

**Text by: Jirina Prokopova and Marco Biagioli**

Continuation of the text from previous ECU Magazine edition

## Call of interest: How does it work?



What else is there?

To show interest in lectures by more experienced arbiters at seminars and refreshing courses surely deserves some points. Those who were there probably learned something. In the same time, they could have just sit there and do nothing so we add extra points for successful passing on some tests. Hardly seems fair for the lecturer who is giving the lecture or even preparing the test to get less points for “attending” the same seminar, so we grant him or her the same number of points. They are not lecturing at the tournament where we would appoint them, that is true, but it is another indication that they are suitable candidates. One can also argue that in order to be fair, there would have to be some seminar at every ECU Event, so everyone has an opportunity to attend it, not only those who were luckily appointed to the event when some seminar takes place. The list of pros and cons goes on and on but we need to stop somewhere and make some decision.

If we stopped here, we wouldn't have much to separate candidates from one to another. Lot of people would end up with the same number of points and we would just have to come up with some official tie-break criteria.

So we decided that it is better to have people who know the job from all sides and different angles and who have experience with pairing and anti-cheating and live games.

We are not necessarily appointing them to do this of course, so it is not directly relevant (and, at the end, the amount of points awarded for these skills is very small compared to other chapters).

However, the knowledge in these areas says something about their overall experience and nobody can deny a skilled arbiter in a tournament can be useful in many ways, as to help the 3 pairings officer, or to be in charge to the live transmission (where an arbiter must supervise the team, as stated in ECU Tournament Rules), or join the anti-cheating staff.

In order to resolve any situation an arbiter has to be able to communicate to players. So it is better to have an arbiter who knows many languages and can calmly and clearly solve more situations. But some people were born in countries where they understand several of them, some speak only one. Also you don't really require a Czech speaker, if you don't have any Czech players at your event. One can also argue that at any adult event, you only need to speak English and nothing else. Some arbiters are native speakers and some had to learn the language. But does it matter to the player?



*Mrs. Jirina Prokopova- Member of the ECU Arbiters Council*



*Mr. Marco Biagioli- Member of the ECU Arbiters Council*

After a thorough discussion we decided to only award people for their knowledge of the official Congress languages and German, since there are always players from these countries at any ECU Event. Not to give points for native speakers, but take points from those who don't speak English at all as we see that as a big disadvantage.

From the text above it is clear that it will never be fair, if for no other reason, then just because of the simple fact that we are from different countries. We have different backgrounds and finances and different opportunities to learn and to get experience, different levels of chess and events and so on. But the system we created is a product of many compromises and we believe that in the current situation, it is a good one and fair enough. Nobody is meant to get 100 % of the points, all the sections are just opportunities to show us your strong sides and to get some idea about every person.

Since what we created is a point system it is transparent for everyone. Sometimes there are people with the same number of points interested in the same event and we have to find something based on which we make a decision, but most of the times it is just automatic process at this stage. We will be happy to improve the system if we get good arguments and ideas which everybody is warmly welcome to propose one event. But as much as we would like to, we will not be able to make everyone happy.



### **Conclusion**

In any case we strongly believe that this is a step in the right direction and it will lead to more positive changes. It may not be perfect but it is already successfully working and first arbiters who applied already booked their flight tickets.

We wish them good luck and hope they will do great!

On behalf on the ECU Arbiters' Council,  
Jirina Prokopova and Marco Biagioli