

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

June 2018

Issue 29

The AGM of the CAA is confirmed as Sat 4th August at 11am, probable venue Hull City Hall, Victoria Square, Carr Lane, HULL HU1 3RQ.

There are a number of important items on the agenda. One of these is GDPR. These are the new regulations concerning data protection. For chess organisations, including congresses, these are not too onerous and should reflect sensible measures already being taken. The one big difference is that where data is stored, for example to contact players about a future event, the players must opt in to having that data stored. If consent has not been given then the data should be destroyed within a reasonable time-frame. It is now also necessary to give reasons why the data is stored.

The legislation provides the possibility of severe financial penalties for those not following the regulations. However, if it is obvious that an organisation is trying to follow the Law and is taking action where problems have been identified then it is unlikely that fines will be imposed in the first instance. See AMToo 28 for further information.

Warning: The Amateur Chess Organisation is running a series of tournaments which call themselves 'World Championships'. These events are not recognised by FIDE. Its 'Amateur World Championship' has been running for a number of years but recently more 'titles' appear to be getting added. These additions seem to have prompted FIDE to take greater action. A notice on the FIDE website indicates that "the relevant FIDE administrative bodies will soon examine the issue in detail and in accordance with the FIDE regulations for the registration and licensing of organisers, players, trainers and arbiters." FIDE could apply sanctions on arbiters who take part in any such event, even if only taking part as a player. Hopefully it will not come to that. In 2011 India banned 2700 players for taking part in unrecognised events.

CAA AGM

The AGM of the CAA is confirmed as Sat 4th August at 11am. The British Championships are being held at Hull City Hall, Victoria Square, Carr Lane, HULL HU1 3RQ and the AGM will be in the same venue or a nearby hotel. The website will confirm the location.

There are many significant items on the agenda. Members are therefore asked to attend if possible. Those who cannot attend are advised to consult the website to see documentation relating to these issues.

Agenda

1. Attendance
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Reports from Officials
 - 4a. Chairman's Report
 - 4b. Secretary's Report
 - 4c. Chief Arbiter's Report
5. Finances (including Treasurer's Report and setting of Fees)
6. Election of Officials
7. Approval of New Constitution
8. Approval of Recommended Fee Structure for Arbiters
9. Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding with ECF
10. Affects of GDPR (Data Protection Changes)
11. Safeguarding Policy
12. Any Other Competent Business
13. Date of Next Meeting.

Geoff Gammon is stepping down as Secretary so a volunteer for that post is needed. Anyone interested should contact Lara Barnes.

The ECF has asked that the CAA propose a structure of payments for arbiters. This item will be discussed fully at the AGM. A consultation document is available on the website and is printed below. This is a discussion document and input is welcomed on the types of tournament, classification of arbiter and the suggested fees.

A proposed new constitution will also be considered. This can be seen on the website.

A safeguarding policy will be available shortly. Its publication has been delayed due to the computer on which the first draft was stored being subjected to a bath of drinking chocolate!!! Lara's grandson is not flavour of the month.

Arbiter Recompense

The CAA recommend that no arbiter should be expected to be out of pocket for officiating at a chess event. Arbiters may decide to offer their services for less than the recommended amounts.

Every chess event should have a minimum of two arbiters. Normally each section will have an arbiter. One arbiter per 24-32 players is a guideline for the number of arbiters required. Large Opens may need fewer arbiters than those figures suggest but a Blitz tournament may need more. The prestige of a tournament will also affect the number of arbiters, the more prestigious the event the greater the number of arbiters involved.

Additional tasks such as games inputting or running live boards will increase the number of arbiters required unless these tasks are allocated to others. In addition to these fees transport costs should be included and, where necessary, overnight accommodation provided. A £20 a day food allowance should be made where no meals are provided. Transport costs will normally be based on bus fares or standard rail fares. A per mile car allowance should be paid where equipment is being transported. (30p-40p a mile is normal.)

Organisers should consider these fees when doing congress budgets and accounts. If an arbiter receives less than the recommended figures there is a strong argument for including the difference as a donation in the final accounts. Doing so can increase the chances of grants in future years.

It should be recognised that these fees should be seen as a minimum.

	One Day Blitz	One Day Rapid	Two Day Rapidplay	2 Day Congress	3 Day Congress	4 Day Event	5 Day Event	7 Day Event	9 Day Event
Chief Arbiter	£25 (£45*)	£30 (£50*)	£50 (£90*)	£50 (£90*)	£75 (£135*)	£100 (£180*)	£125 (£225*)	£175 (£315*)	£225 (£405*)
Deputy Chief/ Sector Arbiter	£20 (£40*)	£25 (£45*)	£40 (£80*)	£40 (£80*)	£60 (£120*)	£80 (£160*)	£100 (£200*)	£140 (£280*)	£175 (£355*)
Arbiter	£15 (£35*)	£20 (£40*)	£30 (£70*)	£30 (£70*)	£45 (£105*)	£60 (£140*)	£75 (£175*)	£100 (£240*)	£110 (£290*)
Trainee Arbiter	£10 (£30*)	£10 (£30*)	£20 (£60*)	£20 (£60*)	£30 (£90*)	£40 (£120)	£50 (£150*)	£70 (£210*)	£90 (£270*)

*With meal allowance

The meeting may wish to consider alternative figures. It would be appreciated if other suggestions were sent in advance of the meeting.

Caught Cheating Again

Arbiting Matters Too Issue 15 told of a blind Norwegian player who was suspended for 2 years for cheating. The same player has been caught again.



The picture shows the player with a device held in his left hand. Although not clear from the picture it is an ear piece apparently taped to his hand. This hand was frequently held up to his ear.

The original investigation was unable to ascertain how the cheating took place but assessed his abilities as less than FIDE 1000.

The Central Board of the Norwegian Chess Association met on 23 May to consider the second case against blind Stein Bjørnsen (52) after he was revealed to be using electronic aids. The decision has been to ban him from all events on Norwegian soil sine die.

- 1) It was considered beyond reasonable doubt that he made use of illegal electronic assistance during Round 4 of the Hortens club championship when playing a nine year old girl
- 2) The board does not find Bjørnsen's explanations of what happened during the 4th round of the club championship in Horten Sjakklubb, credible.
- 3) The Board assumes that he has used illegal aids in all the games that he has played in 2018 since serving his previous suspension.

The lifetime exclusion is from participation in Norwegian Chess Federation (NSF) tournaments or other activities associated with membership of NSF. This also includes membership in any chess club.

His club, where he was caught cheating, banned him from 20 April.

He was filmed in March by the father of his young opponent who reported him. The game was stopped on move 15.

Since the end of his previous suspension in January he played six official tournament games in Horten and Rokaden Chess Club - and won all of them.

Bjørnsen has later also talked with the local newspaper Gjengangeren.

"I can say hand on heart that I have never been helped by a single action. If I had cheated, I would have hidden the ear plugs a better place."

The verdict of the Central Board may be appealed to the Rules Committee of the Norwegian Chess Association within four weeks.

Accusations of Cheating

The FIDE Ethics Commission has ruled on a case of an unjustified accusation of computer assisted cheating. The case against **GM Evgeniy Solozhenkin** was brought by the mother of a female competitor in the 2017 World Youth in Uruguay for publishing unfounded accusations of cheating .

The case was found proven and GM Solozhenkin has been suspended for 9 months with a further 9 months if he repeats the offence. He is not allowed to attend any FIDE event or meeting in any capacity or to play in a FIDE rated event outside of Russia.

The GM originally published his accusations based on what his daughter reported to him on a Russian Forum. The accusation seems to be that she was conversing with someone whilst she was in a toilet cubicle. There is also an accusation that she had a 'device' on her. He also gave analysis of a number of her games which he claimed were suspicious and queried the considerable rise in her rating. The story was picked up by other Russian media and mushroomed.

The Russian Chess Federation did not take any action stating, "the Russian Chess Federation does not consider it ethical to publish suspicions of unfair play, not supported by evidence" and that it was "written in the correct form, and the publication of the article is an expression of his personal position."

The day after this was published he produced a second article which claimed that it was his daughter who had started the story. He supported her.

The accused player was searched several times during the event by the arbiting team following complaints by Solozhenkin. The games also did not flag as suspicious when put through the screening software.

Solozhenkin appears to have followed FIDE procedures for making an accusation of cheating. But when his claim was not proven and rejected he took to social media. It is for this reason that he was investigated by the Ethics Commission.

A letter of support for the GM has been written and signed by almost 40 GMs. The letter implies that the sentence was severe.

It is important to emphasise that the punishment was not for making the original complaint but for his use of social media to continue to make unspecified allegations against the same player at other events. Interestingly the GM has produced analysis of the games to back up his claim that the junior was getting advice but refuses to accept Professor Regan's computer analysis stating "An analysis can merely give rise to a suspicion. The proof should be only material evidence: electronic devices found on the body of a player, a conversation recorded during the game or an intercepted signal between a player and his accomplice operator."

The parent of the junior has started court action for defamation against the GM.

Schools' Cheating

A school in the US is under investigation after one of its teams won a rating restricted national championship. The problem was not with the tournament but in the lead up to it. There are suspicions of sandbagging where the players manipulated their ratings to qualify. It is alleged that in 'training' matches leading up to the main event the team's score was 0-28.

This used to be a major problem in US events and lead to the introduction of a ratings floor. This means that a player's rating cannot fall beneath a certain level no matter his results. (A player can appeal, for example on medical grounds, to have the floor lowered.)

Titles

The FIDE Presidential Board approved the following Arbiter and Organiser titles at its April meeting

IA: Alan Atkinson, Andy Howie; FA: Mike Forster; IO Alan Hustwaite
Congratulations to all of the above.

Questions (Ask the Arbiter)

In a league match with no arbiter present the time control is 30 moves in 1 hour with an additional 15 minutes to complete the game. A digital clock is set to use the move counter. White completes move 31 and notices that the Black clock is showing 0.00 and the flag is showing. With an analogue clock it is too late to make a claim but can the move counter be used as proof of a win on time?

Answer: The move counter can only count presses. This means that there is no difference between a digital and an analogue clock in this case. It may be very likely that Black failed to play his 30th move in time but there is no concrete proof. It is also possible that the clock was not pressed or not pressed properly on one or more moves. The game should continue.

Question: Another question from a league match, though it could also crop up in congresses without increments.

White's flag falls. White has a king and pawn some squares from promotion. Black has king and bishop. (For those who doubt that the questions are genuine – this one was asked by three different people! All relating to the one incident.)

Answer: This is a Black win under Article 6.9.

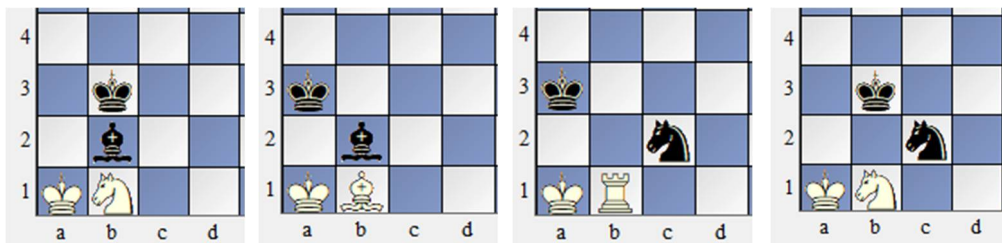
- 6.9 Except where one of Articles 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3 applies, if a player does not complete the prescribed number of moves in the allotted time, the game is lost by that player. However, the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player's king by any possible series of legal moves.

When this was first introduced in the 1997 Laws it referred to 'unskilled' play to indicate that any move, no matter how bad, could be used in the consideration. In this case White has to promote to a knight or bishop of the opposite colour and then trap himself – all very unlikely but possible. If White had claimed a draw before the flag fell then the arbiter should give the draw.

If Black had king and knight then White can also promote to a rook.

Players in White's position often think that because the opponent does not have 'mating material' in the normal sense that they cannot lose so do not have to claim the draw. On at least two occasions in congresses I have seen players very annoyed when the loss was awarded to them.

Sample mating positions shown on following page.



Question: Can a player claim that the stench of tobacco from his opponent is a distraction and therefore the opponent should not smoke during the game?

Answer: This is not too dissimilar to complaints sometimes received about a player's personal hygiene.

11.5 It is forbidden to distract or annoy the opponent in any manner whatsoever. This includes unreasonable claims, unreasonable offers of a draw or the introduction of a source of noise into the playing area.

11.6 Infraction of any part of Articles 11.1 – 11.5 shall lead to penalties in accordance with Article 12.9.

There are obvious exceptions to what is meant by 'annoy'. The opponent is allowed to play good moves which often annoy! From the following two laws it is clear that players are allowed to smoke during a game.

11.2.1 The 'playing venue' is defined as the 'playing area', rest rooms, toilets, refreshment area, area set aside for smoking and other places as designated by the arbiter.

11.3.4 Smoking, including e-cigarettes, is permitted only in the section of the venue designated by the arbiter.

These do not mean that a smoker can do what he likes. If a smoker was deliberately blowing his breath in the direction of the opponent then he should initially be warned. This warning is likely to be in the form of a request from the arbiter to try not to do so.

In the case of personal hygiene a private word may be in order or, if possible, have a friend of the player involved have a word. In these cases it is the players sitting next to the culprit rather than the opponent who are likely to complain. I have been known to put such a player at the end of a row to minimise the problem.

11.3.4 highlights another potential problem. Those using e-cigarettes are often those trying to give up smoking. Forcing them to indulge in their vice next to 'real' smokers could be seen as putting too much temptation in their way.

Hand Held Scanners

It is rumoured that the Anti Cheating Commission are pushing for all FIDE rated events to, in the very near future, utilise hand held scanners. These are now available on the Internet very cheaply and are more than adequate for the task. There is no reason why a congress

could not purchase one. The Saful Super Scanner TS-P1001, which is used by a member of the Commission, can be bought for £15-£20. Even if FIDE does not insist on events having these safeguards it may be in an event's interests anyway. Although phone cheating is not seen as a problem in Britain the suspicion that it is happening is a problem. It is not uncommon for a player

to express concerns about his opponent, especially if that opponent is away from the board. The presence of such a device on the arbiters' desk, even if not used, will act as a deterrent.

Should Arbiters Have These Thoughts?

A player who had a Friday night bye texts on the Saturday to ask for a 15 minute extension to his default time as his car had difficulty starting and he was well behind schedule. This is agreed and his opponent alerted to the situation. Not an uncommon situation. Unfortunately the player is an hour and a half late without making further contact. His unfortunate opponent had waited on him for an hour. The person who had been given the bye had seen that fact on the Internet and had not turned up so there was no possibility of repairing.

The round 3 draw paired our defaulter with the no show bye. Was it right that the arbiter would not have been too disappointed if the round 2 bye had not turned up again in the afternoon and inflicted a bit of poetic justice?



Scoresheets

This is not your usual gripe about the quality of writing on scoresheets. Certainly the first one looks as if it was written using a quill which was, unfortunately, still attached to the animal.

You will see that both scoresheets give the same players having the same colours and both indicate a white win.

Minutes before the start of round 3 the black player comes up to the control desk insisting that we had the wrong result. Since we were training up an arbiter during the event every result entered into the computer had been meticulously double checked including making sure that both scoresheets showed the same result, so this was a puzzling statement.

The player was shown the scoresheets and only then accepted that the mistake was his. He was told that under the Laws of Chess we could insist that that was the result which stood as he had signed for it. He then tried to argue that as he had not signed after the last move his signature didn't count!! The opponent confirmed that the wrong result had been entered so it was changed although the draw stood.

After calming down the player was very apologetic about the whole incident.

And still they walk among us ...

In the Premier event at Edinburgh a players phone decided that it would organise its own concert. It was not a ringtone but actually a tune which was stored on the phone. The player accepted that it was his phone but he still did not want to concede the game. He was even willing to default his remaining 4 games if we allowed him to continue that one. His excuses included that he didn't think those rules applied in Scotland (he was Finnish), his actual phone was on silent mode (which ignored the fact that it should have been off),

FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

White Kevin Hale Team Major Result 1
Black Anna Kurova Team Major 0
Date 14/4/19 Round 2 Board 10

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1 e4 e6	26 Bc5 Qc5	51 Nb4 Rxb4			
2 d4 d5	27 Qc2 Rf7	52 Nxb6 Rxb6			
3 Nf3 Nf6	28 Qc2 Rf7	53 Rxb6 Rxb6			
4 e5 Nd7	29 Nf1 Rf7	54 Qc2 Rxb6			
5 Bf3 c5	30 Qc2 Rf7	55 Qc2 Rxb6			
6 c3 Sg6	31 Qc2 Rf7	56 Qc2 Rxb6			
7 Nc2 Kd6	32 Rf2 Rf7	57 Nc2 Rxb6			
8 Nf1 Bf7	33 Qc2 Rf7	58 Qc2 Rxb6			
9 Qd3 Nc6	34 Qd3 Rf7	59 Nc2 Rxb6			

FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

White Kevin Hale Team Major Result 1
Black Anna Kurova Team Major 0
Date 14/4/2019 Round 3 Board 10

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1 e4 e6	26 Bc5 Qc5	51 Nb4 Rxb4			
2 d4 d5	27 Qc2 Rf7	52 Nxb6 Rxb6			
3 Nd2 Nf6	28 Qc2 Rf7	53 Rxb6 Rxb6			
4 e5 Nd7	29 Nf1 Rf7	54 Qc2 Rxb6			
5 Bd3 c5	30 Qc2 Rf7	55 Qc2 Rxb6			
6 c3 Sg6	31 Qc2 Rf7	56 Qc2 Rxb6			
7 Ne2 Bg6	32 Rf2 Rf7	57 Nc2 Rxb6			
8 Nf3 Bxd3	33 Qd3 Nc6	58 Rf1 Nf5			
9 Qxd3 Nc6	34 Qd3 Rf7	59 Nc2 Rxb6			
10 Qd3 Bf7	35 Rf2 Nc5	60 Nc2 Rxb6			

and that he didn't have a bag to put it in (not a good excuse when you are standing next to the pile of bags supplied by the organisers). His plea was rejected.

At the Doncaster 4NCL Congress a player was spoken to about leaving the hall without permission when on the move. He thought this was a stupid new rule (from 1997 actually). Even when it was explained that he left himself open to allegations of cheating, he refused to accept it. Later the same player was caught with his mobile phone on. "But my game is over," was his reply, as could have been predicted. Again the logic behind the rule was explained. His argument for being allowed his actions seemed to centre on his belief that low graded players don't cheat. I look forward to him complaining about an opponent's behaviour.



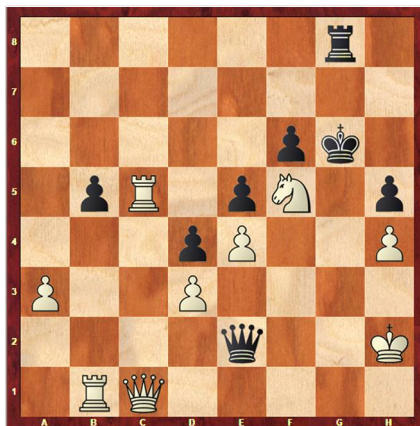
In a blitz tournament in Renfrew, Scotland, White played Rg1+. The arbiter stepped in and gave Black an extra minute. He requested that a legal move be played and started the clock. White immediately played Rg1+ again!!!! Apparently the player's language, aimed at himself, was choice.

The arbiter did not allow a third Rg1+ and a potential claim by repetition.
(My thanks to John McNicol for this item.)

Arbiter Error?

The following incident occurred in the Reserve section of the 2009 Victoria Championships in Australia. The game was between Nikola Ivanov (1750, w) and David Beaumont (2070, b).

This position was reached after Black's 52 move. The game continued 60. Kh1 Qf3+ 61. Kh2 Qe2+ 62. Kh3 Qg4+ 63. Kh2 Qe2+. As you may expect the story now gets a little confusing with slightly varying versions of what occurred. The Chief



Arbiter's version is that at this point Ivanov said "Draw". (Possibly "It's draw" was stated.) As a method of claiming a draw by repetition this is a not totally unreasonable way of starting the claim process, though obviously he should have then asked if the opponent agreed with the repetition claim. The CA then says that the tournament director accepted that the game was drawn and stopped and removed the clocks. (Another version says that the clock was removed by someone else.) It seems that at this event it was common for clocks to be collected at the end of every game. White then started, with a group of others to analyse the game. After some discussion White moved the king to g3. At this point, Beaumont explained that the correct draw claim procedures had not been followed, and that the move 64.Kg3?? should stand and the game should continue. The Chief Arbiter disagreed and declared the game drawn.

It is also reported that, "An appeals committee upheld Beaumont's appeal, and decided that the game should be continued, from the position where the irregular draw claim occurred, otherwise the draw should stand. The appeals committee agreed that Ivanov could not be compelled to play a move made during analysis after the clocks had been stopped and removed."

The game did not continue, neither player seeing the point, and the result was recorded as a draw.

(64 Kg3 Kf7 or Kh7 with discovered check leads to mate next move.)

The dispute occurred because of two issues. The first was did the word "draw" constitute a claim or an offer and was the tournament director also an arbiter?

From claims made by Beaumont, it is clear that he did not realise that the official was also an arbiter though it also seems that he did not



think that Ivanov could claim a draw and therefore he could only be offering a draw.

Another version of events says that after saying draw, Ivanov immediately started analysing. Although this behaviour is unacceptable it does go towards proving that it was not a draw offer.

Clearly there were many mistakes made here. The arbiter should have confirmed that the players agreed that the game was drawn. If not he should have established the grounds for White's statement and then that the repetition had occurred if it was still necessary to

do so. If duplicate scoresheets were used (as is almost certainly the case) the arbiter should have collected the signed top copies. The arbiter should not have allowed a group of players to analyse in the tournament hall.

The decision of the Appeals Committee is puzzling. If the game had not ended with the claim then why was no action taken against Black's subsequent actions? It could be seen that rather than deciding the case the Committee decided to reach a decision that was neutral and meant that the players concluded the game. If the players had got together to continue the game then at that point White would have only had to say "I claim a draw by repetition" and the game would have ended immediately.

One thing I find very odd about Beaumont's appeal is that he wanted Kg3 played but makes no reference to the fact that the move followed the opponent's discussion of the game. If he believed the game was still in progress why did he not claim a win, or at least complain strongly, on the grounds that his opponent was discussing a game in progress and seeking advice.

Delayed Starts

I received an email from a player complaining about the start of a weekend congress being delayed. The claim was that it was 45 minutes late in starting. If true that does seem to be an exceptionally long delay. In Britain we expect events to start within a few minutes of the published time. This is not always true with events abroad. In particular first rounds are notorious for having delayed starts.



The first round of the Baku Olympiad was delayed for a similar time. In this case it was security that was to blame. The security staff were late in starting and could not cope with the numbers to be scanned in the time remaining.

In other parts of the world it is fairly common for the first round to start late, often by as much as an hour. Many foreign events require pre-registration on the day of the event, something that is unusual in Britain. The reason for this is that the first

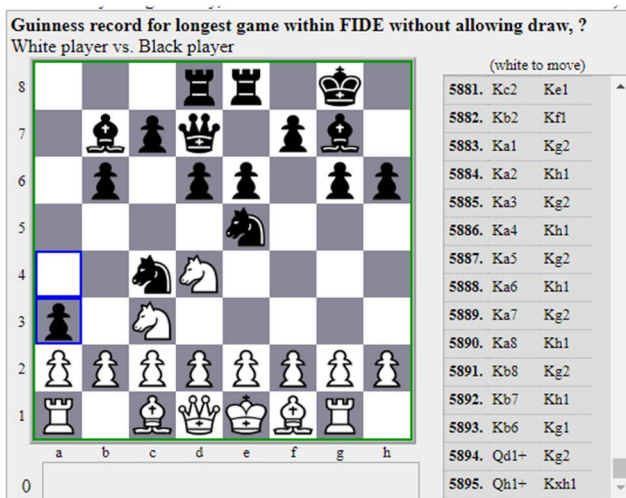
round draw is not made until after the registration. This is a sensible precaution to ensure that only those there are paired, avoiding a significant number of defaults. Events in Britain

which have a registration system tend to publish a provisional draw which is only finalised an hour or so before play. If players have not registered their opponents are repaired and then a confirmed draw published. This prevents players claiming a win by default which they can do under FIDE regulations. At one such British event I had a foreign player ask me to confirm the starting time. I did so, stating the published time. “No, when will it start?” he repeated. I gave the same time. “No, when will it really start?”, he asked again. I finally satisfied him by saying that we might be a minute or two late but no more.

The Longest Game

It is generally accepted that the longest tournament game in terms of the number of moves played was Nikolić–Arsović, Belgrade 1989, which lasted for 269 moves and took 20 hours and 15 minutes to complete a drawn game.

However the last capture was by White on move 167 with no pawn remaining so under the current Laws it would have been drawn after 242 Kc3. The European Chess Union monthly newsletter states that the maximum number of moves possible in a game is 5949 moves. However that is based on the assumption that a player will claim a draw on the 50 move rule but will refuse to capture pieces offered free!



A contrived game of 5895 has been created. (The diagram does not show the final position.) Using the ECU maximum number of moves and the FIDE time limit of 90 minutes with 30 second increments then the maximum time that such a game could last would be 4 days 6 hours and 9 minutes. At the time control of 40 moves in 90 minutes + 30 minutes with increments of 30 seconds would take an additional 1 hour. All moves in 1hr 50 with 10 second increments would mean it only lasting 1 day 12 hours and 43 minutes.



Another long game was played on the Internet Chess Club on 15 March 2008. It was between Rybka and Nakamura and played at a rate of all moves in 3 minutes with a 2 second increment. The final move was 271 ... Bbc6#. During the game Hikaru exploited a ‘bug’ in the program which meant that Rybka played inferior moves to avoid a 50 move draw claim. He also promoted to 5 bishops and a knight. This game would have lasted a maximum of 24 minutes and four seconds.

History

The following appeared in the chess column of “London Black and White” magazine on the 18th of March 1893.

THE UNIVERSITIES.

THE annual Inter-University chess match will take place at the British Chess Club on the 24th inst. The teams will be the guests of the Club at a banquet and smoking concert to follow the match.

MATCH 100 PLAYERS' A-SIDE.

A MATCH of one hundred players a-side is fixed to take place on the 18th inst., between the Metropolitan and the Ludgate Circus Chess Clubs. The match will be followed by a dinner and smoking concert at the Cannon Street Hotel.

Both items refer to ‘smoking concerts’ taking place after the chess event. A smoking concert was a performance usually of music, before an audience of men only, popular during the Victorian era. These social occasions were instrumental in introducing new musical forms to the public. At these functions men would smoke and speak of politics while listening to live music.

Can you imagine such an occasion following a chess event nowadays. It is so politically incorrect by modern standards – men only and smoking not just being permitted but expected. In addition the entertainment was merely a background noise. The men were expected to hold conversations while the music was playing or songs being sung. They didn’t even have the excuse that they had to answer their mobile!

David Sedgwick has asked me to point out that he was not the arbiter at that particular Oxford v Cambridge match. Cambridge won 6-1 and clocks were compulsory for the first

time. The Metropolitan match was played over 120 boards and result in a Metropolitan win by 79-41. Players could have more than one game in the three hour session.

Humour???

An arbiter lost his luggage on his way to a chess tournament. He sued the airline but sadly lost his case.

An elderly arbiter was finally being taught to do computer pairings.

"Everything's starting to click for me!" he told the younger arbiter.

"Ah good you're understanding," said the other.

"No", replied the senior arbiter, "I meant my knees, my elbows, my neck, ..."

Player "I may have to withdraw. Every time I drink a cup of coffee I get a sharp pain in my eye."

Arbiter "Try removing the spoon."

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some players appear intelligent until you hear them talk.

CAA Officials

Chairman - Lara Barnes

Secretary - Geoff Gammon

Treasurer - Kevin Markey

Chief Arbiter - Alex McFarlane

Information officer - Alex McFarlane

Committee - David Welch, Kevin Staveley and Mike Forster.

ECF Delegate - Mike Forster

Chess Scotland Delegate - Alex McFarlane

Welsh Chess Union - Kevin Staveley

Independent Examiner - Richard Jones

Safeguarding Officer – Lara Barnes (Temp)



Items for inclusion in future issues should be sent to Alex McFarlane
ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk