

The Director of Home Chess asks Council to endorse a proposal by the Manager of Grading and Rating that the facility whereby Direct Members can submit their foreign games for grading be discontinued with effect from 1st January 2013.

REASON

There is no good way of grading these games. In regular ECF grading, events are graded whole. This is scarcely possible for DMs' foreign results, so games are graded singly. This involves the use of unreliable conversions from FIDE (or other national) Elo ratings which may themselves be unreliable or out of date or even, sometimes, unverifiable. Moreover, it is not practicable to store the exact game results in the grading database. They are, instead, recorded as "bundles" (so many games for so many points) which cannot subsequently be inspected or corrected. Bundles, once the norm in ECF grading, went out of use ten years ago for all other results.

It could be added that grading DMs' foreign games is disproportionately time-consuming. Finally, it is not clear that there is a real demand. Last season, the number of games submitted was 293: less than one tenth of one per cent of the total.