

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

January 2016 Issue 12

Bah! Humbug!

Editorial

Belated seasons greetings.

I'm typing this during the Hastings Congress. The good news is that the sponsorship from Tradewise Insurance has allowed the Masters event to continue. Getting sponsorship for chess events is not easy. Getting adequate media coverage is almost impossible. Carlsen's appearance on the BBC One Show did not receive overwhelming support from chess players some of whom thought it was superficial. However, the fact that it was on prime time TV must be seen as a bonus for chess.



A seasonal message from a well known chess player.
(I may have the wrong Roger de C here.)

The PokerStars International held in the Isle of Man was the first "British" event to be visited by FIDE's Anti-Cheating team. There is a report on the procedures inside.

On that topic the first punishment under FIDE's revised code has been published. The recipient received a three year ban and the loss of his GM title reverting to IM status. (See page 6). Perhaps strangely he is prevented from acting as an arbiter but can continue to teach chess to children. Is it appropriate that his punishment should allow him to be able to influence young players? It might be seen as extremely harsh to totally prevent him from trying to make a living from chess but wouldn't his actions mean that he was unsuitable to promote the game to youngsters. Imagine the press reaction if a Premiership footballer convicted of match fixing was allowed to coach a team of school kids during his suspension!

What Is The Correct Extra Queen Position?

Events in St Louis seem to attract controversy. We've already had the So misuse of the scoresheet incident. This time it was the "Showdown in St Louis" between Caruana and Nakamura and blitz game 5.

The incident can be seen here at 2:42:40 for the live version (or 2:59:00 for the double replay).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnPtAYXAvrc>

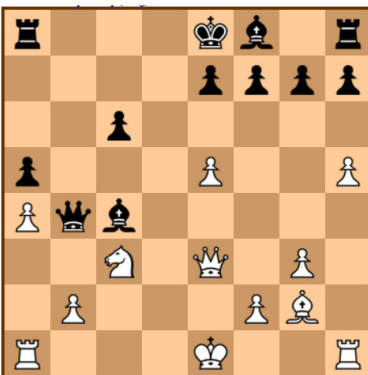
In attempting to promote Caruana reached for a queen and seems to have accidentally started his clock with the pawn having been moved to the promotion square. If this had been judged by the arbiter to have been deliberate then he would have been deemed to have made an illegal move and forfeited his blitz game.

The story has raised concerns about the new DGT 3000 clocks with some claims that the rocker arm can be moved too easily. Arbiters may wish, as a result, to consider where the extra queens should be placed when setting up for the start of a round. It is quite common for the extra pieces to be put behind the clock as this is easily reached and was thought not to interfere. If this is still the case it might be advisable for players to reach for the queen before moving the pawn.

One chess club I visited solved the problem by removing the extra queens from all of their new sets and keeping them as spares in the club's cupboard.

CASTLING

The following game was played in the recent 2015 European Championship in Reykjavik.



White: GM Anton Korobov (UKR) Black: GM Dragan Solak (TUR)

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 dc4 5. a4 Bf5
6. Ne5 Nbd7 7. Nc4 Nb6 8. Ne5 a5 9. h4 Nbd7
10. Qb3 Ne5 11. de5 Nd7 12. e4 Be6 13. Qb7 Ne5
14. Bf4 Rb8 15. Qa6 Ra8 16. Qe2 Qb8 17. h5 Nd3
18. Qd3 Qf4 19. g3 Qd6 20. Qe3 Qb4 21. Bg2 Bc4
22. e5

22 ... 0-0-0 was played. Moves 14 and 15 may explain why this was a problem. Black resigned rather than continue with another king move.

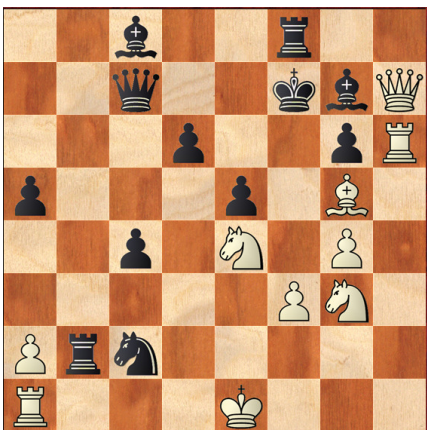
It might surprise how many top players do not know or forget the Laws on castling as the following show.



Carlos Torre Repetto v Richard Reti (1925 Baden Baden)

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. Nc3 Nxc3 4. dxc3 Nc6 5. Nf3 d6 6. Bb5 a6 7. Bxc6+ bxc6 8. Bf4 Rb8 9. b3 e6 10. Qd3 d5 11. O-O Qd7 12. Rad1 a5 13. Rfe1 Ra8 14. Ng5 h6 15. Nh3 Ba6 16. Qg3 g6 17. Be3 Be7 18. Nf4 c5 19. f3 Qc6 20. c4 d4 21. Bf2 Bb7 22. a4 0-0 was attempted. The queen rook has already moved. Castling kingside remains a possibility but 22 ... Nxc6 was a problem. So the game continued ...

22 ... Kf8 23. Rd3 Kg7 24. Nh5+ Kh7 25. Qf4 Rhf8 26. Nf6+ Bxf6 27. Qxf6 g5 28. Bg3 Rg8 29. Qxf7+ Rg7 30. Qh5 Rf8 31. h3 ½-½



Alexander Kotov v Boris Spassky (1958 USSR Championship)

In the position shown Kotov attempted 28 0-0-0!

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 g6 3. d4 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3 O-O 6. Be3 e5 7. d5 c5 8. g4 Ne8 9. h4 a6 10. Bd3 b5 11. Qd2 bc4 12. Bc4 Nd7 13. h5 Nb6 14. Bd3 a5 15. hg6 fg6 16. Qh2 Nf6 17. Nh3 Qe7 18. Ne2 Rb8 19. Ng3 c4 20. Bc2 Nbd5 21. ed5 Rb2 22. Ng5 h6 23. N5e4 Nd5 24. Bh6 Nb4 25. Bg5 Qc7 26. Qh7 Kf7 27. Rh6 Nc2 And here 28. 0-0-0

28. Kf1 Nd4 29. Qg6 Kg8 30. Qh7 Kf7 31. Nd6 Qd6 32. Rd6 Ne6 33. Nf5 Rh8 34. Nh6 1-0

Stefan Kindermann v Victor Korchnoi (1995 Ptuj)

1e4 c6 2d4 d5 3e5 c5 4dxc5 e6 5Be3 Nd7 6Bb5 Qc7 7Nf3 Bxc5 8Bxc5 Qxc5 9Nc3 Ne7 10O-O a6 11Bd3 h6 12Re1 Nc6 13Qd2 g5 14h3 Rg8 15a3 Qf8 16g4 h5 17Qe3 Qh6 18Bf1 hxg4 19hxg4 b6 20Bg2 Bb7 21Na4 Rh8 22Nxb6 Ncxe5 23Nxd7 Nxd7 24Rad1 Rc8 25Qa7 Rc7 26Rd3 This is officially where the game ended but in reality and in a time scramble Korchnoi played 0-0 and the game continued until both flags were

No-one refused to be scanned. Had there been such a refusal then the player would not have been allowed to continue. Apparently one player even asked to be scanned.

Other than the scanning the IoM event did little above the normal. It was commented on that the various FIDE categories of event and the security measures suggested for them did not fit easily into the British chess circuit.

An example of something which would be difficult to enforce at a British event would be the exclusive use of toilet facilities for players.



The Anti-Cheating Committee gave the tournament a Garrett Super Scanner V which is hand held and used at a number of sporting events worldwide.

It seems like players and arbiters will need to get used to the idea of security checks. In addition to the metal detectors we may soon have to use detectors which will establish if a mobile phone is being used. If an accusation is made then

the player should do so in writing. The accuser should be aware that false accusations may not result in action being taken against themselves but that malicious accusations almost certainly will.

There would appear to be little truth in the rumour that the next new creation in the long running crime drama series will be CSI Hastings with the CSI standing for Chess Standards Investigated. (Theme tune—Shakin' All Over by the Who)

Illegal Moves

I've been involved in correspondence recently about what constitutes an illegal move.

The first case seems reasonably straight forward the second less so.

In a bit of a time scramble in a Glasgow League Division 1 game White promotes her pawn to a black queen and presses the clock. Is this an illegal move?

Unfortunately I don't think there is much doubt that it is.

In a rapidplay in the Midlands a player touches a piece, doesn't move it however and then starts the opponent's clock. Is this an illegal move?

This is the case where there could be some uncertainty. Can not moving be classified as an illegal move?

It seems to me that there are three situations where a player starts the opponent's clock without moving.

- The player misses his opponent moving and thinks he has failed to stop his clock after his previous move,
- The player moves but realises it would be a mistake and moves the piece back to its original square but presses the clock,
- The player is in zugswang and is trying to cheat.

I have experience of the first two but not the third that I am aware of. The first case is different in that no piece was touched. In the second situation I've had players genuinely think they had moved, failing to realise it was back on the same square. The third is clearly cheating and should be punished but should that punishment be by treating it as an illegal move? Comments welcome as I will be returning to this one.

FIDE DECISION CONCERNING CHEATING AT DUBAI OPEN

The FIDE Ethics Commission has announced its findings in the case of GM Gaioz Nigalidze in the 2015 Dubai Open. The Commission states that he was guilty of analysing using a chess engine installed on his I-pod in his round 6 game against GM Petrosian. He therefore violated section 2.2.5 of the FIDE Code of Ethics. His punishment is a ban until 5th September 2018 from playing rated chess, acting as an arbiter or organiser or representing a chess federation. His GM title was also revoked. During his ban he will be allowed to continue as a trainer, teacher or coach.

The three year ban is the maximum allowed for a first offence. While his GM title was removed he will retain IM status because of his remorse and cooperation.

This case is significant for being the first case of cheating being decided since FIDE's establishment of an Anti-Cheating Committee and its adoption of anti-cheating guidelines and amendment of the Code of Ethics to provide for much increased sanctions in November 2014.

FIDE has still to reveal the outcome of its investigation of the false accusations made at the infamous women's event where what have subsequently been shown to be false accusations of cheating were levelled at one of the competitors.

Requirements for FIDE Rating

A few people have asked questions recently about the requirements for a FIDE rated event.

Can the FIDE Laws be amended for the event? No a FIDE rated event must follow the FIDE Laws though these do allow a bit of flexibility in how, for example, mobile phones are dealt with.

Can I use any arbiters? All arbiters must be licenced by FIDE. FIDE itself has no restriction on who may be licenced but national federations do.

Can I use any time control? Although there is no longer only 6 recognised time controls for titled events all FIDE rated events must satisfy certain conditions. If there is a first time control this must use 40 moves. Each player must have the following minimum period in which to complete all the moves, assuming the game lasts 60 moves. Where at least one of the players in the tournament has a rating 2200 or higher, each player must have a minimum of 120 minutes. Where at least one of the players in the tournament has a rating 1600 or higher, each player must have a minimum of 90 minutes. Where all the players in the tournament are rated below 1600, each player must have a minimum of 60 minutes.

Can I use any pairing system? Currently the answer to that is a restricted yes. If a standard system is not being used then a copy of the rules used should be submitted. You would not be allowed to use a system which favours any player. It is not allowed to change a pairing (or to artificially make one) which would increase a players chances of getting a title norm for example. From 2017 any system used for norm events must be approved by FIDE. Software will then be used to check that no alterations were made to the draw after the first round (it is accepted that round 1 pairings will change due to late entries etc).

Can I repair if a player doesn't turn up? Yes, but only with the agreement of the players concerned. A player can decline the opportunity to be re-paired.

Can I avoid pairing family members or clubmates? Technically, provided you have published the pairing rules to be used (and supply FIDE with a copy) you can try to avoid such pairings. However, I do not believe that the Qualifications Commission in FIDE has yet had to rule on such a situation. I would be concerned that if, for example, a player was the top seed and his brother did not have to play him then it could be argued strongly that the brother had an unfair advantage over the other competitors which would mean that the event should not be rated. FIDE is known to ignore this itself in some events where Arabs and Israelis have been kept apart.

THE START OF THE SWISS SYSTEM

Competitive chess until the late 19th Century consisted of matches or all-play-all tournaments. (Club tournaments and some others organised as APAs tended to have provision for games not being played by insisting that the prizewinners had to have completed a minimum number of games. It was therefore not uncommon for the person who scored most points not to be given a prize.)

It is generally accepted that the first Swiss event was the 1895 Swiss Championship held in Zurich. The inventor being Julius Müller from Brugg near Zurich.

However it is unlikely that many would recognise that event and the next few as a Swiss in the modern sense. The pairing method was such that winners from the previous round were paired together as were the losers. If a game was drawn it was decided by lot if a player was put into the winning half or the losing one. Points were not totalled until after the last round. This system was used until the 1899 Championship in Lausanne when the rules were changed to pair people with the same number of points. Those who drew were still allocated by lot to a full point score. The St Gallen tournament of 1901 was the first to document that the actual score was the sole criterion for pairing.

This information can be checked in the Swiss Chess Player (Schweizerische Schachzeitung). It therefore seems more reasonable to claim that the first chess Swiss was held in 1899. It is also alleged that the 'Swiss system' was used in Go tournaments at an earlier date. Additionally it is unclear if players were allowed to meet for a second time, a system now known as the Danish. The Danish can be used to allow the leading teams/players to meet in later rounds even if they had met earlier.

Julius Müller was born in 1857. By profession he was a meteorologist and teacher in Brugg (not far from Zurich). He was a founding member of the Swiss Chess Federation in 1889, and a member of the committee and then treasurer until 1903, when he was elected an honorary member. He died in 1917.

Arbiting Mistakes?



The above pieces are not recommended for tournament play—especially if filled appropriately before the start.

A player is asleep at the board. There is a suspicion that the player has been drinking. What should the arbiter do? This scenario occurred in 2009 at the 4th Kolkata Grandmaster Open when GM Vladislav Tkachiev, one of the top seeds fell asleep at the board during his round three game. It is alleged that the player was somewhat the worse from an overindulgence in intoxicating liquor. The arbiter woke the player, an action that produced much criticism. Accusations were made against the arbiter Anantharam Rathinam that his

actions had effectively given advice to the player or were showing favouritism and were contrary to the law which states that you cannot tell a player that it is his move. He was also accused of allowing other players to do the same. It would appear that the player was awoken with only minutes remaining on his clock.

The arbiter countered that he had to ensure that the best conditions were upheld and that the many players coming up to look at the GM was a distraction to those on the surrounding boards. There could also have been the possibility that the player was seriously ill and only appeared drunk. In this case it would appear that the

opponent had requested that the arbiter waken the player as he preferred to win over the board rather than on time.

Was the arbiter correct? Should he have waited a few more minutes until the sleeper lost on time? If there is any possibility of the problem being health related then every minute could be vital and the arbiter must react accordingly.

At a Glasgow Congress in the 1980s a player was missing from his board for a considerable time. On his return he was somewhat unsteady on his feet. It transpires that he had visited the pub across the road from the playing venue. The arbiter had no hesitation in awarding the game to the opponent.

I woke a player on one occasion to tell him that play had started. In my defence it was 4am and we were well into an all night tournament.

RAPID TRANSIT CHESS?

Ever heard of this? I certainly hadn't before searching through old newspaper clippings. The Brooklyn Daily Eagle of 12 December 1895 gives the following explanation. *"... a quick tournament with a time limit of 120 moves in an hour, or half a minute to a move. This style of play is popularly known as rapid transit, or railroad chess, and affords a delightful relief, particularly to spectators, from the necessarily slow and arduous play usually seen ... Here is where the player with the clear brain and eagle eye, who calculates rapidly and makes his decisions promptly, has the advantage over his more methodical and analytical competitors. The former sees at a glance what is required of him and does it without hesitation, while the latter takes his 25 seconds to find out what is the object of his opponent, when he is warned by the call of time that he must play and, becoming flustered, he makes a losing move or forfeits the game by overstepping the time limit. It is exceedingly good sport, however, alike for players and onlookers."*

Despite the original claim of being 120 moves in an hour this seems to be the effect of accumulation. It looks like there was someone with a watch who called out a warning after 25 seconds and then awarded a loss 5 seconds later if the move still hadn't been made.

Other Arbiters

Not many sports in Britain refer to the officials as arbiters but the term is used elsewhere.

The Arbiter is a Gastropub in North End Road, Fulham. I am unaware of any chess connection though being a gastropub that probably means that you pay the bill with large checks (sorry!).



The **Arbiter** is a ceremonial, religious, and political rank bestowed upon alien Covenant Elites in the *Halo* science fiction universe. *Halo* is described as a military science fiction first-person shooter video game—so now you know. Chess arbiters may find that there are fewer disputes if they dressed in the uniform opposite.

The Arbiter is also the official periodic journal of the Barking and Dagenham (Football) Referees' Society. It has been published since 2006 and has a "You are the Ref!" section—a statement I would have assumed ob-

vious from the target audience. This poses hypothetical situations and asks what you would do. Here is an example.

Q. A striker is on-side and clean through on goal when the goalkeeper decides to try some diversionary tactics- turning his back on the striker and dropping his shorts. Astonished by what he is seeing, the attacker briefly hesitates and turns to you in bewilderment. The keeper quickly pulls up his shorts and picks up the loose ball. What do you do?

A. *Dismiss the goalkeeper – he has clearly committed a serious offence from which his team have benefited, and, given the circumstances, his actions have clearly denied an obvious goal scoring opportunity, so he must be shown the red card. Have the defending team choose someone else to go in goal and restart the game with an indirect free kick from the point where he dropped his shorts.*

Makes chess arbiting seem less stressful.



BACK PAGE BRIEFS

In his 1561 treatise on chess Ruy Lopez de Segura (c. 1540- c. 1580) advised his chess students to “place your opponent with the sun in his eyes if you play by day, and with the candle at his right side if you play at night.”

In 1973, the police raided a chess tournament in Cleveland, Ohio. They arrested the tournament director and confiscated the chess sets on charges of allowing gambling (cash prizes to winners) and possession of gambling devices (the chess sets).

The following is an advertisement from the “Australian Town and Country Journal” of 12th Sept 1896.

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 Delegate - Kevin Staveley

Independent Examiner - Richard Jones

FATTORINI CHESS CLOCK

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SOLE AGENTS FOR AUSTRALASIA

For those unfamiliar with predecimal money that amounts to 82½p. The clocks worked by a pendulum and were halted by tipping the clock. An example is shown below.



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

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