

David Jarrett

From: DAVID MCALISTER [davidmcalister@dial.pipex.com]
Sent: 28 October 2007 02:37
To: office@fide.com
Subject: Ulster Chess Union

For the attention of Mr David Jarrett, Executive Director FIDE

Dear David

I refer to our long distance conversation of the 21st July 2007 when I attended the BICC meeting in Birmingham. We discussed the difficulties encountered by the Ulster Chess Union ("UCU") in its application for membership of FIDE.

Certain matters should, I hope, be quite clear to both of us:

1. The UCU seeks admission to FIDE as the National Federation for Northern Ireland.
2. The UCU does not organise outside the territorial boundaries of Northern Ireland.
3. FIDE considers under its present Statutes that Northern Ireland does not meet the qualifying criteria for membership of FIDE.
4. The UCU considers that it does meet the criteria for membership.
5. Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom. It is not part of the Republic of Ireland, which is represented in FIDE by the Irish Chess Union.
6. The UCU is not part of the Irish Chess Union.

The position of the United Kingdom in regard to membership of world sports bodies is complicated. A number of organisations allow the constituent parts of the UK to have separate membership (eg FIFA). FIDE at one time adhered to this policy, with England, Scotland and Wales having separate membership (indeed Guernsey and Jersey more unusually are also members). Northern Ireland players are thus prevented from playing chess for their country in FIDE events.

As I said to you in our conversation, it is incumbent on FIDE to recognise the unfairness of the situation encountered by Northern Ireland chess players, and to find a way to resolve it

You in turn were concerned that admitting the UCU would create a dangerous precedent with regard to regional organisations within member states.

While maintaining UCU's position as stated at 4. above, I believe there is a way round the present impasse, and one which I believe is supported by the others UK members of FIDE.

The UCU seeks a change to the terms of associate status of FIDE to meet the unusual position of Northern Ireland. The UCU suggests that a new category of associate status should be created as follows:

"a territory which does not qualify for full membership of FIDE but is not part of the territory of an existing member federation."

The UCU asks that you bring this to the attention of the appropriate bodies within FIDE for decision.

Yours sincerely
David McAlister
President, Ulster Chess Union