



International Correspondence Chess Federation

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Report to the 2017 Congress Direct Entry Programme

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Dear Chessfriends,

1. Introduction

I am pleased to submit my sixth report as Direct Entry Commissioner to the 2017 ICCF Congress regarding the Direct Entry Programme. The period of this report will be through to 31st December 2016.

2. Direct Entry Programme

The Direct Entry Programme enables players to register for ICCF events subject to holding the appropriate qualifications for that event by making a payment through PayPal. Unfortunately, some countries are not part of the Direct Entry Programme; I sincerely hope that they join as soon as possible.

The Programme benefits from the automation of the process for entries on the webserver. This process is being continually reviewed to seek possible improvements, and I extend my thanks to all those involved in ensuring this system works so efficiently.

I am pleased to report that the Direct Entry Programme has now received over 16,000 eligible entries. Since its introduction in 2006, the programme has received an average of about 128 entries per month. The greatest number of entries in a month was in January 2016 when 518 entries were received.

3. Information about the Direct Entry Programme

From January to December 2016, a record 3,402 entries for ICCF tournaments were registered, that is 9.30 entries per day, representing an increase of over 42% compared with 2015 (2391 entries, 6.55 per day).

Appendix 1 to this report contains details of the entries to the varied tournaments available by Direct Entry, and the level of activity in each tournament.

4. **Rejected entries**

Unfortunately, there are occasions when the Direct Entry Office has to reject entries, and this can occur for a variety of reasons. Whilst a small number of rejections can be expected, 2016 saw a very large number of rejections, some 54 in total, which is too many. **Appendix 2** to this report contains details of these rejections.

Delegates are kindly requested to remind those players within their Federation of their need to be qualified to enter the event of their choice. The qualification criteria for the various events appear on the webserver. It would save the players' disappointment and the Direct Entry Office a lot of work if the number of rejections could be dramatically reduced. Thank you for your cooperation.

5. **Direct Entry 10th Webserver Anniversary Tournament**

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Direct Entry Programme, a tournament has been organised by Ian M Pheby (ENG). The tournament attracted a total of 891 entries, and 81 preliminary groups started play on 5th April 2016, the 10th anniversary of the Direct Entry Programme. Adjudication will take place if games are unfinished on 20th November 2017. The semi-final stage will commence as soon as possible after that date. The 891 entries consisted of 683 players from 52 Federations, and entries were received from 6 GM, 21 SIM, 39 IM, and 1 LIM.

ChessBase has kindly agreed to sponsor DE10A, and the winner of each Preliminary Group will receive a prize of a 25 Euro ChessBase voucher.

The preliminary groups are being controlled by thirteen TDs as follows:

Akrill, Richard (ENG)
Dearnley, Andrew SIM, IA (ENG)
Guevara i Pijoan, Josep (ESP)
Halliwell, Toni LGM (ENG)
Huguet Reina, Carlos (ESP)
Kracht, Jörg IM, IA (GER)
Krzyżanowski, Dr. Wojciech SIM, IA (POL)
Maylott, Peter S. (AUS)
Pheby, Ian M. SIM, IA (ENG)
Relyea, Alexander (USA)
Sherwood, Russell, IA (WLS)
Wood, Ben A. (ENG)
Woodhouse, Stephen (ENG)

7. **Appreciation**

I wish to thank:

- All Tournament Organisers for their continued support of the Direct Entry Office and the Programme.
- All National Federations with whom the Direct Entry Office has had contact for their cooperation.

- Andrew Dearnley (ENG) for arranging the sponsorship of DE10A.
- ChessBase for their sponsorship of DE10A.
- The TDs for their work on DE10A.

It has been an honour to serve the ICCF as Direct Entry Commissioner since 2011.

Ian M Pheby
Direct Entry Commissioner

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Appendix 1 – Entries to Direct Entry Programme

	2006*	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016**
DE Applications	393	728	821	1038	1070	1368	1260	1816	2273	2391	3403
Average Applications per day	1.46	1.99	2.25	2.84	2.93	3.75	3.44	4.98	6.23	6.55	9.30
World Championships											
WCCC - Preliminaries	3	6	23	10	3	10	33	28	30	48	34
WCCC - Semifinals	1	2	5	2	1	5	7	12	18	25	25
WCCC - Candidates	1	6	10	6	1	0	0	4	7	11	8
LWCCC - Semifinals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	0	0	0	0	0
World Cups											
World Cups	47	N/A	N/A	95	N/A	224	1	279	0	310	0
Veterans World Cups	N/A	N/A	N/A	28	47	56	85	99	79	150	228
Junior World Cup	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	1	1	0	0	0	0
Chess 960	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	23	43	42	38
European Championships											
Server Championship Open	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	33	169	174	218
Server Championship Preliminaries	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	114	109	154
Server Championship Semifinals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	0	42	22	45
Server Championship Candidates	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	9	9
Postal Championship Open	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	7	2	5
Postal Championship Semifinals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	3	1	7
Norm Tournaments											
Grandmaster Norm	3	6	8	9	19	30	13	25	26	21	15
Master Norm	8	16	22	18	25	39	53	78	66	62	104
Champions League											
Champions League	N/A	103	N/A	166	N/A	0	47	0	0	47	19
Promotion Tournaments											
European Open Class	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	56	0	0	0
European Higher Class	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	28	0	0	0
European Master Class	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	37	0	0	0
NAPZ Open Class	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	123	191	126	83
NAPZ Higher Class	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	45	65	47	35
NAPZ Master Class	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	48	43	61	26

World Open Class	174	324	313	292	338	302	395	444	323	309	390
World Higher Class	39	56	88	153	93	116	158	166	176	163	242
World Master Class	45	66	63	63	89	137	173	165	186	204	289
World Postal Open Class	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	11	11
World Postal Higher Class	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	2	1
World Postal Master Class	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	4	4
Thematics											
Thematics	11	30	14	22	47	73	59	63	95	77	99
Jubilee Tournaments											
Jubilee 960-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	23	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Entry Events											
DE10A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	139	350	0	0	0	176	714
Money Prize Tournaments											
Money Prize Tournaments	N/A	113	169	131	102	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fast Money Prize	N/A	N/A	N/A	25	34	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rapid Tournaments											
Rapid Tournaments	N/A	N/A	4	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Blitz Tournaments											
Blitz Tournaments	N/A	N/A	7	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Open Tournaments											
Aspirer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	28	146	138	144
Webchess Open	61	N/A	89	N/A	132	0	216	0	384	0	429
Chess 960	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	14	13	32	31	26
NAPZ Chess 960	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9	1

* From 05/04/2006 to 31/12/2006

** From 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016

Appendix 2 – Rejected entries in 2016

COUNTRY	TOTAL
Angola	1
Bulgaria	1
Canada	3
Czech Republic	3
Denmark	4
France	3
Germany	5
Israel	1
Italy	6
Latvia	2
Mexico	1
Netherlands	2
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Romania	2
Russia	2
Spain	1
Switzerland	1
Turkey	3
USA	11
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REASONS FOR REJECTION	TOTAL
Did not mean to enter the event	7
No qualification	23
Qualification had expired	1
Rating too high	15
Rating too low	7
Tournament Organiser refused to accept the entry	1
Did not mean to enter the event	7
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