



Zone 1 General Meeting 2018 **Llandudno, Wales**

Dear EU Officials and Delegates,
Here are proposals received after ICCF Congress in Albena in 2017.

Proposals

Proposal by ZD

Approval of Zone 1 minutes of EU ND's meeting at ICCF Congress in Albena.

Proposal by ZD

Approval of EU Zone Finance Director report for Year 2017.

Proposal by ZD

Approval of EU Zone Auditor report for Year 2017.

Proposal by ZD

Donations of 5,000 Euros to ICCF and 2,000 to organizers of 2019 ICCF Congress.

Proposal by Andrew Dearnley

To organize a friendly match "England vs Rest of Europe" on 100 boards. Start date November, 1. TD Carlos Leon Cranbourne (Argentina). TCs are Andrew Dearnley (England) and Artis Gaujens (Latvia/RoE).

Proposal by Neil Limbert

To reduce a number of players to qualify from EU Postal Championship Semifinal stage to the Final.

Proposal by Per Söderberg

To invite to a strong postal event for players rated 2400+ and find out how many would be interested. For these players there are not much offered.

Proposals on new EU Tournaments by ZD

New cycle of EU Team Championship to begin once in 3 years. Taking in account of a new Triple block System time control it could be done easily.

To organize team tournaments for players rated below 2200 once a three years.

To organize team tournaments for players rated below 1900 once a three years.

To organize EU individual championship at chess 960.

To organize EU team championship at chess 960.

To organize EU team tournament for clubs (like champions league) at chess 960.

To continue postal team tournaments until we have enough players and teams who wish to play.

To organize a new cup (like world cup in few stages) for players rated below 2000.

To organize individual tournaments to be played with time control of 1 move in 1 day.

To organize team tournaments to be played with time control of 1 move in 1 day.

Proposals on new EU Tournaments by Josef Mrkvicka

~~I noticed these tournaments in the World Zone: WZ Promotion—Master Norm and WZ Promotion—Grand Master Norm, of course, their structure of tournaments is different from our one, but as you can see, they have Norm Tournaments as promotion ones, if you consider this as a possible inspiration, I could try to ingraft them onto our structure of tournaments. But if you don't like this idea at all, let me know. European Zone has had no norm tournaments yet.~~

Comments received

Tim Harding, Ireland

1. We have very few active players; we do not have enough to enter teams in any competition, rating restricted or otherwise.
2. Nobody here is interested in Chess960.
3. Nobody here plays chess by post.
4. The English term "amateur" is meaningless in correspondence chess,
5. Fast CC tournaments are a good idea.

Josef Mrkvicka, Czech Republic

1. Czech Republic has more active players than Ireland, therefore we will be able to enter a team in the proposed team event for players <2300, and others.
2. We have 2 (in words) two players playing more or less regularly ICCF Chess960 tournaments. Personally I am unsure if Chess960 is chess at all.
3. Our postal players are mostly pensioners i. e. elderly people, and the low number is decreasing, also „thanks“ to the postage policy of the Czech Post Office, a significant increase every year. During the whole year 2017 I received 1 entry to the ICCF postal events and 6 entries to the Zone 1 postal events (including the friendly match by post GER-ROE).
4. The English term "amateur" is meaningless in correspondence chess. Agreed with Tim.
5. I doubt that these „Bullet“ events would be popular among CZE players, contrary to Tim I don't support this idea.

Yoav Dothan, Israel

I read with great interest those suggestions, and I think - why do not try them all?

The players will decide what they like or not, and we will know by the response if it is a good idea or not. Much better than just talk about it.

Regarding the EU team championship, I fail to understand why we are not starting it every year. This will give chance to players who do not normally represent their countries to participate. Another option is to open the EU team championship in levels A,B,C etc and hold a few events according to ratings simultaneously. Opening the tournament only every 3-4 years is a mistake - in my opinion.

Valentin Costa Trillo, Spain

1. Spain has many active players and we can participate in these tournaments.
2. In Spain we have few interested in this modality. I'm not sure it's really chess either
3. In Spain we only have 3 or 4 players interested in this modality.
4. I agree with Tim and Josef
5. Chess by correspondence and bullet chess are incompatible. Correspondence chess is reflection, patience, deep analysis ... I do not find it interesting.

Eric Ruch, France

We have given some thoughts and have discussed the ideas proposed by Andrey with our board members.

We are in favor of the organisation of team tournaments for lower rated players. There are many players ranked between 1900 and 2300 who have no opportunities to play in such team event and they often complain that we don't propose this type of tournament.

We are also in favor of the Chess960 individual and team tournaments.

We have less and less postal players and struggle to find interested players for such tournaments. We have decided to no more enter teams on postal tournaments and let the players enter individual events if they wish as long as such tournament exists.

ICCF used to organize rapid and blitz tournaments (linked with money prizes) and they had to be discontinued after a few years.

I am not sure that this is really what our players are looking for at ICCF but it is maybe Worth a try to see if they are some interest.

Ulrich Baumgartner, Switzerland

1. We have no postal players.
2. Chess960 we have 1 player.
3. We support the idea TT for lower rated player.
4. For rapid and blitz tournaments I have the same opinion as Eric.

Tunc Hamarat, Austria

propose new cycle of EU Team Ch to begin once in 3 years. We agree

propose that we should give an opportunity for average players and for amateurs to play team tournaments. We agree

propose an idea to have both individual and team championship at chess 960. We don't have any chess 960 players. So we will accept anything about this proposal (positive or negative)

I believe we should continue postal tournaments until we have players who wish to play We agree. But experience shows that the best players are not taking part in Olympiads and World Championship qualifications. So my personal opinion is postal chess should not be played in these categories.

I propose to organize a new cup for amateurs rated below 2000 We agree. It is important for the future of CC!

I propose to organize both individual and team events to be played with time control of 1 move in 1 day. We agree with the condition that the ELO of quick tournaments should be separate like we have different ELO for rapid and blitz in FIDE.

Miron Sferle, Romania

1. I think we will be able to enter a team with players <2300 or others.
2. We have only one active player playing Chess960.
3. We have very few postal players and we can't have a team for such competitions.
4. Fast CC tournaments are a good idea only if they have a separate ELO, as rapid and blitz in FIDE.

Per Söderberg, Sweden

The Swedish federation agree to the proposal of having EU/Team Ch every third year.

We did have one team event for amateurs in EU and lower rated players as Memorial events. (Lövholt Memorial - It is nowadays taken over by ICCF.) We could simply continue this tradition.

There are a few players here interested in Chess 960 but I'm not sure if it is enough to have teams.

For postal events we still have a few players rated around 2500 as well as player down to lower ratings, we can form rather strong teams. One idea could be to invite to a strong postal event for players with let's say 2400+ and find out how many would be interested. For these players there are not much offered, Olympiads are abandoned and in practice also the World Championship cycle is far too long to offer anything for postal enjoying players at 2400+.

About these speed events, it was tried before but was soon cancelled, if it was due to the speed or the fact they had price money that they were discontinued is nothing I know about.

Joop Jansen, the Netherlands

- In fact: We really think „organise as much tournaments as possible!
- Yes team and individual. All is okay!
- Chess 960; we have only 2-3 members who are playing!
- Post. We surely can make a team, if there is a....championship. And of course the future is web/internet, but for the older players I think we must organise them. May be you can check who is interested (Germany, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Netherlands and may be I forgot some...)

May be we must organise in Europe 2 (or 3) “championships” (or how should we call this?!) more.

1. 2100-2300
2. 1900-2100
3. Under 1900

Gordon M Anderson, Scotland

The Scottish Correspondence Chess Association Executive Committee has considered the proposals. We believe they are worthy of support and believe that some will probably have more player support than others. We have very few players who play by post and nobody plays chess 960 which means we will be unlikely to find participants. However, a European Team Tournament for lower graded players would be supported by SCCA participation. We have some reservations on the 1 move in 1 day but support the initiative.

Leonardo Liubičić, Croatia

As for Croatian players and CCA, I could only repeat Gordon's here words 100%.

João Luis Salvador Marques, Portugal

1. I think we will be able to enter a team with players <2300 or others.
2. We have only one active player playing Chess960.
3. We don't have postal players and we can't have a team for such competitions.
4. Fast CC tournaments are a good idea but the time must be 10 days for 10 moves.

Søren R. Ottesen, Denmark

My opinions lie in fine agreement with the answers from both Eric and Tunc. I can furthermore inform you that no one plays chess 960 or cc via snail-mail in the Danish CC-federation.

I appreciate that it is still possible to find TDs for these tedious snail-mail tournaments, because I personally would never accept the role.

Ragnar Wikman, Finland

I propose that we should give an opportunity for average players and for amateurs to play team tournaments. YES! This is something we wholeheartedly support, and more than likely form

team(s) to participate!

I propose an idea to have both individual and team championship at chess 960. Well, we are not against the idea, but we won't be able to form a team - I think the only one in our Federation who has even tried Chess960 is myself, but I don't have time to play actively...

I believe we should continue postal tournaments until we have players who wish to play. We just might be able to form a team, but I fear those players would play only out of a sense of duty... We have less than 10 players who play only postal, and all of those have quite low ratings. But again, we are not against the idea, should other federations like the idea.

I propose to organize a new cup for amateurs rated below 2000. YES! For the same reason as we like the team event - it is excellent to offer possibilities for "serious" competition also for lower-rated players! Probably more than a few Finns would like such a tournament!

I propose to organize both individual and team events to be played with time control of 1 move in 1 day. Again, not against, but I doubt we'd be able to form a team; though a few players might be interested in the individual events.

Neil Limbert, England

I would like to say some comments to your email below.

Chess 960; I do not think there are enough interested players to organise EU Chess 960 events as well as ICCF Chess 960 events. Perhaps this should be an Agenda item to discuss at Congress?

Postal Chess: Like you, I still play Postal chess & I have qualified for the next Final. But the number of players continues to fall. It may be difficult to organise a Team event without some kind of reward. Not a monetary award but perhaps some kind of individual player incentive (for example, the players of the winning team qualify for Candidates level EU (Server)Championship)

Team Tournaments: ICCF will continue to organise an U-2300 Team tournament. So perhaps EU could do U-2150 and U-2000? That would be good. Also, an Individual U-2000 Cup would be good.

I do not like fast play and ICCF previous attempts to organise fast tournaments all failed. I do not recommend this but, of course, you could try it.

These comments are just my opinions! I look forward to meeting you in Wales.