Address by Yuriy Chertok

Dear friends,

I devoted all my conscious life to draughts. I started playing draughts when I was 5 and participating in competitions when I was 13. At the age of 18 I got involved into draughts movement professionally, as a sportsman, coach, and functionary.

I have been the Champion of Kazakhstan several times, whereof twice the Champion in Russian draughts; once I became the Champion of Russia and the Champion of the US Open.

I directly participated in organization of more than 10 major FMJD competitions in Ufa. In 1999, in Ishimbay (Republic of Bashkortostan), I founded the first Russia's Professional Draughts Club. In 2001, in the city of Ufa, I registered the Professional Draughts Club "Bashneft", subsequently renamed as "Bashkortostan"; and have been working there ever since. Among the club's sportsmen there are many world-famous draughts players from Bashkortostan: Alexander Georgiev, Tamara Tansykkuzhina, Murodullo Amrillaev, Elena Milshina, Ainur Shaibakov, Aigul Idrisova, Alia Aminova, etc. At different times, almost all famous Russian draughts players, and several strong foreign players, performed for the club. The Central Draughts Club "Bashkortostan" is rightfully considered the world leader in terms of sports performance, material resources and overall contribution to the draughts movement. The main guideline in my work has always been a practical approach. I see the problems of draughts players and try to solve them.

Considering the topical issues of the FMJD draughts life, I think that we need to:

- Continue to work within the framework of international organizations. It is important to gain a foothold in this sphere and increase our influence on these organizations. This is possible through the conducting of major complex competitions such as the World Mind Games, etc. under IMSA and SPORTACCORD, and the FMJD should take the lead in this matter. We were close to organizing such a tournament in Ufa in 2014. It did not work out, but we continue working on it. This goal remains on the agenda for the coming years – possibly, year 2024.
- The major and obvious point concerning 64 and 100 – the draughts variants should be developed jointly, with a certain degree of autonomy in their management. This mutually enriches and strengthens all variants of draughts. It is important to remember and be guided by the fact that "No one owes anyone anything". Collaboration and cooperation should be achieved on a voluntary basis. In my opinion, the solution should consist in gradual introducing the most popular draughts variants in the program of IMSA and SPORTACCORD complex events.

- It is important to honour and preserve the ideals of sport. Fight against unfair play and fake titles. Draughts leaders should serve as an example in this. We may not have enough money, but we have the honour, which means that we are worthy and will achieve the best results!
- Nobody is going to resolve for us the problems on the ground. Only by developing and popularizing draughts in our territory – be it a city, a district, or a village – we can make our favourite sport better, more accessible, and attractive in the people's eyes.
- One of the main draughts problems is the extremely small number of elite event organizers. Lack of competition leads to a gradual degradation of the event level. But there is great news related to this matter! The Decree of the Head of the Republic of Bashkortostan "Concerning Further Draughts Development in the Republic of Bashkortostan" will be adopted in the following days. This means that at least one draughts elite competition per year will be conducted, and that there will be a good final tournament within the system of World Cup competitions.
- The first such tournament will take place in October this year! It is preliminarily decided this tournament in Blitz and Rapid should be called Draughts World Cup. 10 men and 10 women will be invited to participate in the competition.
  Possible allocation of places is as follows (men; women):
  1) World Champion
  2) The opponent
  3) World Champion in Blitz
  4) World champion in Rapid
  5) Representative of Europe
  6) Representative of Asia
  7) Representative of Africa
  8) Representative of America
  9) The place of the sponsor
  10) The place of the organizer

  The prize fund will constitute 5, 000, 0000 rubles (more than 50, 000 Euros).

Thank you for your attention!
I wish you success in your deliberations at the GA!

Yuriy Chertok