

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

August 2015 Issue 10

Editorial

The 2014/15 AGM of the CAA was held at Warwick on Sunday 2 August. This issue contains my report. The official minutes will appear on the website and will be sent by the Secretary when available. The idea of having a pre-meeting seems to have been successful with useful discussion taking place.

As pointed out by Stewart elsewhere in this issue a review of the Laws of Chess has started. If you have any suggestions for amendments or additions please send them in.

REPORT ON AGM

The minutes of the 2013 AGM were accepted with some amendments for clarification.

Potential changes to the Laws were discussed. In particular the first illegal move losing in Rapidplay was a cause of concern. 5 fold repetition needed clarification, simplification of the wording may make the arbiters job more difficult if 'consecutive' was removed. Mobile phones were discussed. There had to be a difference in implementing anti-cheating measures when regarding the level of tournament. Much of this would be discussed at the FIDE Rules Commission Meeting which Stewart Reuben and Alex McFarlane intended to attend.

It was noted that DBS/CRB was no longer necessary in England. There was a discussion over the desirability for this clearance and accountability if something does go

wrong. Several members expressed concerns over this new situation brought about by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Legislation, preferring to have the checks. The justification for removal of the need would appear to have come from the Home Office. The ECF Chief Arbitrator does make some enquiries from those providing arbitrator reports if he was previously unaware of a candidate before passing on names for ECF Board approval as arbitrators. PVG clearance is still needed in Scotland.

Concern was expressed over the time taken for some potential arbitrators to be recognised.

For FIDE rated events the ECF now insist that the lead arbitrator be a qualified arbitrator.

There are now 2 ECF Managers of Arbitrators, one International and one Home.

FIDE recognition of British arbitrators was to be encouraged.

It was decided that the CAA should continue. A motion was proposed. "The CAA should continue but that there should be negotiation with national bodies to increase its profile." This motion was accepted. Phil Ehr stated that he had the lead on dealing with external bodies, though the Home Director had some responsibilities in our area.

Duties of CAA were listed as—Training Arbitrators, encouraging new people to progress, liaising over pairing rules, etc, transmitting information through the website and Arbitrating Matters Too, proposals put to FIDE re-Laws and other matters, subsidising arbitrators to gain experience.

There was enthusiasm for having more say at a national level in matters involving arbitrators such as the approval of the ECF's Manager of Arbitrators.

Revision courses for experienced arbitrators were also discussed. A course could be held after every revision of the Laws at the AGM with possibly others in the north and/or south. Stewart Reuben suggested that this was compulsory in Romania and we should try to get maximum attendance.

Team Captain seminars should be offered to Leagues. Whilst there may be some common material each 'course' would need to be tailored to particular leagues. It would be up to leagues to instigate matters but members should approach their leagues. It was suggested that the CAA could provide documents (advice to arbitrators, advice to players, and advice to captains).

Basic Arbiters' fees recommendations were suggested. There are tax implications from HMRC if a basic subsistence level is applied as without receipts such payments could trigger minimum wage claims. It would certainly be good if congresses acknowledged that the arbiting team was working for expenses (or less!).

Suggested rates to be given to Congresses were suggested as hotel accommodation, travel mileage of £0.45 and a daily subsistence. Ideally all congresses should ensure, that arbiters are not out of pocket. This should be seen as the minimum.

Stewart Reuben pointed out that there was no award for arbiters. Should the ECF consider instigating such an award? It was agreed that Stewart should look at this in his role as Chair of the appropriate committee.

The Treasurer indicated that at 31 December 2014 we had £2239.21 in reserve. This was for the period June 2011 to December 2014. A discussion was held on the financial year. It was decided that it would now be September to August. The accounts were not audited as they did not get to the Independent Examiner in time for the meeting. The accounts will be circulated when audited.

The Treasurer suggested that monies for courses etc. should only go to members. There may be cases where money is paid to non-members when it is for the benefit of members. Members were encouraged to set up standing orders to pay their annual membership. A set of guidelines for the awarding of 'bursaries' should be established.

The Home Associations will be approached for a list of arbiters as part of a promotion campaign.

The date of the next meeting was discussed. There were problems with holding it at the British in general and next year in particular due to its location. There was no possibility of holding it during 4NCL weekends due to multiple venues. There was a possibility of holding it in conjunction with a 4NCL weekend event or otherwise with Birmingham being suggested as a good potential location. Potential fall back dates were decided on.

The ECF Chief Executive, Phil Ehr, addressed the meeting at the end (see page 12).

The office bearers for the year ahead is given on page 12.

ECF PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Congratulations to David Sedgwick on gaining this award for services to chess. The citation mentions his achievements as an arbiter and a number of positions he has held. The picture shows David in the Gambia.



FIDE Commissions

Stewart Reuben reports on The Rules Commissioners meeting held in Yeravan, Armenia on 19-21 June.

It is only relatively recently, perhaps 2009, that regular meetings of the various FIDE Commissions have taken place, apart from the annual FIDE Congress. Ashot Vardapetyan (ARM) is the new Chairman of this Commission and Sevan Muradian (USA) the new secretary. The other three councillors are Franca Dapiran (ITA), Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh (IRN) and me. Until Tromso 2014, Geurt Gijssen (NLD) had been chairman and I had been secretary for the past 20 years. As Ashot said, this can be regarded as a new era. Geurt was also invited to this meeting, but sadly his health didn't allow him to travel.

Our time was spent on considering various submissions that were made about changes to the Laws of Chess, mainly by private individuals. All proposals are taken seriously, but the commission sets its face against radical changes in the Laws. It is not for us to suggest that the board become 10×10 or that stalemate become a win for the person giving stalemate. We are deeply respectful of the Laws that have hardly changed for 500 years.

So what was agreed? A few examples of the many considered. Ashot suggested that rather than score a game $1/0.5/0$, it would be easier to do $2/1/0$. That is no different, but $\frac{1}{2}$ or 0.5 take up more space and can be difficult to align. Moreover, people are used to $2/1/0$ in other sports. Perforce we use $3/1/0$ for those few tournaments that use that system. I suggested that people should have the option of continuing to use $1/0.5$ or $\frac{1}{2}/0$.

Ashot pointed out that he had received submissions that only short-form algebraic is mentioned in the Laws. Long-form should also be explained.

In the example in the Laws: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 is given, as is 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 ed4. Long- form is preferred by some. 1 e2-e4 e7-e5 2 Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6 3 d2-d4 e5xd4.

During the meeting(!) E Michael White (ENG) pointed out to me through a forum that 9.6b reads: *any series of 75 moves have been completed by each player without the movement of any pawn and without any capture.* It is wrong and should read *any series of 75 moves have been made by each player without the movement of any pawn and without any capture.* In case you don't know the niceties of the distinction: 'made' refers to a player placing a piece on a square and releasing it. 'completed' refers to a player doing this and also pressing the clock. Why should somebody press a clock when the game is already over?

These may seem unimportant. But errors confuse players and arbiters , especially when translated into foreign languages. The late Bob Wade said, 'The Laws of Chess are a sacred trust.'

Sevan will post the minutes of the meeting on our website in due course – <http://rules.fide.com/>

We will next meet in Abu Dhabi at the FIDE Congress in September. All the Rules Commission members may be present and others can attend. The Rules Commission meeting usually has the most attendees, sometimes more than 50. It is not to everybody's taste, but such FIDE Meetings can be very democratic.

No changes will take effect until 1 July 2016, the new Laws having been agreed in September. This is to enable the information to be published and translated. 1 July is plenty of time to achieve this. Also, the Laws should not be changed on 1 January, as so many leagues are in the middle of their season at that time.

Stewart adds—The revised Laws will start being discussed in the Rules Commission Meeting at the FIDE Congress in Abu Dhabi in September 2015, where Alex McFarlane, Alex Holowczak and Stewart Reuben will be present. They will then be formulated in Azerbaijan in 2016 to take effect from 1 July 2017. A new form is being created with which people can make their concrete suggestions. It may help if the proposal has the backing of the person's federation, but that isn't essential.

What's the Rate of Play?

The World Champion and a leading female player both lost on time at recent tournaments. Carlsen lost on time in the first round of the Norway Chess Grand Tour event in Stavanger. Koneru overstepped the time in round 4 of the Commonwealth Championship in New Delhi. The Grand Tour time control was an unusual one of 40 moves in 2 hours with an additional hour to complete the game. 30 second increments were added from move 41. Carlsen was expecting a third period of time to be added on. You would expect the world Champion to know the time control being used. In addition, the only way I know of setting the clocks for such a time control is to set it with the move counter on and initial increments of zero seconds. That setting means that the clock would have added on the extra hour after the 40th move had been played. Carlsen therefore might also have been expected to notice that no additional time had been added on at move 60. (There is actually another way to set the clocks which ignores the move counter and adds on the extra time and increments only when one clock goes to zero. However this means that increments are lost between move 40 and the move when a clock reaches 00.00.) The organisers subsequently apologised for the poor publicity given to the unusual control used.

Koneru appears to have misinterpreted the initial announcement of the arbiter. The time control being used was the surprisingly fast one of all moves in 90 minutes with 30 second increments. This was announced to the play-



ers but immediately after the arbiter spoke of a 'grace' period of 30 minutes. By 'grace' period the arbiter meant default time i.e. the players could arrive up to half an hour after the scheduled start time without being defaulted. Several players misunderstood the announcement and thought it meant that the published rate of play had been changed to allow for an additional 30 minutes. The absence of being told the number of moves to the first time control could have alerted those players

and made them seek further advice. Tania Sachdev lost on time in round 1 but accepted that she had got it wrong. Koneru did not accept that and withdrew before putting in an appeal. The appeal was rejected.

What Type of Arbiter are You?

In each of the following questions choose the most appropriate answer for you. Total the points given to find out your arbiter category.

1. Do you consider the Opening period of the game ...?

- A Time to catch up on the paperwork
- B Time to watch the games to learn new theory
- C Time to read a book
- D Lunchtime

2 Do you consider the endgame ...?

- A Your busiest time with lots of results to record
- B An interesting time watching mating techniques
- C Enjoyable watching players blow an advantage in time trouble
- D The worst part of the game delaying you getting to eat your next meal

3 Early in the round a player takes ill. Do you ...?

- A Pause his clock and allow time to see if he will recover
- B Follow him from the hall to make sure it is genuine and not an attempt to consult a computer
- C Hope he grows worse so that you can practice your first aid skills
- D Curse the fact that if an ambulance has to be called you might miss your mid-round cup of tea

4 Late in the round a player takes ill. Do you ...?

- A Pause his clock and allow time to see if he will recover
- B Follow him from the hall to make sure it is genuine and not an attempt to consult a computer
- C Leave his clock running and tell him he has 10 minutes to resume the game
- D Forfeit him immediately as it may delay the next round/meal

5 A player tells you he is about to promote a pawn and needs a spare piece. Do you ...?

- A Go to his board with a variety of pieces of the appropriate colour
- B Go to his board with a spare queen
- C Tell him to get a piece from a nearby board

D Default him for discussing a game in progress (and expecting you to move from your desk)

6 Incremental finishes are better than sudden death because ...?

- A It allows the players to decide the outcome of the game without the arbiter
- B It reduces the number of games being decided by flag fall
- C It reduces the number of games that require arbiter supervision
- D It allows the arbiter to remain at his desk rather than watch time scrambles

7 A player claims a draw by repetition. Do you ...?

- A Ask the opponent if he agrees
- B Note the position and play through the game on another board
- C Note the position and play through the game on that board
- D Tell the player you will come to his board when you have finished your biscuit

8 A seven year old leaves his queen hanging in a complex position. On realising this he begins to cry.

Do you ...?

- A Pause the game and allow him time to regain his composure
- B Allow the game to continue, taking no action
- C Suggest to the junior that they resign and get ready for the next game
- D Call over the parents and tell them to take their baby home

9 Two inexperienced players are playing on with K & R v K & R. Do you ...?

- A Watch the game waiting for 75 moves to be played
- B Explain to the players that a draw can be claimed after 50 moves
- C Tell the players that they should agree a draw
- D Order a takeaway to be delivered as you are going to be late

10 A player threatens to punch an opponent during a game. Do you ...?

- A Forfeit the player and ask him to leave
- B Pause the game until the player calms down
- C Attempt to charge those watching a spectator fee
- D Go to the cafe in case he tries to punch you too

ANSWER KEY

Scoring: A=1, B=2, C=3, D=5

10 to 12 Top class arbiter. Very conscientious. FIDE Category A

13 to 22 Room for improvement. FIDE Category D

23 to 35 Can I suggest that you need a refresher course?

36 to 50 You are either a Chief Arbiter already, grossly overweight, totally inept or any combination of these three!

Draw by Repetition – The Origins?

The rules for the London International in 1883 included the following: “The Chess rules adopted for the Tournament are the International Code as laid down in the last edition of the German Handbook, with the addition that if a series of moves be repeated three times the opponent can claim a draw.”

This is not the same as the current triple occurrence rule, because it refers to a repeated “series of moves” and not to positions. There had been earlier suggestions of draws by repetition. Possibly the first being specified with a number is in the September 1858 issue of *Deutsche Schachzeitung*. ‘Intentional repetition of the same series of moves results in a draw, and twofold repetition automatically legitimates that conclusion. A special type thereof is perpetual check.

This rule is unsatisfactory because the significance of the moves may depend on the position. The same moves may be repeated at different points in the game but the effect of the moves may be totally different, defensive in one situation but attacking in the other. This seems to have been realised during the London event and afterwards the rule was perfected by giving it the following wording: “If the same position occurs thrice during a game, it being on each occasion the turn for the same player to move, the game is drawn.” With some clarification that is essentially the modern rule, since it refers to positions, not to moves. It also does not require that the positions be consecutive. The tournament book suggested that the revised wording be used in future events.

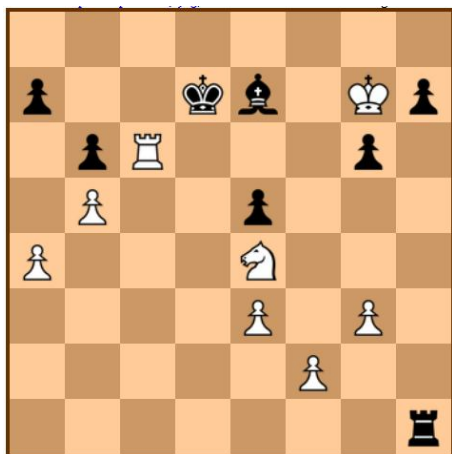
ARBITING MISTAKES?

Was an arbiting mistake made during the 1963 World Championship Match between Mikhail Botvinnik and Tigran Petrosian?

The round 5 game was adjourned. It is agreed Petrosian had the better position. Botvinnik claims that the following happened. The arbiter (or judge as they were then called), Harry Golombek, at the start of the adjourned session opened the envelope, looked at the scoresheet and made a move on the board. Petrosian protested energetically. Golombek’s reaction was to shrug his shoulders and to make the move that Petrosian insisted on.

At the time Article 17 of the Laws declared how a game was lost and 17.3 was “Who has sealed a move the real significance of which it is impossible to establish”. Botvinnik wrote in his book ‘Achieving the Aim’, “After my loss in this game I approached Golombek for an explanation (according to the rules if the judge is doubtful about which move has been made, i.e. if there is an inaccuracy in the writing, then a loss is awarded). Golombek replied that the move was indeed not clear, but he was not in agreement with such an interpretation of the rules. I was infuriated. This legal point had been decided when I was still a young man. I approached Ståhlberg – he supported the position of his colleague.”

Botvinnik subsequently claimed that this preyed on his mind for some time after and contributed to his loss later in the week.



The position at adjournment is given opposite. 41 Kf7 was played. It is not recorded what Golombek originally played as the sealed move (only that Botvinnik considered it losing), nor is a copy of the scoresheet in the public domain. Black resigned on move 48.

Botvinnik alleges that Golombek did not enforce 17.3 because he did not agree with it.

What is the truth of the matter? Was the move simply misread or was it 'ambiguous'? We will probably never know. The incident was not mentioned by Golombek in his article for BCM based on the event.

It Never Rains but it Pours!

In the County Championships an arbiter had an unfortunate run of luck. A player claimed the 5 second increments in his last two minutes and the arbiter agreed with his request.

The arbiter got a clock which had been set in the correct mode and therefore only required editing. Having acquired the clock and adjusted it to the correct time, the battery (presumably) dislodged, meaning the screen went black and then started flashing 01 again. (Or whatever the mode was.) So he had to fight through the crowd to get the second such clock that was set, and adjust it again. Necessary precaution was taken, but it was just one of those things.



Info supplied by Alex Holowczek (who wasn't the arbiter concerned).

The clock cutting out like this was a problem with DGT XLs which later models do not have as these store the time for a slightly longer period so if there is a brief break in the power supply the clock can revert to the

correct times. If you are unsure about the DGTs you are using a simple test is to switch it off. If the display remains for a second or two then you are using the newer model, if it goes off immediately you have an older model.

ACC statement regarding the European Women’s Individual Championship in Chavki, Georgia

This situation was covered in AMToo 9. Subsequently the FIDE Anti Cheating Commission issued the following statement. The statement covers the concerns raised in that article.

“ACC regulations were published in Tromso 2014 as an answer to the rising - yet not unknown - phenomenon of cheating in chess, especially at a time when electronic devices are becoming more widespread. FIDE has dedicated a lot of thought and resources to this particular issue, and supported ACC activity since its inception.

Apart from tackling specific computer-assisted cheating instance, the ACC has also been aware – from the very beginning – of the possibility that players, for whatever reason, could come up with false or unsubstantiated accusations – a phenomenon that is commonly called ‘witch hunting’. It should be pointed out that witch hunting might be not less serious offence than cheating itself, and the ACC Guidelines provide for investigation and possible sanction of instances.

In the last European Women’s Individual Championship in Chavki, Georgia, we seem to have witnessed such a case of unsubstantiated accusations. A letter was sent to the organizers asking to delay the games, singling out a specific player and asking to exclude her from the online transmission - without presenting proper evidence.

The ACC wishes to reaffirm that good or even outstanding performance by a player can never in itself be the basis for an accusation or complaint, and that it has published standards and procedures that must be satisfied by properly-submitted complaints. ACC will undoubtedly investigate and, if necessary, prosecute these instances when they come under the Commission’s attention.

As regards the incident involving Ms. Mihaela Sandu, and following an official Post Tournament Complaint filed by Ms. Sandu, the ACC has decided to nominate an Investigatory Chamber to establish whether there were violations of the existing Anti-Cheating Guidelines or the Laws of Chess.

Israel Gelfer

CAA Officials Elected at the 2015 AGM

Chair: Lara Barnes

Secretary: Alan Ruffle

Treasurer: Tony Corfe

Committee: David Welch, Kevin Staveley, Neville Belinante.

Chief Arbiter: Alex McFarlane

Information Officer: Alex McFarlane

ECF Delegate: Neville Belinfante

Chess Scotland Delegate: Alex McFarlane

Welsh Chess Union Delegate: Kevin Staveley

Independent Examiner: Richard Jones

ECF CEO

Phil Ehr addressed the CAA AGM in Warwick. He stated that in his opinion an organisation such as the CAA is needed. He stated that we should continue to grow the number of arbiters, especially younger ones. He agreed that the profile should be raised and suggested that the relationship between referees of other sporting bodies with the sports governing body should be looked at for ideas.

The review of the ECF Governance was

almost complete but it was not too late (but almost) for arbiters to make a submission.

He mentioned the Volunteers Code of Good Governance which the ECF were committed to.

Phil also suggested that we should be aware of potential arbiters. In particular parents could be utilised to help and could perhaps even become arbiters over time.

He named the English people of FIDE Commissions and highlighted that these people were on as individuals and were not ECF representatives. He expressed concerns that the CAA should not see itself as an official lobbying body to FIDE as this was the responsibility of the national federations. He did not want to complicate relationships.

The ECF had also been looking at an anti-cheating policy but nothing had been done yet. It was envisaged that the ECF would wait until the FIDE Commission's methods were fully implemented before the ECF would adopt these.

Phil was thanked for addressing the meeting.

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

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