ago, in 1984 playing in various promotional tournaments organized in France by the magazine *Europe Echecs* while I was student in Paris and became member of AJEC in 1989. In this pre computer time, it took me almost a decade to progress from the 4th and last division to the French Correspondence Chess championship title that I have won in 1998. In parallel, I played in a few international tournaments and obtained the IM title in Rimini in 2001 and the SIM title in Seixal in 2002.

I am also International Arbiter since 2006 and organized many events (invitational tournaments, team tournaments such as Mare Nostrum II & III, NATT VI , Copa Latina World I & II...)



I have been the French Delegate since 2001 and I have attended my first ICCF Congress in the same year. I have served as Qualifications Commissioner from 2003 to 2008 and elected in the Executive Board as Marketing Director in 2008. I have been elected ICCF President in 2009 during a mid-term election and re-elected in Järvenpää in 2011 and in Cardiff in 2015.

The many successes in the last four years are due to the whole ICCF Officials, member of the Executive Board (many of them are candidate for re election and I thank them for the great work they have done during the last years and for being volunteer for another term!), Commissioners and other officials, Tournament Organizers, Tournament Directors,

During the last four years, many significant results have been achieved and they give us clear indication for future works:

- The online voting system has been introduced and improved over the last years. I consider it as a major evolution in the ICCF democracy and a great help for the Delegates to understand the proposals, discuss them within their Federation / Organisation's officials and members and prepare their votes.
It is a relatively new system, we still need to improve it, help the Delegates to better understand it and use it more extensively to get rid of the proxies in the future.
- The daily work for many officials has been simplified with the introduction of the automated withdrawal process and the enhancement of the adjudication process and players will also take benefit of it.
The withdrawal and adjudication system is still quite complex and we should try to simplify it both for the players and the officials
- In Cardiff (2015), we have initiated a working group to study the possible evolution of the time control and more generally the time management philosophy in CC tournaments. Based on their results, the new Triple Block time control system has been implemented and is currently in the testing phase.
If adopted by a future Congress, it will be a major (r)evolution for ICCF,
- A new and fully automated registration system has been implemented on the server to improve player's experience and streamline the entries to our tournaments.

- Players and officials will also appreciate the new “ICCF Rules Document” which compiles rules information previously listed in 8 separate documents and includes also a new Tournament Office manual.
Although this document is a great added value for many of us, some players and officials consider it to be too complex and may be discouraged to open and read it. We probably need to write a digest of the most important rules, those related to the playing rules which are of main interest to the players.
- We have now published the ICCF laws of correspondence chess that complete the set of rules applying to correspondence chess.
- The new structure of ICCF norm tournaments adopted by the congress in Llandudno (2018) has been launched successfully last December. The new system provides improved targeted master and grand-master norm tournaments as well as new correspondence chess experts, chess masters and senior international master tournaments. The number of entries registered since these new tournaments have been advertised amongst the players demonstrates that they will be a success and that they have filled a gap in ICCF tournament offer.
We need to improve our offer of tournaments (including postal, chess960 and gender / age restricted entries tournaments), optimize it to better address the players wishes.
- We shall use all the potential of the server and the modern technologies to make the CC more attractive for our players (the use of the table base is one example of it) and also potential future players. We should also improve the server for our marketing activities, making it more attractive for potential sponsors
- Finally, the ICCF financial situation is healthy, allowing us future development tasks on the server, marketing and further development actions!

We have recently suffered the loss of two friends, ICCF Honorary Members Carlos Flores Gutiérrez and George Pyrich. They have been great contributors to the development of ICCF during the last two decades. Requiescat in pace, dear friends.

I hope to see you in Vilnius

Amici Sumus

Eric Ruch