

ERIC RUCH CANDIDATE FOR ICCF PRESIDENT

I have started my correspondence chess activities twenty five 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,...)



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 Marketing Director in 2008.

And of course I have been elected ICCF President in May 2009.

During the last two years there have been some successes, many on-going tasks and a few failures.

The failures are mine but the successes 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 (many of them are working in the shadow, behind the stage but without them ICCF won't be ICCF), other officials, Tournament Organizers, Tournament Directors,

What has been positive during the last two years?

- We have brought an answer to the profusion of World Championship titles and arrive very soon at the goal where 1 final will be started every two years and to avoid in the future what happens this year where we will have three world champions in less than six months! A solution to include postal player in those world championship final has been implemented.
- More generally, all ICCF tournaments are running smoothly following a calendar that includes zonal tournaments and is available for all players on iccf.com. Some tournaments (Money Prize Tournaments, Blitz and Rapid tournaments, ...) have not been very successful and have been stopped.

- The ICCF financial situation is healthy, allowing us future development tasks on the server, marketing actions and we have already reduced last year the entry fees of the tournaments.
- The server continues its development (this year special leave office, tournament entry automation, Chess960 have been introduced). There are now almost than 10000 registered and the number of tournament started every year is steadily increasing.

There are a number of on-going tasks that will be the major objectives for the next years. I can mention some of them.

- The ICCF registration will be presented and discussed during this year Congress. In our today's world, ICCF needs to have solid legal basis and the proposed registration scheme will provide a long term solution while offering easy daily operations. This will be the first step to a more in depth modernization of ICCF Statutes.
- The ICCF website has not progressed as quickly as planned but I still hope that the site could be presented during the congress.
- It has been impossible to find a long term volunteer for the Marketing Director position. If the situation cannot be solved during this year Congress by the election of a new Marketing Director, we should maybe think on having a paid position to encourage some candidates.
- The number of Member Federations has decreased and no real positive answer has been received from contacts initiated over the last two years. To remain the legitimate Worldwide CC Federation, ICCF needs a larger number of members federation

Amici Sumus

Eric Ruch