

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

August 2016 Issue 17

Editorial

Congratulations to David Welch on his FIDE arbiters award.

The Home Nations have sent in comments for discussion on the revision of the Laws of Chess to take place during the Olympiad. I believe that they are opposed to the idea that quickplay finishes should be removed from the Appendices but are in favour of the Laws promoting increments. The Chess Scotland submission runs to 7 pages.

A forum and Facebook recently had strong criticism of an arbiter for forfeiting a player who in a blitz game knocked over a piece on his way to pressing the clock. The clock was pressed before the piece was replaced. It is unlikely the player could have stopped himself from pressing the clock after displacing the piece. The opponent claimed the game and the arbiter agreed. The problem with the criticism was that the rules of the tournament stated that was what should happen. (See Atishoo! Atishoo!)

Many players and some arbiters want the Laws to be more prescriptive in terms of punishments. I do not agree with that. If we consider the above case. If the piece had been knocked over on move one then the opponent has had a minor inconvenience and possibly a warning to the offender is enough but if the piece was knocked over with only two seconds on the opponent's clock then it could be a major factor in the outcome of the game and a more severe punishment could legitimately be given.

The Laws of Chess are getting steadily more prescriptive but is that for the good of the game?

David Welch Award

Included in the 2016 Arbiters' Awards made by the FIDE Arbiters Commission is ECF Chief Arbiter David Welch. I will not attempt to make a comprehensive list of events that David has been involved with in his organising career spanning from the 70s to the present day. David was heavily involved in a number of the major events that were held in England in the chess boom years.

Also gaining the award is Honorary CAA member Geurt Gijssen.



The awards will be presented at the Olympiad in Baku.

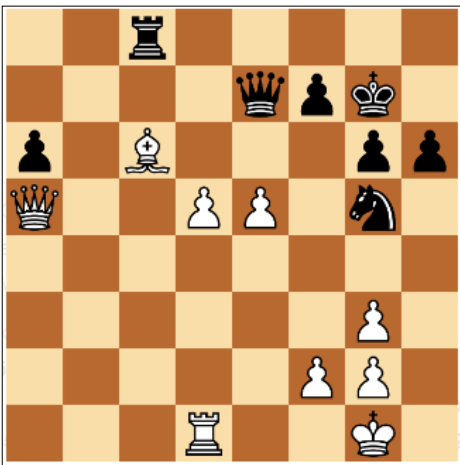
A-tishoo! A-tishoo! They all fall down.

There has been quite a bit of controversy surrounding an episode which took place in the Maharashtra Chess League Knock-Out tournament in India.

A match between the Pune TruMasters and the Mumbai Movers ended in a 3-3 draw. As a result for one of the teams to progress to the semi-finals one player from each side was to compete in an Armageddon game, the winner's team progressing. (I have it on good authority that the Mumbai Movers were not named after the result of a dodgy curry.)

Abhijeet Gupta (well known in Britain) was selected by the Mumbai team to play against SP Sethuraman (Pune). Gupta won the toss and chose the white pieces and 5 minutes. His opponent had only 4 minutes but the advantage of the draw allowing his team to progress.

The position shown was reached. White played 46 Qxa6. In the process of making the move the queen became unstable and as the clock was pressed it toppled over. Under the rules of the competition Sethuraman claimed the win which was given. The rules stated that anyone



starting the opponent's clock with a displaced piece would forfeit the game.

The times left on the clock were 1 min 23 secs and 42 seconds respectively.

On the same day and at the same event Srinath Narayanan claimed a win in the similar way against Adhiban Baskaran. The second incident has attracted next to no publicity.

The reason the first incident attracted attention was that it was mentioned by Emil Sutovsky, Chairman of the Assoc of Chess Profesionals, on his Facebook page.

“Let us talk about an important problem - and in the age of ever-decreasing time controls it becomes more important than ever. ... Playoff stage of the Indian Team Championship has reached the Armageddon game between the leaders of the teams, Grandmasters Abhijeet Gupta and Sethuraman SP. GM Gupta is in full control from the very beginning, he controls both his emotions and the situation on the board. GM Sethuraman is visibly nervous, shaking the table and pressing clocks too strong on several occasions. That doesn't seem to help, as Gupta is firmly on his way to a decisive win. Suddenly, ... something unexpected happens... Sethuraman rightfully claims a win and awarded one. Gupta takes it classy, but his team is out. Now, don't blame Sethuraman for bad sportsmanship - he was absolutely in his right, claiming a win, but I see a very important problem here. Series of minor fouls - and I am talking not about this particular game, but in general (and not only blitz!) - remain unpunished. Shaking the table, banging the clock, placing the pieces between the squares, covering the 25% of the board by your head and body...all these are rarely noticed by the arbiter. There are players who are extremely nervous throughout an entire game, and playing them is very uncomfortable. There are players, who start misbehaving only being short of time, but this is a poor excuse. A player who behaves like that doesn't even get a warning, although his opponent is seriously irritated. I know what I'm talking about - being easily irritated by an opponent, I also seem to forget regularly about proper manners, once entering a time-trouble phase... As it is now, one can do almost anything, as long as it is not specifically restricted - and arbiters would never do anything. Whereas you can lose the game for some really minor sin. Something has to be done here.”

I contest the phrase “rarely noticed by the arbiter”. I often have the dilemma of deciding if my intervention would be more off-putting to the innocent party than the observed behaviour. I usually only step in during a time scramble if the opponent

gives me a pleading look or if the situation obviously needs the arbiter to react. On numerous occasions I have spoken to a player after his game warning that if an opponent did complain I would be taking stronger action. On one occasion I spoke to a player about several piece adjustments made after he had started his opponent's clock. From the ensuing conversation it was clear that neither player had been aware of the infringements and my intervention would have annoyed both players.

An Asian junior tournament lists in its rules that a second offence of dropping pieces will result in a loss.

Arbiter Errors? The 2001 FIDE Knock-Out World Championship

Remember when reading this that the Laws at the time did not allow for the normal Laws of Chess to operate when there was one arbiter per game as there was in this case, albeit that the arbiter was fully committed to recording the moves. The Blitz rules state that any corrections to the position of the pieces or clock times should be made before 3 moves were completed. At that time Blitz was also less than 15 minutes.

During the event there was a close fought encounter between Ehlvest and Radjabov. The players had tied in their previous 4 games and were now down to two blitz games to decide who progressed to the next round.

The announced time control was 5 minutes with 10 second increments. However, and this is not disputed, in the first game no increment was added.

Radjabov with Black had a good position but noticed he was short of time. He then played some moves in an attempt to build up some time. These moves were poor ones and his position became lost. His flag fell with his opponent having 3 seconds left.

Radjabov protested immediately citing that the clocks had been set wrongly. The protest therefore came after the game and not during it.

The arbiter assigned to the match had been recording the game and had failed to see that no increments were being added.

It would appear that the clock may have been set correctly initially by one arbiter but a second arbiter had changed it to 5 minutes and 10 seconds with zero increment instead.

The Chief Arbiter had to make a decision. It would seem that there were three options open to him.

- a) let the result stand
- b) continue the game with extra time added to both players' clock
- c) replay the game

A fourth option of taking the game back to the position before Radjabov played his weak moves is not a real option. It cannot be proved when this happened.

The Chief Arbiter asked both players if they knew during the game that there was no increment being added. Both players confirmed that they did. What is unclear is when they knew this. Radjabov certainly didn't appear to know it until late on. Neither pointed this out during play.

It was decided to start the second game and to further consider what should be done in the first. This game was drawn. Versions of events from the time say that either this was done without dissent from the players or that the players were **ordered** to play the second game, which implies that there was some dissatisfaction with the decision.

At the conclusion of the 'second' blitz game the CA then announced his decision regarding the first game. He went for option b to continue the game with both players receiving extra time (both players to get 7 minutes). Radjabov appealed this as in the final position he was clearly lost. The point was also made that the second game would have been played differently if the result of the first had been known.

The Appeals Committee backed the CA. It must be remembered that an Appeals Committee should not decide if they would have reached a different decision but should only consider if the decision of the arbiter was reasonable. It decided that since more than 3 moves had taken place the decision of the arbiter was reasonable.

To my mind there is no doubt that the decision of the CA was reasonable if it had been made before the start of the second game. Did delaying it until the other game had started make it any less reasonable?

It can also prevent problems if an arbiter sets the clocks and another arbiter checks the setting.

At a weekend congress it is not feasible to check the settings of every clock before the start of a round but at a prestigious event where arbiters are responsible for a relatively small number of boards I would expect it.

Radjabov refused to continue the game and was thereby eliminated from the competition. His case was severely weakened by his not taking action during the game.

Should Arbiters Do This Too?

A Swedish footballer has been sent off after a referee accused him of "deliberate provocation" and "unsportsmanlike behaviour" after suffering flatulence during a

match.

Adam Lindin Ljungkvist, who plays for Pershagens SK, was taking part in a game against Jarna SK's reserve team in the seventh division of Swedish football.

However, the left-back was shown a second yellow card in the 93rd minute after letting off an audible fart close to the referee. (2 yellow cards = 1 red card = a sending off)



"I had a bad stomach, so I simply let go," the 25-year-old told *Lanstidningen Sodertalje*, a Swedish on-line newspaper. "Then I received two yellow cards and then red. Yes, I was shocked, it's the strangest thing I have ever experienced in football.

"I asked the referee, 'What, am I not allowed to break wind a little?' 'No,' he replied... I don't get it but maybe he thought I farted in my hand and threw the fart at him. But I did not."

He added: "To provoke anyone with a fart is not particularly smart or normal. It's nonsense – I just broke wind and got a red card."

"I spoke to the referee afterwards, I was annoyed, but there were no bad words. I just said he was a buffoon."

"I think it was a crappy judgment. Now I just laugh about it. There is no one else who has heard of this before, I've never heard of anyone who has been sent off for farting."

The sending off in the last few minutes probably had little effect on the outcome as his team lost 5-2.

The incident does raise the question of what the reaction would be if an arbiter ordered a chess player out of the playing hall for a similar action. It is not unknown for players to make such an allegation against another player. B.O. however is a more common complaint, with smelling of tobacco still up there.

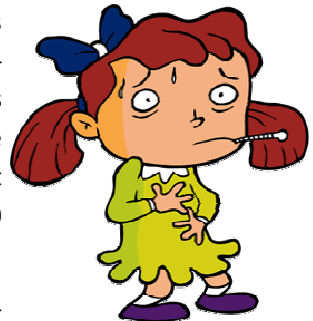
Some Mothers Do Have Them

I was called over to a board at the recent Blitz event in Edinburgh one of a series of events organised by Dave Clayton. One player was claiming the game because his opponent had made an illegal move. The opponent was contesting the claim. He

admitted that his last move was illegal but claimed that because he had pressed his clock it was now too late for the claim to be made. He insisted that the claim had to be made before he pressed the clock. The player making the claim was confused by this logic and simply kept repeating “But you hadn’t made the illegal move until you pressed the clock.” I didn’t point out that he really meant ‘completed’ rather than ‘made’ but did confirm that the claim could only be made after the clock was pressed.

“Being an arbiter at youth events is like being nibbled to death by cats”

What prompted the above quote? It is as a result of an incident at this year’s Canadian Youth Championships. At this event the default time is 30 minutes. About 10 minutes after the start of play a parent of one of the players arrives to inform the Chief Arbiter that her son is unwell. Another arbiter is sent to inform the opponent. This is done and the clock is stopped. At this point it is uncertain if the player will be fit enough to play the game. The opponent is informed of this and told there will be a 10 minute delay. At the end of this time the arbiter informs the opponent that the medical situation means that the delay has been extended and it is not known if the player will be able to compete. About 45 minutes after the scheduled start the player enters the hall to start the game. The clock is reset and the game begins. Provided the schedule allowed time for this, and although I may have left the ten minutes on the clock, the actions of the arbiters seem normal and appropriate. Unfortunately the parent of the opponent does not see it this way. He claims that the game was only delayed because it was the son of an organiser and that at the very least his son should have been awarded the game after 30 minutes. He refers to the incident as “Clock-Gate”



It is obviously distracting for someone to have the uncertainty of whether they are going to actually have a game hanging over them. The opponent is in 10th Grade so is a young teenager and is an experienced player having achieved some success in his Province.

The father’s (over)reaction continued with him going to print to equate the actions of his son’s opponent to being of a dubious nature. He states “Bobby Fischer was accused of gamesmanship in his world championship game against Spassky, Fischer would show up late for his game, there was a hue and cry that it had an adverse im-

pact on Spassky. However chief arbiter Lothar Schmid had Fischer's clock running, he did not either pause it or reset it. I did say to my son that he should have dealt with such nonsense and he should not have let this nonsense impact him in any manner. However it is easy to advise than to deal with it, it did impact Spassky a world champion, there is so much written about it. " So there you have it. Spassky lost his World Championship because Fischer arrived late for games. It is alleged that the father has a bit of history where arbiters and his son is concerned.

In this event parents are banned from the tournament hall.

I raise this matter because, although this is an extreme example, it does show the problems that face arbiters of junior events where the children are seldom the problem but the parents can be a nightmare.

The question remains—"How do you deal with a troublesome parent?". The 'easy' solution of banning parents from the tournament hall, as we have seen here, does not work. Few organisers are, understandably, willing to ban children because of their parents.

In many cases explaining to the parent as well as the child involved can solve problems but in some cases this does not work and in extreme cases can even inflame the situation.

Until children can divorce their parents I guess arbiters are just stuck with the problem.

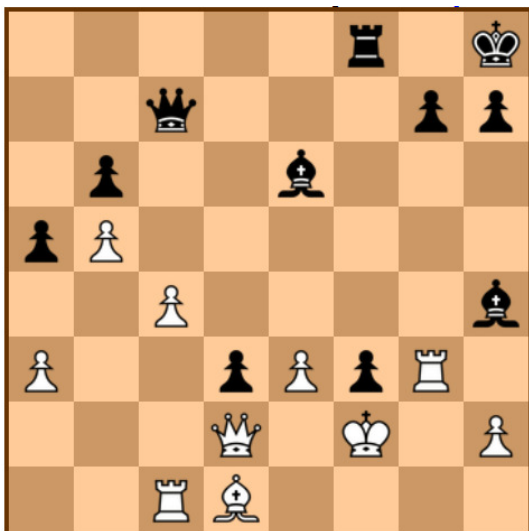
History - First Loss on Time

It is believed that the first loss on time occurred in 1882 at Vienna in the event billed as the Second International Chess Tournament. The tournament was extremely strong and was an 18 player all-play-all double rounder organised to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Vienna Chess Society which had been formed in October 1857. It was financed by millionaire Ignaz von Kolisch (an honorary member of the club) and Baron Albert Rothschild (club President and member of the banking family). Emperor Franz-Joseph donated a special prize.

The tournament was won jointly by Steinitz and Winawer who each scored 24/34 followed by Mason 23, McKenzie and Zukertort 22½. The event was held between 10 May and 24 June with a time control of 15 moves an hour with a two hour break after 4 hours. Play commenced at 10am daily. Games not completed at

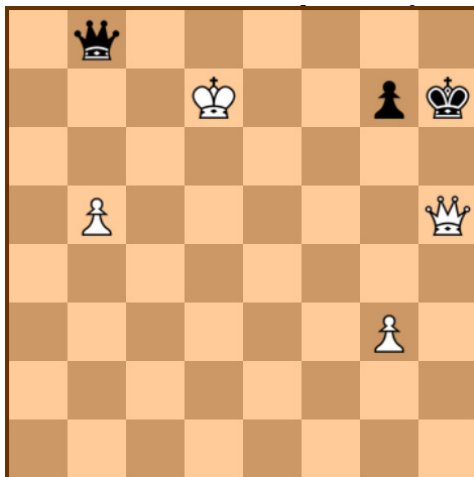
midnight were adjourned to be completed on a rest day. Timing devices were used but the concept of a double clocks was not known. It would be the following year before two linked pendulum clocks would be used in competition.

The game recorded as the first loss on time was played in the fourth round held on May 13 and was between James Mason and Henry Bird. Mason was making his 30th move when his time expired. Bird did not wish to claim the game under those circumstances so it continued with Mason eventually winning.



Mason v Bird 1. d4 f5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 e6 4. a3 b6 5. Bf4 Bb7 6. e3 Be7 7. Nf3 O-O 8. Be2 Ne4 9. Ne4 fe4 10. Nd2 d6 11. Bg3 Bf6 12. Qc2 c5 13. Ne4 cd4 14. Nd6 Bg2 15. Rg1 Bc6 16. Bg4 e5 17. Be6 Kh8 18. Nf7 Rf7 19. Bf7 d3 20. Qd2 Na6 21. b4 Nc7 22. Bh5 e4 23. Rc1 a5 24. b5 Bd7 25. Bc7 Qc7 26. Rg2 Be6 27. Bd1 Rf8 28. Rg3 Bh4 29. f4 ef3 30. Kf2 (see larger diagram)

(Bf5 31. Bb3 Bxg3+ 32. hxg3 Qd6 33. e4 Bxe4 34. Re1 Qd4+ 35. Re3 Bg6 36. Bd1 Be4 37. a4 h5 38. Qa2 Bb7 39. Qa3 Rd8 40. Qe7 Qb2+ 41. Ke1 d2+ 42. Kf2 Qd4 43. Qxb7 h4 44. Qxf3 h3 45. Qe4 Rf8+ 46. Kg1 Qc5 47. Qe5 Qxc4 48. Qh5+ Kg8 49. Bb3 Rf1+ 50. Kh2 Qxb3 51. Rxb3 d1=Q 52. Qxd1 Rxd1 53. Rf3 Rd4 54. Rf4 Rb4 55. Rxb4 axb4 56. a5 b3 57. axb6 b2 58. b7 b1=Q 59. b8=Q+ Kh7 60. Kxh3 Qh1+ 61. Kg4 Qe4+ 62. Kg5 Qd5+ 63. Kf4 Qd4+ 64. Kf5 Qd5+ 65. Qe5 Qd3+ 66. Ke6 Qd8 67. Qe4+ Kg8 68. Qd5 Qb8 69. Kd7+ Kh7 70. Qh5+) 0-1



The position when the players finally stopped playing is shown opposite. There are now slightly different versions of the story as to who made a complaint

to the organising committee. It is agreed that it was spectators/other players who witnessed the incident but it may have been Steinitz himself who raised the matter. Regardless the Committee met to discuss the situation and ruled that the loss on time should take precedence over Bird's resignation. In this manner was chess history made.

The reversal of the result played a significant part in determining the winners. With an extra point Mason would have also finished on 24 points and would have taken part in the play-off (Steinitz and Winawer tied 1-1) though some feel that without the set-back Mason would have continued in better form to win outright.

The second half of the tournament was marred by several default wins as players near the bottom withdrew or missed games. How many club championships throughout the years have suffered from that same problem?

Arbiter Intervention

The previous article highlights a problem that is still with arbiters today. An infringement of the Laws has occurred, should the arbiter take action? Usually there is no problem. The Laws of Chess state that the arbiter should take steps to ensure that the Laws are upheld. But what happens if neither player wants the Laws to be applied? Two situations come to mind.

Situation 1. A player touches a piece but moves another. The move made is weaker than any which could be made with the original piece. What should the arbiter do?

Situation 2. A player fails to notice that he is in check. He makes a move which leaves himself in check. This is pointed out. The check is blocked with another piece and the game continues. The arbiter points out that the original touched piece can make a

legal move (but it would be captured for nothing). The opponent says that he does not want to win in that way. What should the arbiter do?

In both situations the Laws are clear. The arbiter should step in and enforce the touch move. In Situation 1 it is not for the arbiter to adjudicate on the position. It should be irrelevant if the second move is stronger or weaker than the first. How-



ever, it is important that the arbiter is certain that the original piece was touched and that “j’adoube” or similar was not said. In a number of games I have been reasonably sure, but not certain, that a piece was touched. In those cases I have watched the body language of the opponent to help make my decision. A look towards me is normally an indication that he expects me to step in but I infer that so to would be a slight shake of the head or an involuntary start. An upheld palm is usually a sign that the player is silently questioning what has happened. It could also be the body language of the offender that is important in deciding. As a teacher I often suspected that a pupil had done something from their reactions and then bluffed them into confessing. In Situation 2 it is very tempting to allow the players to continue if that is what they wish. But as the previous item shows the result of one game can have an effect on the rest of the tournament. It is also possible that the players had failed to realise what should happen. In an Open a couple of years ago I was called over to give the two minute penalty following an illegal move when one of the players failed to spot the check. He then moved another piece and I stepped in to insist on the touch move. The opponent, a 200+ player, immediately thanked me for doing so as he had overlooked that the touched piece could be used to block the check. I’ve also been approached by Major players who realised in the post mortem that the touch move had not been observed. At that point, of course, it is too late to do anything.

Arbiters should also be aware that players don’t always say what they mean. As a very inexperienced arbiter I had an adjournment to restart. The sealed move was illegal. I declared the game lost. The opponent then made a great show of stating that he didn’t want to win that way and how hard done by his opponent had been. As a result of that I wondered out loud if it was acceptable to assume that the move could be regarded as what the player had intended, so although wrong its real intent could be taken. I foolishly asked the opponent if he could interpret the move to be what was intended. He was non-committal but still insistent that it would be a terrible way to win. Even as an inexperienced arbiter I couldn’t come to reverse my original decision. However, the player that had claimed he didn’t want to win in that manner went to the organiser and complained that I had put him in an awkward position and had pressured him to continue the game.

Under USA rules there are several situations where the arbiter will only intervene if requested by a player. Some suggest that FIDE should do likewise. A common response to this is to ask what the arbiter would do if the opponent wasn’t present at

the time of the offence and so was unaware of it.

Whilst it might be tempting to turn a Nelson's Eye to certain situations, arbiters must be careful that decisions not to act in accordance with the Laws could come back to bite them. Allowing players at the bottom end of a Minor to do what they like might have no consequences but doing the same thing at a top International event might bring considerable media criticism and a lack of future invitations to officiate.

Letters to the Editor.

Statement by Tony Rich in Response to Comments in AMToo 15 and AMToo 16

I would like to correct some misunderstandings the author has and clarify the situation for Arbitering Matters Too readers. Firstly, the name of the event was the "Ultimate Blitz Challenge", and it featured not only Garry Kasparov, but also U.S. Champion Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura and Wesley So. Secondly, the Ultimate Blitz Challenge was an unrated exhibition event. Thirdly, the decision



I made regarding Wesley So occurred in the 2015 U.S. Championship. And finally, I was the organizer of the Ultimate Blitz Challenge - not the arbiter.

Sincerely,
Tony Rich

Only in America

In the USA they have a rule that Black supplies the equipment at a tournament. There are exceptions to this rule. For example a digital clock should be used in preference to an analogue and normal Staunton sets should be used. It has been known for a Simpsons Set to be used where both players agreed. There is also provision for an organiser to insist that their equipment is used.

This convention led to an interesting situation at a small local event. An elderly gen-

tleman had an expensive wooden set which he wanted to play with. The tournament director insisted that one of his sets must be used instead. It is reported that his sets had seen better days and were of the quality more associated with the analysis room at British events than the tournament hall.

The elderly gent was not happy with this decision and withdrew asking for his entry fee to be returned. His withdrawal was accepted but the refund was refused.

Unfortunately for the event the rejected player was a local politician who then went back to the local authority who owned the building where the tournament was being held and had its let revoked. Security arrived and ordered the tournament to be halted and everyone to leave. As a result of the dispute the local club, who organised the event, has also lost its free use of its club room.



The Tournament Director/Arbiter who made the decision was not local and was brought in because it was thought his experience would avoid disputes getting out of hand!

The elderly gent who had the tournament stopped was not allowed to gloat for too long. His grandson was one of the competitors affected and his

wife has been less than happy that her grandson had his enjoyment curtailed.

A day in the life of a Congress Organiser

07.30 Check emails for overnight entries/withdrawals from the events.

08.30 Cook breakfast for guests—including bookstall owner

09.15 Check e-mails, backup files, etc

11.30 Head for venue.

11.50 Drop off passengers and look for parking space

12.10 Arrive at venue. Switch on urn, print draw for two afternoon events, wash dirty cups from day before.

12.20 Arrange tables and put out sets for evening round

13.00 Start afternoon round.

13.10 Check for late entries/withdrawals for weekend event.

13.15 Enter competitors into computer

14.30 Enter first games finished into computer

Repeat above three steps until 15.50.

15.50 Bookstall owner announces his van is missing

16.00 Discover his van has been taken to the pound because he was illegally parked.



Find location of car and take said owner to Police Pound.

17.15 Arrive back at venue

17.30 Do draw for round 8 of afternoon event

18.00 Set up hall for evening round of weekend event

18.15 Print out draws for evening event

18.45 Start evening event

19.00 Eat sandwich

19.15 Enter remainder of games from the afternoon.

21.45 End of evening round and general tidy up for following day's 10am start

22.15 Tell 'authorities' that we are finished for the night and hall can be locked up

22.20 Walk to railway station to meet partner. Due to renovation work I am not allowed near platform

22.32 Miss partner. As I await at top of stairs she uses elevator!

23.00 Find partner and set off for home.

23.20 Arrive home and make supper for guests

00.20 And so to bed...

Perhaps not quite a typical day but, with the exception of the towed car, a not totally unusual day in the life of the organiser.

FIDE News

The new FIDE Arbiters handbook is now available for download.

Go to <http://arbiters.fide.com/> and choose 2016 Arbiters Manual from the menu on the left hand side. A pdf file will download.

The third edition of the FIDE Arbiter magazine will now be distributed during the meetings in Baku in September.



Members of the Arbiters Commission

Regulations for the Titles of Arbiter (Proposed Changes)

The following changes are proposed. They are highlighted in red. There is a change in the constitution of the Commission and tightening of what are acceptable norms. In addition NAs will have to be approved by the Arbiters' Commission. This leads to questions about the speed of the process. Other changes: (a) norms of unlicensed arbiters will not count and (b) a Chief Arbiter who is only an NA will not be allowed to sign for an IA title norm for any arbiter working under him.

1.1.6 The Arbiter Commission is appointed by the General Assembly for the same period of office as the FIDE President. The Commission shall include a Chairman, appointed by the FIDE President, a Secretary, appointed by the Chairman in consul-

tation with the FIDE President **and a number of experts, decided by the Chairman in consultation with the President**, who shall have voting rights in the Commission. No federation shall have more than one representative in the Commission.

1.1.8 The Commission usually makes its decisions in the sessions immediately preceding the opening of the General Assemblies, **and before Presidential Boards and Executive Boards**.

1.1.10 National federations may register their Arbiters of National level(s) with FIDE after approval by the FIDE Arbiters' Commission.

2.1.5 Arbiters of national Level must be at least 16 years old.

5.2 For the FIDE Arbiter title the norms must include tournaments (according to 3.5) with at least seven (7) rounds. Only one (1) tournament with at least five (5) rounds shall be accepted.

For the International Arbiter title the norms must include tournaments (according to 4.6) with at least nine (9) rounds. Only one (1) tournament with at least seven (7) rounds shall be accepted.

In case of norms from Team Tournaments the number of rounds where the applicant was an Arbiter must be at least five (5) and it must be indicated in the FA1/IA1 form.

If the Chief Arbiter is Arbiter of National Level, he cannot sign any certificate for International Arbiter title.

6.8 If the article 6.6 is not fulfilled (*Arbiters must be Licenced*), the tournaments shall not be rated **and any Arbiters' norms shall not be accepted**.

REGULATIONS FOR THE TRAINING OF THE CHESS ARBITERS

Changes here are that people wanting to become Arbiter Trainers will need to complete forms FL1 and the main lecturer and Federation official FL2.

Added to the syllabus is FIDE Competition Rules and standards of chess equipment. In order to cover anti-cheating measures the duration of the course is increased to 18 hours.

REGULATIONS FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE CHESS ARBITERS

There is some clarification and some added restrictions on the requirements to be an IA at category B.

Proposal for Changes to the Training of Arbiters

The following radical proposal submitted by the late Sevan Muradian was proposed. If accepted it will mean that arbiters at all levels (NA, FA and IA) will require to attend a course and pass an exam before obtaining the title. Currently this only applies at FA level. There is also a proposal for the continuing education of arbiters. The frequency of these 'refresher' courses is not stated but there is an implication that it will be done annually. There is no indication of the expected cost of such

courses.

Currently the FIDE Arbiters Commission provides for a single training program for arbiters at the FIDE Arbiter (FA) level. National Arbiters (NA) and International Arbiters (IA) are not required for any training prior to achieving the title. Currently NA's are provided the title based on requirements set forth by their national federation.

First, the training of the NA must be taken under the auspices of the FIDE Arbiters Commission. NA's are capable of presiding over and submitting results for FIDE rated tournaments. Without uniform training, the FIDE Arbiters Commission cannot ensure that those with the NA title have appropriate exposure to all knowledge required to competently execute their duties.

National Arbiter (NA) Training

- 6 hours of recorded video training divided into 6, 1 hour videos;
- Topics to cover to include Laws of Chess, FIDE Rating Regulations (sections 1 – 7 & 9), Swiss Pairings, Tie Breaks,
- Online multiple-choice examination requiring a passing score of 80%;
- Course and examination cost to be determined by the FIDE Arbiters Commission in conjunction with the FIDE Treasurer.

FIDE Arbiter (FA) Training

- 12 hours of online or classroom training;
- Topics to cover include detailed workings of Swiss Pairings & Tie Breaks, International Title Regulations, Regulations for the Titles of Arbiters, Competition Rules, FIDE Rating Regulations (sections 8, 10-13)
- Examination which is to include calculations of titles, pairings, tie breaks, and ratings requiring a passing score of 80%.
- Examination cost to be determined by the FIDE Arbiters Commission in conjunction with the FIDE Treasurer.

International Arbiter (IA) Training

- 12 hours of online or classroom training;
- Topics to cover include case analysis of actual or hypothetical situations that can arise in events;
- Essay based examination of 6 case studies displaying the necessary competency level from an IA candidate on the application of all materials (FIDE Laws of Chess, Rating Regulations, Title Regulations, Competition Rules, Swiss Pairings and Tie Breaks) requiring a passing score of 80%;
- Course and examination cost to be determined by the FIDE Arbiters Commission in conjunction with the FIDE Treasurer.

Continuing Education for all Arbiters

All arbiters are required to attend an online or classing training to refresh their knowledge and skills. Should a NA advance to the FA level 1-year after achieving the NA title, they are exempt from the continuing education requirement for that year. Should a FA advance to the IA level 1-year after achieving the FA title, they are exempt from the continuing education requirement for that year.

- 8 hours of online or classroom training designed specifically for NA's or FA's/IA's;
- Topics to cover include case analysis of actual or hypothetical situations that can arise in events;
- Course cost to be determined by the FIDE Arbiters Commission in conjunction

Altrnative Dictionary (Part 3)

L	
Liposuction	Act of slurping tea to distract opponent
Loo	Storage area for tablets running chess engines
Loss	Accurately described in the phrase "I had the third best result ever"
M	
Main Line	Where some players feel like lying after a bad game
Mate	Something the general public think your average chess player is short of
Mating Net	Device used by chess player to get a partner
Mind Sport	An Australian asking you to move out of his way
Minor Exchange	A chess player's attempt at having a conversation
Minority Attack	Having a go at an arbiter
Move Order	The waitress brings the meal

NOTICES

Congress Notice

Would players please realise that the following applies:

An open door does not keep out noise.

Holding a door open while you talk reduces to nil its effectiveness as a sound insulator

Facing a door on your way out does not prevent you being heard

There is no 5 minute time slot at the end of a game where only your opponent can hear you speak

Bashing the clock lever does not make your opponent's time count down faster

Bashing the clock lever does not make your time count down slower

Slamming a piece into the board does not increase its powers

A phone in airplane mode is still switched on

A phone in silent mode is still switched on

A phone in normal mode is definitely switched on even if taking photos

Winning/losing/drawing a game of chess does not entitle you to turn your phone on in the playing area.

Thank you.

Licenced Arbiters

The table gives the distribution of licenced arbiters in the UK and Ireland. It was correct in July but is subject to change. England in particular has a number of unlicenced IAs and FAs. Have they all retired?

Country	IA A	IA B	IA C	IA D	FA	NA	Total
England	2	4	1	5	6	44	62
Ireland				2	2	13	17
Guernsey					1		1
Scotland		1		2	1	5	9
Wales		1		1		6	8

Prizes

In 1988, Guillermo Garcia (1954-1990), three-time chess champion of Cuba, took 2nd place in the New York Open. His \$10,000 prize was confiscated by the US Department of Treasury, invoking the Trading With the Enemy Act of 1917, because he was Cuban. The money is still being held in escrow.

Many Eastern Bloc players in the 70s and 80s wanted their prizes/conditions paid in part in goods. The reason for this was that on return to their own country the foreign currency would be taken by a government official whereas they could keep the goods. Of course if there was not sufficient foreign currency handed over the player would not be allowed to leave the country to compete in further foreign events.

One Soviet player convinced the Russian authorities that he needed a daily fix of caviar as part of his tournament preparation so he was allowed to leave with several tins of the stuff which he then gave

as presents to officials at the events in which he competed—another perk no longer available to modern arbiters!

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 - Neville Belinfante.

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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