

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

Issue 1 September 2013

This is an attempt to resurrect the CAA magazine. Contributions from members are welcome. If you have had a problem pairing, a difficult player or a funny incident then let's hear about it.

The website is up and running at

<http://chessarbitersassociation.co.uk/>

Contributions to that, or suggestions for improvement, are welcome.

The Laws of Chess

FIDE postponed the introduction of the new Laws until July 2014. The proposed version appears on the website. Once their acceptance is confirmed in October a list of the changes from the current Laws will be circulated along with the finalised version.

FIDE Licensing

Any arbiter who officiates at a FIDE rated event must now be licenced by FIDE. If

this does not happen then FIDE has indicated that the tournament will not be rated. Arbiters wishing to apply for licensing should approach their national federations.

Odd But True

An ironing board appeared one morning in the playing hall of the British Championships. Perhaps the owner had a few wrinkles in his game he wanted to iron out. Perhaps he slept in and was pressed for time! He might even have wanted to flatten his opponent.

Do you have any examples of weird things brought to a chess event?

When is a Record not a Record?

There was an attempt made for a world record at the 100th British Chess Championships. Gary Lane and Keith Arkell played a series of bullet games (one minute each per game) in an hour. 37

games were completed. The event was filmed (including having a clock visible throughout). The Guinness Book of Records refused to recognise the record as it did not fit into one of their categories.

Pairing Challenge

Here are some pairing cards. Rearrange them into a round 10 pairing. This shows the top players at this year's British. See if you agree with the pairing achieved.

Player:Jones, Gawain C B					Country:ENG Rating:2643 GM					Nr:1
Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Opponent	54	24	34	28	36	22	23	33	12	
Table nr	1	1	8	9	11	6	7	4	3	
Colour	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	
Floats										
Result normal	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Pairing total	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	5	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Player:Howell, David W L					Country:ENG Rating:2639 GM					Nr:2
Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Opponent	55	27	17	11	4	9	3	8	6	
Table nr	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Colour	B	W	B	W	B	W	W	B	W	
Floats							v	v	v	
Result normal	1	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	
Pairing total	1	2	3	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	7	8	

Player:Hebden, Mark L					Country:ENG Rating:2555 GM					Nr:3
Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Opponent	56	26	36	15	12	4	2	16	7	
Table nr	3	3	9	4	2	2	1	2	2	
Colour	W	B	W	B	W	W	B	W	B	
Floats							^		v	
Result normal	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Pairing total	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	

Player:Gordon, Stephen J					Country:ENG Rating:2521 GM					Nr:4
Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Opponent	57	33	18	21	2	3	8	13	15	
Table nr	4	4	2	2	1	2	2	5	4	
Colour	B	W	B	W	W	B	W	B	W	
Floats							v			
Result normal	1	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Pairing total	1	2	3	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	5	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Player:Lalic, Bogdan					Country:CRO Rating:2489 GM					Nr:7
Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Opponent	60	34	46	26	23	33	13	21	3	
Table nr	7	7	11	6	6	4	4	7	2	
Colour	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	
Floats										^
Result normal	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Pairing total	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Player:Zhou, Yang-Fan					Country:ENG Rating:2469 IM					Nr:11
Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Opponent	64	44	22	2	26	39	33	12	25	
Table nr	11	11	5	1	8	7	6	3	7	
Colour	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	
Floats										^
Result normal	1	1	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	
Pairing total	1	2	3	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Player:Ghasi, Ameet K					Country:ENG Rating:2459 IM					Nr:12
Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Opponent	65	47	23	31	3	19	5	11	1	
Table nr	12	12	6	8	2	8	3	3	3	
Colour	B	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	B	
Floats										v
Result normal	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Pairing total	1	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Player:Palliser, Richard J D					Country:ENG Rating:2453 IM					Nr:15
Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Opponent	68	78	16	3	38	26	24	28	4	
Table nr	15	22	7	4	12	10	10	8	4	
Colour	W	B	W	W	B	B	W	B	B	
Floats										v
Result normal	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Pairing total	$\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	5	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Player:Arkell, Keith C					Country:ENG Rating:2444 GM					Nr:16
Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Opponent	69	49	15	51	41	21	9	3	33	
Table nr	16	14	7	12	13	5	5	2	8	
Colour	B	W	B	W	B	W	B	B	W	
Floats										v
Result normal	1	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	0	1	
Pairing total	1	2	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Player:Meszaros, Gyula					Country:HUN Rating:2255 IM					Nr:31
Round:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Opponent	84	88	24	12	82	93	14	22	8	
Table nr	31	26	15	8	19	20	9	12	5	
Colour	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	B	W	
Floats										
Result normal	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	
Pairing total	$\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Solution on page 8

Computer Pairings—To use or not to use.

There are some arbiters who swear by computer pairings and others who swear at them and say they will give up doing events if computers are used.

I am somewhere in between but would be happier if computers actually did what they claim all the time. For example many programs pair by PIN rather than rating or grade. This does not often cause a problem if you are using only a computer as everything can be renumbered. However if you are running with a manual and computer system in tandem (as many of the top events do) then any late entries will be treated by the computer as low ranked players. Renumbering will mean that comparison of round pairings is more difficult as names will have to be checked rather than just PINs. Pairing by pin does mean that the computer program will normally work down if, for example, two players have already met, whereas the human will look for the card nearest in grade rather than automatically moving down.

In Britain there are currently two pairing systems in use, the CAA one adopted by the ECF, Chess Scotland and the Welsh Chess Union and the Dutch system accepted by FIDE. There are two generally accepted pairing programs, Swiss Manager and Swiss Master which work on the Dutch system. Also in use in Britain is Tournament Director. The older version of this works on the old ECF pairing system. A newer version also has been accepted by FIDE. There is a replacement program by the same designer called UTU which is in development and will do both the FIDE and CAA pairing methods.

Despite world wide usage there are concerns about the first two programs. In the second round of the European Championships in France a few years ago the pairing was clearly wrong. Swiss Manager was the program responsible. At the Scottish this year Swiss Master gave a last round pairing of :-

Gawain Jones (6½) v Gretarsson (6)

Gormally (6½) v Farago (5½)

Hera (6) v Strikovic (6)

There were obvious problems in that many of the top players had already met though Gormally had not met Hera.

Adding a half point to Gormally's score (and putting him as sole leader as opposed to joint leader) gave the following pairing.

Gormally (7) v Hera (6)

Jones (6½) v Gretarsson (6)

X (5) v Strikovic (6)

Y (5) v Farago (5½)

The latter pairing is more what the players were expecting.

I have seen it strongly argued that the first pairing is correct. If that is the case then why is the same procedure not followed in the second example?

The FIDE pairing rules are written for computer programmers rather than humans and as such are quite complex to understand. The pairing in example 1 does reduce the floats but the same could be said in the second situation too.

The FIDE pairing system talks about Homogeneous and Heterogeneous groups and it becomes quite complicated to understand and differentiate.



“You’ve got a Wrong Result”

The above is a phrase every arbiter dreads to hear, especially just before the start of a round. On occasion the result is marked up wrongly, sometimes the wrong result has been handed in.

At the Scottish Blitz we had such an incident. The player claimed we had her down for a win when she had in fact lost. The result slip was retrieved and showed that the result as given had been entered into the computer. The player then stated that her opponent must have marked it up wrongly.

We said that the draw would stand but that we would correct things for the following round. No sooner had we changed things on the computer than the player re-appeared. She had found her opponent and he was insisting that he too had lost. A nearby spectator made the request that if there was a spare point going he would have it! Further investigation revealed that one player had resigned just before the other lost on time. Both therefore thought that they had lost. We accepted the result as handed in.

Geoff Jones

Geoff Jones has retired from arbiting. The Blackpool Congress was his last event. Geoff was the CAA Secretary for many years stepping down at the last AGM.

We wish Geoff well with his new found leisure time.





Arbiter Profile

CAA Chairman Lara Barnes

Name Lara Anne Louise Barnes

Arbiting Experience I started helping out in 1995 with local events run by FM Tim Wall, The Chillingham Masters and The Vera Menchik memorial were among the first in which I gained arbiting experience. I quickly was roped in to being Northumberland's Congress Organiser!

I offered to work at The British Championships in 1998 in order to help with the cost of my then husband's (Clive Waters) accommodation and entry fee. While I was there I sat the BCF Arbiters' exam, passing with 82% and with my tournament experience I gained the BCF Arbiter title.

I was retained on The British team from then on as it was thought complimentary to have a female on the team to deal with ladies' and girls' issues.

I have worked as an Arbiter all over England and Scotland and became an International Arbiter in 2002, a Chess Scotland Arbiter in 2006, an ECF Senior Arbiter in 2010 and a Chess Scotland Senior Arbiter in 2012. My International Organiser title has now been applied for.

My regular commitments are: Northumberland, Durham, Scarborough, 4NCL, Hastings, British, Lothians, Blackpool and Edinburgh. (Radically culled in last couple of years!)

Most memorable arbiting moments

The CJ De Mooi debacle

Being chosen as England's and Europe's nominated Arbiter for the 2012 Olympiad in Istanbul – and then being banned by the Turkish Chess Federation because of the CAS court case against FIDE.

Having to tell a Grand Master (and one about to become British Champion) what the time control of the event was...in Round 11!

Favourite Music Folk music – I sing and play the guitar and fiddle. I will listen to anything traditional: Breton, Indian, Arabic – anything modal.

Favourite TV Show/Film My Favourite type of TV is quiz shows, especially Only Connect and my favourite genre is Period Drama. Favourite film is The English Patient with Gabriel Yared's fantastic score.

Favourite place The Isle of Arran – many a summer spent here as a child. My daughter Corrie is named after the prettiest village. (not the soap!)

Favourite Food/Drink Asian food and hoppy real ale.


Anything else you would like to add Thanks to my teachers and Arbiting heroes: John Turnock, Simon Gillam, John Robinson, Richard Furness, Steve Boniface, David Welch and Alex McFarlane.

Pairing Problem Solution

One of the players concerned was adamant that the pairing was wrong. Fortunately it had been checked by both David Welch and Alex McFarlane before publication. PINs 2 and 3 have already played

Laying out the cards.

Notice the position of the midline. It has been positioned to allow for two upfloats.

White	Black
	Pin2 (8)
	Pin3 (7)
	Pin1 (6½)
	Pin4 (6½)
	Pin7 (6½)
	Pin11 (6½)
Pin12 (6½)	
Mid line	5-3 split
Pin15 (6½)	
Pin16 (6½)	
Pin31 (6½)	

We need someone to come across to the White side- and Pin 3 is the best candidate..

The British is a long tournament so it is not the highest rated who floats up as it would be in a weekend congress but instead it is the person nearest the midline but above it for an upfloat. Therefore it is Pin 12 who floats to play Pin 2 and Pin 11 who plays Pin 3. The previous floats are 'spent'. The others then slot into place.

The draw should then be.

12-2 Ghasi v Howell

3-11 Hebden v Zhou

15-1 Palliser v Jones

16-4 Arkell v Gordon

31-7 Meszaros v Lalic.

If this had been a 'short' event then Jones would have upfloats to play Hebden as he is the highest rated. Giving:

12-2 Ghasi v Howell

3-1 Hebden v Jones

16-4 Arkell v Gordon

15-7 Palliser v Lalic

31-11 Meszaros v Zhou

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

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