



MEDITERRANEAN CHESS ASSOCIATION

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GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Mediterranean Chess Association was founded in Bled 2002, and further constituted by the General Assembly in March 2003 in Tripoli, Libya. The number of eligible member Federations are 22 and the Council also invited Andorra during 2004 as a guest to participate in the MCA events. The determinants of qualification for membership to the MCA are aligned to those of the Mediterranean games.

The core objectives of the Association when it was set up were :

- (a) To safeguard and further the interest of chess within the Mediterranean region, as well as the interests of its members;*
- (b) To foster a positive framework of friendship and collaboration and generate peaceful relationships within the Mediterranean region;*
- (c) To provide an organisation for the promotion and participation of chess in all related existing and future activities, competitions and seminars within the Mediterranean region;*

The first council which was formed in Libya was as follows :

- President - H.E. Eng. Mohammad Al Gathafi (Libya)
- Deputy President - Eng. Ali Nihat Yazici (Turkey)
- Vice President - Dr. Ammar Houry (Lebanon)
- Treasurer - Dr. Sakis Kouvatsos (Greece)
- General Secretary - Mr Geoffrey D Borg (Malta)

The council has also been constantly supported by Continental Presidents Mr Nizar Elhaj and Mr Boris Kutin.

Since the MCA was set up, we have organized two boys and girls championships, one set (Boys & Girls) in Ajelaat, Libya and in August 2004 in Kozan, Adana in Turkey. Additionally, we organized the men's and women's championships in Beirut, Lebanon in September 2003.

All these events have helped consolidate the relationship between the north Mediterranean countries and the southern Mediterranean countries. Undoubtedly, much more work and contribution needs to be done by all the countries on the Mediterranean basin and next year we expect to see some new countries offering to organize the different tournaments.

The Mediterranean countries boast a large number of players, albeit these are mainly on the European side of the Mediterranean. It is important that FIDE embraces also the initiatives being taken by the MCA to promote chess activity in the region and the MCA council is requesting that the Men & Women Championships are given the same status as other regional championships and with it the appropriate GM title qualification for winners. Similarly we are requesting FIDE to consider the IM titles for the Boys & Girls Championships. This will help consolidate the strength of the tournaments and generate even greater interest.

The MCA is also planning to organize training camps twice a year as well as other ideas such as internet based training as well as a Mediterranean Internet Championship open to IPs of Mediterranean countries.

Despite the critical events happening today in the Middle East and other regions bordering the Mediterranean, we have the full support of the majority of the Federations in the Mediterranean region and we are confident that this initiative by some of the most active Federations within FIDE will also give the desired results.

We thank you for your support in helping us achieve the objectives

Geoffrey D Borg
General Secretary