

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

February 2017 Issue 20

Editorial

AGM 2016 The AGM was held in Hastings at the start of 2017. The meeting was generally positive and the matters raised constructive on the way forward for the association. AMToo would like to thank the retiring officials for their years of service and to wish the new incumbents well.

The meeting discussed protection issues. DBS (PVG in Scotland) has always been a contentious issue—some arguing that it was meaningless and unnecessary for most arbiters, whilst others argued that it was a way of showing that an organisation was taking such matters seriously. Current regulations mean that it is no longer possible for these checks to be carried out on those who only arbit normal congresses and the like. (Those doing junior events regularly should still have clearance.) It was felt that we should have, and apply, a policy document.

It was noted (with considerable regret in some quarters) that the ECF had abolished the Senior Arbiter title for future generations. The title can still be used by existing Senior Arbiters. The meeting expressed its concerns at the way the ECF Board had handled the final batch of nominations for this title. It was reported that they had been rejected because of a timescale problem which was probably generated within the ECF itself as the names appeared to have entered the processing chain early enough for the titles to have been awarded before the 'deadline'.

Previous ECF Board members had declared there was an 'arbiter nexus' which was detrimental to chess. It is to be hoped that such feelings within the ECF Board are a thing of the past.

ECF Appointments

As reported in the previous issue Lara Barnes has been appointed as the ECF's Chief Arbiter. Geoff Gammon has been appointed as Manager of Arbiters (Home), replacing Matt Carr who has taken over as Grading Officer.

Geoff has been an ECF arbiter since 2012. His calmness under pressure is proven by his day job as a driving instructor.

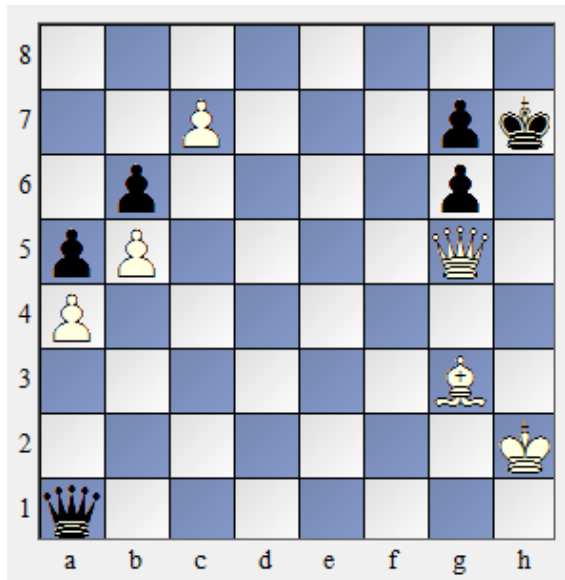


You are the Arbiter

In a normal game a player very short of time completes promotion to a rook of the wrong colour. When this is pointed out the player then promotes to a bishop of the correct colour. (Promoting to a rook would have allowed stalemate after 1 ... Qh1)

What should the arbiter do?

This is not a situation I have encountered but was raised by another arbiter who almost had that situation. The Laws regarding promotion are given below.



3.7e When a player, having the move, plays a pawn to the rank furthest from its starting position, he must exchange that pawn as part of the same move for a new queen, rook, bishop or knight of the same colour on the intended square of arrival.

4.4 If a player having the move:

d promotes a pawn, the choice of the piece is finalised when the piece has touched

the square of promotion.

7.5a If during a game it is found that an illegal move has been completed, the position immediately before the irregularity shall be reinstated. If the position immediately before the irregularity cannot be determined, the game shall continue from the last identifiable position prior to the irregularity. Articles 4.3 and 4.7 apply to the move replacing the illegal move. The game shall then continue from this reinstated position. If the player has moved a pawn to the furthest distant rank, pressed the clock, but not replaced the pawn with a new piece, the move is illegal. The pawn shall be replaced by a queen of the same colour as the pawn.

Is 1 c8=BR an illegal move? Should he be allowed to exchange the black rook for a white bishop? Is this effectively the same as starting the clock without promoting so the pawn should be replaced with a queen?

I would welcome the thoughts of others as I am not clear what I would do in this situation.

In the position shown there is no real difference in promoting to a queen or rook as both allow stalemate.

In general, underpromotion to a knight might happen to either prevent mate by the opponent or for the player to get mate themselves. Underpromotion to a bishop or rook is normally only to avoid stalemating the opponent.

The general feeling is that this is an illegal move and should be punished as that. I have to say that if it were inexperienced players I would try to find some logic in stating it was an illegal action rather than an illegal move. I would like to think it could be treated in a similar manner to a displaced piece (Article 7.4). If the player was unhappy and insisted on promoting to a bishop I would then consider this to be sharp practice by the player to gain additional thinking time. It can therefore no longer be considered to be an accidental promotion. Knowing that the logic behind non-promotion being treated as an illegal move with promotion to a queen then being compulsory was to stop this very situation, I would treat the two in the same way. Therefore, I would insist that it was an illegal move with no legitimate piece being put on the board. As such the promoted piece should be a queen.



Anti-Cheating

Following on from the reaction to the anti-cheating measures which were adopted at the Baku Olympiad I decided to see what other groups do to protect their activity.

In my search I found the following used by the Continental Chess Association of the USA concerning mobile phones and the like. A Director is the US equivalent of an arbiter and a cellphone is a mobile phone..

Revised May 31, 2015

1. Players may not use, while playing, cellphones or other electronic devices capable of chess analysis or communication, without permission of a Director. See rule 10 for penalties.

2. Devices used to play music, which cannot communicate or operate software, will generally be allowed if the opponent does not object, however see rule 4, special events. The use of a computer or phone to play music is prohibited, even if the computer or phone is disabled so that it can do nothing but play music.

3. During play, electronic devices must be stored out of sight in a pocket, bag or case. etc. and turned off (no vibrate, silent or sleep mode without permission of a director). A player with a visible electronic device during play will be penalized (see rule 10).

4. Special events: At the World Open, North American Open, Chicago Open and Philadelphia Open, the following additional rules are in effect:

A) Devices used to play music are not allowed if either player has an 80% or higher score in round 3 or after, even if the opponent does not object.

B) A table will usually be provided near the bathroom for players to temporarily check devices. If such a table is provided, players may not possess devices inside the bathroom. See rule 10 for penalties. Players whose games have finished and spectators are also not allowed to possess devices in bathrooms. Cellphone detecting wands will be used to spot check players who have exited bathrooms.

C) Players may not leave the tournament area, or go to a different floor of the hotel, during play without Director's permission. The tournament area consists of the tournament room(s), skittles room(s), vendor room, lecture room, and adjacent bathrooms or foyers.

5. A player who wishes to make a call during play should see a director and request permission to call.

6. A player who anticipates possibly receiving an emergency call should notify a director at least an hour in advance, and will be provided with an alternate procedure.

7. If a player's cellphone rings in the tournament room while games are in progress, there will be a penalty (see rule 10). However, the player does not automatically forfeit, even if the event is FIDE rated, as FIDE rules no longer require this. If an

offending player's game is over when his or her cellphone rings, the penalty shall apply to the following round.

8. In a FIDE rated tournament, players should not possess electronic devices on their person during play, but may keep them in a bag or case in the tournament room.

9. A player who simultaneously violates more than one of the rules 1, 3, and 7 will generally obtain only one penalty.

10. The penalty for violating rules 1, 3 or 7 is one of the following:

A. The player is forfeited.

B. The player loses 20 minutes or 75% of remaining time, whichever is less.

C. The player loses 10 minutes or 50% of remaining time, whichever is less.

D. If no more than 5 moves have been played, the offending player may receive a warning rather than a penalty.

The director will determine the penalty, taking into consideration the details of the offense, the scores of the players, and the size of the prize fund. If there is evidence of cheating, the player will be forfeited regardless of score or prize fund.

11. Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by a Director. Refusal to cooperate with a search request warrants forfeiture of game and ejection from the tournament, with no refund

12. Electronic scoresheets are permitted if approved by USCF, but they must not be powered by devices capable of communication or operating chessplaying programs.

The penalties are interesting. I'm not sure that I agree with the amount of time to be deducted for an offence varying with the size of the prize. I do like the idea that a penalty obtained after a game is completed shall carry forward to the next game.



Admittedly it was a far from comprehensive search but I failed to find many other activities banning mobile phones. Nascar bans phones in the cars to prevent computer control. The Australian Rugby League is considering introducing a dressing room ban to prevent betting schemes. One Bridge organisation doesn't ban phones but does mention that hacking the organising computer is not allowed. I assume such hacking would allow access to pre-determined hands of cards.

Arbiting Errors?

The following is reported as occurring in the 2016 Victorian Blitz Championships in Australia. Nigel Short's favourite Australian arbiter was one of those on the control team.

It was apparently announced at the start of the event and at several points throughout that a player making a move before the opponent had pressed the clock to complete the previous move would lose. Those supporting the decision to do this have equated it to the recent Indian event which stated that if you failed to replace a knocked over piece before pressing your clock then you would lose. The difference however is that the Indian decision was merely stating a severe penalty for an offence. In the Australian event they were introduced a severe penalty for an action that is not regarded as an offence in the Laws.

It is claimed that, despite request for clarification, it was not made clear at what point a game would be lost. Would it be when a move was made, ie the piece was released, or would it be as soon as a piece was touched? In the best reported case the eventual Victorian Blitz Champion (who finished third overall) was judged to have lost a game when he lifted a piece before his opponent had pressed the clock. His appeal that he had not moved was rejected. It is also reported that several players may have taken advantage of the situation though in one other case involving GMs a draw was offered and accepted before the arbiter could declare the game lost.

The event was listed for FIDE rating. However, the Australian FIDE Rating official has informed the organiser that he will not be sending the results to FIDE as the event did not follow the FIDE Laws of Chess.

Until 2014 the FIDE Laws stated that you could use additional rules as long as they did not conflict with the FIDE Laws. This no longer applies and for FIDE rating only the 2014 FIDE Laws must apply. The rule applied in Victoria would not have been acceptable in any case even under the old Laws as it contradicted the Laws of Chess which allows a player to move before the clock is pressed. This is implied in the Law which states that even when the opponent has moved the player is still allowed to stop his clock. It would not be sensible for the Laws to state how to effectively continue without penalising an illegal action.

Further to writing this it now seems that the arbiter referred to at the start of the article did point out that the 'interpretation' used was illegal. He did not state it forcibly enough for it to be overturned. That raises the question of what an arbiter should do in such a situation. There is some feeling that the arbiter should resign rather than carry out the wrong Laws.

Incredibly the situation arose again in the Australian Lightning Championship held in Brisbane. Again, the Chief Arbiter of the event wanted to apply this non-existent rule. This time the Committee responsible for the organisation over-ruled him. The Chief Arbiter then stood down. The event started about an hour late when a replacement arbiter took over.

The two events mentioned were held as part of what would appear to be a chess festival along with the Australian Open Championship. As if the aforementioned were not enough an official damaged a trophy when he accidentally kicked it off the stage and in the Open itself the wrong tie-break was used to decide the winner. Other than all of the above the event ran smoothly!!

The FIDE Arbiters' Commission has confirmed that the actions taken to forfeit players for touching and/or moving a piece before the opponent had pressed his clock are contrary to the Laws of Chess.

Acceleration

The Hastings Masters used the Baku Acceleration method, though only for 3 rounds as this had been advertised in advance. The recommended best practice is do acceleration for 5 rounds.

For the first two rounds a bonus point was given to top half players. The Swiss Manager program was used as backup originally since we weren't sure how it would cope. Vega was also shadowing, though it uses the same engine.

For the first round the pairings agreed. In the second round the manual pairing was done using the Dutch system so that the end result would hopefully be the same as that produced by the computer. Again, it was. Round 3 was going to be the test as only a half point was to be added. Vega only allows full point additions but Shaun

Press, an Australian arbiter who was a very welcome addition to the Hastings' team, altered the code it uses. Again the pairings matched.

One thing which we noted with the round 3 pairing was the number of games between players on different scores. The CAA pairing would have had 9 games where people were on different points playing each other (ignoring normal floats) the BAKU pairing had 25 from the 48 pairings—over 50%!



Cake presented to the arbiters by a participant.

In round 4 the computer came up with the correct non-accelerated pairing. It was therefore expected that round 5 would produce the correct pairing so only the cards for the bottom score groups were marked up. The reason for this was that a manual pairing might have to be done to avoid potential byes going to players who had met fillers or were looking for a future bye. Round 5 took place on Hogmanay (New Year's Eve for those unfortunate enough not to be Scottish) and had a number of long games. Fortunately, despite the temptation to post the draw quickly and join the festivities the draw was looked at carefully. SwissManager had taken earlier floats due to acceleration into consideration. Vega had not. A study of the situation and an examination of the draws convinced the arbiting team that the official draw should be that generated by Vega.

In round 8 the bottom pairings had to be done manually. We had a player who in round 7 instead of getting the bye had played a filler. He lost to the filler. We do not give such players another bye but the computer does not understand this. It therefore wanted to give him the bye again. Another time when this can occur is if someone has asked for a bye in a later round. The program will store this information and use it in the appropriate round but will not look ahead to avoid giving an earlier bye. FIDE rules allow for players to be given multiple 0 point byes and still be eligible for a 'real' bye. The computer wanted to give the same player a bye in round 9 too. As he was still at the foot of the standings.

Two players achieved IM norms at the event so using that criteria it was relatively successful.

If acceleration is carried out for 5 rounds then the procedure would be to add a point in the first 3 rounds and then a half point in each of the next two rounds.

CAA AGM

The 2016 AGM was held in Hastings on 2nd January, 2017. An extremely large number of apologies were received before hand. It was accepted when arranging the meeting that the attendance would be small but it was not anticipated that so many would acknowledge their non-participation. It was encouraging that so many had done so. Arranging the meeting at this time and venue is to be regarded as an emergency measure. 11 people attended which in the circumstances was a good number.

Alan Ruffle, Tony Corfe and Neville Bellinfante were thanked for their contributions to the Association.

Brief Report on Meeting

As few memberships had been collected during the year it was agreed that everyone present would be counted as a member provided fee was paid retrospectively.

The Membership fees were then agreed at the previous levels of £10 for Full Members and £5 for Associate.

The Meeting then discussed the previous Minutes. Several changes were made.

Under Matters Arising it was agreed that as DBS clearance was no longer an option unless involved in junior chess that the CAA should investigate having a Safeguarding Policy. It was agreed that Lara Barnes should take this forward and report at the next meeting.

In the Chairman's Report the administration of the Association was raised and proposals to improve this accepted. The need for a revised Constitution was also noted.

The Treasurer reported that funds stood at £2524.21 and the only expenditure was a contribution towards a training event. The accounts have still to be examined but that is now in hand.

The officials listed on the last page were then elected.

The next meeting was (provisionally) set for Sunday 26 March in Birmingham.

Some items were discussed under AOCB including having the option of paying by Paypal and the possibility of the Association awarding its own titles. Concern was expressed that the ECF no longer awarded the Senior Arbiter title. It was felt regrettable that the ECF Board had not accepted the final 6 nominations for that title due to a delay in processing the details.

Alex McFarlane then gave a brief report on the changes to the Laws which should come into force on 1st July 2017. The process of drawing up these Laws had been slightly different from previous occasions when an extra meeting of the Rules Commission had been held. This time only one meeting was held with some communication by email before a final version was published. Many of the changes had therefore not been discussed at the Commission Meeting where many arbiters from around the world had been present.

Shogi Cheating Investigation

Professional "shogi" player Hiroyuki Miura has been cleared of allegations that he cheated using smartphones or similar devices during official games.

"We have concluded that there was not enough evidence to verify his cheating," the independent inquiry panel, set up by the Japan Shogi Association (JSA) and headed

by lawyer Keiichi Tadaki, announced Dec. 26.

Miura, who holds a 9-dan rank, is one of the top players in the nation in the game known as "Japanese chess." He had denied the allegations.

The suspicion arose around late July when a number of his opponents started claiming that he was making unnatural moves that matched those made by shogi programs, and also was leaving the game room frequently. Miura was subsequently suspended from participating in title matches until the end of the year, including the prestigious Ryuo tournament in October.



The panel investigated the player's moves during matches that his opponents claimed were fishy. But when it assessed how often his moves were similar to moves made by computer software, it found that the rate varied between each analysis.

Furthermore, moves made by other players were found to match such algorithms as often as Miura. In fact, some were doing it at a higher rate than the suspected player.

As a result, the panel concluded that "it is extremely difficult to use this rate as evidence to support the cheating allegation."

In addition, the panel found that claims of him leaving the room for about 30 minutes, something that was raised as proof of cheating, were false.

No evidence of him cheating was found upon analyzing the smartphone and computer Miura submitted to the panel.

However, the panel deemed that the association's decision to suspend him was just, as "it could not be helped." It concluded that "there was strong suspicion at the time the punishment was given, and there would have been significant chaos had Miura participated in the Ryuo tournament."

At the same time, it urged the association to "treat Miura justly and set up an environment where he could realize his potential to the fullest."

Meanwhile, Miura held a news conference on the afternoon of December 27 and said, "I want them to put it back to how it was before."

Miura's lawyer said the decision the panel made regarding his client's allegation was "worth noting," but was critical of its conclusion that justified his suspension while the investigation was ongoing.

Association head Koji Tanigawa apologized at a news conference on the afternoon of the following day, saying, "Although we may have made the appropriate deci-

sion at the time, we caused Miura to suffer as a result. We are very sorry.”

JSA held a board meeting earlier that day to discuss compensation for the damage done to the 42-year-old professional’s reputation, after he was suspended from playing official games from Oct. 12. It is not known what was decided in this respect.

“It was a stance that sided with the JSA and is highly unjust,” the lawyer said.

The idea of compensation might be very worrying in a chess context if the same situation arose. However, in chess Prof Regan’s analysis program would have been the first step before suspension or at worst during a short suspension period and if similar results had been achieved then no further action would have been taken if a similar incident had occurred at chess. It is reassuring to think that at least in this one respect the International chess administration is ahead of the game. Another plus in the FIDE system is that complainants must be willing to sign a complaints form. This reduces the number of false accusations without affecting genuine concerns. Only players who habitually make unsubstantiated allegations would need to have fear of the FIDE process.

Preventing Quick Draws

It is often claimed that quick draws are killing chess and discouraging sponsors. Everyone has heard of the Sofia Rule which prevents agreed draws in less than a specified number of moves, usually 30. Shaun Press tells of another method used in Australia in the Doeberl Cup.

Here they have \$1000 (approx. £580) which is distributed after the last round between those on the top boards. To be in contention you have to be on one of the 4 or so live boards or have a score equal to someone who is at the start of the last round. [Obviously tournaments could just decide on a number of boards in advance on which this would apply.] Of those people anyone who wins their last game and finishes the tournament without ever having a draw in less than 30 moves shares the \$1000. Using this method the organisers do not have the hassle of checking early draws by repetition (and sometimes having to decide if they were prearranged). Another advantage is that amateur players can agree quick last round draws without falling foul of the regulations. The disadvantage of the idea is that it does require additional prize funds. I have been told that it is not uncommon for \$500 going to someone well down the prizelist.

Where you have a limited number of sensory boards it is one way of trying to ensure that the games on those boards are attractive to watch and not over in a few moves.

The CAA—the Future

Over the next few months senior members of the CAA will be looking at what the CAA should be doing. Constructive suggestions from members will be most welcome. It is also likely that a meeting between CAA officials and members of the ECF Board will take place to discuss the relationship between the two organisations.

As mentioned elsewhere, the ECF has introduced a new structure for arbiters. In the first seminar held under this scheme CAA training materials available on the CAA website were used. The course was conducted by Alex McFarlane. I will not comment that the first course given by the ENGLISH Chess Federation was not given by someone who is English!

A further two similar courses should be held later in the year.

ECF Arbiter Structure

This has been referred to several times in this issue so it is probably a good idea to give a brief outline of the new structure.

Level 1: Those who have attended a course and passed the accompanying exam.

Level 2: Those who have obtained performance norms from tournament reports.

Level 3: FIDE Arbiter (FA) Those who have attended a course, passed the exam and have satisfactory tournament reports.

Level 4: International Arbiter (IA) Those who have satisfactory tournament reports.

The above is a progression in which each stage should be obtained before advancing to the next.

Problems with the old system The system with Senior Arbiters superimposed on FIDE titles was confusing. There were Senior Arbiters who were neither FAs nor IAs and ordinary ECF arbiters who were IAs. This reflected the situation that existed in the 80s and 90s where few arbiters sought FIDE titles. With the increased importance of FIDE titles the position of the ECF Senior Arbiter title is not clear. Players are puzzled by the situation where an otherwise untitled Senior Arbiter is Chief Arbiter over an IA.

Problems with the new system FIDE not only sets the standard for levels 3 and 4 and has the final say on those obtaining the titles. Other than forwarding candidate names to FIDE the ECF has no control over these titles. It is clear a number of arbiters regard the ECF Senior Arbiter title as superior to the FIDE IA title. This belief is not as stupid as it may seem to younger arbiters. At one time to become an IA all

you needed was 3 reports—no exam was needed. FIDE is also looking at continuous assessment of arbiters so this reservation should disappear but it currently is a genuine concern.

I have heard it suggested that the ECF should consider introducing a title above Senior Arbiter and IA to solve these concerns.

Cheating in Chess—Drug Taking

The results of a small test into the effects of Methylphenidate (Ritalin), Modafinil (Alertec) and Caffeine has been published in *European Neuropsychopharmacology*. (Surely a future feature magazine for Have I Got News For You.) Tests were carried out on 39 male chess players and appear to show that the players' performances increased by 13%, 15% and 9% respectively.

The trial was carried out giving the players 15 minutes against Fritz 12 on 6 minutes but set at approximately the player's own level.

This is a very small test and as such the results should be viewed with caution. Probably even more significantly the tests appeared to show that the players thought more deeply but took more time to do so. This resulted in a number of losses on time. In the percentage improvement figures given above losses on time were ignored. This seems to me to be ignoring results that go against what you want to prove to produce figures that support your hypothesis. 183 games of the 3059 were ignored (almost 6%).

It seems that the instigators of this want someone to fund further research with a longer time being given to the games.



**The test says the GM is drug free.
Unfortunately, it also says HE is
pregnant**

FIDE Arbiter Course

Chess Scotland is organising a FIDE Arbiter Seminar near Glasgow on 7-9 April, 2017.

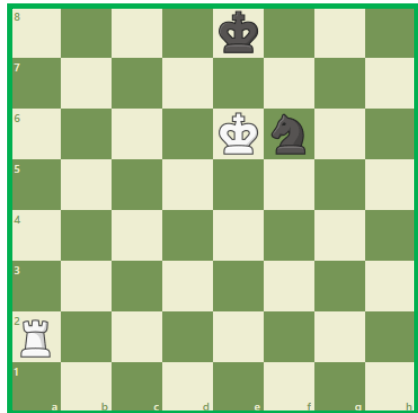
The cost of the course is £100 (including €20 FIDE exam fee) but there are discounts for Chess Scotland and CAA members.

The ECF intends to run a similar course sometime in 2017 but no details are currently available.

N	
Norm	What most chess players seek to achieve but deviate from
O	
Opening Preparation	Arbiter practicing with a tin-opener
Opening Repertoire	A series of conversation starters. Unavailable to most chess players
Overloading	Eating too much
Oversight	Studying the board by looking over the top of your glasses
P	
Passed Pawn	Financial establishment avoided by player who cannot redeem his goods
Perpetual Check	A vain player continually glimpsing in the mirror
Plagiarism	One of the few ways of making a living from chess
Popcorn	Told by a junior to his father to explain his loss
Positional Sacrifice	To watch soaps with the wife in order to go to the chess club one night
Post Mortem	Analysis stage where losses become wins
Q	
Quickplay Finish	Instant rejection from one of the opposite sex
Quiet Move	To fail to acknowledge to workmates that you play chess

Getting it wrong—and spectacularly so!!

Even top players can get it spectacularly wrong when making a draw claim. In the World Blitz Championship in Doha, Qatar the following incident occurred. In this event it was possible to claim draws based on the electronic scoresheet created by the sensory board. The time control was 3 minutes plus 2 seconds per move. Round 16 saw Ahmed Adly (Egypt) as white against Diego Flores (Argentina) with the latter defending a rook v knight endgame. Flores claimed a draw under the 50 move rule but it was rejected as only 47 moves had been played. The game restarted with Adly getting extra time. Incredibly needing only to play 3 moves Flores blundered into a lost position. On move 142, in the position shown, he again claimed the draw. The arbiter declared that White had played 50 moves but black only 49! The claim was therefore rejected. Flores had one second left on his clock. He asked that an arbiter restart the clock from behind so that the arbiter's arm would not be in the way. This got a laugh from the crowd now gathered round the board. One arbiter started the clock with another watching the clock. Flores made his move but then made the mistake of playing further moves without making what would have been a correct claim so the game continued 142 ... Nd7 143 Ra8+ Nb8 (here a third claim was made but after making the move so not a valid claim!) 144 Rxb8 mate! That is what is reported. However, the last capture was 92 Kxd2 which makes it look like the arbiters made a mistake when dealing with the second claim as both players had made 50 moves without a capture or pawn move.



This decision was made by a very experienced arbiter, proving it can happen to anyone. The arbiter in question is the Chairman of the FIDE Rules Commission.

Chess in other Countries

It is interesting to note the status afforded to chess in other countries. Mongolia has a system where, similar to the BBC Sports Personality of the Year, there is a Referee of the Year award. This year the award went to a female chess arbiter, Genden Oyunchimeg. She gained the FA title in 2006 and became an IA in 2014. The award not only recognises the individual but shows that chess is treated with a higher regard than it is in the United Kingdom.

Hastings Happenings

How many attempts do you think it would take an 1800+ player to record the result correctly on his scoresheet?

The player marked the result as ½-½ initially. As I went to position the kings on the board to reflect this he admitted that his opponent (black) had won and duly changed his scoresheet to show 1-0. I pointed to this. Apologetically he crossed this out and replaced it with 1-0!

On being asked to try again he finally wrote 0-1. With only three possible results it is quite an achievement to require four goes!!!!

In the following round he was proudly claiming to have completed his scoresheet correctly that time. He had the wrong board number!!

You really couldn't make this up. A parent showed me the text messages on her phone ... to prove that it was switched off.

A spectator's phone rang continuously as he walked half the length of the hall before leaving. On being asked why he hadn't answered it/stopped it ringing he looked at me puzzled and said "But it was in my pocket."

On a low board in the last round a player has just promote for his second queen. He fails to press his clock and it starts to countdown from just over 8 minutes. The capture of the queen is a fairly obvious move but the opponent doesn't play

it immediately. I suspect he has spotted the clock and is hoping for a win on time. After a couple of minutes however the player makes his move and presses the clock. It doesn't move so he presses again. It is only at this point he works out that the clock had not been pressed. The look of disgust on his face when he realised was priceless.

CAA Officials

Chairman - Lara Barnes

Secretary - Geoff Gammon

Treasurer - Kevin Markey

Chief Arbiter - Alex McFarlane

Information officer - Alex McFarlane

Committee - David Welch, Kevin Staveley and Mike Forster.

ECF delegate - Mike Forster

Chess Scotland Delegate -

Alex McFarlane

Welsh Chess Union - Kevin Staveley

Independent Examiner - Richard Jones



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

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