

Report of Commission Chairman Ali Nihat Yazici

The period since the last Congress in Krakow has been marked by a lot of hard work and several landmark events. The volume of work continues to grow and the speed of the convoy continues to accelerate.

There have been four principal areas of activity – the ongoing visits by the FIDE President to many federations, the promotion of chess in schools being the main unifying factor of these visits; two new multi-lingual web sites, this time in 9 languages, were launched in January to support both our chess in schools work and FIDE-CiS Student Membership (a synergistic part of the whole); the major sponsorship, hinted at in the minutes of our last Commission meeting was formally announced; fourthly, the major Chess in Schools projects – the CIS100 modules – are showing their worth.



ROSNEFT
O I L C O M P A N Y

1. Rosneft – global sponsor of FIDE-CiS

In our Commission meeting in Krakow, Deputy President Makropoulos stated:

The FIDE President has found a significant Russian sponsor and a contract is expected to be announced at the Executive Board. The sponsorship is for \$1,000,000 a year. A quarter of the sponsorship will be spent in Russia and the rest on Chess in Schools developments elsewhere.

Rosneft Oil Company is that sponsor and we welcome them with open arms. The official announcement came on 24 February:

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. Rosneft will focus on providing comprehensive support for young Russian chess players.

Rosneft's involvement in the Chess in Schools programme demonstrates the Company's commitment to international social responsibility, and specifically to supporting Russian and international educational programmes.

Their support means that we have been able to extend our support of chess in schools to many more federations - about 30 (plus or minus 6) by the end of this year.

2. FIDE President's visits

Since declaring in Khanty-Mansiysk that FIDE's Chess in Schools programme would be one of his main areas of focus in 2010-2014, FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov had, by the end of July 2011, visited more than 17 national federations to promote Chess in Schools. Since our meeting in Krakow, he has specifically promoted the CiS programme during visits to Algeria, Azerbaijan, Estonia, India, Kazakhstan, Korea South, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Syria, Ukraine, Uruguay and USA.

3. Web sites – Yes, 3: cis.fide.com has been joined by sm.fide.com & psm.fide.com.

The two new sites were officially launched at the end of January, although it was not until the beginning of April that they were fully functional. The CiS Rating System implementation went live on 4 April just in time to be a 50th birthday present for the FIDE President the following day.

The original site airs news and views of Chess in Schools projects around the globe, and anyone wanting to establish a chess in schools project that reaches out to *all* children should be sure to read the introduction to the Documents section, with links to the most important explanatory documents.

Within that site we provide a Resource Centre rich in materials for both teaching chess and for its promotion in educational and social environments. We draw your attention especially to the Document section, where you will find our Handbook and pointers to the most useful items in the Information and Resource Centre. Those likely to be of special interest are Patrick McDonald's *Benefits of Chess in Education* and, if 104 pages is too much for you, then Kevin O'Connell's 4-page *Educational Benefits of Chess*, the latter prepared for a FIDE submission to UNESCO. While you are there, do not overlook the teaching materials that are available – do you have any that we can add?

We have placed a lot of material there, but the lack of collaboration from external contributors has been disappointing. We repeat our call for all federations, their chess in schools representatives and, especially, the members of our commission to aid the development of the site, and its increasing usefulness, by sending us new material.



<http://sm.fide.com>



<http://psm.fide.com>

The two new sites are for children anywhere and everywhere around the world, not just those who are actively involved in a CiS programme.

We will soon be providing a service to parents and teachers, so that children learning chess will gain maximum benefit both in and out of school. Parents will have access to guidance and teachers will be able to benefit from online support and training.

4. CIS100 Modules – the special projects

Work progressed at breakneck pace during the summer of 2011, so that Slovakia and Slovenia could commence their CiS100 Projects at the start of the school year last September-October. The launch was accomplished more than successfully. Slovenia had to start with 104 schools, rather than the planned 100, so great was demand; their waiting list for 2012 year rapidly filled up. Slovakia started slower and there were many in the federation who thought that it would be impossible to get 100 schools involved... in a sense they were right... there are now 150!

The projects continue to evolve, especially as they are tailored to each participating country, but the basic outlines are there for all to see in our CiS Handbook.

As I write, Slovakia and Slovenia are making their preparations for the second year, rolling out the project into another 100 schools each. Other countries are about to sign their contracts with FIDE for this year. Materials are on order, including 15,000 chess boards, 15,000 chess sets and 1,000 demonstration boards. WGM Anna Burtasova has started work as General Coordinator. We will have much to report in Istanbul.

5. FIDE Student Membership

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

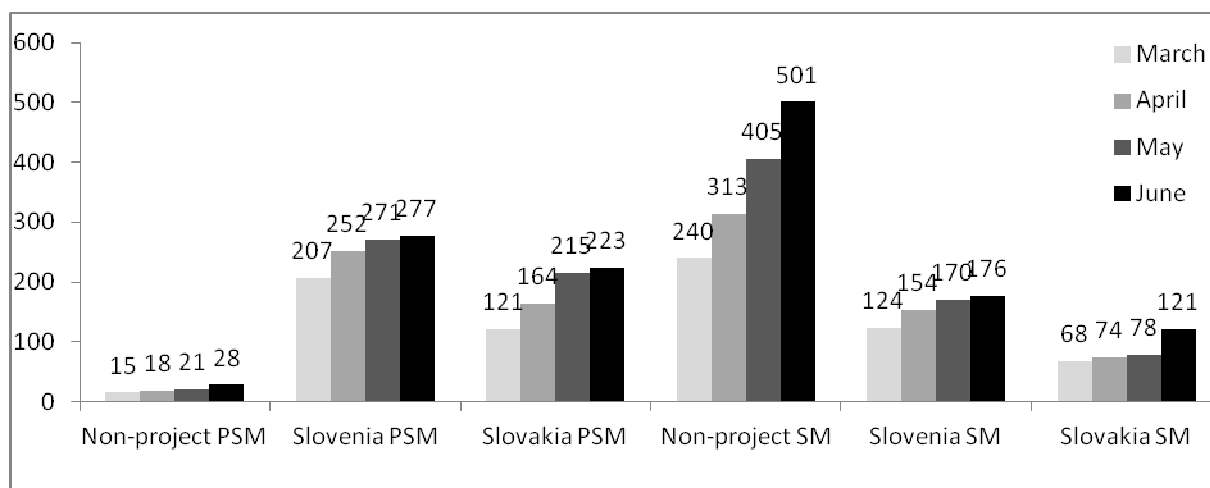
- Membership is open to all (under-18) and free of charge.

Premium Membership costs just €10 per year and is always valid for a full twelve months.

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!

Those free Basic members also provide potentially a rich source of new paid members for your federation. As you can see from the chart below, those numbers have doubled in the quarter between March 1 and June 1 and they are still accelerating – now 810 of today's 1384 total.



6. Chess in Schools Conferences

The first FIDE-CiS international conference will be in Istanbul on 30 August, just a few days before our Commission meeting. Details are being finalized and will be announced at cis.fide.com.

7. Documents & Statistics

We would also like to draw your attention to some documents full of useful statistics about Chess in Schools worldwide, and we ask you please to ensure that information from your federation is both present (in many cases it is not) and accurate (it is clear that in some cases the figures do not make sense). The documents, which can be found at cis.fide.com, are:

- *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.
- The *2012 FIDE CiS Questionnaire*. Please ensure that your federation has filled it in and returned it. The information greatly helps the planning process.

THE FUTURE

Next year will see more International Conferences and a continued roll-out of CiS100 Projects in medium and large federations, with many more of our CiS10, CiS10/100 Projects for smaller federations (10 demo boards, 100 boards and sets, teacher training, teaching materials, promotion and support).