

# Report of Commission Chairman Kevin O'Connell

## (CHESS IN SCHOOLS COMMISSION)

Our mission:

- Chess for Education (CFE) not Education for Chess (EFC).
- Using chess within the educational framework to improve educational outcomes rather than using the educational environment to produce chess players (although that is an inevitable and very welcome by-product).
- The main focus of CiS is a social educational programme in primary and secondary schools, with particular emphasis on the ages 7-11.
- 'CiS' will this year provide a social educational programme for pre-schoolers at home or in kindergarten (see Psychomotricity).
- 'CiS' is also important at third level, in further education, especially aiming to encourage research and to develop the professionalization of chess teaching.

The main areas of activity since the last Congress in Tromso:

1. Promotion of chess in schools through multiple means, such as the Chess and Education conferences (started in Istanbul 2012, followed by Yerevan 2014) and the ongoing visits, especially by the FIDE President, to many federations, the promotion of chess in schools being the main unifying factor of these visits.
2. The new Diplomas for FIDE School Chess Teacher (FSCT) and FIDE School Chess Leader (FSCL) were approved by Sochi PB. With some financial help from ARISF & the IOC, work is ongoing to complete the online support and development platform for FSCT (FSCL to follow).
3. Major sponsorship from Rosneft meant that we were able to purchase a substantial quantity of chess sets in 2012-2013 and support projects in many countries. With no renewal of that sponsorship, we have been seriously constrained in our budget, especially so in 2015. Thus, we have concentrated on more general support, especially those things that can be delivered electronically online, by direct download or by email. The FSCT platform, future FSCL platform, FIDE Student Magazine (FSM), Planet Chess course in multiple languages, *Chess in Schools – Our Global Future* and many more are examples of this.  
It is also clear that sending boards and sets to federations is not a good use of funds – the logistical problems, especially involving customs duties, are simply too great. We must find better ways of helping federations to acquire the necessary physical materials.
4. Multi-lingual web sites, launched in January 2012, to support both our chess in schools work and FIDE-CiS Student Membership (a synergistic part of the whole), are now available in 12 languages, having added Chinese at the end of 2014.
5. We have now produced a variety of class books and teacher guides in multiple languages. One series is available in 3 languages, the other in all 12 of our supported languages.
6. We have produced more than 100 magazines (800+ pages of FSM, all in the choice of languages) for our FIDE Student members, more than two issues each month. As I write, FSM106 is dropping into e-mailboxes around the world and FSM115 should appear during or shortly after our Congress in Abu Dhabi.

7. The major Chess in Schools projects have proven their worth, and not only those, since several small federations have shown that good organization is the most important element, more than funding, for the development of a programme.

The development of chess in schools is a two-way process, with the Commission learning from developments around the world and then sharing that information to facilitate the programmes in other countries.

#### **1. Promotion – 110+ federations visited & *Chess in Schools – Our Global Future***

Since the Khanty-Mansiysk Congress at the end of 2010, **more than 110 federations have been visited**. The President has been to 77, CiS Chairman has been to 55 and CiS Secretary to 21. Some of these federations have been visited several times. Every visit has involved, at a minimum, discussions or presentations to promote chess in schools and, at a maximum, the launch of a programme. Discussions have also been held, face to face or by email with many other federations.

#### ***Chess in Schools – Our Global Future***

This full colour 48 page booklet has been the cornerstone of our promotional materials. A revised, second edition of 1,000 copies was distributed in Tromsø during the Congress. It proved so popular that a reprint of a further 1,000 copies was made at the end of the year. It is an important support for the President and others outside of the Commission to help promote the worldwide implementation of chess in schools projects. The current edition is available for free download from our web site. You are free to use it to promote chess in schools in your country.

#### **2. Global sponsorship of FIDE-CiS**

The objectives laid out at the time of the Rosneft 2011-2012 global sponsorship:

*Under the agreement, Rosneft will be involved in World Chess Federation international educational projects to encourage children and teenagers to play chess. Cooperation envisages seminars and training sessions in schools, as well as educational conferences.*

Their support meant that we were able to extend our support of chess in schools to many more federations – see our report for the year 2012 (2012 CiS Annual Report).

Rosneft were pleased and impressed by our work and by the publicity generated, including TV, press and internet coverage amounting to more than 5,000,000 page views.

As we all know, getting (and retaining) sponsorship is difficult, even when it results in impressive returns. FIDE, especially through our President, is actively seeking a new global sponsor for chess in schools. This search is ongoing.

In the meantime, our support materials have been of assistance in getting local sponsorships and some 100 sponsoring companies help individual countries.

We seek the backing of Congress as we look to formalize a coordinated method of approach for sponsorships.

### **3. Multilingual web sites**

Perhaps the most important function of the original site (cis.fide.com) is to be a repository of the teaching materials that FIDE-CiS has made available for Chess in Schools projects around the globe. Those materials, for both children and teachers are all provided free of charge. The essentials for any chess in schools programme are all to be found there.

### **4. Class and Teacher books**

The *Planet Chess* series (mini curriculum) is available for free download in English, Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish, with Chinese about to be added (other languages available).

The English edition of both a Russian class book and workbook has been completed: *Chess: The First Year of Study* by Elvira Umanskaya and Ekaterina Volkova.

The class books for years one and two and the teacher guide by Dr Olgun Kulaç, which are at the core of the highly successful Turkish programme, have been translated into English, French and Arabic.

The exciting development for 2015 is the creation of a Psychomotricity curriculum, teacher e-book and series of how-to videos. It is due for completion this autumn.

### **5. Magazines**

The FIDE Student Magazine (FSM) is freely available to all the children of all federations. Until the end of 2013, we sent 12 magazines (96+ pages total) each year to our Basic (free) members, while Premium members received 32 magazines (256+ pages total) each year. Now FSM magazines are available, free, to all and with our multiple languages, almost all children on the planet should find one that they can read.

### **6. FIDE Student Membership**

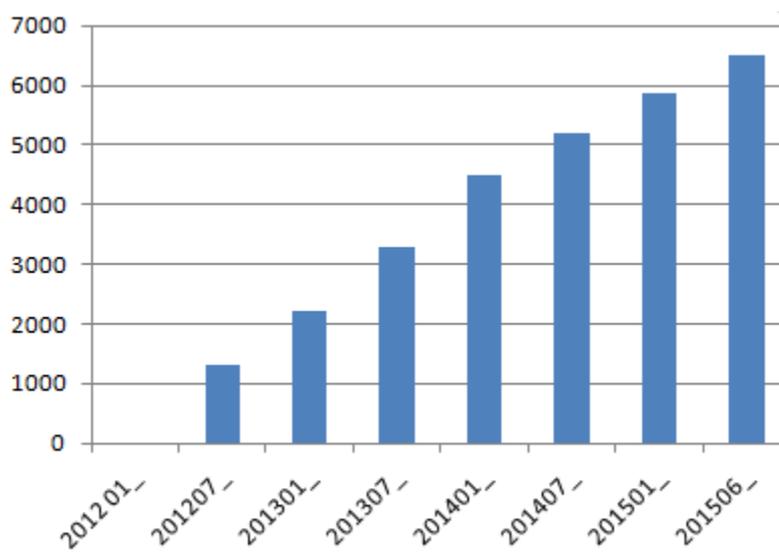
The main features of FIDE student membership can be found in the Handbook. We would like to stress two things:

- Membership is open to all (under-18) and free of charge.
- The FSM magazine is free for all.

Premium Membership costs a maximum €10 per year. New in 2015 is that, as we develop more partner federations, so they will benefit from 80%-95% of the revenues.

Why do we stress the free Basic membership? We do so because the benefit of it seems to have been overlooked by many federations. The point of free Basic membership is that it can attract a huge number of members, at no cost whatsoever to the federations. Those are the numbers we want in order to impress sponsors, both global and local to you! They are also a

rich source of potential future paid-up members of your federation – follow in Slovakia’s footsteps! Here is how our FSM membership has grown since it started in 2012:



## 7. Teacher Training

Teachers have been trained in Algeria, Ethiopia, India, Ireland, Lebanon, Malawi, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Trinidad & Tobago. Now, with FSCT and FSCL, we are moving to an online delivery system.

## 8. Documents & Statistics

We would also like to draw your attention to some documents at [cis.fide.com](http://cis.fide.com). They are full of useful statistics about CiS. We ask you please to look at them ensure that information from your federation is both present and correct.

- *CiS Worldwide Statistics* – this gives information about where there are CiS programmes, who runs them, how many schools, children and teachers are involved, all on a country-by-country basis.
- *School Year Worldwide* – this allows you to see at a glance the school year (start and finish) for each country. Most schools work from September/October until June, but there are variations around the world, especially in the Southern Hemisphere, where something like the calendar year is common.
- *Chess in Curriculum* – this is our first attempt (late 2014) at compiling a complete list of those countries and/or regions that have introduced chess into the curriculum. We have tried to detail whether chess is a compulsory or optional part of the curriculum and the year of introduction.

## THE FUTURE

The FIDE School Chess Challenge (Sochi PB) is yet to find a sponsor, but we expect it to be trialled in at least one country during the next academic year. The future is bright.

Kevin O'Connell, Le Grand Mas, France 2015.06.07