

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

June 2016 Issue 16

Editorial: Firstly apologies that the last issue was sent out as a Publisher document and not the intended pdf format. The pdf format is available on the website if required.

Contained in this issue are the plans of the ECF Home Director, Alex Holowczak, for a restructuring of the English arbiting system.

The full documentation is available to download from the CAA and ECF websites. In particular there is a pro forma for registering your comments.

There seem to be three main proposals—qualified arbiters are used in more events, more arbiters are created through regular courses and the ECF Senior Arbiter title is no longer awarded. The first two are certainly to be encouraged though the ECFo- rum is reacting negatively to these. Arbiters are free to make their feelings known both to the ECF Home Director and to this newsletter.

It is a stated aim of the International Director that more English arbiters should be used in foreign events. A significant problem here is the shortage of British events that can afford to invite foreign arbiters to officiate. If this was happening then a 'quid pro quo' arrangement could be made.

On the matter of arbiters abroad, congratulations to Lara Barnes and Alex McFarlane who have been appointed as arbiters at the European Youth Championships in Prague in August. Alex will also be officiating in Baku at the Olympiad. As announced last issue, he will be joining David Welch and Alex Holowczak who are also attending.

Olympiad Anti-Cheating Measures

FIDE and the organisers are putting in place a number of measures to ensure that no cheating takes place at the Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan. Players will not be allowed to bring mobiles, watches or pens into the venue. A state of the art scanning device will be used to ensure this as well as security.

It has been the norm at recent events for competitors to be scanned on entry. This time this will be taken further. FIDE has purchased a state of the art machine which will be used on players after their games and possibly even during them. This process will take only a few seconds and is claimed to be able to identify even very small objects. The procedures used will be similar to those adopted for drugs testing in that 8 to 10 players will be randomly selected each round. The possibility of using jammers is being considered. Apparently jammers were trialled unsuccessfully during the World Cup.

Games will also be subject to scrutiny by being assessed by the software system. This will be used in particular where a player is playing above expectation.

One measure that will not be used is a delay in broadcasting the games.

Israel Gelfer, the Chairman of the Anti-Cheating Committee, hopes that the provisions will prevent cheating taking place but does not rule out the possibility of someone trying and even having something more advanced than can be detected.

Controversially players will not only be scanned after their game but the possibility exists for it to be done during a game. It is to be hoped that testing during a game will only be used in extreme circumstances.

Already there have been adverse comments appearing about the measures to be taken. Surprisingly most comments I have seen regard the possibility of pens failing and it will presumably be up to the arbiter to supply a replacement.



[While looking for an image of a signal blocker Googling produced several adverts for devices which stopped mobiles being able to be traced by GPS claiming it would stop partners being able to know your whereabouts!!!]

Coughing—Arbiting Mistakes?

One of the most difficult things for an arbiter to deal with is a complaint from a player that his opponent is coughing or sniffing too much and is distracting him both by the disturbance and the fear of catching whatever the opponent has. How does that arbiter reassure the opponent and keep the 'offender' happy as well?

This situation arose during the European Individual Championship in Gjakova, Kosova. A 15 year old Romanian IM had been coughing throughout the event but things came to a head during round 4.



The actions of the Chief Arbiter caused the Romanian delegation to send a complaint to the Chair of the organising committee and to copy in the Chair of the Appeals Committee.

The complaint alleges three things. It is claimed that while the player only had incremental time to make his moves the Chief Arbiter asked him to wear a face mask to cover his mouth. Secondly, when the player after a while but still on increments removed the mask as it was uncomfortable he was told to put it back on. Thirdly, the Chief Arbiter informed various people during the round of his intention to seek medical assurances that the player was fit to continue in the tournament but did not include the Romanian Federation or officials in this communication.

The situation was further complicated by the opponent being from the same federation as the Chief Arbiter. As the complaint said "One other aspect is that Mr. Tomasz Delega is not only the Chief Arbiter of this Competition, but also the President of the opponent's chess federation, and in our opinion he should refrain from interfering in this game and risking to influence the result. In addition to that, he shouldn't spread during the game the possibility of disqualifying our player from competition, which affected the mother's behaviour in her attempt to handle the crisis."

The player's mother was present.

The Romanians feel that the arbiter's actions may have caused the loss of a level game (the arbiter might argue that living on the increment is more likely to lead to a loss) but feel more strongly that being forced to wear the mask was humiliating for the player.

The Appeals Committee replied stating that in future the proper procedures should be followed when making a complaint. It also supported the arbiter stating "The Appeal committee examined all relevant information from sides involved and eye-witnesses and came to a conclusion that the conduct of the arbiters and their decisions were appropriate and according to FIDE rules.

The Chief Arbiter acted in a polite and supportive manner."

This reply appeared on the official website but not the complaint to which it referred.

The Romanian player continued in the tournament after the incident, finishing with a score of 6/11.

If the timing of producing the mask was as indicated in the complaint was it appropriate for the arbiter to act at that time? Could wearing a mask be seen as demeaning to the player?

Kasparov Blitz Cheating

The previous issue mentioned that Kasparov had, in a blitz event, released a knight before picking it up and moving it to another square. At the time of writing it was unclear if this had been allowed under a 'clock-move' rule rather than a touch move one. It now appears that touch move was in operation so Kasparov's actions were illegal. It is also reported that the arbiter was Tony Rich who took action against So for writing messages on his scoresheet. On this occasion no action was taken.

History—En Passant

How long has the term 'en passant' been in use in a chess connection? The oldest known printed use of the phrase occurred in *The Popular Educator* (Oxford, 1767), page 64 'This is called "taking the Pawn *en passant*" or in passing.' (Edward Winter's Chess Notes) This predates the example given in the Oxford English dictionary.

Many early editions of the Laws did not give the moves of the pieces as they were

assumed to be known. However en passant was regarded as a special move so generally a description of the move was given. The 2 square advancement of the pawn on its first move would appear to have originated in early European chess. In late 13th century Spain it was generally accepted that a pawn could advance two squares but the privilege ceased when any capture was made by the time of the publication of Lucena's version of the Laws in 1497.

For example an early 19th century set of Laws gives the following definition. From "An Introduction to the History and Study of Chess" By 'An Amateur' 1804
X. Any pawn has the privilege of advancing two squares, at its first move: but, in this case, it may, in passing, be taken by any pawn which might have taken it if it had been pushed but one move.

By the mid 19th century some copies of the Laws felt it was required to give additional guidance as regarding which pieces were allowed to capture e.p.

"Chess Handbook" 1859

xv. When a Pawn is first moved in a game, it may be played one or two squares; but in the latter case the opponent has the privilege of taking it en passant with any Pawn which could have taken it had it been played one square only. A Pawn cannot be taken en passant by a Piece.

Further clarification about the timing of the move is given by Staunton

"Chess Praxis" Staunton 1871

When a Pawn is played two squares at his first move, any adverse Pawn which has reached the fifth square of his file may, on the move in reply, but not later take such Pawn in the same manner it could have done if it had only been moved one square. this is called taking en passant.

The 1862 British Chess Association Laws gives no definition of en passant but does give the following:

XII.—PAWN TAKING IN PASSING. Should a player be left with no other move than to take a Pawn in passing, he shall be bound to play that move.

The current Laws state

FIDE 2014

3.7d A pawn attacking a square crossed by an opponent's pawn which has advanced two squares in one move from its original square may capture this opponent's pawn as though the latter had been moved only one square. This capture is only legal on the move following this advance and is called an 'en passant' capture.

There are however some confusing explanations of the move which have been given.

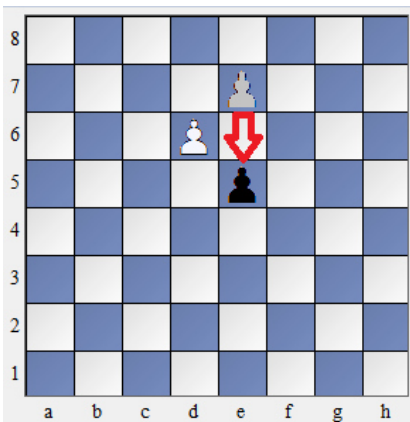
The British Chess Code of 1897 also called the American Chess Code gives the follow-

ing definition:

11 E c) When a Pawn moves to a square which it commands and which, at the preceding move, was passed over by an adverse Pawn, the adverse Pawn is removed from the board and is said to have been "taken" or "captured." This move is called "Taking in Passing."

As if the numbering wasn't bad enough, the wording is quite complicated. However pride of place in this category must go to the definition in the help file which came with Chess Titans for Windows Vista

If a pawn is about to capture one of your pawns that hasn't moved, you may decide to move that pawn forward two squares. If you do, it's more exposed for one turn. During the next turn, your opponent can move to the square where your pawn is, or to the square behind that, and capture your pawn. After that one turn, your pawn is normally vulnerable again. Both armies' pawns are vulnerable this way.



Like Vista itself this is clearly wrong!

Consider using the Vista definition in the diagram. The white pawn is about to capture the black pawn on e7 so black advances two squares. The white pawn can now move to e6 or e5 capturing the black pawn. The second last sentence in the definition also makes it unclear if a white pawn on d4 or f4 would be allowed to capture the pawn until the following move when it returns to being 'normally vulnerable'.

MORE CHEATING

We've almost come to expect cheating in events designed for those hoping to reach the higher echelons of chess. However the latest example comes from the lower reaches though the prize money on offer was attractive.

The event in question was the 1st DCA Under 1600 FIDE rated tournament held in New Delhi from 14-16 May, 2016. The first prize was 125000 Rupees (£1250) an even more impressive prize in India.

Shrang Rajendra of Uttar Pradesh with a FIDE rating of 1527 completed his tournament with a last round win to reach 8½/9. However the arbiters were suspicious of the standard of moves being played, so immediately following this game the player

was taken to the Arbiters' Room and searched. A mobile phone, powerpack and small earpiece were found. The player was disqualified and his last round opponent awarded the win.

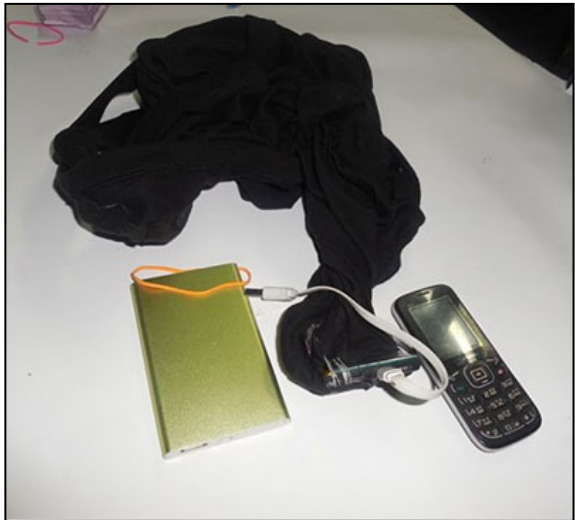
The system being used was quite simple. The phone was permanently connected to an accomplice. When the opponent moved a button was pressed on the phone. The accomplice then asked if a particular move was played. This was heard heard by the cheating player. The process was repeated until the correct move was identified by another button press. The assistant then relayed the move to be played.

It is not known how long this system had been used for. Opponents in earlier rounds of that tournament were annoyed to hear that their results against him would stand.

The equipment used and confiscated is shown in the picture.

There is a suspicion that the player may have used this system in previous tournaments. In the previous month his rating had increased 56 points in 2 tournaments though he did lose games in both of those.

The player has been reported to FIDE as well as the All India Chess Federation.



95 Law changes come into force from June

Before there is a mass panic these changes do not apply to chess but to football. The 95 changes come into effect on 1 June in time for the European Championship in France. Some of the changes are quite significant. A reminder that the Laws of Chess will be reviewed at the Olympiad in Baku.

Con Power

It is with regret we note the passing of Con Power, for many years the driving force behind the Hastings Congress. Con was the first person to be awarded the FIDE title of International Organiser.

ECF Proposals for the Reorganisation of Arbiter Titles

Arbiter Regulations: Why are we proposing to change them?

1. The ECF Arbiter Title is *de facto* unnecessary in its current form

As the ECF Director of Home Chess, I am responsible for administering the ECF Arbiter titles. These titles actually convey very little of responsibility – we do not prevent tournaments from being graded if they do not have an arbiter – let alone a qualified one – responsible for making decisions at them. Indeed, the vast majority of league chess is played without arbiters present. The FA and IA titles convey meaningful rights and responsibilities with regard to being an arbiter at FIDE Title norm events. The proposal seeks to create meaningful reasons for people to acquire the ECF Arbiter title.

2. The ECF Senior Arbiter Title being beyond that of an ECF Arbiter is no longer necessary

The ECF Senior Arbiters are generally considered to be arbiters “good enough to be the Chief Arbiter of a big FIDE Open”. If we have a big FIDE Open, such as Hastings, Isle of Man, or the London Chess Classic, then it would be difficult to defend a situation internationally whereby International Arbiters are on the team of arbiters, but an ECF Senior Arbiter without a FIDE title was the tournament’s Chief Arbiter ahead of them. Internationally, this would be seen as a strange way of operating, and events such as those listed are international events, that attract international players.

3. Internationally, there is extensive National Arbiter training before becoming a FA/IA

For example:

In France, there are several regional arbiter qualifications before you acquire National Arbiter status, and only then can you aspire to FIDE Arbiter.

In Greece, there are several categories of domestic arbiter, and only a category A domestic arbiter is eligible to apply for the title of FIDE Arbiter.

In the United States, there are several categories of Tournament Director, starting at club and local, and building up to Senior. Only a Senior Tournament Director is eligible to be put forward for the title of FIDE Arbiter.

The countries that tend not to have a national qualification leading into the international qualification tend to be very small countries, or countries without a strong chess tradition in them. For example:

In Cambodia, there was a case of a player who switched his FIDE affiliation from the United States, so that he could take the FIDE Arbiter test to become a FIDE Arbiter immediately, to benefit from Cambodia’s status within FIDE as being a country that needs to receive positive discrimination in this way in

order to organise more tournaments and improve chess there.

In Jersey, there is no domestic arbiter system, because the chess-playing population is not large enough for there to be a particular need for it.

One of the reasons FIDE introduced the “National Arbiter” title when licensing arbiters was that the expectation was that the majority of significant countries would have their own National Arbiter process, with arbiters at the top rising through this into the FIDE Arbiter and International Arbiter titles.

4. The ECF would like to have its arbiters appointed to elite FIDE Events

In order to achieve this, we need to encourage more arbiters to go through the FIDE Arbiter system. At the moment, some Arbiters prefer to aspire to the ECF Senior Arbiter title, which will not help with this aim.

Changes to Arbiter Regulations: Full Proposal

There are at present two disjoint systems: The domestic arbiter structure administered by the ECF, and the international arbiter structure administered by FIDE. The main aim of this proposal is to unite these two systems.

ECF System

- 1 Pass a Test
- 2 Become an ECF Arbiter
- 3 Become an ECF Senior Arbiter

FIDE System

- 1 Attend a Seminar and Pass a Test
- 2 Become a FIDE Arbiter
- 3 Become an International Arbiter

Levels in the new Arbiter system

- 1 Attend an ECF Seminar and Pass the ECF Test
- 2 Become an ECF Arbiter
- 3 Become a FIDE Arbiter
- 4 Become an International Arbiter

Details of Each Level

1 The ECF will organise a minimum of three ECF Arbiter Seminars per year, and advertise them on the ECF website. These Seminars will have a reasonable geographic spread around England. The title will be awarded upon achieving a Pass mark in the Test. Titleholders will be eligible to apply for a FIDE Arbiters Licence. The ECF will aim to increase the number of Seminars to a minimum of five per year by 2019.

2 This will require three tournament norm passes from a minimum of two Assessors. At least one of these three tournaments must be from a Tournament that is either Rapidplay or Blitz. At least one of these three tournaments must be from a Tournament that is Standardplay. These tournaments must have a minimum of at least 30 players. Level 2 norms can only be acquired once the candidate has reached

Level 1. The title will be awarded by a majority vote of Panel consisting of the Director of Home Chess, Manager of Arbiters (Home) and Chief Arbiter.

3 The FIDE Arbiter title will be awarded by FIDE under the regulations in force at the time. The ECF will organise a minimum of one FIDE Arbiters Seminar per year, and advertise it on the ECF website. This FIDE Arbiters Seminar can be attended, and the test taken, before Level 2 has been reached, but must be done after Level 1 has been achieved. No application for this level will be made for a candidate who is not already a Level 2 Arbiter. The Manager of Arbiters (International) will be responsible for submitting applications for FIDE Arbiter.

4 The International Arbiter title will be awarded by FIDE under the regulations in force at the time. The Manager of Arbiters (International) will be responsible for submitting applications for International Arbiter.

The ECF will not use norms that form part of a Level 2 application for Levels 3 or 4.

FIDE Arbiter Classification

Within Levels 3 and 4, Arbiters are able to acquire a classification within FIDE. No FIDE Arbiter can be classified higher than C. In order to be appointed to elite FIDE events in senior positions, typically having a category of A or B is necessary. The ECF will attempt to increase its number of Category A and B Arbiters from 7 to at least 10 by 2022. The length of time is necessary, given such high classifications can only be awarded to arbiters who have held the International Arbiter title for five years. Please see the FIDE Arbiter Classification regulations for more details.

Other Arbiter-Relevant Regulations

The ECF will continue its policy that at least one Level 1 Arbiter must be present at a Congress in order for it to be ECF-graded.

From 1st September, 2021, for an event to be graded, at least one Listed Level 2 Arbiter or higher must be:

- (a) Responsible for making decisions at an individual Congress, whether present or otherwise
- (b) Responsible for making decisions in an evening league normally conducted in arbiterless conditions; for example, serving on a Committee of any organisation that handles disputes or appeals

A practical example of how this may work in practice:

The Birmingham League has a Rules Committee that rules on any Laws of Chess related disputes. The Rules Committee would need one Level 2 Arbiter on it. This may be someone who plays in the league, but it need not be – there is no reason why the Arbiter can't be someone who is not a player in it.

Other Leagues might send their dispute to the League Secretary, and ask him to

make a ruling. In examples local to me that I am aware of, the Secretary then contacts a local arbiter, and invites him to make the ruling in the case in question. The Secretary then communicates the decision. For the purpose of meeting this regulation, the person consulted by the Secretary would be the Arbiter.

This information will be required when the relevant tournaments are registered for grading.

FIDE Arbiter Regulations will continue to be in force for FIDE-rated events, specifically:

- All arbiters working at a FIDE-rated event must be FIDE licensed arbiters

- All FIDE title norm events must have a licensed FIDE Arbiter or International Arbiter on their list of registered arbiters

In addition, the ECF will not register any events with FIDE whose arbiters are not Listed at all by the ECF (see below).

Other Titles

A Assessors

Existing Senior Arbiters and Instructors will be grandfathered into this role. For new assessors:

- Three Assessor norms are required. A norm shall be earned in the following way: Candidates will be required to mark an arbiter on their performance at an event. The Candidate and his Assessor will independently mark the arbiter. The Candidate and the Assessor must then discuss any differences in the independent assessments. If the Assessor is happy with the outcomes of this discussion, then he shall be empowered to award a norm. This norm must then be reported to the Manager of Arbiters (Home). The ECF will aim to increase the number of qualified Assessors required in this process from one to two from 1st September, 2019.

- Must be Listed at Level 2 or higher

To pass the assessment, and acquire a norm, the pass mark is 13 out of 16.

When a Candidate Assessor has acquired the three norms, he may apply to the Manager of Arbiters (Home) to become an Assessor. The title will be awarded by a majority vote of the Director of Home Chess, Manager of Arbiters (Home) and Chief Arbiter.

L Lecturers

Existing ECF Arbiter Instructors and FIDE Lecturers are grandfathered into this role. For new lecturers:

- Must be an assessor

- Must be at Listed at Level 3 or higher

- Be an assistant at three Seminars (ECF or FIDE) delivered by a qualified Lectur-

er, at a standard considered acceptable by the Lecturer.

When an Arbiter has been an assistant at three Seminars, the assistant may apply to the Manager of Arbiters (Home) to become a Lecturer. The title will be awarded by a majority vote of the Director of Home Chess, Manager of Arbiters (Home) and Chief Arbiter.

Regulations for ECF Arbiter Seminars

Lecturers cannot unilaterally decide to run an ECF Arbiters Seminar. ECF Arbiter Seminars must be organised by the Manager of Arbiters (Home). Organisations that wish to organise a Seminar must do it through the Manager of Arbiters (Home). The Manager of Arbiters (Home) will appoint one Lecturer and one Assistant Lecturer, considering factors such as the location of a Seminar, and any recommendations or requests by an organisation that wants to run a Seminar.

The Chief Arbiter will create a minimum of three different tests, one of which shall be distributed to the Lecturers of each course. Each test will have a mark scheme accompanying it. The test will be marked out of 100, and 20% of the course will be composed of pairing-related questions. After each year, one of the tests shall be replaced with a new test. In addition, a mock test will be distributed to candidates in advance, which will be half the length of the full test. Additional materials may be produced centrally, such as PowerPoint slides. The exam may be answered either by typing the answers or handwriting them.

The cost to attend a Seminar will vary from Seminar to Seminar depending on venue costs, but the minimum charge is £30. The money will be paid to the ECF centrally. The ECF will cover the travel (at 25p/mile if driving) and the accommodation expenses of the Lecturers attending the Seminar.

The topics for the seminar will be:

- The Laws of Chess

- Pairing Systems (Jamboree, All-Play-All, different types of Swiss pairings – e.g. Accelerated, Dutch system, CAA system)

The Seminar will need the following requirements:

- A minimum of 16 hours, including a 3-hour test period

- Suitable presentation facilities (e.g. a projector and a screen)

Within 21 days of the test, the Lecturer will have:

- Marked the tests

- Returned the marks to the candidates

- E-mailed an announcement to the ECF Office regarding the people who passed the test

- E-mailed the necessary updates to the List of Arbiters maintained on the ECF website

All Seminar attendees must be ECF members at the time of submitting an entry to the Seminar.

The ECF Arbiters List

Arbiters will be listed in accordance with these regulations. It is a condition of being Listed that the public List contains the following information about the Arbiter:

- ECF Grading Reference
- FIDE Identification Number
- A contact e-mail address
- A contact phone number
- Their level of qualification
- Their county of residence

This information will ensure that organisers who are looking to appoint Arbiters to their events will have the necessary information to contact an Arbiter, as well as having an idea of their location.

Addition of Non-English Arbiters to the List

Arbiters whose FIDE registration is something other than England may apply to join the ECF Arbiter List if they meet all of the following criteria:

- They are ECF members
- They are, at the time of application, resident in England and have been for a period of 1 year
- They hold either their country's full domestic arbiter title, or the FIDE Arbiter title, or the International Arbiter title

In order to be Listed, applicants must Pass one assessment as set out in the regulations above. Upon achieving a Pass, the applicant will be listed in the following way:

- Any holder of their full domestic arbiter title may apply to be listed at Level 2.
- Any licenced FIDE Arbiter may apply to be listed at Level 3.
- Any licenced International Arbiter may apply to be listed at Level 4.

Should the applicant subsequently gain a higher title, then the ECF will increase their Level upon notification.

This notwithstanding, any ECF member may go through the full ECF system if they choose to do, regardless of their nationality.

Other Grandfathering Issues

No arbiter's level will decrease as a result of the change to this new system. Anyone at Level 1 who has passed the FIDE Arbiters' Seminar will remain Level 1, but the next tier to aspire to will be the new Level 2, the ECF Arbiter title.

Roles of Other Officers

Chief Arbiter [appointed by the Board annually, must be Level 4]

Produce documents etc. about any changes to FIDE Laws of Chess – documents are advisory on how arbiters should change their behaviour, but should also help players to understand the changes too.

Resolve any Laws of Chess disputes sent to the ECF

Create the exam and syllabus for the ECF Arbiter Seminars as outlined above

Manager of Arbiters (Home) [appointed annually by the Director of Home Chess, Director of International Chess & Chief Executive]

Administering the domestic Arbiter system:

Arbiter norms for Level 2

Assessor norms

Lecturer norms

Organise and publicise ECF Arbiter Seminars

Appoint Lecturers to deliver ECF Arbiter Seminars

Manager of Arbiters (International) [appointed annually by the Director of International Chess & Director of Home Chess & Chief Executive]

Administering the process to apply to FIDE for the FIDE Arbiters or International Arbiter

Co-ordinate the organisation of FIDE Arbiter Seminars

Appoint Lecturers and other necessary staff to deliver FIDE Arbiter Seminars

Liaising with organisers and candidates to try to find suitable opportunities for Arbiters to

Acquire any norms required for titles

Any opportunities that enable them to increase their FIDE Arbiter classification

Ticked Off

I've been told that the following is true and it is just stupid enough that it is believable.

“An inexperienced Australian player in the 1980s was unable to keep score of his games. He was told simply to make ticks for each move. He did this but noticed that some players were writing their moves down in advance. He also noticed that some were crossing out the first move and replacing it with another, a process now banned by the Laws.

The novice decided this was a good idea so when thinking about a move he wrote his tick in advance. If he changed his mind he scored out the tick and put in another when he was considering an alternative line.”

Clock Review DGT 1001

This is the newest and cheapest in the DGT range and is being advertised currently at £19.99. It is very basic and in my opinion not fit for tournament use.

It can be easily set using the 4 buttons on the top in the centre of the move switch (I won't call it the rocker arm). The buttons are On/Off, Pause, Add time and subtract time.

Plus points: The clock is easy to set for a single time control.

Downside: There is no way of altering the time, other than to reset, once it has been started.

It does not allow increments.

Once the clock reaches 0 it starts to count upwards immediately. A flag and a + show, only the plus shows on the second player's clock when it exceeds the original time.

Other than looking at the clock face there is no way to tell which clock is running—the buttons pressed by the players do not move.

This clock might be fine for 5 minute games but has limited use elsewhere. In competitive play a player leaving the board would not know which clock was running as

Control Buttons



neither switch moves as you would expect in what looks like a rocker arm.

My personal opinion is that a clock which does not allow for increments to be added is not worth considering.



Tales of the 4NCL

A room full of DGT boards broadcasting the moves to the world. One board fails. There is a claim of draw by repetition. Guess which board made the claim? The arbiter had to confirm the draw claim the traditional way by playing over the game on another board.

Cyclo-Chess

Chess Boxing has been a recent combination activity but in 1899 a club was set up in Macclesfield to combine chess with cycling. The normal format was for the club to cycle to a destination and then play chess until sundown before returning. Weather permitting the chess was played out-doors.

Unfortunately I do not know how long the club lasted. Does anyone know anything about this club and its longevity?

Proof that chess is evil:

Chess takes time and money so expressed mathematically -

$$\text{Chess} = \text{Time} \times \text{Money}$$

But "time is money"

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Chess} &= \text{Money} \times \text{Money} \\ &= \text{Money}^2\end{aligned}$$

But "money is the root of all evil"

so -

$$\text{Money} = \sqrt{\text{Evil}}$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Chess} &= \sqrt{(\text{Evil})^2} \\ \text{Chess} &= \text{Evil}\end{aligned}$$

You cannot argue with wise sayings and mathematical logic can you?

Arbiter Proposals

If the new ECF proposals for arbiters are accepted then the following joke will no longer be possible.

"What is the difference between a Senior Arbiter in Britain and an ordinary one? About 3 stones."

FIDE Arbiter Mag

A third edition of the FIDE Arbiter Magazine is due out by the end of this month.

CAA Officials

Chairperson - Lara Barnes

Secretary - Alan Ruffle

Treasurer - Tony Corfe

Chief Arbiter - Alex McFarlane

Information officer - Alex McFarlane

Committee - David Welch, Kevin Staveley and Neville Belinfante.

ECF delegate - Neville Belinfante.

Chess Scotland Delegate - Alex McFarlane

Welsh Chess Union - Kevin Staveley

Independent Examiner - Richard Jones



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

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