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|  | **International Correspondence Chess Federation**  **General Secretary Report to Congress**  |

July 2015

Dear ICCF Delegates, Officials, Players, and Friends,

This year has been quite busy in the background implementing the many changes approved by the 2014 Congress in Australia. We have been dedicating this year to implementing changes and updating documentation. Much more focus was placed on updating our documentation and enhancing the webserver with increased functionality and security features in response to feedback from many players and delegates.

As with previous years, we have good news and bad news on the membership front. The good news is that no Federations will be suspended this year for non-payment of dues (a few Member Federation’s have some outstanding balances – please refer to the Financial Director reports for additional information). However, the bad news is that we have experienced no growth in Member Federations since the addition of Wales in 2012 and Cape Verde Islands in 2013.

The practice of preparing and submitting proposals by delegates and officials in advance of Congress is working quite well (<https://congress2015.welshccf.org.uk/iccf/proposals.aspx>). This year has shown the greatest number of proposals so far. This has allowed our experts in the various committees and commissions to review, discuss, and provide recommendations to all delegates prior Congress. Players were encouraged to review the proposals as well and provide their feedback to their respective delegates. The Congress minutes, while quite hefty, have provided a completely transparent view into not just the Congress activities, decisions, and voting, but visibilities into the year-round work our Officials do on behalf of ICCF.

ICCF has 56 National Federations divided into 4 zones. Of the 56 Federations:

* 22 delegates will attend Congress (39%)
* 04 delegate designees will Congress on behalf of the delegate (7%)
* 02 delegates have submitted e-mail votes (3%)
* 13 delegates (so far) have nominated proxies to represent their players at Congress (23%)

As of July 9, 2015, we have 41 of the 56 Federations represented (73%).

As we look forward to our first Congress in Cardiff, Wales, I was to express my appreciation to the entire Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation, as well as all the sponsors, for arranging what looks to be an extremely productive and entertaining week <https://congress2015.welshccf.org.uk/default.aspx>).

Sincerely,

Michael Millstone, PhD

ICCF General Secretary