

# Arbiting Matters Too



**Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association**

**March 2016 Issue 14**

## **Editorial**

Can I thank you for the feedback and contributions.

A significant part of this issue is devoted to the FIDE Anti-Cheating Seminar. FIDE is sending mixed messages to arbiters on this matter. The FIDE Arbiter Training Courses have been extended by an hour to cover this topic and ensure that all future arbiters are aware of the problems and ways to limit the possibility of cheating taking place and going undetected. Rated events are being told that they must implement the guidelines or face having rating refused. Simultaneously FIDE cut backs (due to court cases at CAS) have resulted in the software program which would have allowed Chief Arbiters to directly enter games if they had any suspicions has been put on indefinite hold. In addition the ACC programme of visits to events has been halted.

With the nature of most chess played in Britain it is easy to think that the problem is unlikely to affect us. There is very little professional chess and most prizes can readily be described as pocket money rather than earnings. This, however, does not mean that cheating will not happen. Profit is not the only reason for cheating. Ego can be another and even pressure from friends can make a player want to do better than their ability allows.

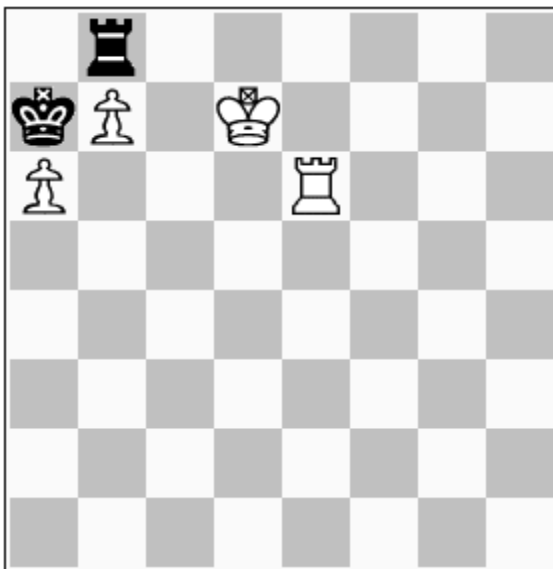
The Turkish Chess Federation received major sponsorship from a bank. The bank was originally supporting other sports but when these were no longer seen as being 'clean' the bank switched to chess. While I think that saying that a cheater is a chess terrorist is too strong every arbiter should be aware that cheating might be happening.

## YOU ARE THE ARBITER

The following actually occurred at a congress. What would you have done as the arbiter? At this event the arbiter on the scene actually phoned a more experienced colleague. Fortunately the game was the last of the round to finish.

White had been a piece up but got short of time so 'simplified' into the following position.

Black plays Rc8. White removes the rook from the board and picks up his queen. As he does so he realises that promoting to a queen would result in stalemate. The surprise/shock/realisation makes him drop the queen. It lands on the board on e1 approximately. The clock is still running. What would you rule? See page 16



### Arbiting Mistakes?

With the news that the dates of the Olympiad have been changed it seems appropriate to look at some arbiting decisions made at these events.

The Olympiads require large numbers of arbiters. The quality of the arbiters is often variable. Many years ago the Scottish Teams suffered two weird experiences. In the first case when the arbiter was approached about a draw by repetition claim he resolved the matter by running away! In another game the player had reached move 60 and asked for a new scoresheet. The request was denied because she still had time on her clock! This was in the days before increments and there was a perpetual time control of 20 moves per hour after 40 moves. In the latter case the arbiter did apologise for getting it wrong. Many of the less competent arbiters are locals who are brought in to keep costs down though that is not always the case.

The last Olympiad in Tromsø also threw up a number of incidents. An Irish player was ordered back to his board because his opponent had moved. This was done not by the player's captain but by the arbiter who should have known better. Players and captains were not allowed to stand behind the opposing team. This arbiter also disturbed players thinking when enforcing this rule.

Another arbiter may have been a bit officious in the case of a Danish GM. The GM moved and as he was about to get up his opponent replied. The arbiter stopped the GM from going to the toilet despite the opponent indicating that it was OK. Believe me you would only have gone to the toilets in Tromso if it was really necessary!

In another match the two scoresheets in a game differed by 3 or 4 moves. In a weekend Swiss this would be understandable but with only 4 games to watch the arbiter should have been aware of failures to record. Arbiters were also expected to write down the move number and clock times every 30 minutes, thus making it harder to have failed to notice discrepancies.

Clock alteration could produce problems. Before the first round I had to show several arbiters how to set a clock despite them being told to learn the previous day when time was provided for this. Arbiters who failed to ensure clocks were paused when there was a delay caused by the unfortunate death of a player had to reset them. I heard of one who couldn't do this and more worryingly was on to his third arbiter before finding one to help him out.

There was also an accusation that Kramnik disturbed the opposition and the arbiter ignored that team's captain's complaint. He was blamed for making cracking noises when breaking chocolate, a ruffling noise when separating the chocolate from the paper, a plastic-popping noise when opening a box of almonds, and squeaking noises when opening the thermos he kept under the table. It does seem surprising and unlikely that a player of Kramnik's standing would act like that at the board.

The Arbiters at Tromso are shown below



## FIDE ANTI-CHEATING SEMINAR

On 24th February FIDE conducted an anti-cheating seminar over the Internet. The Lecturers were IO Yuri Garrett (ITA), Secretary of the FIDE Anti Cheating Committee and IA Takis Nikolopoulos (GRE), Chairman of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission.

The Anti Cheating Guidelines were gone through in detail and at length.

The first point to be raised was the legality of conducting searches. It is accepted that this is illegal in many countries however the players have accepted the possibility of being searched. Players can refuse but if this happens then he will lose the game or may be expelled from the tournament.



Garrett scanning players at an event.

Any search conducted should be by someone of the same sex but that right can be waived by the player. Anti cheating regulations should be posted. Possession of notes was raised as another concern that arbiters have. For example was it appropriate to asking to see a wallet for such notes? It was felt this was an unlikely scenario unless an opponent had raised a particular concern. An example was given of a player who had a bulge in his clothing and who frequently left the playing hall. At the end of the game the arbiter asked the player what was causing this. The player then produced a tin of cigars from his pocket. It was important to wait until the end of the game as it would have been unfair to disturb an innocent player. The opponent had previously been informed that action would be taken at the end of the game. This reassured the opponent that action would be taken if necessary.

The meeting then went on to discuss various types of detectors. Thermal imaging devices have the problem that they may identify a medical condition ( e.g. swelling) so are not recommended. Devices which detect transmissions were rejected on two grounds — the message would be too small to be accurately located and there are so many frequencies that even registering such a transmission would be unlikely. A metal detector was considered to be the best cost effective method of detection. Yuri Garrett described the cheater as a chess terrorist. The reason for this statement was that if cheating was to become more common and nothing was to be done to prevent it then sponsors and benefactors would be much less likely to sup-

port an activity which was not seen as clean.

Returning to scanning with a metal detector it was noted that earrings needed to be removed before the scan and that shoes too might have to be taken off as some contain metal which would give a false positive. It was emphasised that the scanner should be used and not just sit on a desk although even that would have some value as a deterrent.

Methods of concealing devices within the body were discussed. The attendees were told that wires would be detectable leaving body orifices and that these areas should be scanned. There was a firm belief that such a method had been used but as yet no details could be given as a case is pending. Players going to the toilet should expect to spend an extra 20 seconds away from the board being scanned. A player who leaves the room should expect to be scanned on return.

Players have to know that these procedures are for their protection. When requesting that a player be scanned arbiters must be pleasant and reassuring. (Not at this course but it has been suggested that the first scans should not be random but on forewarned agreeable players which will reassure others that the process is both painless and applicable to all.) Player resistance is normal. Best practice must be disseminated. Arbiters need to be proactive. Arbiters would need to be aware of those with pacemakers. They should still be scanned even though the scanner will be activated.

The meeting went on to consider jammers which are mentioned in the guidelines. These are illegal in Britain and many other countries and should not have been put in the document. They will not appear in the revision.

It was suggested strongly that every arbiter should buy a metal detector for their own use.

Other security measures were then raised. One suggestion was to have designated areas which should be marked on a floor plan and published. For example if using a hotel areas in green (allowed) could be the playing hall, toilets and smoking area but the bedrooms would be in red. Spectators can be allowed in the playing area but players must not be in the spectator area.

Game screening has not been widely implemented as had originally been intended due to budget restraints. If arbiters have a suspect their games can still be sent to Professor Regan (regan@buffalo.edu). This software doesn't always prove guilt but does prove innocence. If there is a suspect then note when the player leaves the room and the move number. If strong moves are played on return then a possible case is strengthened, and obviously the opposite also applies. If the software shows

concerns the player should not be targeted (If innocent this is upsetting, if guilty then they have been warned). Don't warn the player but the arbiter should maximise the chances of catching them. It was suggested that if you scan a player then you should also scan the opponent. This is not intended as part of the random scanning process but as part of additional checks, for example following an allegation. Periodic use can be detected by studying the habits of the player (disregarding some games e.g. where the player might expect to win anyway can increase the significance of others). Intelligent cheaters are more difficult to catch. Intelligent cheating could involve not always using computer moves, not choosing the optimum reply, etc. The software used also looks at the performance of the opponent and takes this into account. An unexpected win is much less significant as a measure of potential cheating if the opponent was playing badly.

Tournaments currently don't have to comply with these guidelines but there is a push to change this. It is likely that tournaments will not be rated in the future. The wording of the guidelines is to be strengthened at General Assembly in Baku in September. Following this the guidelines are likely to become rules.

Due to the budgetary restraints on site inspections have been halted but when reinstated there will be a need to comply with any reasonable request from ACC. Refusing arbiters may be suspended.

Importantly if a player makes an allegation this must be in writing. If the player refuses to do this the arbiter can ask the player to downgrade it to a request for extra protection. A player can ask for extra protection without making any type of complaint. An arbiter should normally comply with such a request.

A player makes complaint but refuses to sign complaint then arbiter should inform him that he will do it for him. If the complaint is made public then this must be done. Such complaints should be passed on to FIDE. Players who make malicious complaints could find themselves suspended.

## **SANDBAGGING**

This has received much publicity recently on social media. The term has nothing to do with protecting your chess club from the recent flooding but is used to describe someone who keeps their grade artificially low by deliberately losing games in order to win grading restricted events.

I don't want to discuss the particular case as that has been dealt with elsewhere and there is no clear proof. However, what does an arbiter do if made aware of such an accusation? In truth the answer seems to be 'not a lot'. It could certainly be classed as bringing the game into disrepute but proving the accusation is very difficult. How

can an arbiter tell that the player wasn't ill when a game was lost. Even more difficult would be to disprove that a loss was not stress induced through work or family problems.

There have been several cases of players grades plummeting and then going back up where although accusations were made the drop was clearly due to health problems.

In the USA they have a rule that even if your rating does fall you cannot enter tournaments with a limit below your peak (there can be exceptions but these must be applied for). But even this method would not stop a player who has bad tournaments before the good one.

Perhaps the best solution lies with organisers insisting that such players must play up a section (or two).

## FIDE ARBITERS' MAGAZINE



The second edition of this can be downloaded from the Arbiters' Commission section of the FIDE website. Many of the cases it mentions have already been covered in Arbiting Matters Too. However, Case C deals with a mobile phone switched off and in plain view of the opponent during a weekly team tournament in Prague. The article is critical of the arbiter for also playing in the event. There is nothing technically wrong with this as the event was not one which gave title norms, which is banned by the FIDE regulations. If he were the only arbiter then he could have been in an awkward position if he had had to rule on a situation involving his team. Should the arbiter have defaulted the player for having his phone on the table? By the rules then the answer to this must be yes. The fact that his phone had initially been in his pocket at the

start of the game leaves him open to accusations of getting advice on the opening being played before putting the phone in plain view. If the phone had been put on the table before the start of play then it could be strongly argued that although the letter of the law was broken, the spirit of it had been maintained. I cannot help thinking that if the arbiter was not playing then he may have been approached by the player and asked for a bag. It would be hoped that the phone would have been spotted considerably earlier. This is significant because of the timing of the opponent's claim. This opponent does not seem to have covered himself in glory. He did not record for a significant time and he waited until he had a lost position before making a claim against the phone's owner. Unfortunately I cannot think of any way of depriving him of the full point. Suggestions?

## LETTERS

*Stewart Reuben responds to various items in the last issue.*

In Britain we are not very hierarchical in our administration of chess. Thus people are arbiters, organisers, assistants, stewards, move inputters, webmasters, pairings officers, secretaries, entry acceptors, publicity officers, accommodation officers, refreshment organisers, venue liaison, commentators, coaches, etc.

People see what needs to be done and get on with it. You are an arbiter in the open section and see a problem in the minor and go to sort it out. FIDE are very keen on categories. The Arbiter Categories are clearly defined. This is probably better than having a meeting and saying, 'He should be Category B as I seem to remember he was once a Sector Arbiter in an Olympiad.' Or more likely, 'He's a nice chap. Let's make him Category B'.

Geurt Gijssen and I set our faces against the introduction of a Senior Arbiter title some years ago. Also in the past, before the introduction of FIDE Arbiter exams, I felt holding of a BCF Arbiter title was a more reliable indicator of their expertise than a foreign IA who I didn't know.

The term 'Senior Arbiter' could be misinterpreted. Internationally it might be thought to refer to an Arbiter 50+. Chief Arbiter for an event seems to be reasonably well defined.

In the description of the Lawton incident in St Louis the account overlooked one salient point. Who was to move in the final position? If it was White he was completely winning with 1 d6. If black, he is entitled to overlook 1...Kh6. It is a pet gripe of mine that I am often asked about situation without giving all the facts. e.g. no position; what type of event; was there an independent arbiter; was it a junior event, what was the rate of play, etc.



Matthew Carr's excellent article on Senior arbiters.

In my opinion, an arbiter should have experience of conditions in countries other than the British Isles in order to be regarded as truly experienced. We tend to have a homogenous view of how things should be done. Elsewhere opinions differ. I also believe he should be of a certain minimum playing strength. I tried to get introduced into FIDE a rule that new IAs should be of, at some time or other, a minimum of 1600 rating. I may have suggested 1800, and have been willing to be argued down. This didn't meet with a favourable reaction, possibly because some arbiters have never played competitively. There was a king and pawn against king endgame at Hastings some years ago. It was mishandled by both players. I was very impressed that David Welch took the time, after the game ended, to guide the two mature, but weak, players through the theory.

When we created the title it was for life. One of the criteria was we believed that individual would be sensible and objective enough to step down if he became too elderly or infirm.

An anecdote. The names and provenance have been omitted to protect the guilty. At one British Championship an individual was being extremely rude and overbearing towards one of the young players after the game, outside the playing room. I told this person that, if he continued with his behaviour, he would be excluded from the playing venue. The person in question was the father of the player. After that, I could do no wrong, in the eyes of that parent.

## **Why Arbiters SHOULDN'T wear suits**



At the recent British University Championships the arbiters were requested to wear suits. This could be seen as adding a bit of status to the event. It is certainly common in some countries to wear more formal dress, for example in both India and South Africa the arbiters wear official blazers.

Unfortunately in Britain this form of dress is often misinterpreted. I give three examples from that event. At breakfast an arbiter was asked by another guest to refill his coffee, another arbiter directing players to the hall was asked by a stranger to validate a parking voucher and two other arbiters were asked about parking conditions by a gent who was surprised to learn that they didn't work there.

## Illegible Scoresheets

**TRADEWISE**  
GIBRALTAR CHESS FESTIVAL

White **GAPONENKO, INNA**  
Black **CRAMLING, AN**

Event \_\_\_\_\_ Date **1/2/96** Round **2** Board **35**

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1 e4	c5	25	h2	49	h2
2	5f3	26	h2	50	h2
3	27	27	h2	51	h2
4	5d7	28	h2	52	h2
5	h2	29	h2	53	h2
6	5d3	30	h2	54	h2
7	00	31	h2	55	h2
8	h2	32	h2	56	h2
9	h2	33	h2	57	h2
10	5d3	34	h2	58	h2
11	h2	35	h2	59	h2
12	g7e	36	h2	60	h2
13	h2	37	h2	61	h2
14	h2	38	h2	62	h2
15	h2	39	h2	63	h2
16	h2	40	h2	64	h2
17	h2	41	h2	65	h2
18	h2	42	h2	66	h2
19	h2	43	h2	67	h2
20	h2	44	h2	68	h2
21	h2	45	h2		
22	h2	46	h2		
23	h2	47	h2		
24	h2	48	h2		

**Tw**  
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**TRADEWISE**  
GIBRALTAR CHESS FESTIVAL

White **Gaponenko**  
Black **Cramling** 2523

Event **Gibraltar Masters** Date **1.02.16** Round **17** Board **35**

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1	h2	25	h2	49	h2
2	h2	26	h2	50	h2
3	h2	27	h2	51	h2
4	h2	28	h2	52	h2
5	h2	29	h2	53	h2
6	h2	30	h2	54	h2
7	h2	31	h2	55	h2
8	h2	32	h2	56	h2
9	h2	33	h2	57	h2
10	h2	34	h2	58	h2
11	h2	35	h2	59	h2
12	h2	36	h2	60	h2
13	h2	37	h2	61	h2
14	h2	38	h2	62	h2
15	h2	39	h2	63	h2
16	h2	40	h2	64	h2
17	h2	41	h2	65	h2
18	h2	42	h2	66	h2
19	h2	43	h2	67	h2
20	h2	44	h2	68	h2
21	h2	45	h2		
22	h2	46	h2		
23	h2	47	h2		
24	h2	48	h2		

**Tw**  
Tradewise Insu  
www.trade

Continuing on the theme of illegible scoresheets from the last edition we have a contribution from Alex Holowczek. This game was played at the 2016 Tradewise event in Gibraltar. Both scoresheets refer to the Gaponenko—Cramling game. The team there were unable to decipher the moves. Either scoresheet would provide a challenge but normally the moves played can be worked out by alternating between scoresheets. Can anyone here do better?



This seems to be as far as they got.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cd4 4. Nd4 a6 5. Bd3 Bc5 6. Nb3 Be7 7. O-O d6 8. f4 Nd7 9. Qe2 Qc7 10. Nc3 Ngf6 11. Bd2 b6 12. g4 h6 13. Rae1 Bb7 14. g5 hg5 15. fg5 Nh5 16. g6 Bf6 17. gf7 Ke7 18. Be3 Be5 19. Nd4 Ndf6 20. Qg2 Raf8 21. Nce2 Rf7 22. Nf3 b5 23. Ne5 de5 24. a4 b4 25. Qf2 Kf8 26. Bb6 Qd7 27. Qc5 Kg8 28. Qb4 Rh6 29. a5 Rg6 30. Kh1 Rg4 31. Nc3 Qe7 32. Bc5 Qc7

## Dangers of Chess in Prison

An inmate in the Fayette County Prison Georgia, USA is facing charges for an alleged robbery and assault involving another inmate and a chess piece.

According to the criminal complaint, the incident happened in October, but charges were not filed until the end of January.



Derrick Maddox, 31, is accused of taking several candy bars from an inmate, punching the man twice and forcing him to insert a chess piece in his rectum.

The victim claims Maddox entered his cell, woke him up and told him to hand over his supply of candy bars bought from the prison equivalent of the Tuck Shop.

The victim refused and was punched twice in the ribs. During the incident, a chess board was knocked over and some pieces landed on the floor.

At that time, the victim claims Maddox told him to insert one of the pieces into his rectum. The victim said he complied because he was afraid of Maddox.

Police reviewed surveillance footage of the incident, in which the victim can be seen leaving his cell and walking uncomfortably with a wide stance.

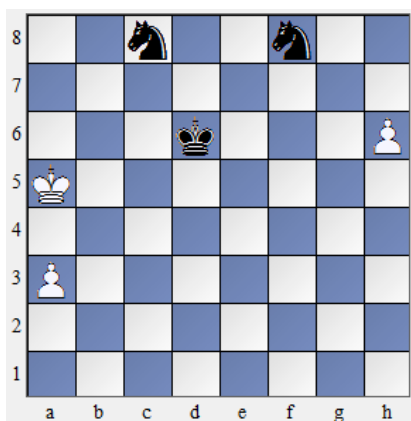
Maddox is facing a list of charges including, simple assault, robbery, theft and harassment.

## 50 Move Rule

What is the history of this rule? One of the forerunners to chess, shatranj, had a 75 move rule. It is believed that the 50 move rule was introduced in Ruy Lopez's 1561 book *"Libro de la invención liberal y arte del juego del Axedrez"*. 24 moves was thought to be sufficient by Pietro Carrera. In 1617 he wrote and published *"Il Gioco degli Scacchi"*. Louis de la Bourdonnais however believed that it should be 60 moves. Fifty moves was considered enough to get checkmate with best play. In the late 1980s and early 90s the number of moves could be increased for certain positions but by 1997 this reverted to 50 moves for all positions. The 1993 Laws even implied that it could be extended to 223 moves for K, B and R v K and 2Ns. The Law is still evolving and the 2014 Laws brought in the latest change when the arbiter should declare the game drawn if 75 moves have been played without a pawn move or capture.

Different versions of the early Laws had different means of applying this rule. In most cases the count only started when requested by one of the players and could not be applied to moves which had already taken place. In some cases this then applied regardless of the moves, effectively the opponent had 50 moves to get mate even if there was a capture or pawn move. In other versions a capture or a pawn move would restart the count, usually without a further claim having to be made.

The following are games which historically may have influenced the 50 move rule.



A dispute arose in the 10th game of the 1895 match between David Janowsky and Jacques Mieses. In the position given Mieses has just played 64 Kxa5. On the following move he then claimed that the 50 move rule should be applied. This caused an immediate problem as the rule commonly used in France was that the number of moves should be 60. The referees present decided that the moves should be counted and the question put to a higher authority if necessary. A pawn capture caused the count to be restarted and when the game was adjourned at move 137 the count was at 59. Before resumption the

game was agreed drawn. The game produced calls for standardised rules or at the least the rules governing a match should be clear on all points. The magazine "*Stratégie*" then started a debate as to whether a game could be declared drawn if a mate was possible but, even with best play, it would take more than 50 moves. Indeed that magazine 4 years previously had demonstrated that there were positions with the material still in action in that game which would require 70 – 75 moves to achieve mate.

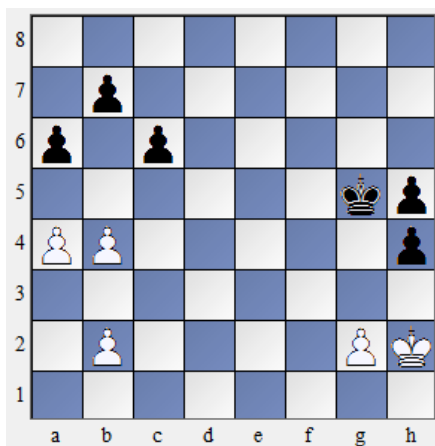
An 1880 Correspondence game in Canada caused quite a stir at the time when the opponent of (Joseph?) Shaw invoked the 50 move rule after having lost a queen for a knight on move 6! Under the rules in force this meant that Shaw had to get mate in the next 50 moves or the result was a draw. Shaw, who had expected his opponent to resign appealed to the controller, a Dr Ryall. Ryall decision was that it was within the opponent's right to do this. Shaw continued under protest but made sure that the chess press of the time was aware of the situation. The general feeling then was that the rule was to prevent protracted endings and should not be used to try to save a hopelessly lost game.

In a further case the following rule applied in the 6th American Chess Congress of 1889. The game was between Max Judd (White) and Mikhail Chigorin (Black).

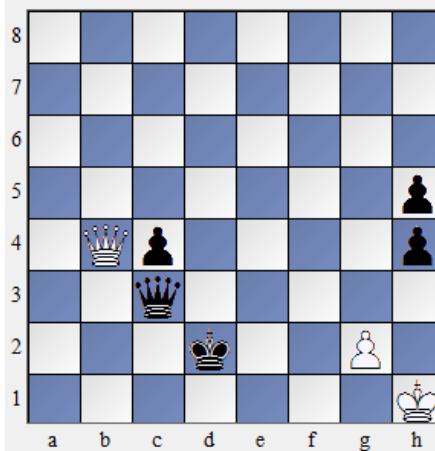
The rule in place was:

**COUNTING FIFTY MOVES:** "If, at any period during a game, either player persist in repeating a particular check, or series of checks, or persist in repeating any particular line of play which does not advance the game, or if 'a game-ending' be of doubtful character as to its being a win or a draw, or if a win be possible, but the skill to force a game questionable, then either player may demand judgment of the Umpire as to its being a proper game to be determined as drawn at the end of fifty additional moves, on each side; or the question: 'is, or is not the game a draw?' may be, by mutual consent of the players, submitted to the Umpire at any time. The decision of the Umpire, in either case, to be final.

And whenever fifty moves are demanded and accorded, the party demanding it may, when the fifty moves had been made, claim the right to go on with the game, and thereupon the other party may claim the fifty move rule, at the end of which, unless mate be effected, the game shall be declared a draw."



This is the position where Judd invoked the 50 move rule following 46 a4. The game continued 46 ... b6 47. b3 a5 48. ba5 ba5 49. b4 ab4 50. a5 b3 51. a6 b2 52. a7 b1Q 53. a8Q Qb5 54. Qg8 Kf4 55. Qd8 Kg4 56. Qd7 Kg5 57. Qg7 Kf5 58. Qf7 Ke4 59. Qf3 Kd4 60. Qf2 Kc3 61. Qe1 Kb2 62. Qd2 Ka3 63. Qe3 Ka4 64. Qd4 Qb4 65. Qa7 Kb3 66. Qe3 Qc3 67. Qb6 Kc2 68. Qf2 Kd3 69. Qf3 Kd2 70. Qf4 Kd1 71. Qf1 Kd2 72. Qf4 Ke2 73. Qe4 Kd1 74. Qf3 Kc2 75. Qf2 Kc1



76. Qf1 Kb2 77. Qf2 Qc2 78. Qb6 Ka3 79. Qa5 Qa4 80. Qc5 Kb3 81. Qe3 Kb4 82. Qd2 Kb5 83. Qb2 Qb4 84. Qe2 Kb6 85. Qe3 c5 86. Qe6 Ka5 87. Qa2 Kb5 88. Qd5 Qf4 89. Kh1 Kb4 90. Qb7 Kc3 91. Qg7 Qd4 92. Qe7 c4 93. Qa3 Kd2 94. Qb4 Ke2 95. Qb5 Kd2 96. Qb4 Qc3 giving the final position shown.

The finish of the game, as described by Steinitz on page 33 of the tournament book:

*"Mr. Judd stated afterward that he played the greater part of this ending in reliance on his having the legal right of claiming a draw if he could only extend the game to fifty moves after he had claimed the count without being mated. Having accomplished his object he refused to go on with the game, which he might have done under protest without damaging his rights. But his interpretation of the rule was not sustained on appeal, and Mr. Judd was also adjudged to have forfeited the game on the ground that he did not abide by the decision of the umpire to proceed with the game."*

The captures and pawn moves between moves 46 and 96 do not invalidate the claim under the wording of the rule.

Now Max Judd was, among other things, a diplomat but it is understandable how he failed to transfer those skills to the situation given. It is understandable that he was trying simply to reach 50 moves rather than to reach 50 moves with the best position possible.

Notice also the wording of the last paragraph of the Law. If the game is undecided after 50 moves the player who made the claim may reject the draw. This seems to mean that if your position improves then you can decide to play on, effectively withdrawing the draw claim. The opponent can then invoke the 50 move rule at the end of which the game is declared drawn, presumably even if that player no longer wants it! It is unclear to me what would happen if the second player himself asked for the 50 move rule to be applied before the initial 50 moves was reached.

A much more recent case comes from the Donner Memorial event in Amsterdam in 1995. The game between Alexander Khalifman and Valery Salov ended in a draw but not before the then Laws were brought into question. Khalifman correctly indicated that his next move would be the 50th without a pawn move or capture. At that time the Laws allowed a player to do this for a repetition of position claim but not for a claim under the 50 move rule. The Laws were very soon changed to remove that anomaly.

## **WHY ARBITERS LOVE COMPUTERS**

A team withdrawing is always a problem. A team withdrawing from an all-play-all section of the 4NCL at a late date can be a bigger problem than normal. Their opponents may have already booked accommodation and will not be too happy to have a free day. This happened in Division 3 North.

A triangular match was arranged between the two teams who would have had enforced time off and the other team who was due to play them that weekend. This type of match is normally no great problem and happens regularly in the divisions run as a Swiss. Then however the software is set up to deal with the situation. In this case there was to be two matches which were won by default, two matches held over two days instead of one day each and another match which was to be regarded as a friendly for grading/rating points only.

It was decided to use the normal 4NCL triangular match pairings. This may in retrospect have been a mistake. In normal matches the colours alternate down the team. This is not possible in the triangular matches where WBBW or BWBW patterns are much more common.

So what were the problems with the program?

Firstly there was no way to change the colours to fit in with those generated for a triangular match. Even though I e-mailed the correct pairings with colours to the captains at least one player started his preparation with what appeared on the website (and it had to appear on the website because of the other matches!). The correct results were put in and colours ignored. At the end of the first day the website showed a win by default and a half match. It also showed a half match for the following day. The league table showed one of the half matches counting as a full match for points and the other half match not counting at all—well it hadn't taken place yet according to the computer. Three results in the friendly match did not appear anywhere.

Bad enough but things were to get worse (fortunately I realised the potential problem beforehand). The captains entered their teams for the following day. If the teams were not the same order this affected the pairings for the half match that had already been played. This had to be changed back to what it was. In addition the teams submitted for the previous day had to be amended to reflect the pairings for the forthcoming remaining half match.

Nothing major but a real hassle. It seems very likely that should a similar situation occur again then it is the 'friendly' match that will suffer and the colours in the proper matches will alternate thereby saving the problem of incorrect info on the website.





During the exam at the FIDE Arbiter Seminar at Birmingham there was much merriment when Sabrina Chevannes was accidentally brought a second lunch. Was she trying to bribe the arbiters in charge or was she trying to bulk herself up to Senior Arbiter proportions?

### **You are the Arbiter**

a) the choice of the promoted piece was not finalised as the queen had not touched the promotion square. (4.4 d)  
b) as the clock had not been pressed, the default-to-queen requirement for unspecified promotions (7.5 a) did not apply.

In the game play did continue with the player promoting to a knight (a rook would still have been stalemate). Obviously the decision taken was correct.

### **CAA Officials**

Chairperson - Lara Barnes  
Secretary - Alan Ruffle  
Treasurer - Tony Corfe  
Chief Arbiter - Alex McFarlane  
Information officer - Alex McFarlane  
Committee - David Welch, Kevin Staveley and Neville Belinfante.  
ECF delegate - vacant  
Chess Scotland Delegate - Alex McFarlane  
Welsh Chess Union - Kevin Staveley  
Independent Examiner - Richard Jones



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

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