Checkers Section Report

by Richard Beckwith, May 2021, WCDF President

Due to the international pandemic with covid-19, most checkers events were cancelled or postponed in 2020. The 2019 World Qualification Tournament in freestyle (Co-As-You-Please, or GAYP) was held in Barbados on 4-7 October 2019 and was won by Matteo Bernini (Italy). The Woman's World Championship at this same venue was won by Tetiana Zaitseva (Ukraine), making her the new GAYP World Women's Champion. The World Youth Champion in GAYP is Elia Cantatore (Italy). On 10-18 October 2019 in Barbados, Sergio Scarpetta (Italy) successfully defended his 3-move restriction world title over Ron King (Barbados) by a score of 8-1 with 17 draws.

Due to the sudden and sad passing of Mr. Ian Caws (Treasurer of World Checkers Draughts Federation, or WCDF) soon after this Barbados event, the newly appointed WCDF Treasurer is William Docherty (France).

Our 2021 schedule of events (pending the ease of international travel restrictions) is as follows:

- **World Title Match** (3-Move Restriction) - Independent Challenge: dates to be determined, Sergio Scarpetta (Italy, Champion) vs. Alex Moiseyev (USA, Challenger)

- **World Qualifier/Woman & Youth World Championship** (3-move restriction): October 11-14, Tulsa, Oklahoma (USA)

- **World Title Match** (GAYP), Lubabalo Kondlo (South Africa, Champion) vs. Matteo Bernini (Italy, Challenger): October 16-21

Beginning in March 2021, the Scottish Draughts Association staged a weekly International "Zoom" Checkers Tournament, where competitors see their opponent via computer screen in a group play event featuring multiple groups of four players. The final Championship group is in progress and includes Sergio Scarpetta (Italy), Alex Moiseyev (USA), Shane McCosker (Ireland) and Jonathan Chappell (USA).