

# Arbiting Matters Too



**Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association**

**Issue 2    November 2013**

Welcome to the second issue. This has quite a lot in it that requires thought. Most of this issue is devoted to the changes that will apply from 1st July 2014.

The Congress Organisers amongst us will need to ensure that if they choose to adopt certain options in their events they will need to be indicated in the entry form.

Remember that this publication requires articles from you if it is to appear regularly. There was some feedback following the first issue but more would be appreciated. Articles, other items or anything of interest would be greatly appreciated.

## **Laws of Chess**

The AGM considered the possibility of contributing towards sending someone to the FIDE meeting in Tallinn. It was decided to wait to see what the proposed changes to the Laws were going to be. When the Rules and Tournament Councillors meeting minutes appeared there seemed little of significant difference and certainly nothing too outrageous, so the idea was dropped. It therefore came as quite a surprise when in September news started to come through that the FIDE Presidential Board had proposed some significant changes to the Laws and that they would be voted on in October at the FIDE Congress.

The new Laws are on the CAA website. ([ChessArbitersAssociation.co.uk](http://ChessArbitersAssociation.co.uk))



The picture shows the FIDE Congress in Istanbul.

## Changes in the Laws for 2014 and Comments

Many of the changes are cosmetic but some are very significant.

**Preface** Removed from the Preface is the part allowing countries to introduce additional rules for purely internal events. It is now recommended that these Laws be used for all events. The former Article 14 is now included in the Preface.

**3.10 Illegal Move/Position** This is new. A position is said to be illegal if the position cannot be reached by a series of legal moves.

*Comment: If one player has two white squared bishops and 8 pawns then the position is illegal. However, if we have a similar situation with only 7 pawns then the definition does not hold as a pawn may have promoted. This would appear to be the case even if both players agree no pawn was promoted! The concept of defining illegal positions is good but the definition requires some refinement.*

**4.3 Touch Move** Wording has been added to make it clear that the deliberate touching must be with the intention of moving or capturing.

**4.6 Pawn Promotion** Changed wording clarifies the method of pawn promotion, establishing that it is not necessary to actually move the pawn to the far side of the board. It is simply permissible to put the new piece on the square that the pawn would have moved to.

**6.2a Completed Move** This confirms that completing your next move also completes any previous one.

*Comment Some arbiters were arguing that if a clock was not pressed at, say, move 27 then the clock press at move 28 only completed move 27. This interpretation meant that a player could be on move 41 but still deemed to have lost on time as 40 clock presses had not been made. Those arbiters might still make the same case if the clock was not pressed on move 40 but the player was now on move 41 when the flag fell. This would require having seen the clock not being pressed otherwise it is*

*impossible to prove when the clock was not pressed. Such a decision would be against the spirit of the change.*

**6.2c, 8.1e and 12.2f Disability** These confirm that chess is a game for all. The disabled should not be penalised for being unable to press a clock without assistance.

**6.7 Default Time** The new wording removes the automatic default time which from 2009 was 0 and before that 1 hour. It does not state what the default time is.

*Comment: England, Scotland and Wales (and some other countries) introduced a default time of 30 minutes. In the absence of a default time the player presumably has until his clock runs out to arrive at the board.*

**7.1 Irregularities** This confirms that even if you have to retrace several moves to correct an illegal move, the clock times do not have to be altered if this would affect the running of the event (other than to apply the penalty!).

**7.5 Illegal Moves** Here there are two significant changes. The person who completes their second illegal move loses the game. This is one time fewer than previously. If a player promotes a pawn but does not replace it with another piece before starting the opponent's clock then this is an illegal move. The pawn must be replaced by a queen.

*Comment This seems a strange decision to insist that the most powerful piece is used. It is based on players short of time deliberately making the illegal move to gain extra thinking time whilst the clocks are reset.*

**8.1d Recording a draw offer** Though not new the recording of a draw offer requirement (=) is now added to the main Laws.

*Comment This implies to me that arbiters are being encouraged to promote this piece of notation.*

**9.5 Draw Claim Penalty** The penalty for incorrectly claiming a draw by 'repetition' or under the '50 move' rule is reduced from 3 minutes to 2 minutes.

*Comment This was proposed by the CAA at the review of the Rules in Istanbul but was rejected. It is a bit surprising to see it now in the Laws. It has the benefit of standardising penalties.*

**9.6 Drawn Game** Two new reasons for declaring the game drawn have been introduced. These are the '75 move' rule and the '5 times occurrence of position' rule.

9.6a the same position has appeared, as in 9.2b, for at least five consecutive alternate moves by each player.

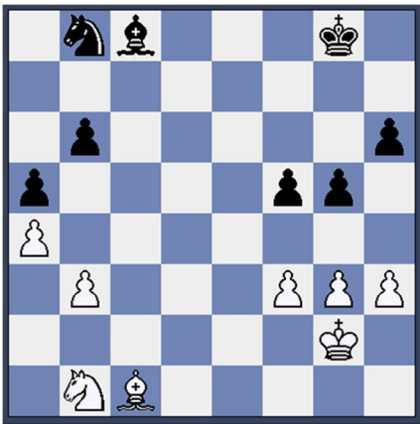
9.6b the last 75 moves have been completed by each player without the movement of any pawn and without any capture.

*Comment These do not replace the current rules which have to be claimed but are additional and are awarded by the arbiter. It would seem they have been introduced to allow a finish in incremental games where neither player seems to want the game to end. Unlike other situations these are not said to ‘immediately end the game’. It is strange to see the wording ‘at least five’ for repetitions but a specific 75 in the second case where it could be difficult to know how many moves have been played.*

*The Laws now accept that marking a capture with an x is not needed. This may make the arbiters task of knowing 75 moves have been played much more problematic as looking at the scoresheet may not show captures directly.*

*The wording of 9.6a is very clumsy (though it is difficult to see an alternative). My view is that if interpreted literally the players will be confused.*

*Consider the following position.*



*31 Nc3 Nc6 32 Nb1 Nb8 33 Na3 Nc6 34 Nb1 Nb8 35 ... and the moves continue as above. This is drawn on moves 38, 40 42 etc. I do not understand the inclusion of ‘at least’ here. It is even more puzzling when the wording has not been included in part b where, in my opinion, it would have been more useful to the arbiter to make sure that at least 75 moves had been played.*

*But now consider 31 Bb2 Bb7 32 Ba3 Ba6 33 Bc1 Bc8 and this sequence repeats 5 times.*

*This is not drawn under the wording of 9.6a as the repetition does not occur on alternate moves.*

*Notice that neither of these two additional methods of ending the game state “This immediately ends the game”. As said earlier, these are intended to prevent a game from continuing indefinitely. Stewart Reuben on the FIDE website comments:-*

*“This avoids players repeating positions continually or carrying on and on with no capture or a pawn move. 9.2 and 9.3 each require a claim. 9.6 means the game is over and the arbiter must step in. People have asked what happens if it is overlooked and the game terminates in other than a draw afterwards. This is solved as appropriate by Articles 5.1, 5.2 a, b, c and 8.7. The main concern is not to prolong games on a tight schedule.”*

**Old 10 Quickplay Finishes** This has been moved to Appendix G

*Comment This reflects that FIDE wishes to encourage incremental finishes and persuade players and organisers to move away from guillotine ones.*

**11.2 Spectators** Without the arbiter’s permission a person who is neither a player nor an arbiter will not be allowed access to the playing hall.

*Comment It will be interesting to see how many arbiters ban the tournament director from entering the tournament hall! I expect this will only be used in really major events and some junior ones where parental involvement might be seen as disadvantageous to the young players.*

**11.3b Mobile Communication devices** This bans players from bringing mobile communication devices into the playing VENUE. The default penalty for this is the loss of the game and the opponent shall win. Less severe penalties may be applied.

*Comment This applies even if the phone does not ring. It is the only rule which states that the opponent shall win. This is stated as if cheating has occurred, it may have done so at an earlier stage.*

*The competition may specify a less severe penalty (so hanging and flogging are ruled out!) but it does not allow that no penalty be issued. A warning is the least severe option listed in Article 12.9 (though there is no direct link to this as there is elsewhere). However, persistent refusal still results in the loss of the game. For short tournaments the persistence may not be seen to be a problem but in events of 7 or more days duration it is difficult to see why that Law would not apply. A hypothetical situation — A player refuses to record his game. He is warned 4 or 5 times before being defaulted. He appeals claiming that his opponent has been warned 6 times about having his phone with him and so should have been defaulted first!*

*Therefore the problem of players having mobile phones with them even if switched off still exists for some events. In addition there is the problem of laptops in the venue. This will be even more difficult to police when a competition has shared facilities such*

*as the refreshment area.*

*The wording of the Laws would allow a parent or friend to bring the phone into the venue for the player!*

**11.3 b Player Search** Players clothes, bags and other items may be inspected in private by a person of the same sex. If a player refuses they are then subject to the penalties of 12.9.

*Another controversial measure and perhaps not even legal. It is understandable that such a measure has been introduced following incidents of suspected cheating using hidden devices.*

**11.10 Appeals** Where the competition rules allow the player may appeal any decision of the arbiter (including draw claims in the last two minutes) even after signing the scoresheet.

*Comments This indicates removal of a player being unable to appeal a rejection of a draw claim under now Appendix G (10.2, the last two minutes, in the old rules). The part about being able to appeal after signing the scoresheet is because several players in international events were refusing to sign in fear that this would prevent them from being able to appeal.*

**12.2 Ask the Arbiter** Players are now allowed officially to ask the arbiter for clarification on particular points of the Laws.

*Comment The addition of the word ‘particular’ is important. It would be unreasonable to expect an arbiter, during play, to answer the request “Tell me all the Laws that I need for this game.”*

**Old 12.4 The Scoresheet** The details of what is allowed to be written on the scoresheet has been removed.

**12.4 Arbiter’s Duties** Added to the list of duties are to ensure fair play and to take special measures for disabled players and those requiring medical attention. The arbiter may also appoint an assistant to observe games.

*Comment It is assumed that the assistant does not have to be a licenced national arbiter for FIDE rated events. They might be used on time scrambles or to observe players who have a history of disputes.*

**Appendix A Rapidplay Games & Appendix B Blitz Games** The rules for these types

of game have been brought closer together. Blitz games are now those of 10 minutes or less duration, reduced from 15. For games to be conducted under the normal Laws as well as adequate arbiter supervision the games must also be recorded by someone (not the players).

Correction to the initial set-up of the pieces can be done in the first 10 moves (previously 3). Clocks can be adjusted after this point if failure to do so would disrupt the competition.

If the incorrect placement of king or rook goes unnoticed until after this point then castling with the wrongly positioned piece is not allowed. (The rook was not mentioned previously.)

In both formats the first illegal move loses provided it is spotted by the arbiter or the opponent before making his next move. If the claim is not made in time then the game will continue. The players may correct the position by mutual agreement and without arbiter involvement.

If the arbiter sees both kings in check or a pawn is on its furthest rank he shall wait until the next move is played and if the illegal position is still on the board then the game will be declared drawn.

*Comment These are the only examples of illegal positions which can be treated in this way. Note that if the arbiter sees the pawn being moved without being exchanged for another piece then he should step in at that point. The same game can therefore have different results dependant on when the arbiter sees something.*

The arbiter is no longer prevented from calling flag fall.

The competition regulations must say whether the normal laws or the special laws will apply. The same Laws must apply for the entire event.

*Comment It is unlikely that many Rapidplay or Blitz tournaments will be played in Britain without the special rules applying.*

In Blitz a 1 minute penalty will replace the 2 minute ones of standard games.

**Appendix C Notation** The Laws now recognise that a capture does not have to be recorded with an x so Bxe5 can be written as Be5.

*Comment There is a certain irony that the Laws finally recognise a habit which has been in existence for some time at the same time as making it more useful for such*

*moves to be fully recorded with regard to implementing the 75 move rule.*

**Old Appendix D Quickplay Finishes Without an Arbiter** This is now included in Appendix G.

**Appendix D Rules for Blind/Visually Handicapped** The use of speaking clocks for those with sight problems is now recognised.

**Appendix E Adjournments** One change is that the default time for arrival for an adjournment is the same as for the main session.

**Appendix G Quickplay Finishes** Quickplay finishes apply to Rapidplay and Standard games only. If a QP finish is to be used it must be announced on the entry form.

G4 A new option is that if the player having the move has fewer than two minutes left on his clock, he may request that a time delay or cumulative time of an extra five seconds be introduced for both players, if possible. The clocks shall then be set with the extra time; the opponent shall be awarded two extra minutes and the game shall continue.

*Comments The availability of this option will have to be announced in advance. It is open to both players though will probably only be used by the player behind on time. It is designed to be used in cases where there are not enough digital clocks at the start. This also means that arbiters will be expected to convert accurately the time on an analogue clock onto a digital clock and to do it quickly enough so as not to upset the opponent. I can imagine a few angry opponents who, when seconds away from securing a draw or win, find themselves facing a player with 5 seconds per move plus the additional thinking time gained whilst a clock was set.*

G5 If G4 is not available as an option then a draw claim can be made in the last two minutes as previously.

G6 This deals with the case where an arbiter is not present. There is no change to the current arrangement.

*Comment The introduction to G6 is ambiguous. I believe it overrides G5 but it could also be taken to mean that G4 is not an option when no arbiter is present. Certainly getting the players to agree the time on the clocks to transfer over could be difficult to achieve.*



**Glossary** This is new. It gives definitions to the terms used in the Laws.

*Final Comment* The intention is that these Laws will last for three years and we will then return to a four year cycle. The Glossary will be updated whenever it is felt necessary. Sean Press has produced a table of changes at

<http://rules.fide.com/images/stories/downloads/fide%20laws%20of%20chess%20change%20table%202014.pdf>

*This though highlights additions but is less clear on other alterations.*



## **The Future**

*Two of Britain's youngest Arbiters. On the left is Matthew Carr. The other is Thomas Thorpe who has recently been added to the FIDE list of National Arbiters, having had to wait until his 17th birthday. FIDE requires you to be 21 to be an FA or IA.*

## FIDE Player Registration

The following was sent by FIDE to all national bodies on 12th August. Organisers and Arbiters should be aware that events where there is a player who does not have a FIN (FIDE Identification Number) will be refused rating. Strangely, this is taking immediate effect but is on the Agenda

*"FIDE receives a big number of mainly open tournaments where organizers welcome participants from their country or foreigners who have never played in FIDE rated tournaments before; that is players without a FIDE ID number. National rating officers create ID numbers for their own Nationals but the foreigners are submitted without IDs.*

*QC believes that FIDE should not take responsibility to register new players as it is not possible to confirm the players' details provided by organisers. It is also not possible for FIDE to contact all Federations and request them to confirm details and create ID numbers.*

*QC has instructed the Elista Office to reject tournaments which are submitted without ID numbers.*

*We kindly request the national rating officers who cannot submit their tournaments for the reason mention above, to contact the Federations and request that they create ID numbers for the players who do not have one.*

*It should be noted that if a player is declared with a wrong Federation and wishes to change Federation, the Registration, Transfer & Rules of Eligibility for Player will be applied."*

The main problem in this respect could be unrated overseas players. It may be advisable to decline entries without a FIN. Entry forms should probably ask for FINs amongst the player's details. Foreign players should not be registered by the host country but by their own one. A wrong registration may result in a €250 'transfer fee' to correct matters.

Arbiters controlling at FIDE rated events also have to be licensed. Events will not be rated if unlicensed arbiters are used. Organisers should be aware of this potential problem.

## Letters and Emails

I noticed something of interest in the 'Arbiting Matters Too' (Issue 1) that I had not realised, as I seldom do Swiss Pairings now.

A different float system is used in British Pairing Rules if the event is long rather than short. Presumably bottom v top if short and median v median if long. I think this is a mistake. It must be very confusing when doing the system by hand. The late Richard Furness was always very much against special rules that might be forgotten. Bottom v top is easier to apply and median v median more aesthetically pleasing and, I think, gives 'better' results even for 6 rounds.

*Stewart Reuben.*

It is indeed median v median for long events but median down, highest up for short events. This acts as a form of acceleration by making it harder for the downfloat to win. It can also be argued that the median is playing the 'weakest' player in the score group as he has someone ½pt behind. (AMcF)

## Unusual Prize Structure—Largs

I was an arbiter at the revived Largs congress in Ayrshire in September. The organiser came up with a novel way of distributing prizes at such an event. First prize was £150 but 2nd-5th were all £50 with two grading prizes of £12.50 each. There were to be no ties, players would be split on Tournament Performance Rating as calculated by the Chess Scotland grading program. Fears were expressed that having the same prizes for the minor places would result in a number of quick draws in the last round as it wouldn't matter if you were second or fifth. These fears were not realised as the games were hard fought in general. The obvious question though is "Is this a system that could be used elsewhere?" There were certainly more prizes on offer than the normal weekender. I didn't have a problem with the grading prizes not being split but it didn't seem quite right that in a multiple tie for second one person was left without a prize. The big plus was that it avoided the common situation where a player would be better off with a grading prize rather than a share of third, though by doing this he leaves the players he tied with even better off.

As an example a 3 way share of £75 third prize v a £30 grading prize. If the player

takes 3rd= he gets £25 but if he takes the grading prize the others get £37.50! There are two common solutions to this problem. Lump both prizes together and give them £35 each or give the prizes of £55 (£30+£25), £25 and £25. In this case both of these solutions would not satisfy the conditions on many entry forms of only one prize per competitor.

## **Previous Issues**

Previous editions of Arbiting Matters are available on the CAA website.

The website is proving to be more popular with the number of hits creeping upwards as people become aware of its existence.

## **Arbiting Licenses**

When FIDE introduced the Arbitrator Licensing scheme the ECF was caught in an awkward situation. There were several people who were not recognised by the ECF as arbiters but who had been acting as such at internationally rated events for a number of years. If the ECF was to refuse to pass on their application to FIDE then their continued association with the event would need to end, and possibly even the existence of some events would have been in doubt.

I believe that under those circumstances it was appropriate for the ECF to take the action that it did but consider it unfortunate that it did not insist that they became qualified within a fixed period. This matter was brought home when one of these arbiters was the subject of a complaint from Gawain Jones about the handling of one of his games.

To become a FIDE arbiter it is now necessary to attend a course and pass an exam. My feeling is that the ECF should insist that future applications should be conditional on gaining either a pass at an ECF or FIDE course.

Comments on this are welcome. Should the CAA be lobbying the ECF on this issue?

## **FIDE ETHICS COMMISSION DECISION**

The FIDE Ethics Commission upheld a complaint from the ECF over the exclusion of English Arbiters from the Istanbul Olympiad. FIDE Vice President Ali Nihat YAZICI

decided that no arbiters from countries which had instigated legal action against FIDE at the Court of Arbitration for Sport would officiate at the event in his home country. The Commission decided that Mr Yazici had exceeded his authority and censured him for his action. At least one English Arbiter and possibly two were denied the opportunity to attend in this capacity.

It remains to be seen if the disappointed arbiters will be given preference when arbiters for the Norway Olympiad are selected.

## **APPENDICES**

The new Laws and the relegation of Quickplay Finishes to the Appendices of the Laws made me wonder what are the criteria to appear here. In the case of QP Finishes it seems to be that FIDE wants these to be phased out. When the last really major review (as opposed to the 4 yearly reviews) was carried out Adjournments were removed from the main Laws because they were becoming the exception. Chess960 was included because there was a demand for it, apparently from several GMs. Whilst rules for playing at Odds were included in the main Laws in the 19th Century they seem simply to have disappeared without going through a transitional stage.

It used to be said that things like Correspondence and presumably Internet chess were not included because they were not 'over the board' variations. However, what does puzzle me is why Notation is only an appendix. When Descriptive was allowed I could see some logic for this as there were alternative methods.

Every tournament game must be recorded and as such this appendix comes into force every move of every game. I want to start a campaign to upgrade Notation into the Competition section of the Main Laws. Who's with me? Join ANIMaL—Add Notation Into Main Laws!!

## **Meet the Arbiter**

Stewart Reuben celebrates 60 years as a chess official this year. This magnificent achievement has gone by almost unnoticed. To try to redress this a bit Arbiting Matters in this issue and the next includes a profile of Stewart and some of the contributions he has made to chess not only in this country but worldwide.



## **STEWART REUBEN – A CHESS AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

This September I celebrated my Diamond Jubilee as a chess administrator. Alex McFarlane has asked me to write some notes, obviously with a bias towards arbiting.

I was first taught the rules at 11 by my 16 year old cousin Roger Renders. He showed no further interest and I really learnt about the game when I went to grammar school at the age of 11 in September 1950. Ironically Roger 30 years later became interested in chess and received lessons from Malcolm Pein!

Chess was very strong in my school William Ellis in London. The Headmaster was President of the Chess Education Society and also the London Secondary Schools Chess League. Chess had the equivalent stature of rugby there. I once organised and played in a 100 board match from 600 pupils against another school. One year we reached the quarter finals of the National Club Championship. Sadly few people continued with chess after university.

I was first an organiser of sorts when I was 14 in 1953. I captained Islington adult Club in the Middlesex League and ran the lunch time school chess club. There is no precise moment of cross over for these things, at least for me. I played and won quite a good game on 17 October and on 26 October am going to Dresden to discuss chess for the disabled.

There was no master in charge of chess who did any work at William Ellis. So I became heavily involved with all aspects of a school chess club. When I went to King's College in London in 1958 to read Chemistry, I not only played board one for their team, but was also secretary and later captain.

When I left King's in 1961 I rejoined Islington Club which later became an absolute power-house in English chess. At one time we had as many as five good organisers.

In 1963 I immigrated to the US and lived and worked as a laboratory-based scientist in Manhattan. There surely was no better place for a 24 year old chessplayer to live at that time. I could afford to live in a hotel for the first year and had a one-bedroom apartment the second.

There were about seven places in New York where you could play chess every day. Alas there are only a few left. Also playing blitz for money was part of the scene. That is how I came to play Bobby Fischer. It was five minute chess. If I lost it cost me \$1. If I won I would get \$10. Thus it was 5 minute chess on equal terms. I drew one

of the games which I should have won, out of 9 in total. You can find it on chessbase and also one where he creamed me. Does it make me a rather sad case that my best known game was played 50 years ago and is of rather poor quality?

I returned to England in 1965. I continued to work as a scientist until 1967 when I became a schoolteacher. I presume many of the readers know that my prime game is poker and some that I have written an autobiography, 'Poker 24/7 – 35 years a Poker Pro.' A number of Islington Club members were playing poker at the 'En Pasant' a seedy chess salon in The Strand in London. Ted Isles, the poker host, said, 'The club can have the venue for a weekend'. As the cards continued to be dealt, I said, 'Then we'll organise a weekend Swiss'. This was a seminal moment in British chess. I had become acquainted with the idea in New York, with one game on Friday night, 3 on Saturday and two on Sunday. At that time in Britain weekend events had only been over the holiday weekends and been sections of six round robins.

The first Islington Open took place about 6 weeks later in early December 1965. There were 24 entries, an unheard of large number of players for a 6 round Swiss in Britain at that time. Barry Green won with 5/6. He still plays for the same club as me, Cavendish. I had arranged to take the family to the theatre on the Saturday evening to see 'Hello Dolly'. George Wheeler took over for those hours. We spent time together this year in Torquay. One of my objectives was that the system would be imitated and I would be able to play in weekend tournaments elsewhere. By 1971 the Islington Congress, with several sections, had grown to 500 entries and you could play somewhere every weekend. I overlooked that I would get so busy with chess administration that I wouldn't have time to play as much. We were ready for the Fischer boom.

In that one event in 1965 I introduced seeded Swiss Pairings, Grading Prizes and penalty fees for late entries. I had imported seeded pairings from the US; at that time a lottery system was used throughout England. Later I introduced grading restricted sections. Hitherto placement in sections had been decided by a committee; the grading system was still relatively new. In 1967 I introduced Accelerated Pairings. I had had the system explained to me and I misunderstood. This resulted in a substantially different system than that originated by Phil Haley in Canada.

Nobody told me anything different, so I assumed that, if I organised a tournament, I would also be the arbiter. Sometimes I have also helped with the bulletin, publicity, done the Swiss Pairings and even acted as a filler. I strongly believe an organiser or arbiter is better at those tasks if he has experience of both and if he has played serious competitive chess.

Then came 1972 and a huge explosion in interest in chess due to the Fischer-Spassky match. Leonard Barden was, and is, the chess correspondent for the London Evening Standard. He secured their support for the Islington Congress which was renamed The Evening Standard London Chess Congress. Probably more im-

portant than the money was the amount of publicity they gave to the event in the newspaper. It resulted in 1204 players. Leonard was still telling people it wasn't too late to enter. I told him to stop doing this when the entry reached 1100. I didn't know whether Islington Green School could fit any more in. Arbiters came from all over England, bringing equipment with them. I passed by the late Harry Baines on Saturday. 'Hello Harry. I didn't know you were playing. He replied, 'I'm not. I'm in charge of your major'. School finished at 4pm. Play was due to start at 7pm. I apologised to the players in the Open when we started at 7.01. You can understand why I remain scathing about organisers who start late.

With the help of the Evening Standard we had a large number of subsidiary sponsors. Leonard and I took until 5am on Monday morning working out the subsidiary prize list. I started my first lesson at 9am that day. In 1974 I contracted shingles after the event during the Christmas holidays. That is often said to be due to being run down and we moved the Evening Standard Congress to July. Eventually the late George Goodwin took over running the reintroduced Islington Congress and many others. Sadly all of them have now vanished, presumably partly because of the cost of the venues.

Games were adjudicated after 4½ hours play even in 1971 and 1972. In 1970 I had played in a tournament in Yugoslavia (Serbia now) and there been introduced and played to the embryo quickplay finish rules. I introduced them very gingerly and with great suspicion. Finally in 1973 they became mandatory at the Evening Standard Congress. I was told the Grading Committee debated whether to accept the games. Within two years adjudications had vanished from English tournament chess. I believe there are ridiculously still some pockets where they exist in leagues. Had anybody told me in 1973 that this way of playing chess would supplant adjournments, I wouldn't have believed them. Of course the rules have been amended. There are some changes for 2014. Since it was new to everybody, for the first couple of years the arbiter stepped in and declared the game drawn, if he thought it was the correct thing to do.

Eventually it became The National Bank of Dubai Evening Standard Congress and was held in major London hotels. The first prize in the Open became £1200, equivalent in today's terms to £6000 I guess. Of course eventually it finished in the early 1980s. But throughout I had remained chief organiser and chief arbiter of the open.

*More on Stewart's contribution to chess in the next issue.*

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

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