

# Arbiting Matters Too



## Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association May 2017 Issue 23

### **New Laws**

The new Laws will be with us in July. I wrote to FIDE asking for confirmation of my interpretations of some of the changes. I did get one reply which confirmed that this official shared my belief but he was unsure that the Presidential Board was in agreement with one interpretation. This reply was received in late April for Laws applying from 1<sup>st</sup> July. The uncertainty was bad enough for those with English as a first language – it must be nearly impossible for those who are having to translate the Laws. Dave Welch logged in to an Internet seminar which, whilst clearing up some points left others still to be resolved. He has made several comments which I have had confirmed by another attendee of the course. These are reflected in the comments on the Laws starting on page 2.

### **Reasons to Avoid Lisbon**

Lisbon is a beautiful place but we were there for 5 days during which time a team withdrew from the 4NCL North meaning a triangular match (and I stupidly hadn't taken the pairing cards with me – how remiss!) and a venue for a congress to be held less than three weeks later fell through! I hate to think what the state of chess in the north of England would have been if we had been there longer.

### **Arbiter Beware**

If you agree to be Chief Arbiter at a FIDE rated event make sure you know who your colleagues will be. If an organiser uses an unlicensed arbiter then the Chief Arbiter will be suspended from FIDE events for 6 months. This was requested by the Events Commission and approved by the FIDE's Presidential Board. (See page 5)

## CHANGES TO THE LAWS

Some of the changes to the Laws would appear to need clarification. Some situations are examined here.

7.7.1 If a player uses two hands to make a single move (in case of castling, capturing or promotion), it shall be considered as an illegal move.

*Some sources are claiming that making a move with one hand but pressing the clock with the other comes into this category. That does not appear to be the case as the move was **made** with only one hand. It was **completed** using the second. Such actions are a different offence and should be treated as such. Article 12.9 lists the possible penalties. However the use of the word 'make' also complicates matters. A player uses two hands to castle, realises this is wrong so undoes the move and castles legally before pressing the clock. If he let go of both pieces then he made the move and is liable to the punishment.*

6.2.4 The players must handle the chessclock properly. It is forbidden to press it forcibly, to pick it up, to press the clock before moving or to knock it over. Improper clock handling shall be penalised in accordance with Article 12.9.

*An arbiter might assume that this gives the arbiter a choice from the list of penalties listed in 12.9 for pressing the clock before moving. However the following specifies the exact punishment which should be enforced – two minutes to the opponent for a first offence and a loss for a second as given in 7.8.1 and 7.8.2. It would have been better to have removed 'to press the clock before moving' from 6.2.4*

7.8.1. If the player presses the clock without making a move, it shall be considered as an illegal move.

7.8.2 For the first violation of the rule 7.8.1, the arbiter shall give two minutes extra time to his opponent; for the second violation of the rule 7.8.1 by the same player the arbiter shall declare the game lost by this player. However, the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player's king by any possible series of legal moves.

*Notice also in 7.8.1 the phrase "shall be treated as an illegal move" (this phrase is also used in 7.7.1) is ambiguous. It is not an illegal move but should be treated in the same manner – the same punishments will be inflicted. Initially it was felt that the punishments under each category should not be combined i.e. castling with both hands and pressing the clock without moving would not be an automatic loss but two separate penalties. However, that no longer appears to be the FIDE view and that*

*such offences are all to be regarded as illegal moves and so any two will result in a loss.*

9.6 If one or both of the following occur(s) then the game is drawn:

9.6.1 the same position has appeared, as in 9.2.2 at least five times.

9.6.2 any series of at least 75 moves have been made by each player without the movement of any pawn and without any capture. If the last move resulted in checkmate, that shall take precedence.

*There is the change that the 5 positions do not have to be consecutive but can occur at any point in the game. Although it does not say so at the Arbiters' course of early May it was stated that these should apply even if it was discovered afterwards. In other words if it is discovered that a position occurred 5 times before a player resigned the score of the game should be altered to show it as a draw.*

III.3.1 If both flags have fallen and it is impossible to establish which flag fell first then:

III.3.1.1 the game shall continue if this occurs in any period of the game except the last period.

III.3.1.2 the game is drawn if this occurs in the period of a game in which all remaining moves must be completed.

*The removal of the first sentence of III.3.1 from the main Laws may complicate things when both flags are down. The important bit which has been removed from the main Laws is "and it is impossible to establish which flag fell first". With a digital it is almost always possible to establish which flag fell first but with the transfer of this phrase from the main Laws to Guidelines it is not clear if it will still apply. It seems reasonable to assume that it does.*

A.4.5 The arbiter can also call a flag fall, if he observes it.

*The arbiter should call flag fall. This should not be seen as an option. It was intended as clarification following the removal of the prohibition on doing this.*

*I have been told that at the recent FIDE run course to advise arbiters on the new Laws it was stated that if a player who is in check castles using both hands then he has committed two offences classed as illegal moves and would immediately lose the game. A similar situation could arise if a player makes a capture with a piece that is pinned to the king. If the capture was made with two hands then the player would lose.*

*If such a situation as those arises the arbiter should immediately step in, if possible before the clock is pressed. The arbiter should give the opponent an additional two minutes, reset the position to before the two handed move was played and restart the opponents clock. If the opponent makes the same move using only one hand then they lose, as the arbiter cannot step in until a move has been completed, he can only penalise (point out) the illegal making of the move with two hands.*

*The interpretation which arbiters have been instructed to apply seems to contradict 7.5.1.*

7.5.1 An illegal move is completed once the player has pressed his clock. If during a game it is found that an illegal move has been completed, **the position immediately before the irregularity shall be reinstated**. If the position immediately before the irregularity cannot be determined, the game shall continue from the last identifiable position prior to the irregularity. Articles 4.3 and 4.7 apply to the move replacing the illegal move. The game shall then continue from this reinstated position.

*Granted this applies to completed moves rather than made moves but the emboldened part states that, if an irregularity occurs, the position immediately before this shall be reinstated. The Preface would suggest that this should be used when the Laws don't cover the situation. It can therefore be argued that the double whammy is not applied but the position before the original offence re-established.*

*Despite the above, to summarise an arbiter will be expected from 1<sup>st</sup> July to penalise the following actions as if they were illegal moves.*

- a) MAKING a move with both hands*
- b) Pressing the clock without making a move*
- c) Pressing the clock with a different hand from that used to make the move*
- d) An actual illegal move.*

*The first offence of any of these actions will incur a two minute penalty, a second offence of any of these will result in the loss of the game.*

*If a game has ended (say on move 128) and after all the formalities have been done and possibly two more rounds have been played, and it is subsequently found that the game ended earlier (say on move 100)*

*by stalemate, checkmate, 5-fold repetition or 75 move rule, that result should be used and the tournament record changed.*

*It is reported that the Laws have been passed back to the Rules Commission to improve the wording. It is not clear what timescale will be involved. Meanwhile arbiters will be expected to carry out the interpretation as given rather than the wording. This is new for the last two of these conditions.*

*It is unclear if the Presidential Board had the authorisation to make the changes that it has but arbiters are being told to enforce them.*

## **WARNING**

If you are officiating at a FIDE rated event please make sure that all of the arbiters listed have at least a National Arbiter title. If any unlicensed arbiters officiate at the event then the Chief Arbiter will be suspended by FIDE for 6 months and the host federation will be billed (fined) €500.

This was a decision taken by the FIDE Presidential Board at its meeting in Athens this year.

A repeat of the 'offence' in a 24 month period will result in a one year suspension for the Chief Arbiter and a €1000 fine for the federation.

If a Chief Arbiter takes ill and has to be replaced, before accepting the responsibility of Chief Arbiter, an arbiter should be certain that other arbiters being used are all licenced including any filling in for the absent arbiter..

## **FIDE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS**

Arbiters and organisers should be aware that FIDE Chess in Schools offers membership to juniors. If the Boy or Girl takes out Premium Student Membership then it is believed they will be given a FIDE code which will appear on the rating list data. Unfortunately, if they take out the Basic (free) Membership they are also given a number (FIN?) which they are told is unique and will be permanent. This number cannot be found on any search of the FIDE rating data. A search on the FIDE website for the player's name or FIN will produce a not found response.

It would appear from initial consultation with FIDE that anyone in this situation will also require a normal FIN to be issued by the national federation. If organising a rated tournament please be aware of this potential problem and do not assume that the FIDE systems will recognise the numbers given to that category of membership.

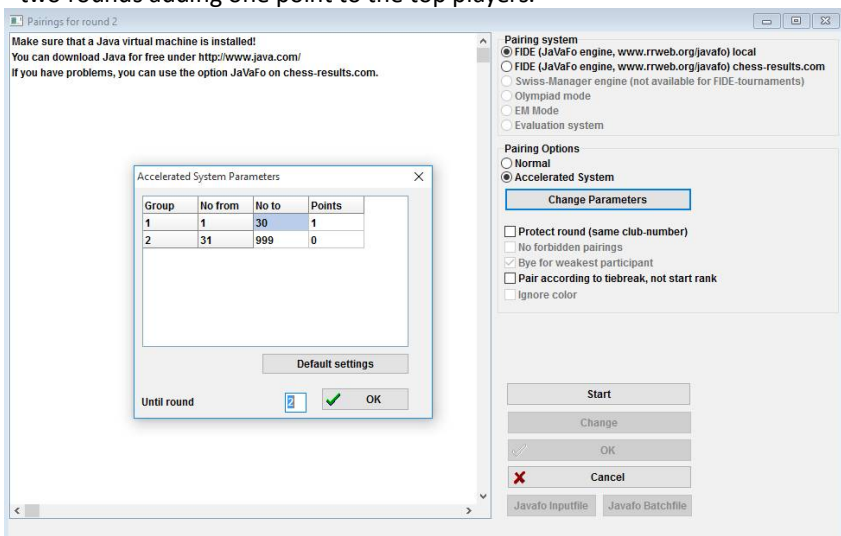
## Baku Acceleration in a Weekend Congress

By tradition the Edinburgh Congress has accelerated its top section, primarily because the organisers want the top players to play each other rather than cannon fodder. It also tends to have a large entry (62 this year) so two 100% scores after 5 rounds would have been possible.

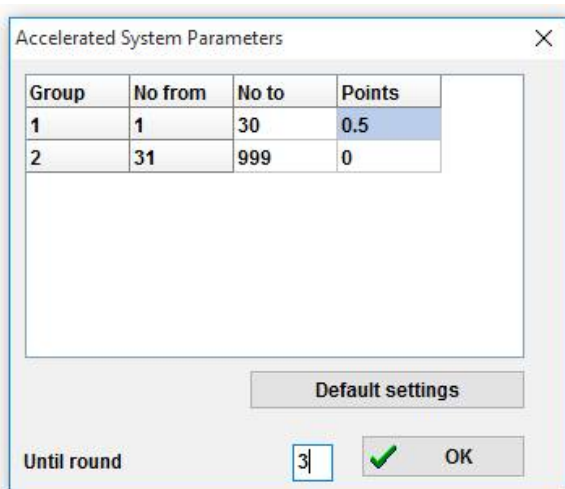
This year the event moved to increments as well (90 min + 30sec per move). It finished with one player on 5/5 and another on 4½ so it did achieve the organisers objectives.

But did acceleration work? That is much more difficult to say with any degree of certainty. It was the same method used at Hastings but of course there were 9 rounds played at that event.

Swiss Manager was used and the acceleration button set as shown for the first two rounds adding one point to the top players.



And then for round 3 adding a half point.



Unfortunately for these purposes there were a significant number of surprise results. The number of games won or drawn against seeding would have tested any acceleration method.

There is no doubt that the method produced the results requested by the organiser but further research is still needed as to whether this method is suitable for weekend events. This early evidence is inconclusive but suggests it may be no better or worse than previous methods but has the advantage of being readily able

to be done on computer. It would be interesting to hear from anyone else using this at one of their events.

### FIDE Arena Titles

Software used for pairings now gives FIDE Arena titles as well as the over the board GM, IM etc. (For any FIDE rated event organisers are expected to publish Arena titles as well as the normal ones on charts, etc.) This is causing players to ask what the letters beside players names mean.

AGM is an Arena Grand Master, AIM is an Arena IM and AFM is an Arena FM. These titles are awarded for gaining points in Arena competitions. 1100 points is required for an ACM (Candidate Master) title, 1400 for AFM, 1700 for AIM and 2000 for AGM. The player has to maintain this level of performance over a variable number of games, depending on whether it is bullet, blitz or rapid

### Only in the USA

It has been some time since we had a story with that heading. I think the following justifies its resurrection.

At an American event the arbiter was pairing two cross section byes together as is common in this country. To decide colours the arbiter adopted the fairly

common procedure of concealing a pawn in each hand and allowing a player to choose. In this case the player chose the white pawn and immediately requested the black pieces. His request was allowed.



If tossing a coin it is perfectly acceptable to let the winner choose which colour he wants but in this case

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Would the arbiter have allowed the player to pick the black pawn and announce he wanted white? I very much doubt it. It is difficult to see that picking white was akin to winning the toss unless that had been announced in advance (which it wasn't).

And also in the USA is this interesting concept.

The Sacramento Outdoor Quick Chess Championship has some interesting conditions. The time limit was all

*"I'll have white using the Star Wars set."*

moves in 13 (thirteen) minutes and only analogue clocks were used. All entrants had to be aged 25 or older on the day of the event. There was a minimum rating of 1800 on entrants unless they have a published win against Bobby Fischer. Players over 2400 had their entry fee returned plus an additional \$20 towards their transport if they complete all 9 games. With the field limited to 32 the guaranteed prize fund was \$360 over the maximum entry fees. The shortfall is presumably coming from the Law firm sponsoring the event. The person after whom the firm is named is the organiser and presumably has drafted the more 'interesting' rules.

### **CHEATING – FIDE Ethics Commission Follow-up**

The FIDE Ethics Commission has banned Arcangelo Ricciardi (Italy) (see AMToo 11) for cheating at the 2015 Imperia Open. He has been suspended for two years. This runs in parallel with a similar ban enforced by the Italian Chess Federation. Also suspended for two years was Ivan Tetimov (Bulgaria) at Benidorm in 2014. (See AMToo 8)

Also decided was a complaint from Mihaela Sandu (See AMToo 9 & 10). This case is of particular interest as it represents the other side of the coin where a



player was innocent but falsely (maliciously?) accused. One player, Natalia Zhukova, has received a 3 month ban suspended for a year, others (9 in total) a reprimand and still others (5) a warning. Zhukova was seen as the ring-leader in the false accusations. The player was accused of using computers to cheat but the reality seems to be that her opponents played bad moves rather than her playing exceptionally good ones. The 5 who were issued a warning subsequently retracted their accusations and apologised. Those punished all signed a letter of complaint about Sandu which was posted on a noticeboard at the event. Some are saying that the sentences are very lenient but others say that it should be regarded as more of a warning shot and that future false allegations will be treated much more seriously. Part of the reason for the leniency of the punishments is the inaction of the tournament organisers who are alleged to have let the situation escalate. The criticism of the organisers and arbiters is taken up by the CPA (Chess Professionals Association) whose board released a statement part of which stated;

“In a nutshell, the mistakes of the organizers and arbiters played a very significant role in leading to very unfortunate consequences. Some may even say it was mainly their mistakes that exploded the whole situation. That's why we strongly disagree with the decision of the Ethics Commission, that blamed and sanctioned the players, hardly mentioning the unfortunate role of the officials.”

It now appears that the signed letter referred to above may have been posted publicly by an official rather than the players. If that is what happened the official certainly has a case to answer but the reasons for suspecting Sandu of cheating were so weak that her accusers still deserve some sanctions.

### **What would you do?**

The following happened in a Portuguese Under 8 Championship.

Both players handed in scoresheets which agreed on result and moves played. 10 minutes later a parent of the player who had lost came up pointing out that the winner had ignored being in check (confirmed by an examination of the scoresheet) and had played a therefore illegal queen move claiming mate. What should the arbiter do – resume the game or say that the result handed in should stand?

Answer:

The Articles to consider are:

Article 5.1a The game is won by the player who has checkmated his opponent's king. This immediately ends the game, provided that the move producing the checkmate position was in accordance with Article 3 and Articles 4.2 – 4.7. (Art 5.1.1 July 17 Laws)

Article 8.7 At the conclusion of the game both players shall sign both scoresheets, indicating the result of the game. Even if incorrect, this result shall stand, unless the arbiter decides otherwise.

Normally a request to alter the result would come from the player but in this case it is not unreasonable for a parent to represent such a young player. Since the request was made only 10 minutes after the incident the arbiter should use the option to decide otherwise in Art 8.7. The game should resume as it had not been ended by a legal move.

That is what the arbiter decided in this case.

The opponent's parent then objected as the queen which had been touched could be moved to block the check but would be lost in the process. That objection was over-ruled.

Some arbiters may think that it is unfair that a parent's knowledge of the Laws should affect the outcome and for some older children this might be a valid consideration.

Another problem is how long should the player have to report the situation before the arbiter should insist that the result handed in should stand? This will vary with the nature of the tournament and the experience of the players. A reasonable guideline would be that anything reported before the publication of the draw should be acted on, after that the arbiter's discretion should be used to decide if there is to be an alteration.

### **A Touch of the Irish**

There were two teams in the 4NCL from the Emerald Isle this year. For the last weekend one of the players discovered the night before flying that he had lost his passport. He had no other suitable identification (and anyway the airline insists on a passport). It would in theory have been possible without any form of identification to have driven to Belfast and got a ferry from there but the time required for that journey was not feasible. Therefore a substitute was found rather than incurring the additional loss of penalty points.

However, this player had no FIDE Identification Number (FIN) so could not play without it. The Captain was informed of this about 2 hours before play was due to start. He phoned the Irish IRO (International Rating Officer) to get a FIN failing

to realise that the person he was phoning was not in Ireland but outside the same hotel in Wakefield being the manager of the opposing team. Despite that the FIN was issued and the substitute ended up playing the IRO's son!

## Malaysian Mayhem



The Malaysian Newspaper the Sun Daily was the first to report the following incident which occurred in a tournament there. Subsequently the story attracted huge media coverage. The tournament in question was the National Scholastic Championship being held in Putrajaya. (This issue's almost useless fact - Putrajaya replaced Kuala Lumpur as the Malaysian seat of government in 1999.)

A 12 year old player during round 2 had her game interrupted by the Tournament Director. It is alleged that her clothing was 'seductive' and a 'temptation from a certain angle far, far away'. The newspaper claims the girl was dressed as shown in the picture. The description was allegedly relayed

to the girl and her mother by the Chief Arbiter. They were advised that the girl should wear trousers. Her coach claims that they were unable to get trousers in time for the start of the third round so withdrew from the competition.

Having won her first round game she is recorded as losing to the eventual winner in round 2 and is unpaired for the rest of the tournament. The claim was that she was defaulted in round 2 because of her attire with the game counting as a loss because moves were played. Evidence suggests that this game was completed normally. She does not appear to have defaulted in round 3 as the newspaper article implies. The tournament cross-table displays her as not having been paired at all.

Following the publication in the newspaper the Chief Arbiter disputed the story and the Tournament Director instigated police involvement regarding the claims made by the girl's coach and others on social media.

As always with these types of things there are accusations and counter accusations.

An official of the Malaysian Chess Federation states that her skirt appeared too short when she was seated. This was noticed during the first round but the player was not spoken to until during the second round according to one version.

Another has her told during both rounds. The claim that the description 'seductive' was used has also been disputed. She completed her second game after which, with her mother present, she gave a letter of withdrawal to tournament officials. In a letter of explanation to the mother it is stated, "The organiser (tournament official and the school) had advised your daughter to dress accordingly for the following days since the tournament was being played inside a school compound under the Ministry of Education."

The Women, Family and Community Development Ministry has called on the organisers of the National Scholastic Chess Championships 2017 tournament to explain why a 12-year-old was forced to withdraw from the contest.

To summarise, a girl withdrew from the event after being spoken to about her clothing not satisfying the school's dress code rather than that of the chess federation's. The wording used to communicate the organiser's concerns are not agreed. The Malaysian Chess Federation set up a committee to investigate the situation two days after the coach's accusations. The activities of this committee were suspended almost immediately until the conclusion of the police investigation.

The organiser is currently reported to be suing for defamation.

I give the following extract from the suggested FIDE Dress Code.

3. Dress Code for players during games in progress.

3.a. The following is acceptable for men players, captains, head of delegation. Suits, ties, dressy pants, trousers, jeans, long-sleeve or short-sleeve dress shirt, alternatively T-shirts or polo, dress shoes, loafers or dressy slip-ons, socks, shoes or sneakers, sport coat, blazer, Bermuda shorts, turtleneck, jacket, vest or sweater. Team uniforms and national costumes clothing.

3.b. The following is NOT acceptable for men players, captains, head of delegation.

Beach-wear slippers, profanity and nude or semi-nude pictures printed on shirts, torn pants or jeans. holes, denim shorts, short-shorts, cut-off shorts, gym shorts, unclean clothing, sun glasses, sport caps.

3.c. The following is acceptable for women players

Women's suits, dresses. skirts, blouses, turtleneck, T-shirts or polo's, trousers, jeans or slacks, footwear (boots, flats, mid-heel or high-heel shoes, sneakers with sock), jacket, vest or sweater, a scarf, as well as jewellery (earrings, necklace, etc.) coordinated to the outfit may be worn. Team uniforms, national costumes clothing.



*Rab C Nesbitt dressed for the next  
4NCL FIDE rated Congress*

3.d. The following is NOT acceptable for women players

Beach-wear slips, profanity and nude or semi-nude pictures printed on shirts, torn pants or jeans. holes, noticeable unclean clothing, sun glasses, sport caps. Revealing attire. Clothes such as denim shorts, short-shorts, cut-off shorts, gym shorts, crop tops, tank tops, and clothes made of see-through materials or clothes that expose areas of the body usually covered in the location where the event is taking place.

It is interesting to note that the FIDE Code bans women from wearing see-through clothes but not men! I also assume that vest here is the American term rather than the Rab C Nesbitt interpretation (though Rab might refer to it as a 'simmit' rather than a vest).

## **FUN PAIRING**

The last round (round 11) of this seasons 4NCL Division 3 North provided an interesting pairing experience. A team had withdrawn meaning that the 18 teams were reduced to 17 and there had to be a triangular match. This effectively meant that 3 teams were drawn in a Jamboree type pairing. As each team had 6 boards Team A would play team B on 3 boards and team C on the other three boards. Teams B and C would also meet on 3 boards.

All three of the last rounds had their points of interest. After the round 9 draw was published a team near the top withdrew. The arbiters were left with 2 options, pair the team now with no opponent against the two teams drawn on the board below (which worked) or completely redo the draw. As there was a reasonable triangular pairing it was decided to go with minimum disruption.

After round 9 the arbiters did a round 10 pairing. They then assumed all games to be drawn and attempted a round 11 pairing. The problem here was that no combination could be found for a triangular match without involving a team potentially going for promotion against two theoretically much easier teams. It was decided that this would not be a welcome option. One round 10 pairing had to be broken to allow an alternative round 11 triangular using those teams. Finding alternative opponents for those two teams was not easy resulting in

several altered pairings! The altered pairings also meant 2 teams had double colours in rounds 9 and 10 so their colours for round 11 were fixed.

For your amusement please try to see what pairing you can come up with.

(For the triangular match the ideal is teams on or near the same points and near to the bottom/middle rather than at the top. This information may be academic.)

Team	Points	Games	Potential Opponents
1	14	41.5	7,9,12,13,14,18
2 W/D			
3	11	30	7,8,12,14,16,18
4	20	44	9,10,12,13,16,17,18
5	8	27	8,9,10,11,13,15,17
6	11	33	7,8,9,10,13,14,18
7	10	30	1,3,6,12,15,17,18
8	10	30	3,5,6,9,14,15
9	9	29.5	1,4,5,6,8,10,18
10	5	23.5	4,5,6,9,11,16
11	17	39.5	5,10,12,14,16,17,18
12	4	21	1,3,4,7,11,15,17
13	7	26.5	1,4,5,6,15,16
14	10	28.5	1,3,6,8,11,16
15	13	31	5,7,8,12,13,18
16	8	22	3,4,10,11,13,14,17
17	7	24	4,5,7,11,12,16
18	3	14	1,3,4,5,6,7,9,11,15,18

Answer: See back page.

## **Durham Congress**

Player to arbiter just after the start of the round, "Where am I sitting?" Arbiter "I don't know. Let's look at the draw."

Both go to where the draws are displayed. At this point the player says "There is someone sitting in my seat." There was, but why the player didn't say that in the first place will remain a mystery.

Arbiter to player in wrong seat, "Are you Mr X?" "No," replies player. "Then I'm afraid you're in the wrong seat." "Where should I be sitting?" asks the misplaced player!!!

This tournament had to return to its previous venue at short notice. The local university club booked a hall. Unfortunately it turned out that what was actually booked was not the expected hall but a room off it with a maximum capacity of 22! This mistake was discovered with under 3 weeks remaining. The anticipated hall was unavailable. The rearranged venue, though available during playing hours, was booked for line dancing on the Saturday night resulting in much movement of sets and furniture and a 15 minute lunch break between rounds 2 and 3.

## **Does it really mean that?**

From the front of the Torbay Congress entry form:

**During the Congress, in an emergency,  
telephone the Livermead House Hotel 01803 294361**

Personally I would advise anyone to dial 999 if they have an emergency. You will almost certainly get a quicker response.

From the Darnall & Handsworth Rapidplay

"Competitors can only win one prize and prizes will be allocated as the Organiser sees fit." One hopes this only means that the Organiser will decide which prize is awarded if you qualify for more than one and not "I know you scored 6/6 but I don't like your face so I'm not awarding you 1<sup>st</sup> prize."

From the Calderdale Congress

"People turning up on the day need to get through on the phone before 3pm."

Does this mean that **all** competitors not taking a bye (or those going to default) must phone him or does it mean that he has invented a new form of transport. For several players it really would have to be **broadband**.

Finally from the Whitby Congress

“Emails won’t be read after 29<sup>th</sup> June, so it’s wiser to send a text before July.” Especially good advice for an event starting on 30 June.

The directions on this entry form are also worth a read. The best bit being “Plenty of free parking space on road touching roundabout which is behind about 25 feet below the venue.” No idea what that means. Another part of the directions given takes you to a car park which you are warned not to use!

### **Proposed Constitution.**

Members are invited to comment on the proposed amended constitution given below. This will be voted on at the next AGM.

### **Organisation:**

The organisation shall be called the "Chess Arbiters' Association" (CAA). It shall consist of individuals and organisations with an interest in running tournaments and applying the FIDE Laws of Chess.

### **Objectives:**

- (a) The objectives of the Association shall be:-
- (b) to encourage individuals to attain a high standard of expertise in arbiting,
- (c) to encourage a high standard of arbiting in all chess events,
- (d) to provide support for arbiters where necessary,
- (e) to offer training in association with national bodies and in relation to FIDE assessments if appropriate,
- (f) to disseminate information from FIDE and National bodies. Such information to include changes to the Laws, Title regulations, pairing rules, etc,
- (g) to co-operate with players' organisations on matters of common interest,
- (h) produce and maintain training materials where required,
- (i) to lobby national bodies where it is considered to be in the interests of members.

### **Membership:**

There shall be two main classes of membership.



Full Member — a person recognised as a qualified Arbiter by any National Association within the British Isles which is affiliated to FIDE, or anyone with a FIDE Arbiter or International Arbiter title.

Associate Member - any person or organisation having an interest in arbiting issues and whose application has been approved by the Executive Committee.

In addition there should be a category called Honorary Membership.

An Honorary Member shall be awarded to arbiters who have distinguished themselves over a period of time. Such membership shall not be restricted to British arbiters.

### **Meetings:**

There shall be an Annual General Meeting held ideally between June and August each year. Full, Associate and Honorary Members shall be entitled to attend and speak, but only Full and Honorary Members shall be entitled to vote. The Financial Year of the Association shall be a period of twelve months, starting on 1st September each year.

The Annual General Meeting shall:-

- I. elect the Officers of the Association.
- II. elect members to the Executive Committee.
- III. receive the examined accounts.
- IV. determine membership Fees.
- V. appoint a Financial Examiner, who shall not be a member of the Executive Committee.
- VI. elect members to represent the Association to each of the governing bodies in the home nations.
- VII. to discuss and vote on any appropriate matters on the agenda.

Extraordinary General Meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or must be called after a request in writing to the Chairman signed by Five Full or Honorary Members. Such meetings must be arranged within one month.

Executive Committee

The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee composed of:—

- a. up to five Officers : Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Information Officer, Chief Arbiter
- b. up to three committee members.

**Standing Orders:**

- Membership fees shall be due by the end of September each year. Members in default of payment of their fees by December shall cease to be Members.
- Notification of a General Meeting shall be sent to each member at least 28 days before the date of
- the meeting. Notification of any proposals to be discussed shall be given at least 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- The Treasurer shall present an examined statement of accounts to the Annual General Meeting.

The quorum shall be eight Full or Honorary Members at a General Meeting and three members at a meeting of the Executive Committee. For other committees the quorum shall be 50% of membership.

At General Meetings and Committee meetings the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

Proposed changes to the Constitution must be received by the Secretary at least 21 days before the meeting.

Amendments or additions to the Constitution shall only be made at a General Meeting, and shall require the support of at least two thirds of those present and entitled to vote. Other matters shall be passed by a simple majority of those present and voting.

Where appropriate Committees may be set up at the AGM or by the Executive Committee. Such Committees should be made up of Members but may also contain 'experts' on the matter being considered. Such meetings may be conducted by electronic means.

**Bye Laws**

1. The Officers of the Association shall be:

- (a) Chairman
- (b) Secretary
- (c) Chairman
- (d) Chief Arbiter
- (e) Information Officer
- (f) three other members

No Officer shall hold more than two of the above positions.

Nominations for these posts should be made 14 days before the meeting. Such nominations should have the agreement of the candidate. If no such nominations are received for a post, such post may be filled at the meeting.

2. The Association shall maintain a website and should produce a regular electronic newsletter.

3. The Executive shall consider applications for funding in regard to the following:

- (a) Organising Training Seminars,
- (b) Enabling a member to obtain a higher category title,
- (c) Enabling a member to attend meetings which will benefit the Association.

4. The Association shall produce a range of documents including:

- (a) CAA Safeguarding Document
- (b) Advice and Interpretations on the FIDE Laws of Chess

## **FIDE Pairings**

The rules for FIDE Pairings have been altered. In general the changes are a simplification though one significant change is that future byes will not prevent a current bye e.g. if a player has requested a half point bye in round 4 then this will be ignored when doing the draw for rounds 1-3 and that player may be given a bye in the earlier rounds.

The FIDE website contains a document which explains the FIDE pairing system taking you through a worked example. It can be found at:

<http://pairings.fide.com/images/stories/downloads/2017-tournament-development-with-the-fide-dutch-system-v2.pdf>

It may be easier to go to the FIDE website and scroll down the right hand side looking for the Swiss Pairings Program box. Click on that link and then the resultant 'Documents & Information' link.

From the resulting menu choose the latest version of the document by Mario Held, Mastering the Dutch.

Despite the title this document will not enable you to control the inhabitants of the Netherlands. It won't even allow you to play a particular chess opening accurately.

### **Answer to 4NCL pairing**

Three potential triangular matches were identified:

4,9,10;            5,9,10;            11,14,16.

The 5,9,10 triangle looked the most evenly balanced but it was decided to do the correct pairings for the top matches to see what would occur.

This gave 4v9, 11v14, 1v7, 15v8, ...

The 4v9 pairing made it tempting to include team 10 for the triangle, even though this was not very fair to 10. The draw was then redone using 5,9,10 as the triangular match. This produced the pairings 4v16, 11v14, 1v7, 15v8, 6v13, 3v18, 17v12. There was only 1 point difference between teams 9 and 10 and other pairings were far better/closer so this was the final pairing.

### **CAA Officials**

Chairman - Lara Barnes

Secretary - Geoff Gammon

Treasurer - Kevin Markey

Chief Arbiter - Alex McFarlane

Information officer - Alex McFarlane

Committee - David Welch, Kevin Staveley and Mike Forster.

ECF Delegate - Mike Forster

Chess Scotland Delegate - Alex McFarlane

Welsh Chess Union Delegate - Kevin Staveley

Independent Examiner - Richard Jones

Safeguarding Officer – Lara Barnes (Temp)

**Items for inclusion in future issues should be sent to**

**[ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk)**