

## **PAY TO PLAY FEES IN FIDE-RATED EVENTS**

At the April 2015 Finance Council meeting a proposal was put by the Board that the existing policy of requesting FIDE to delist an English player who competed in a FIDE rated event while not a gold member of the Federation be discontinued. This was coupled with a proposal to charge Game Fee (colloquially a pay-to-play fee) to all such competitors. The proposal was amended from the floor of the meeting to remove the Game Fee element of the proposal, and in the revised form was carried.

The effect of this proposal as passed is that we have a policy for the breach of which there is no effective sanction; this is not a satisfactory situation. However, in the intervening twelve months no ideas for an alternative sanction have been forthcoming, and several organisers have made it clear that they do not regard the Game Fee solution as imposing an unreasonable burden on them.

For the above reasons the Director of Membership, together with the Chief Executive and the Director of International Chess, puts to Council the following proposal, viz. that:

“Game Fee equal to the difference between Silver and Gold membership rates be levied on each England-registered player in an event submitted for FIDE rating through the Federation who is not a Gold or Platinum member of the Federation, and that for members holding Silver membership this payment shall be treated as an upgrade of such membership to Gold.”

From the available evidence it appears that the majority of players who are liable be delisted under the current rule are already Silver members. The proposal will therefore secure from those players an amount which equals that which the Federation would receive were the player to comply with the membership requirement. From the remainder it would secure more than the Federation currently receives in the absence of any effective sanction.

I regret that I do not recollect which delegates proposed the amendment to the Board's motion, nor is this detail reported in the minutes, and I am therefore unable to make direct contact in order to determine the attitude of those delegates to the reintroduction of the proposal.

Dave Thomas  
ECF Director of Membership