



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

August 2018

Issue 31

AGM Report

A report on the AGM is given starting on page 2. The draft minutes will appear on the website when available. There were a number of significant items of business including Safeguarding and Data Protection.

The AGM was fairly well attended and a considerable number of important issues were discussed and agreed on. It is clear that there were still some i's to dot and t's to cross but there was nothing major. Alan Atkinson was appointed as the new Secretary. Good luck to Alan in the post.

Arbiter Appointments. The 4NCL is moving towards more transparency in the appointment of arbiters for its events. Anyone interested is invited to apply. Likewise, it is likely that the ECF may move to a similar approach. Malcolm Pein is pushing for FIDE to adopt a clearer policy on arbiter appointments. If you attend FIDE events you will regularly see many familiar faces. Many are competent arbiters. Unfortunately some holding fairly senior positions do not seem to inspire the confidence of their colleagues. I have known the Chief Arbiter of a very important event admit that he did not know how to set the digital clock when it was a non-standard setting*. There is another who regularly gets Sector Arbiter appointments who spends more time in the playing hall on his phone than doing arbiting.

It will be good to see an end to cronyism.

* How would you set a clock for an Armageddon game with a time of 5 minutes for white and 4 for black with an increment of 2 seconds from move 61?

The answer is on page 12.

Report on AGM 4 August 2018 held at Ferens Art Gallery, Hull starting 11.05am

1: Present: Lara Barnes, Alex McFarlane, Kevin Markey, Bruce Holland, Tom Thorpe, Adrian Elwin, David Eustice, Arnold Lutton, Brian Towers, Neil Graham, Stewart Reuben, Mike Forster, David Sedgwick, Alan Atkinson (from 11.40)
Apologies: Geoff Gammon, Francis Bowers, Alan Ruffle, Alan Hustwayte, Jack Rudd, Peter Purland, Dave Thomas, Kevin Staveley.

2: Minutes of Previous Meeting. With some correction of typos the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. (These now appear on the website.)

3: Matters Arising:

Quickplay Finishes were unlikely to form any part of the Laws from 2021. It was clarified that it would still be possible to play with analogue clocks but positions such as K+N v K+N would be decided by whose clock fell first.

FIDE Proposals: Proposals for continuous assessment of arbiters by FIDE had changed considerably. The annual proposal had been replaced by a four-year cycle of assessment but no progress had been made on this and instead FIDE were now proposing a form (IT4) to be used to assess arbiters in FIDE events and norm tournaments.

The requirement to use recognised software for pairings had been removed. The Qualifications Commission had refused to insist on this despite the Pairings Commission wanting it.

Other items such as Safeguarding and GDPR would be discussed under agenda items.

4: Reports:

The Chairman referenced her written report and mentioned that IA Rod McShane had also passed away. A moments silence was held for him and Simon Woodcock.

The possibility of fixed terms for officers was raised. The general feeling was that there were few enough volunteers that that none of them exercised real power so the annual election was the most suitable process for the CAA.

Understandably, no Report had been received from the Secretary.

The Chief Arbiter/Information Officer in his report commented on the problems with having two Laws of Chess since the last meeting. Stewart Reuben concurred and blamed the FIDE Presidential Board for unconstitutional interference which had caused problems. It was requested that the documents under discussion be put on the website. With minor corrections this will be done.

Details of how to join the CAA, which were deliberately missing, would be added to the website.

5: **The Treasurer** gave his report. An increase of funds of almost £600 was shown following the collection of outstanding memberships. The accounts had not been inspected as the Treasurer had not been able to make contact with the Independent Examiner. David Sedgwick volunteered to follow this up.

The Treasurer suggested that due to bank fees a life membership for £50 should be awarded to members living abroad. The idea was modified to a long term membership of 5 or 10 years to be decided by the Committee.

There were currently over 30 members many due to renew in September.

Membership Fees remained unchanged at £10 for Members and £5 for Associates. A discounted membership for physically disabled was discussed but rejected, though the Committee would look further into this.

6: Election. The Committee was re-elected with the exception of the vacancy for Secretary which was filled by Alan Atkinson. (See back page.)

At this point Stewart Reuben suggested Geoff Gammon be made an Honorary Member. This was passed.

7: Revised Constitution. Some comments were given on this. One was that nominations for positions should be in the main constitution and not in the bye laws. This was noted. A suggestion was made that we should approve the constitution and amend where necessary next year. Subject to the above, the revised Constitution and Bye-Laws were accepted nem con. This is also now on the website.

8: Fees. There was strong feeling that fees should be based on the living wage though it was appreciated that many events could not afford to pay these amounts. It was suggested that higher figures should apply for London events. There was a suggestion that the amount should be twice the entry fee. It was also thought that it might be better to describe the structure as an Honorarium.

It was accepted that the table would stand with emphasis that this was a minimum fee structure. The committee would look at revising the figures.

9: Memorandum of Understanding. This has been agreed with the ECF Board. There was some discussion about slight changes. It was felt that the agreement needed better publicity.

10: GDPR. The effect of this new law was discussed. It was agreed that it should be confirmed that we did not have to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). It was agreed that the appeals committees would be formed on an ad hoc basis by invitation from the Chair, members being drawn from the general membership.

It was agreed that all members present had given permission for their data to be stored. Others would be asked to confirm on re-joining.

11: Safeguarding Policy. It was confirmed that this applied not just to young people but also to vulnerable adults. It was confirmed that vulnerable in this case applied to, for example, those with a physical or mental disability. It was not the same definition as used by utility companies which included anyone over 60. Those working on a weekly basis with children should have DBS (or equivalent) clearance. Children should not be told that what they were saying would be treated in confidence as that simply was not possible. If it was discovered that anyone had given such a guarantee, then they could be in serious trouble if it was later discovered. Any serious claims made should be passed on immediately to either social services or the police rather than our own Safeguarding Officer. Many venues would have their own such person who could be approached. In no circumstances should any matter raised be discussed with other members of the control team. It was reported that DBS did not exist in Scotland where the equivalent thing was PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups). This scheme had the advantage that if a person was registered to an organisation through this scheme that organisation would be informed of any cause for concern.

12: AOCB.

David Sedgwick had a number of items but in view of the time he would format them in a way suitable for AMToo.

Neil Graham raised the matter of the limited responsibility of Captains in the Counties Championship. It was agreed that recent changes would be reviewed against earlier rules and the new ECF Home Director when in post would be approached.

It was also noted that the assumption that the Home Director would be appointed by Council in October may not be the case as it was a mid-term appointment and may simply be a Board appointment.

13: The **date of the next meeting** was discussed. Two possibilities were mooted. It may again be possible to hold it at the British Championships but since the venue was not certain that could not be decided upon. Another possibility was to hold it in the morning at the venue for the Counties Finals. In this case the dates were not certain. The Management Committee were charged with dealing with this matter.

The meeting ended at 13.20 with a vote of thanks to the outgoing committee for the work done in the previous year.

Geoff Gammon retires as Secretary



After several years as Secretary of the CAA Geoff Gammon has stepped down.

Geoff is best known for his work in the Bristol area where he took over many of the duties done by the late and much lamented Steve Boniface. Geoff was made an Honorary Member of the CAA at the AGM in recognition of his work for the organisation and the ECF. We wish Geoff well in his 'retirement'.

More Cheating Allegations

An accusation has been made that cheating took place in an American tournament called the World Open. A spectator is claimed to have spotted a player with a mobile phone on his lap. The spectator reported this to an arbiter who went up to the player and, since there was no visible phone, asked him to empty his pockets. Nothing was found by this means and the game continued. It is claimed that subsequently further complaints were made about the player.

There are Internet complaints that the arbiter should have carried out a more thorough inspection.

The arbiter did not deal with the situation very well if the situation as described actually happened. The arbiter should have gone to the player's board to see if he could see a mobile. He should not have searched the player during his game on an unsubstantiated accusation. Nothing was found and the player had been disturbed during his game. This could have had a serious effect on the outcome of the game. One player could be upset by a false accusation and the other could now lose concentration by considering if his opponent was indeed a cheat. Other than possibly a quick scan when going to the toilet, a player should not be searched during play unless there is a near 100% certainty that guilt will be proven by the search and the game concluded there and then.

The arbiter should have watched the player during the game to see if he could see a phone. Assuming none was seen, after the game the arbiter could then have carried out a search or, without alerting the player that he was under suspicion, do nothing but make sure the player was watched closely during future rounds. As hand scanners were available that player could have been scanned as part of an otherwise random sample before or after a round.

FIDE Arbiter Training Project

The FIDE's Arbiters' Commission meeting in Athens on 29 June – 1 July discussed many items. Several proposals will be put forward at the meeting in Batumi during the Olympiad. Included in the proposals is a form IT4. This will be an assessment form on arbiters. It will be introduced in 2019 for all FIDE Calendar events and those events awarding norms. The form has yet to be revealed.

The meeting also discussed if the Chief Arbiter could over-rule the decision of another arbiter. The decision was that the Chief Arbiter can, as the other arbiters are the assistants to the Chief.

Pairing Software (Vega)

There has been a new development in the Vega program. This allows a (large) tournament to be divided into sections. The arbiter of each section can enter the results of their section using the Internet. The results are then merged into the one document which is used to pair the next round. For example in a tournament like the London Classic Open one arbiter can enter the results for boards 1-25, a different arbiter for 26-50, etc. The big advantage of this feature will be noticeable in large Blitz or Rapidplay events where it is important to enter the results quickly to get the next round started. This service is free until next year after which time there will be a charge to cover the cost of the server used as the results will be sent to the 'Cloud'.

Antipodean Antics

Shaun Press is resident in Australia although originally from Papua New Guinea. He is a former Secretary of the FIDE Rules Commission. AMToo is indebted to him for the following two articles and a You Are the Arbiter feature. The first was a response to a question on the website Quora.

Unethical Tactics

Crying.

There was a young Australian player who was notorious for bursting into tears at the board whenever he made a serious mistake. These tears were often accompanied by a request to be allowed to take the move back. At first a couple of opponents fell for this, and either agreed to the request, or even offered draws in the position. However once players woke up to this tactic, such requests were refused. The



player concerned then simply kept crying, disrupting the rest of the tournament. It was only when he was told he was going to be defaulted did the waterworks stop.

This tactic was much more successful (for a different player) in an event I was directing. The junior player concerned was losing, so he burst into tears and claimed his adult opponent had touched a piece (which would have resulted in a losing move). There was no evidence to support this claim, so I rejected it, and the opponent played a move that led to forced mate. The junior player kept crying, but noticed his opponent had forgotten to press his clock (possibly because the adult player thought it was mate). The tears kept up for the 90 seconds the opponent had on his clock, until he flagged, at which point the tears magically stopped, the junior player pointed to the clock, and had the temerity to say "You played well". I admire the opponent for not punching the kid.

There is another trick that a local player here in Canberra is notorious for. If his opponent asks who has the white pieces in a game he will always reply that he has (relying on the opponent not to check). People have woken up to this (and almost always check when playing him) so he has implemented a refinement. Most clubs offer a half point bye if you can't make a particular round (and notify in advance) so if he works out that he will be black against a strong opponent he simply requests a half point bye in the hope that when they meet, he will be white. To rub it in, he then often turns up 10 minutes after the round has started to spectate.

House Rules (Local Rules)

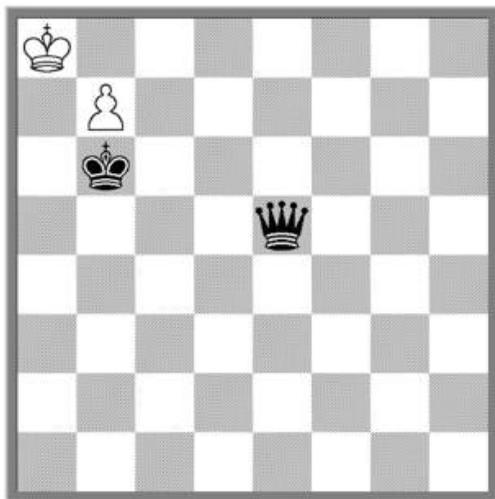
When running junior school events I run across a number of "rules" that aren't entirely kosher. Often the player concerned is adamant that are rules, because their father/mother/older sibling has taught them this way. Here are a selection

- Queen castling: A player claimed that swapping the King and Queen around was a legal move. This came up after 1.e4 e5 2.Qh5 Nc6 3.Bc4 d6 4.Qxf7# was played. 4.... Kd8-Qe8 was the attempted defence
- Promotion 1: After you promote, the promoted piece returns to its starting square (eg 45.g8=Q on d1)
- Promotion 2: Promoted pieces are immune from capture for 1 move (eg 45.g8=Q 45... Rxd8 46. What the hell!)
- Pawn moves 1: 17 ... a7-a5 was met with a complaint by White, as pawns could only move two squares on the first move of the game. It explained his preference for Hedgehog systems.

- Pawn moves 2: (An old favourite) Can I capture this rook en-passant?
- The 25 move rule: If my opponents checks me for 25 consecutive moves without checkmating me, its a draw (possibly created by a frustrated chess coach!)
- The 3 move rule: If I play the same move 3 times in a row, isn't it a draw?
- The stalemated king: My king can't move, so it's stalemate! Ahem, you still have other pieces and pawns.

[The second and third of those I can remember being argued when I was playing school chess in Scotland 50 years ago. Perhaps we have the grandchildren of my former classmates! The last one I still have in about every other junior event. - Ed]

You are the Arbiter by Shaun Press



The diagrammed position occurred during an inter-school event. It was Black's move but he only had 10 seconds on the clock. As a result he did not spot the check on a1 by mate on h8 and decided to play 1. ... Qh8+ White replied 2.b8=Q+ and Black followed with 2... Qxb8+ At this moment I assumed White was going to capture the Queen, but instead tipped his king over in resignation. The questions is: What was the result of the game? (And yes, I was the arbiter)

Answer: The game was drawn at the moment 2... Qxb8+ was played, neither player could checkmate 'by any series of legal moves' (5.2.2) and so anything that happened after that was irrelevant.

Shaun has been selected, along with Rupert Jones, for the Papua New Guinea team at the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia.

Bye Bye x3

The following continues the antipodean theme in this issue.

10	Jackson, Allan	1807	WA	4.0	-B5	+W22	+BYE	=W6	+B14	=BYE	-B4
11	Hunt, Stewart	1357	WA	4.0	-B8	-W21	+B27	+W19	=B13	=W16	+B18
12	Klimczak, Joe	1540	WA	4.0	+W24	=BYE	=BYE	=BYE	=BYE	=BYE	=BYE
13	De Jong, Sjef	1566	WA	3.5	+W16	+B18	-W1	-B2	=W11	-W8	+BYE
14	Simonds, Marcus	1725	WA	3.5	+B19	+BYE	-W7	+B16	-W10	=B5	-W6

Attention is drawn to player 12 Joe Klimczak and his fine performance of 4/7 in the Metropolitan Chess Club Open in Perth, Australia. He won his first game and then received 6 half point byes! A case perhaps of being too customer friendly.

The official reason was that the player had health problems and would rather not participate but would do so if there was going to be a forced bye in any round. As a middle graded player it was therefore decided to keep him near the centre of the draw. For a problem with this explanation look at the last round of the player below him.

In FIDE rated tournaments requested last round byes should be zero points.

More Phone Problems

A player's daughter potentially had appendicitis. He asked for permission to have a live phone. The arbiter, under the circumstances, agreed to the request but told the player to inform his opponent.

That was fine for that round and the next. In later rounds the player, however, did not tell the opponent because the phone was switched off but still in his pocket.

During play his opponent claimed the game.

This gave the arbiter a dilemma. The permission had been granted on the assumption that it was for only a round or two but this had not been made clear to the player. Should the player's failure to inform his opponent be penalised with the loss of the game? A scan during play showed that no phone was switched on. Testing afterwards indicated that it had not been used for some time and that it did not have a chess engine installed.

The arbiter ruled against the claimant who then protested.

The Appeals Committee met. It received evidence from the player complaining that he had seen the phone being put in the pocket before the start of play but had waited until he considered that he had a losing position before making a claim. He had no

explanation for his wait. (The player had originally stated that he thought his opponent **might** have a phone in his pocket. The expression of doubt influenced the course of action followed by the arbiter during the remainder of the game.) The committee rejected the appeal by a vote of 2-1. An arbiter on the committee commented that he would have awarded the game to the complainant but that the decision reached by the arbiter was not unreasonable in the circumstances.

It does illustrate that if any exemption is given it is important to inform the player of the limitations of that exemption. In this case he must seek exemption every round.

Trials of an arbiter

Some recent problems encountered



A request for a round 1 bye written so badly on the entry form that 'one' was misread as 'none' by the Entries Secretary.

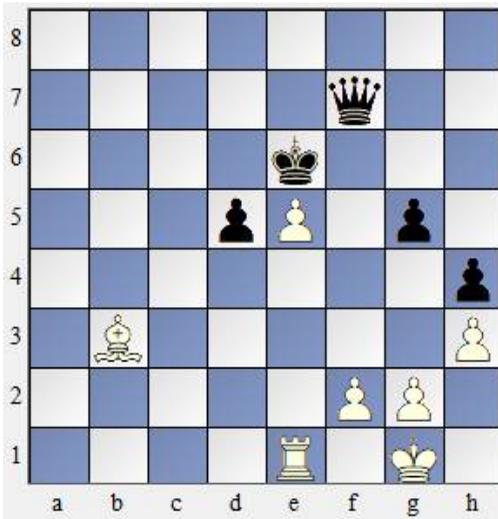
The following arose at an International Open. In the position shown black played 1 ... e5. White replied 2 fxe5 ep!!!!

The game ended in a draw. These were not beginners one player was rated 1900. The other, who played the capture, did not have a FIDE rating but did travel from abroad to play in the event.

The parents of a young player attempted to enter the Scottish Championship at 22.33 on the night before it started. The first round draw had been published at 18.00. It appears that the father had thought that the registration time to ensure everyone was actually going to attend (11.30 on the start date) was really the time that players had to enter by.

A player put his phone in one of the bags provided and put it carefully out of reach. Unfortunately he didn't turn it off first and so was defaulted when it beeped. A harsh but unavoidable penalty.

There is always one player who tries to get the better of an arbiter. In this case I was tasked with producing a position with double check. Not too difficult, but the final part of the challenge was that both checks were to be discovered checks. My solution is on the back page.



Double Discovered Check

In the position shown Black has just played 1 ... d7-d5. White replies with 2 exd6 ep. This gives discovered check with the bishop and the rook.

There are some players you really like to get the better of. Solving this gave some satisfaction for that reason.

I think all possible solutions require an en passant capture. Unless, as they used to say on "That's Life", you know otherwise.

CAA Officials

Chairman - Lara Barnes

Secretary – Alan Atkinson

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 - Kevin Staveley

Independent Examiner - Richard Jones

Safeguarding Officer – Lara Barnes



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