

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

June 2015 Issue 8

EDITORIAL

Rule breaking continues to make the headlines. This time it is an Indian player of modest rating who suddenly was capable of beating a GM with some ease. He was caught because of his own stupidity. They say that no publicity is bad publicity but it is a shame that the chess stories that have made the main media have been detrimental to the game dealing with either cheating or sexism. In a new twist this issue reports on arbiters cheating. There have been some dodgy tournaments in the past to get players ratings or norms but now we have the case of the invisible arbiter.

Some potentially controversial items on the agenda for the AGM (see last page). Even if you are planning to attend why don't you email ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk with any comments you have to make. I believe that one or two positions on the committee may have no candidate. Anyone willing to apply for a position? Contested elections are always preferable to ones where the same people get elected year after year. Fresh blood is always welcome.

FIDE ARBITERS COURSE

Dave Clayton is organising a course which will provide a necessary norm for those seeking to gain the FIDE Arbiter (FA) title.

Date and Times

Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September 2015

Provisional Timetable

Friday 20.00-22.00 Tournaments/Laws

Saturday 10.00-14.00 Pairings/Duties of an Arbiter/Anti Cheating

Saturday 15.00-19.00 Clocks/Laws/Tie Breaks

Sunday 09.30-13.30 Pairings/Rating and Norms/Revision

Sunday 14.30-18.30 Exam

Location and Venue

The Legacy Preston International Hotel, Marsh Lane, Preston, PR1 2FY

Cost (including FIDE Exam Fee) Before 30 June £230 full board or £90 to non-residents. After £270/£110 respectively.

If interested contact organisercaa@gmail.com asap

MORE CHEATING

Another case of a player being caught cheating highlights the need for arbiters to remain vigilant and for players/spectators to remember not to have phones switched on.

This case is from India and is reported in THE HINDU. In the 5th round of the Dr Hedgewar Open 19 year old Dhruy Kakkar (rating 1517) was caught cheating whilst playing GM Pravin Thipsay who has played many times in Britain. Thipsay expressed his concerns as his opponent was taking the same time, about two minutes, to play complicated moves as he was to play simple recaptures. He also declined a draw offer on move 29 taking until move 87 to win.

A search of the player after the game revealed a micro speaker inserted in his left ear and phones strapped to each leg just above the ankle. The ear-piece allowed him to listen to moves from his co-conspirator who was 220km away using Fritz. The system used was actually quite simple. His accomplice would 'guess' Thipsay's move and if he was correct Kakkar would tap his foot. The accomplice would then give Fritz's reply which was then played. When caught the player admitted that he had used the same method in his previous 4 games.

It is often assumed that an accomplice can only be used if the games are broadcast live. An accessory at the venue would be conspicuous by his constant comings and goings from the tournament hall. This system had neither live transmission nor an on site assistant. Whilst most arbiters would be suspicious of someone beating a

GM 900 points above him, the significance of the regular time to play moves might not have been considered.

The player was immediately banned and reported to the All India Chess Federation and is expected to receive a lengthy ban. A previous case in India in 2006 where the culprit had a Bluetooth device stitched into his cap received a 10 year ban.

What should an arbiter be looking for?

A player having a good tournament is not in itself proof of cheating. Many players have one or two events where their performance greatly exceeds their grade. However, experienced players who continually outperform their grade should be observed carefully. Other indications would include

- frequent toilet visits
- puzzling delays in making moves
- making moves in complex positions faster than might be expected
- heavy clothing/headgear in a warm playing hall
- a spectator pays particular attention to one game, frequently leaving after one player has moved and possibly returning before the other has replied
- a player has many conversations with the same spectator/player.



FIDE Presidential Board Meeting (April)

The FIDE Board received a report from the Anti Cheating Commission which is currently investigating two cases. The Wesley So case was also discussed and referred to the Arbiters and Rules Commissions. It also agreed that action would be taken against the South African Federation unless it fulfils its obligations to the arbiters at the 2014 World Youth who still await reimbursement. This action would be to exclude Chessa. South Africa are already on the list of countries which are in arrears to FIDE and as such are suspended from taking part in various events.

ARBITING DILEMMA

In the final of the Richardson Cup, the Scottish Club team championship, the following nightmare situation arose.

One of the players was in a totally winning position but had let her time get very short (the time control was 40 moves in 2 hours). The opponent made his move and pressed the clock. The clock, a DGT XL, went off, beeped and reset itself to 00.

This is a known problem with the older DGTs. If hit hard then the battery can become loose for a fraction of a second and the clock settings are lost. Newer DGTs will retain the settings long enough for the power to be restored and the game continue without a problem. As the arbiter was resetting the clock the phone of the male player went off. The player had earlier given the phone to the arbiter to look after during play!

We now have two questions to consider. Was play in progress when the phone rang and should the player be defaulted if the arbiter is in possession of his phone?

In my opinion, there is no doubt that play was in progress. Games are halted for a variety of reasons, for example to check a claim by repetition. Would anyone expect a player to be able to switch his phone on during the checking process?

On the second point, the player should have switched the phone off before giving it to the arbiter. Had the phone given a low battery warning beep whilst in the arbiter's possession I might have been more sympathetic towards the player. In this case the phone also rang near to the time control. This is the worst time possible for it to happen as other games could be significantly affected.

From this point the arbiter's version of events and the player's differ slightly. The

player believes that he resigned here because the opponent had time to compose herself and would have made the time control. The arbiter believes the player was defaulted.

Call the police!

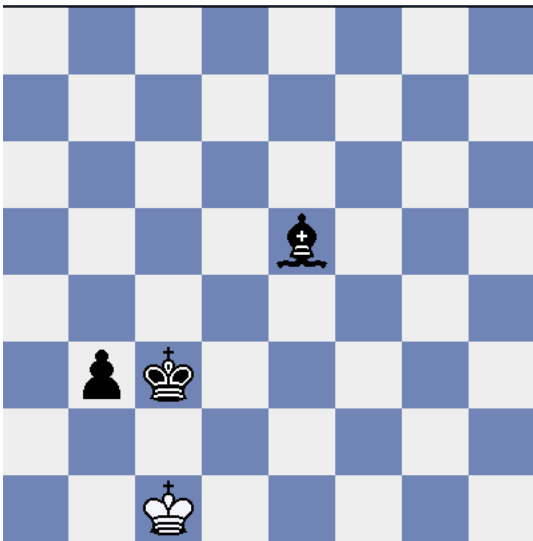


'Street Chess' is a weekly outdoor chess tournament that has been running in Canberra, Australia for 20 years. Street Chess is on almost every Saturday from 11am until 2:30pm. Street Chess is held outside King O'Malley's and Gourmet Chicken(!) in City Walk, Canberra City. Entry fees for the event are \$5 (Under 16 years Free), and there are \$100 in prizes every week.

Unfortunately the event on 18 April this year was halted during round 5 when the tournament laptop was stolen. The laptop was left unattended in the play area which has a low fence around it while the organiser, Shaun Press, played a friendly game. CCTV caught the thief in action.

Arbiters in Britain have had laptops stolen at events as well.

And the result is ...



In this position Black played **1...b2+** **2.Kb1**. Seeing that **2...Kb3** would be stalemate Black realised he had to make a bishop move and played **2...Bd6**. After **3.Ka2** black prepared to shepherd his pawn through with **3...Kc2** at which point White resigned.

Study the final position carefully. Is White allowed to resign?

5.2 a The game is drawn when the player to move has no legal move and his king is not in check. The game is said to end in 'stalemate'.

This immediately ends the game, provided that the move producing the stalemate position was legal.

Both players were surprised when the arbiter told them that the result of the game was a draw as White's resignation had come AFTER the game had ended.

Players often get annoyed when they blow a won game by stalemating an opponent. Imagine how much more annoying it must be to have your opponent's resignation ignored in such circumstances.

But what would happen if the arbiter hadn't been there and the result 0-1 handed in?

Law 8.7 covers this situation.

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.

So if the stalemate was discovered in the post match analysis it would be reasonable for the arbiter to correct the result. If it is discovered after the event and it would have affected the prizes then the result would stand, though the grading submission might reflect the correct result.

Colin Crouch †

It is with regret that we record the death of IM Colin Crouch. Although not known as an arbiter Colin had his own theories on pairing systems. The Crouch System which he proposed is described in detail in *Arbiting Matters 2 and 3* which are available for download from our website. As well as being a strong player Colin also wrote a number of books.

MONGOLIAN ARBITER SCAM

Two Mongolian arbiters have been dealt with by FIDE. The FIDE Arbiter Code which was discussed in a recent issue of AMII was not in force at the time of the offences so did not apply in these cases.

In both cases FIDE was misinformed of an arbiters activity in which two IA norms were claimed. IA Altan-Och Genden (MGL) filled in title application forms for FA Tserendorj Batsaikhan claiming that he had been the Chief Arbiter at both the 2013 and 2014 Mongolian Mens' Championship. It would appear that Genden himself

was the Chief Arbiter and that Batsaikhan was not present at either event. The norm forms were submitted to FIDE by the Mongolian Chess Federation (MCF). The norms were accepted as genuine by FIDE in Tromso.

A complaint was made and investigation by the MCF confirmed that the norms were not genuine. A look at Chess-Results.com also shows the actual arbiters involved. Several players also signed witness statements validating the complaint.

The Disciplinary Sub-Committee found the following:

1. We have no doubt that two IA certificates signed by Dr Genden Altan-Och, IA (ID:4900278) for IA title norms for Tserendorj Batsaikhan, FA (ID:2023334) were false and there are no doubts that IA Genden Altan-Och (MGL) on behalf of Mongolian Chess Federation sent the application to the FIDE.

2. We have no proof that FA Tserendorj Batsaikhan took part in this procedure, however we think this is very probable. The problem is that no candidate for any FIDE title is obliged to sign his application. From the theoretical point of view any representative of any national federation may apply for any FIDE title without sending any information to the applicant. We think it should be changed. Perhaps it is also possible to check who paid the application fee Euro 100 for the IA title, but very probably the Mongolian Chess Federation paid it.

3. We cannot even suppose, that FA Tserendorj Batsaikhan gave the false information to IA Genden Altan-Och regarding his tournaments because there is no doubt that IA Genden Altan-Och was present during the both events.

The punishments given by the sub-committee are as follows:

"As the questionable incidents occurred before the Disciplinary Regulations for Arbiters came into force it was not possible to apply these regulations directly. For that reason the subcommittee does not propose an imposition of a disqualification for a specific duration."

We discussed the kind of punishment for both persons IA Genden Altan-Och and FA Tserendorj Batsaikhan.

IA Genden Altan-Och

There is no doubt that IA Genden Altan-Och, in exercising his duties, did not comply with the Regulations of the Arbiter's Commission regarding the application of IA title as well as the principles of ethics and morality - see art. 1.1 Disciplinary Regulations (DR).

There is no doubt that he deliberately signed incorrect certificates of title results for arbiter - see art. 1.3g DR

The Commission recommended that IA Alton-Och be denied any position in a FIDE event (IA, IO or any others) from the present until 01 July 2016. This case should be also discussed by the FIDE Ethic Commission. It thinks, that as FIDE Delegate Dr. Alton-Och will no longer be accepted by FIDE.



FA Tserendorj Batsaikhan

The Commission is convinced that FA Tserendorj Batsaikhan took serious part in this procedure regarding his IA title and agree that his false application reached the FIDE Arbiter's Commission.

All his possible IA norms should be deleted, because he certainly was not the chief arbiter of mentioned events. It recommends that FA Tserendorj Batsaikhan also be denied any position in a FIDE event (FA or any other) from the present time until 01 July 2016.

A further suggestion is that the both names should be published on the website of the FIDE Arbiter's Commission as a warning for the possible followers.

Comment: This does not seem like a huge punishment under the circumstances. Had the new code been in operation it looks likely that a more severe punishment would have been issued. There is also the hope that the Ethics Commission will also issue a further punishment.

I have concerns about this part of the MGF submission.

"The MCF is kindly asking the FIDE Arbiter Commission to give short term ban for arbiting and downgrade above named Arbiters category, We hope you will consider that as a developing country Mongolia has limited number of experienced Arbiters and this factor should be counted against level of punishment above named Arbiters."

Having few arbiters I would have hoped made it more important that those that there are set a good example to any potential candidates. Isn't the submission a bit like asking for a reduced sentence for a murderer on the grounds that the population is decreasing!

The Committee do make a good point in expressing its concern that an application for a title on behalf of someone does not actually require that person to at least sign a form saying that they are agreeable to be put forward.



FIRE ALARM INCIDENTS AT 4NCL

At the last weekend of the 4NCL a fire alarm went off during round 9. The timing of it could have been worse. Had it been 10-15 minutes later then several games could have been in time trouble. As it was there were a handful of players short of time.

When the fire alarm went off one player had only 12 seconds on his clock (there were also 30 second increments with each move). Some players may have used the time to think of their next move and to calm themselves down. In this case the wait had distressed the player. The Laws allow for additional time to be given.

“12.5 The arbiter may award either or both players additional time in the event of external disturbance of the game.”

This was a good case for applying 12.5.

There was a touch of farce surrounding one other game. Only one player had returned. He claimed that his opponent was still outside and requested that the clock should be started. The arbiter refused but sent a colleague out to hurry the opponent up. The official went to the place indicated by the player and asked the person there to return. He was told that his clock could be started. The official gave this message to the arbiter who was surprised as the missing player had only a few minutes on his clock. However, the clock was started and the player present made an almost immediate move. The missing player arrived shortly afterwards to query why his clock was running. He explained that he had been to the toilet and had given no instruction to start his clock. The official confirmed that he was not the person that had been spoken to. The lost time was returned to his clock and the game continued.

An Incident from the European Seniors

I have been informed of the following incident. During a game in the European Senior Championship a passed white pawn on d4 is knocked over and replaced on d5. Neither player notices the error and the game continues. However, a spectator does notice and correctly informs the arbiters of what he believes happened. The arbiters have a look at the scoresheet but are apparently unable to confirm that the pawn is on the wrong square. They let the game continue until the time control is reached and then reconstruct on another board. Reconstruction showed that the pawn was indeed on the wrong square. Back at the game board the pawn was simply moved back a square and the game continued.

Comment: You would have hoped that scrutiny of the scoresheet could have been carried out without disturbing the players. It should not have been too difficult to find the last move of the d pawn although the situation could have been complicated by exd or cxd appearing on the scoresheet. If the players were short of time then it is understandable that the arbiters would be concerned about interrupting a game on the word of a spectator. Either player could have been quite annoyed if the game had been stopped and it was then discovered that the pawn was on the correct square. The arbiters may have decided that to wait until the time control was reached before examining the allegation was the lesser of two evils in terms of the action to be taken. If neither player was short of time then they should have investigated the claim sooner. In similar situations simply asking a player if he is sure about the position of the pawn may immediately have solved the problem.

However, having confirmed the irregularity the position should have been restored to immediately before the error occurred and the game continued from that position.

7.6 If, during a game, it is found that any piece has been displaced from its correct square the position 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. The game shall then continue from this reinstated position.

ARBITING MATTERS

I confess that I was wondering if anyone actually read Arbiting Matters II. However, recently I have had a bit of feedback, mainly positive, showing that people are taking some interest.

This issue comes quite quickly after the previous one. That is because there is a lot of arbiting related material around at the moment. The frequency of publication does depend on having sufficient material to fill at least 12 pages. We have managed 8 issues of the revamped magazine since September 2013, approximately one issue every 2½ months. Ideally I would like to increase this slightly to 5 or 6 issues a year. That requires more material from you. Please send details of any incidents you have witnessed or heard about to me. Did you have a situation that you are not sure you handled properly? Then let us know and everyone can contribute. Cartoons and pen pictures are also welcome.

More on Cheating

You may remember that at the 2010 Olympiad members of the French team were guilty of cheating. Coded moves were texted to the manager who stood behind certain players to indicate the square to move to. Among those banned by FIDE was Sebastian Feller. He was suspended for two years and 9 months but would be extended if his medal and prize money were not returned. FIDE recently published that it had had neither of these. However these have now been returned and FIDE announced on 6th May "Following the expiration of the ban imposed by the Ethics Commission and the return of the Prize Fund and Gold Medal by GM Feller, FIDE confirms that GM Feller can now participate in FIDE rated events."

The cheating may never have come to light had not a French official revealed the scheme. **Zurab Azmaiparashvili** the European Chess Union President said on the matter "I would also like to touch on the unprecedented case of Sebastian Feller and the cheating scheme unveiled by the French Chess Federation. Surprisingly, nobody talks about the heroic action of the Federation acting against its own player. Here follows a rhetoric question – are there many chess federations that would have acted the same way as did the French?"

Azmaiparashvili himself admits taking a move back in a game in 2005.

There are also accusations being investigated against at least one Bulgarian player. This case came to light when FIDE published a letter from its lawyers to the Bulgarian Chess Federation requiring contact details for a player for whom the Anti Cheating Commission had received a post tournament complaint. FIDE published what is effectively an open letter as it had been having trouble getting contact details for the player. The BCF has subsequently passed on the required information.

The complaint has been made against Ivan Tetimov who played in a tournament in Pamplona, Spain where he scored 7½/9. Whilst this is an impressive score his field of opponents was not as spectacular as the other cases, playing no-one more than 200 above his own grade at the time and no-one above 2255. It is a further tournament in Benidorm where he scored 8/9 which generated the complaint. Tetimov does come from the same area as Borislav Ivanov who was banned by the Bulgarian's in December 2013 after accusations of cheating. FIDE removed him from the following rating list. The Tetimov case is interesting in that it highlights fears that a number of people have about investigating allegations of cheating. As well as the

obvious searches for electronic equipment FIDE has developed software which will analyse games searching for correlation with computer programs. This software was created by Kenneth Regan an associate professor at in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Buffalo, New York State. Several people have expressed concerns that this software might produce 'false positives' where innocent people are accused of cheating because the software produces a high score when analysing games.

For those interested there is an article by Regan in Chess Life at

<http://www.uschess.org/content/view/12677/763/>

The Benidorm tournament organiser describes Tetimov as "a young guy from Blagoevgrad, who plays quickly, doesn't much look at the board and looks nervous... and has a relatively low rating that's suspicious, but this is not enough in itself."

The first complaint was made by his round 7 opponent before the game. The organisers decided that they would ask to search the player after the game. A high tech expert who had been hired for the event did a sweep of the hall scanning for frequencies that could be used for data transmission. This scan found nothing untoward. This, coupled with the fact that the game ended in a draw, caused the organisers to conclude that there was no point in searching Tetimov. In round 8 during play his opponent got agitated by the behaviour of Tetimov, looking away from the board, etc, stated that he was not going to continue the game unless Tetimov was searched. Tetimov agreed to the search and willingly took off his T-shirt and allowed an organiser to examine his ears. Nothing was found.



A miniature hearing aid of the type which might be used

Tetimov went on to win the game, though some say this was only because the opponent over pressed his attack. The game was fed into the chess engine Stockfish which should that while some of

the moves were good others were 'bad'.

Following round 9 the organisers of the Bali Festival in Benidorm again asked Tetimov to undergo a search. It is reported that he allowed one ear to be checked but not the other. As a result the player was expelled from the tournament and his

prize withheld.

It is reported that the round 8 game was tested using the FIDE software and was found to be very suspicious. Regan points out that this in itself doesn't necessarily mean anything.

With even low rated players using computer analysis in their preparation a high degree of correlation with computer suggested moves in the opening means very little.

The President of the Bulgarian Federation and former President of the European Chess Federation, Silvio Danilov, is quoted as saying *"In my personal opinion this management with the commissions appointed by them are not competent and professional enough to rule FIDE and the world of chess"* .

Danilov is a well known critic of FIDE but even allowing for this his words bring further concerns about the ability to detect cheats which it is hoped will be provided by the ACC.

Aeroflot Revisited

Further to the item in the previous edition of Arbitering Matters Geurt Gijssen who was the Chief Arbiter at the Aeroflot event where a player was accused of cheating writes in his Chess Cafe column about the incident.

It seems that a player informed the arbiter that he had heard something coming from the accused's jacket. After the completion of the game the player was asked in accordance with Article 11.3b to take part in a search. The player emptied his jacket pockets when requested but refused to give his jacket over to be examined. He also refused to show that the pockets were completely empty. Due to this Gijssen declared the game won for the opponent. Subsequently the organiser expelled the player from the tournament.

Therefore there is no proof that the player was cheating. He was thrown out under 12.9 for continually refusing to comply with the instructions of the arbiter to obey the laws.

CHESS AS A SPORT

The battle to have chess recognised as a sport has taken a step forward.

In a landmark law case a High Court judge has ruled that Bridge is “arguably” a sport and could qualify for lottery funding. Mr Justice Mostyn said the game could be said to be a legitimate sport under English law.

He has granted the English Bridge Union permission for a full judicial review of its status. Mr Justice Mostyn, who said he played Bridge on social occasions, heard a claim the game ought to be recognised as a "mind sport" that exercises the "brain muscle".

Sport England has refused to recognise the game and said it was no more a sporting activity than "sitting at home, reading a book".

Kate Gallofent QC, for Sport England, said the definition of a qualifying sport was an "activity aimed at improving physical fitness and well being, forming social relations and gaining results in competition".

The judge also indicated that chess could get involved in the case. As well as being eligible for funding from sports bodies there would also be VAT advantages in terms of hire of premises if chess was recognised as a sport.

In 1999, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognised that

Bridge and Chess should be recognised

as mind sports. Chess was a demonstration sport at the Melbourne Olympics and FIDE is hopeful that it will soon be included in the Winter Olympics.

The judge granted the English Bridge Union permission to mount a full judicial review challenge to Sport England.

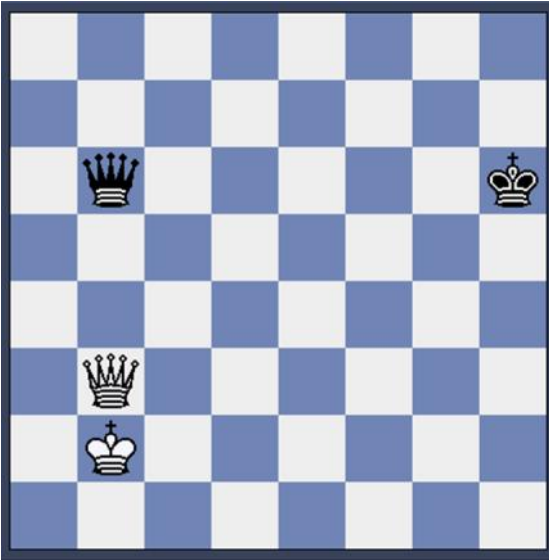


Charitable Recognition

Stewart Reuben reports that the Charities Commission has accepted that the British Chess Championship, though having professional players, is for the benefit of the general chess public. This would allow it to come under the charitable activities of the ECF.

A LOOK AT NEW LAWS

A change to the Laws was introduced last year. One of the alterations affects the duties of an arbiter in declaring a game drawn. Previously the arbiter could only declare a game drawn when checkmate was no longer possible or in the last two minutes of a players time and then only if requested. There is now a five fold occurrence rule and a 75 move rule.



In this position White has just played Qxb3. At which move should the arbiter declare the game drawn under 9.6a (same position 5 times)?

- 1...Qd4+ 2.Qc3 Qf2+ 3.Qc2 Qb6+
- 4.Qb3 Qd4+ 5.Qc3 Qb6+ 6.Qb3 Qf2+
- 7.Qc2 Qd4+ 8.Qc3 Qf2+ 9.Qc2 Qb6+
- 10.Qb3 Qd4+ 11.Qc3 Qb6+
- 12.Qb3 Qf2+ 13.Qc2 Qb6+
- 14.Qb3 Qd4+ 15.Qc3 Qf2+
- 16.Qc2 Qd4+ 17.Qc3 Qb6+
- 18.Qb3 Qf2+ 19.Qc2 Qb6+
- 20.Qb3 Qd4+ 21.Qc3 Qb6+
- 22.Qb3 Qf6+ 23.Qc3 Qf2+
- 24.Qc2 Qf6+ 25.Qc3 Qf2+ 26.Qc2

Qd4+ 27.Qc3 Qb6+ 28.Qb3 Qf6+ 29.Qc3 Qf2+ 30.Qc2

If you have given a move number then you are wrong. The position must occur on alternate moves. Although there have been many repetitions of positions they do not satisfy 9.6a. The arbiter will need to keep counting until part b is satisfied!

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

- a. the same position has appeared, as in 9.2b, for at least five consecutive alternate moves by each player.*
- b. any consecutive series of 75 moves have been completed by each player without the movement of any pawn and without any capture.*

Annual General Meeting

1845 hours Sunday 2nd August 2015

Warwick University

- Apologies for absence-

Guest speaker-to be confirmed (10 minute presentation)

- Minutes of the previous AGM
- Matters Arising-

Subjects for discussion

(1) Should all arbiters become recognised by FIDE

(2) Has the CAA outlived its usefulness and if so should it continue ?

(3) Should there be revision courses for experienced arbiters ?

(4) Should there be seminars on the laws of chess for League captains ?

(5) Should the CAA seek to have greater influence over decisions taken by FIDE ?

(6) After attending the 'World Youth Championships' In South Africa there was a failure by the organisers to pay the arbiters. Should the CAA have an agreed rate for English events ?

(7) Should the CAA have basic fees which should be recommended to event organisers i.e. Hotel accommodation, £0-45p mileage and £25-00/ day subsistence

- Chairperson's Report-Lara Barnes
- Secretary's Report-Alan Ruffle
- Treasurer's Report-Tony Corfe
- Election of Officers
- Date of next meeting

Alan Ruffle (Secretary)

The minutes of the previous meeting are on our website.



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

ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk