**Report of the Appeals Committee (Playing Rules)**

Once again I have to start by repeating myself - last year I wrote ao. things this:

"There are still quite a few emails directed to Appeals which clearly belong to the TD level. In most cases this is not a deliberate attempt to bypass the TD, it is simply unfamiliarity with the terminology, sometimes combined with unfamiliarity with computers, and with the English language.

Consequently, the task of the Chairman could be made much easier (though of course cases like this can be solved in a matter of minutes) if the national federations were to explain the difference between TD and Appeals (and how to make the proper contacts via the server!) to their players, for example on their own websites.

I have also noticed an increase in another type of mis-addressed appeals - quite a few appeals came from players in purely \*national\* events! Our Committee deals only with appeals in international events - dealing with dissatisfied players in national events and in friendly team matches is on the national federations' responsibility! Even two of the zones (2 and 3) have
arranged to handle appeals in purely zonal events themselves, and for this reduction in our workload I am quite grateful.

Dear tournament organisers, when you enter a new national event on the webserver, do not automatically hit 'default' on Appeals - make sure you enter your national appeal handler! And if you haven't appointed one, make sure you do so ASAP!"

I warn you - I \*will\* keep repeating myself until this kind of silliness has diminished considerably!

Despite this, our Committee has had some "real" work to do as well. Last year's nasty "hacking appeal" continued this year, when one of the players involved in the previous incidents once again appealed the TD's decision to "undo" the moves (in a new game!). Once again, however, our Committee unanimously rejected the appeal. Also a few other cases have been treated in full plenary sessions.

Still, most of the "real" appeals are handled by myself, without my having to bother the entire Committee - many (if not most) of them are just based on misunderstandings of the Rules.

Apart from these kinds of incidents, our (and my) work proceeds quite smoothly.

During the year a few personnel changes have taken part. For personal and health reasons two longstanding members have withdrawn - Jose Amorim (BRA) and Cecilio Hernáez (ESP). A very heartfelt thanks to both of them for their long and dedicated service in our Committee! In their place we have one new member - Per Söderberg (SWE). Welcome into the team, Per!

Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all members of the Committee for the valuable input you have provided during the past year.

The current member list is given in the Appendix.

Amici sumus

Ragnar Wikman
Chairman of the ICCF
Appeals Committee
(Playing Rules)

Appendix:

Current members of the Appeals Committee (Playing Rules)

Ragnar Wikman (FIN) - Chairman

Ian Brooks (ENG)
Marco Caressa (ITA)
Carlos Flores (ESP)
Leo Lahdenmäki (FIN)
Ralph Marconi (CAN)
Per Söderberg (SWE)
Wes Underwood (USA)