

Report on Offices 2008

Athens

Athens office has been very busy this year. There have been an unusual number of top level events with the World Championship Match in Bonn, the Women's World Championship in Nalchik, Olympiad in Dresden, Grand Prix events in Baku and Sochi, and World Mind Sports Games in Beijing which all require input from the Secretariat to a larger or smaller degree. In addition, Athens hosted a Presidential Board meeting and organised a stand at the SportAccord exhibition in June.

The Mind Games was especially challenging as the Secretariat performed the functions that we normally ask an Organiser to undertake with involvement in air tickets, accommodation, identification badges and visa documents plus the collation of entries and details of participants and officials. Although there were problems caused by external factors, our experiences made us aware of the deficiencies in organisation of some of our member federations and players. If we are to be a serious Sports federation then we must all work harder to improve the way that we are seen by others.

The office had a major refurbishment during the summer. There has been one change of staff with the appointment of a new accountant in the early summer.

Elista

There have been several changes in the staffing in Elista but the rating and title work has been completed on time. The backlog of work that was a problem last year has been resolved and as a result there have been many positive comments from players and federations. This is due to the efforts of the new management team. Technical innovations are always being developed and the direct introduction of the rating input by federations has reduced the number of errors.

Several persons have been involved in the operation of the electronic boards at Nalchik, Beijing and here in Dresden.

Lausanne

The office is fully functional following the opening last year. Whilst there is only a solitary member of staff at present, it is hoped that there will be a larger role when Global Chess begins to expand its services. At present the FIDE web site French language content is channelled through the office and some work for the Medical Commission. In addition the office provides a link with our lawyer and the IOC in Lausanne.

David Jarrett
Executive Director