



Election for FIP President 2018 Bulletin Seven

How to score an own goal

Dear Philatelic Friends and Colleagues

One of the many reasons that I want to be President of the FIP is that the Federation must become a much more modern organisation if it is to succeed in today's world, and I want to help that happen.

If you are not interested in election rules and ethics, stop reading now, but they are important, and they affect all of us.

FIP was founded almost 100 years ago, in a very different world from the present. In the beginning FIP was just a handful of European countries, but now it represents a large part of the philatelic world. Organisations have to develop, and international organisations have to move with the times if they are to succeed. The FIP has a lot more to do if it is to maintain the trust of all national Federations.

Modern International bodies must be open and transparent. This means that the rules and procedures have to protect all member federations. They must be ethical, but our international Federation does not meet modern standards.

FIP might be small and relatively poor compared to FIFA, the world football body which is, like the FIP, based in Zürich, Switzerland. But we still need to maintain the highest standards, especially in elections. We have no rules for the conduct of elections, and this is not normal for international organisations.

Why does this matter?

It matters because candidates should be able to play on a level playing field. Let me give examples.

There is no single mailing list – like an electoral register in a local or national election – for candidates to contact. My opponent and I have to make up our own lists, largely from what is published on the Internet.

There is no method for distributing election literature equally. My opponent and I cannot use *Flash*, or the FIP website for personal statements. Being equally disadvantaged doesn't make it right.

The rules for nomination of candidates are unclear. Both my opponent and I have been nominated by our national Federations. I have asked other federations to nominate me, but the General Secretary has advised

me that this is against the rules. The email says, "I am awaiting the advice of our legal advisor to advise on multiple nominations of Members for the same candidate." I asked on 10th April, and gave a deadline of 26th April, and asked again on 18th April. Today is 1st May, and nominations close on 1st June. Three weeks is too long to wait for an answer. To me the rules are clear, and I'm prepared to be wrong, but our Board obviously doesn't know how to interpret our own rules, otherwise they wouldn't need to ask a lawyer.

There are no rules for expenses. Not all candidates can afford to travel to all FIP events around the World to campaign. So far, my expenses are limited to about £100 for www.fotfip.online, and no more.

There are no arrangements for candidate meetings at FIP or other exhibitions or philatelic events. I will be in Prague, and I'm willing to hold an open meeting with my opponent, but things like this should be a matter for the organisation. Surely the FIP is responsible for the conduct of its own elections?

I have been a candidate in national and local elections at home in Britain, and these FIP elections do not meet any ethical or organisational standards at all.

I'm not asking for anything complicated, just a two-page guide would be a start. I'm not complaining about my position, or about the process being unjust. It just isn't very professional and doesn't meet any kind of electoral standard.

In a similar way, the 74th Congress at Taipei agreed a programme for change. Clearly the Board didn't like it, because they have ignored it. The Federation belongs to its members, not the Board. The Board has deliberately chosen to ignore the Congress, and this too is the wrong way to manage an international organisation. It's another own goal.

As I have said repeatedly, if we want FIP to be a successful, united, modern organisation, it's time for a change.

The FIP is important to World philately, and it must do its job better than it has in the past. I can offer change, and I believe that I am experienced enough to help that change be successful. You can see my Philatelic CV and my nomination form for President at <http://www.fotfip.online/fip-has-an-election-for-a-president-in-2018>

I would be grateful and honoured if you were to vote for me in December.

With best wishes

Chris King

How can you help?

Make sure that your Federation votes for me.

- Share my mailers with your philatelic friends and contacts worldwide.
- Ask me to speak at a large exhibition.
- Volunteer to help me with translations
- See more at the Friends of the FIP website www.fotfip.online
- Link the Friends of the FIP website to others.
- If you want to know more about me, ask for my cv - Chris.king@postalhistory.net

75th Congress, Bangkok, 2nd December 2018.

Election of a President: Thailand 2018 - 28th November - 3rd December 2018.