



**THEMATIC
TOURNAMENT
OFFICE**

THE INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION

**Leonardo Madonia
via Leandro Alberti 54
IT-40137 Bologna
Italy**

E -mail: lmadonia@iccf.com

Bologna, June 15th, 2011.

Dear chessfriends,

231 players started a new thematic tournament in 2010, while in 2009 they were 173. One of the reasons for such an increase is surely the introduction of the new series of thematic tournaments; anyway, I can affirm that the interest of ICCF players in thematic tournaments is very high.

The growing trend is continuing in 2011. In the first 5 months of 2011, 146 players begun a new tournament and 30 players have already sent their entry to the groups that will start in autumn and winter.

Therefore, I will again propose 12 themes (5 by post and 7 on the server) for 2012; obviously, entries to the series of themes will continue to be always opened.

This year my office took charge of Chess 960, that was implemented on ICCF web-server. The first official tournament is the Diamond Jubilee 1st Chess 960 World Cup, with very interesting prizes; that will attract many players to this beautiful variant of chess.

In 2012, I'd like to start a continuous series of unrated Chess 960 tournaments with 5 players each and a short time of reflection (10 moves / 20 days).

As usual, I ask all the National Federations to publish the information about 2012 themes and Chess 960 on their websites and magazines.

Amici sumus.

The TT Office
Leonardo Madonia