

AGM 2009 Report on EGF ratings
(Aleš Cieplý)

A year ago, at the AGM in Leksand, I announced that I would like to stop my work on management of EGF ratings and pass the task to someone else. Shortly after the German Go Federation suggested Marco Silles as my successor and I got few more offers from other people and associations. One of them was an offer by Aldo Podavini from Italy who suggested an implementation of EGF ratings on the platform of the European Go Database (EGD). After some considerations and discussions with both Marco Silles and Aldo Podavini, I decided to accept the later offer. One of the reasons was that EGD had already used the tournament tables from the ratings database and I have always wanted to move the ratings to an on-line platform.

To this day the ratings transfer to the EGD is completed, the system is fully operational there and I guess most of European players have already noted the new benefits. I would like to mention the major advantages over the previous platform on which the ratings were run:

- ? The ratings are computed automatically, shortly after the results were submitted and approved by the rating manager. As far as someone submits the results the ratings are available up-to-date, one does not have to wait for the next regular (monthly) update.
- ? People who submit the results have a greater control over such issues as emergence of new players, estimated rating variations etc.
- ? The rating management is more automated and in many respects easier to do.
- ? The merger of ratings with the EGD offers many additional features thanks to an online search engine running on the tournament and ratings database.

Shortly before the AGM I passed the duties of EGF rating manager on to Aldo Podavini. I find him to be most suitable person for the task as he knows the EGD system very well and if necessary he can perform any corrections directly in the database. I would like to thank Aldo for the tremendous work he has done so far on EGD and on the ratings implementation there. Marco Silles has also received the supervisor privileges at EGD and should be ready to stand in if Aldo is temporarily not available or will lack time to manage the ratings. Marco also agreed to help with devising various statistical tests aimed at improvement of the system performance. I myself intend to revive the work of the EGF ratings committee which will supervise the work on EGF ratings.

Finally, I would like to address the questions that were sent to EGF by FIGG prior to the AGM. They requested the following:

"We ask for an update on how the EGF Official Ratings are handled and what are the procedures concerning data storage, privacy issues and proprietary concerns. Is the EGD an integral part of the EGF and if so why its expenses are not paid by the EGF?"

- ? The tournament tables are submitted to EGD via a parser that checks the results for consistency. The submitter is required to register at EGD first to be able to submit the results. In general we accept results directly from tournament organizers, some associations have assigned dedicated persons who collect the results from organizers and then submit them to EGD. The rating manager then checks the table, fixes any problems (misspelled names, missing club information etc.) and approves it for ratings procession. The ratings are updated automatically after the approval. Rating manager also works on fixing the problems in tables already included in the database (names/club corrections, merging players appearing under two names in the database etc.)
- ? The data are stored at EGD with an independent backup on another computer to prevent a loss of data. People with high enough user privileges (currently me, Aldo Podavini and Marco Silles) can perform the tasks of rating manager and also download the whole pack of tournament tables, so they can be stored independently by EGF assigned persons.
- ? The EGF ratings are computed from publicly available data (the tournament tables), so I presume that no privacy laws are violated. Though, I admit that I am not a lawyer, so the situation may not be so clear. Different lawyers may also have a different opinion :-).
- ? I do not understand what proprietary concerns are or should be related to the ratings. EGD itself is independent on EGF; it just provides a good service to European players and to EGF. The rating manager is paid for his work on the ratings by EGF. However, up to now this payment has not been dependent on the platform the ratings are managed (formerly my own PC, now EGD).