



Mr. Almog Burstein (Israel)-Treasurer

Mr. Almog Burstein, born in 1950, an economist and accountant, was involved in all kinds of chess activity for almost 40 years. In 1972-1976 he was the Secretary of the Israel Chess Federation, and in 1976 - Deputy Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Haifa Chess Olympiad, which was the first Olympiad to use a computer and to be run according to the Swiss System. Nine times (more than anyone else in the world) he was a member of the Olympiad Pairings Committee (now within the Technical Administration Panel), and since 1994 the Chess Olympiads were run according to the Burstein System. In 1995 - 1998 he was a member of FIDE Central Committee and since 2004 he is the Delegate of ICF to FIDE and ECU. As an International Chess Arbiter (since 1977) he has been the organizer and/or arbiter of many local, national and international tournaments (including Deputy Chief Arbiter of the World Team (2005) and World Blitz (2006) Championships).

Almog Burstein was also quite successful as an amateur player. In simultaneous exhibitions held in Jerusalem he drew against World Champion Garry Kasparov (in 1996) and won against the world's best woman player, Judit Polgar (in 2005). In 2007 he won the title of Deputy World Amateur Champion (and got a FIDE rating of 2100).

In 1994 - 2006 Burstein was involved in the Israeli political life, holding public positions such as Chairman of the Hod Hasharon (his hometown) Worker Council, CEO of Shinui (the Liberal Party of Israel) and Deputy Mayor of Hod Hasharon (including Chairman of the Municipal Committee of Finance).

Since 2006 Burstein is a publisher of textbooks and the Business Development Director of Bookware Ltd. - a company which has developed the first Hebrew electronic book.