International Correspondence Chess Federation

Thomas Biedermann, Direct Entry Commissioner bied26@gmail.com

Report to the 2018 Congress Direct Entry Program

16th April 2018

Dear Chess friends,

1. Introduction

I am pleased to submit my first report as Direct Entry Commissioner to the 2018 ICCF Congress regarding the Direct Entry Program. The period of this report will be through to 31st December 2017.

2. Direct Entry Program

The Direct Entry Program 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 Program; I sincerely hope that they join as soon as possible.

The Program 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 Program has now received over 19,000 eligible entries. The program has received an average of about 230 entries per month.

3. Information about the Direct Entry Program

From January to December 2017, there were 2767 entries for ICCF tournaments registered, that is 7.58 entries per day.

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. 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 Program, a tournament has been organized 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 Program. 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.

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

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

Thomas Biedermann Direct Entry Commissioner