

# Arbiting Matters Too



**Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association**

**April 2017    Issue 22**

## **AGM 2017**

Details of the 2017 AGM are given on page 2. There was not a large attendance. Suggestions on how to improve this are sought from members. The future direction of the CAA was discussed. This will be reflected in a new constitution and possibly closer relations with the ECF.

## **Laws of Chess**

The FIDE Presidential Board accepted the new Laws of Chess with some modifications. The proposal to allow illegal moves to stand after 10 moves has been removed. There are some other changes as well which mean that the Presidential Board has cancelled other proposed changes. Full details of the changes are given on page 14. The timescale is difficult enough now in Britain to inform on the changes. In countries where they have to be translated first the lateness must be a considerable problem.

## **Cheating allegations**

Once more accusations are flying around the Internet about players cheating. It is understandable that players with genuine concerns want it known for others to 'keep an eye' on the suspects. However, if the suspicions are false then an innocent player has suffered. In this case the situation is further complicated by one of the players under suspicion being only 12 years old. See Page 7.

## **AGM 2017**

The AGM was held in Birmingham on 26 March. The attendance was less than that hoped for in a central venue but may have had something to do with it being Mothering Sunday.

In the absence of Lara Barnes, who is recovering from a gall-bladder removal, the Chair was taken by Alex McFarlane.

The minutes of the previous meeting with one alteration were accepted and are now available on the website.

The reports from officials indicated that updating of records was well in hand. Due to the closeness of the previous AGM and the change in Treasurer detailed accounts were not presented. However, the balance of funds now stood at £2674.21.

It was agreed that the fees would remain as £10 for full members and £5 for Associates.

The Committee was re-elected (see back page).

The FIDE proposals for arbiter assessment was reported. There is nothing further to report on what appeared in AMToo21. It is hoped that further details on the proposals may appear in the next month or so.

Changes in the FIDE Pairing Rules were briefly outlined. These are given in the FIDE Arbiter Magazine issue 4. (See next item.)

It was agreed that changes in the Laws would be published on the website when confirmed but that other changes were too fluid to be contained in a single download where updates might be missed.

Discussion on the Constitution and future direction resulted in the following being decided:

It was agreed that the a duty of the organisation was to disseminate information from FIDE and National bodies. Such information to include changes to the Laws, Title regulations, pairing rules, etc.

The Association at its discretion may provide funding for arbiters to gain qualifications.

The CAA should be prepared to offer training possibly in association with national bodies and in relation to FIDE assessments if appropriate.

The CAA should produce and maintain training materials where required.

The difficulty in lobbying national bodies to have qualified arbiters was recognised but it was still regarded as desirable.

It was not felt appropriate at this time for the CAA to have its own title structure for arbiters but it was noted that this may change in the future.

Again concerns were expressed at the ECF's decision to stop Senior Arbiter titles and the way that it was handled but it was not felt this should be a constitutional item

It was agreed that the CAA should offer advice and support to members. This may be on an individual basis.

It was not thought appropriate that the CAA should maintain a blacklist or consider disciplinary matters. It was noted that the ECF did not provide a means of dealing with such matters although both Chess Scotland and the Welsh Chess Union did.

Having a safeguarding policy had been agreed at the previous meeting.

It was agreed that a meeting with representatives of the ECF would be useful.

Ideal dates for the AGM were discussed. In general it was felt that sometime in June-early August was best.

### **FIDE Arbiters Magazine**

Issue 4 February 2017 of the FIDE arbiter magazine is available. It can be downloaded from [arbiters.fide.com](http://arbiters.fide.com). It deals in detail with the Gibraltar pairings and changes to the FIDE pairing rules.

The main changes to FIDE pairings are that byes will count as a downfloat and that pin numbers must not be changed after round 3 (or possibly 4!!).

Either the old pairing rules or the new can be used from now until the FIDE Congress later this year.

The third case study deals with a blitz game where, although an arbiter is present, the usual blitz rules apply. A player (White) goes to capture a piece but only pushes it off the square rather than removing from the board. He then starts Black's clock. Black's flag falls but he claims the game stating that his opponent as just played an illegal move. The arbiter rules that it was not an illegal move but a piece misplacement and therefore the loss on time stands. The article agrees with the arbiter's decision.

I accept that White did not play an illegal move but I would argue, from what I interpret to have happened, that White had not completed his previous move before starting the opponent's clock. My feeling is that Black should have been given some additional time rather than a loss regardless of the claim being made after Black's flag fell (unless it was some considerable time afterwards). White should not have pressed the clock and therefore Black's clock should not have been started. The Black flag fall was as the result of White breaking the Laws. Black should not suffer because of that.

## **More Cheating**

Yet again the Dubai Open has had a player who was caught cheating. The culprit this time was a 21 year old Indian, Jeet Shah, who is rated only 1764. He was caught during round 3 and his score at the time was 0/2!!

An Arbiter, possibly alerted by an earlier tournament, was watching Shah closely in his game against 14 year old Dushyat Sharma. His behaviour was suspicious so after only 9 moves and with both players having used only about 25 minutes each the arbiter intervened. At that point the player was asked if he had a mobile phone. This was denied. The arbiter left to return a few minutes later and asked him to stand up so that his arm could be examined. He refused and complained that he was being disturbed. He said that he would meet the arbiter after the game. The player was then asked to undergo a body search. He refused to do this in the washroom but the search was carried out elsewhere. This check found evidence of cheating and the player was immediately expelled from the tournament with his opponent being awarded a win.

The player was perfectly correct to refuse to be searched in a public area and does seem to have allowed a search in a private room.

A few years ago while at a University tournament in New Dehli and at another tournament in Dehli he was suspected of cheating but no evidence was found. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mastermind Open in Chennai in December of last year he withdrew after 5 rounds having been subject to close scrutiny throughout the event. It is alleged that this close scrutiny prevented him from being able to cheat so he withdrew. It is claimed that the watch on him was not only carried out by the organisers but also by spectators in which case it is possible that even an innocent person may have felt uncomfortable enough to have withdrawn. His score at the time was 1/4 against players over 400 points lower rated than himself.

Jeel Shah did gain almost 90 points in the Hyderabad Open in December 2016.

It would appear that in this case the method of cheating was somewhat less than subtle. It involved having a mobile phone up his sleeve. When searched in the arbiters' office

the phone was discovered. Shah refused to switch it on to see if it had a chess engine and was therefore immediately banned.

## **Pairings to Avoid**

Recent international events have brought into focus again the topic of keeping players from certain countries apart. It is not just should pairings involving Iranian and Israeli players be avoided but to what extent should other players be kept apart. Many people request not to be paired. These include siblings, parent and child, club mates, people who travelled in the same car, etc. I've even had one request not to be paired with someone because his body odour was so strong.

FIDE says that pairings should not be made which favours one or more players. However, in FIDE events certain pairings are avoided. FIDE offers no guidance to organisers or arbiters as to when this is acceptable. Normally a slight alteration in pairing to avoid a potentially awkward clash is easily achieved. But is it fair to other players if an Iranian is not paired against the Israeli top seed?

Abroad players accept meeting clubmates, brothers, etc. In Britain there is a reluctance to do so. The CAA pairing regulations even suggest that in the first round arbiters MAY want to avoid such pairings. A few years ago it was common to give people you wanted to keep apart the same colour in round 1 as this reduced their chances of being drawn together. Pairing in strict rating/grading order may prevent this happening.

If the event is FIDE rated norms could be invalidated if pairings are altered to favour one player. This applies even if the player concerned was not one of those who obtained a norm.

Returning to the situation which brought this to the general public. It seems that the round 1 pairing between an Israeli and an Iranian at the Tradewise Gibraltar event was not meant to happen. The organiser and the chief arbiter have written to the Iranian Chess federation to explain the situation. The sister of the player has explained his side of the situation. They were staying in one of the alternative hotels . The boy was playing in morning events as well as the main afternoon one. He was at the venue playing his morning event and went to the noticeboard to see who he was due to play in the afternoon. The printed sheet did not indicate the nationalities of the players so he started the game unaware of the potential problems of doing so. Later in the game, or possibly just at its conclusion he realised the nationality of his opponent and informed the

organisers requesting that such pairings be avoided in future. We await news as to the success or otherwise of these representations.

In an interview with Chess.com his sister, who was also banned by Iran for being improperly dressed, stated that she had previously declined the opportunity to represent Iran at the Olympiad and did not think she would be representing her country in the future. When she had in the past she had worn the Hijab but when she was funding her own expenses she had not.

## **CHES Magazine**

“The game and concept of chess is based on the assumption that everyone involved/concerned observe existing rules and regulations and attaches the greatest importance to fair play and good sportsmanship. “

The above is the first paragraph of the FIDE Code of Ethics.

It is quoted because the March issue of Chess Magazine carries an article by Alex Holowczak which attempts to explain changes in the Laws which become effective on July 1st. In general the article is instructive. Unfortunately there is a section headed “10-move limits on claims against illegal moves”. This section would appear to tell players how to bend the rules. At the very least it breaches the etiquette of good sportsmanship. The offending section instructs players that an illegal move need not be pointed out immediately it is realised but that the player

## **10-move limits on claims against illegal moves**

Previously, there have been various Laws where a player can claim to an Arbiter about an indiscretion indefinitely. For example, if an opponent makes an illegal move on move 10, and only you notice, you can play on if no one notices. You can then go back to this position and claim against your opponent if the game goes wrong. I once did this in a game myself! My opponent castled through check, so I just took his rook in the knowledge that I could always go back if it looked like I was going to lose. However, this will no longer be an option under the new Laws – a 10-move limit has been imposed on such claims.

This change is a bit like the ‘advantage’ rule in rugby. If the defence commits a penalty, then the team with possession of the ball is allowed an advantage, but this advantage is over at the referee’s discretion, or if the team in possession scores. The team in possession doesn’t have the option of taking the penalty half an hour later, when they scored but they’re now 50 points behind. So if your opponent makes an illegal move, and an arbiter hasn’t spotted it, you’ve got 10 moves to try to gain an advantage that’s more valuable to you than the two minutes extra time you’d be awarded.

should let the game continue to see if they can obtain or maintain an advantage. If this fails the player should then have the game re-instated to the position before the irregularity. The article then incorrectly states that the player will, with the implementation of the new rules, have only 10 moves to do so. Such a claim must be made BEFORE 10 moves have been played i.e. the player has only 9 moves.

**This proposed change has been dropped from the new Laws.**

### **Cheating Allegations**

PRO League Chess is an on-line tournament for teams of 4 representing a city or area. London has two teams competing. The teams are based on players living no more than a 2 hour drive from the city though “free agents” are allowed within certain parameters. The members of each team play all four members of the other team in a game of 15 minutes with 2 second increments. Initially there were 48 teams in 4 sections.

There was some controversy in the play-offs. Toronto Dragons v Miami Champions was originally given as a win for Miami but following analysis of the games of one of the Miami players Toronto were then awarded the match. On appeal the original score was restored by the organisers Chess.com.



There has been no official explanation and the player under suspicion was not named. It would be easy to dismiss this as simply an on-line problem but a player for the Miami team has been named and other, over the board, results are now being questioned. The player concerned is only 12 years old. His FIDE rating improved by approximately 400 points between October and February. It is also being claimed that his performance worsened in Las Vegas when coverage of the live games went down. Organisers of the Baltimore Open had video cameras watching during play. It is claimed that as a result the player under consideration had a mixed performance.

In the same round of this event the Las Vegas—San Jose match score was changed from 8½-7½ to 6½-9½.

It should be noted that Chess.com does not reveal how it tests for cheating. This leads to concerns over the accuracy of its tests, unlike those using Professor Regan's methods which have been used at some British events.

It has been suggested that the Miami result was reinstated because it was demonstrated that the young player had played the same line previously as the one suspected of being computer induced.

At the St Petersburg tournament there were suspicions of cheating. Phones were allowed if switched off and presumably stored in the recommended way for the first 9 rounds of 11. Before round 10 this was changed to prevent players having their mobiles on them. The organisers asked that all phones be handed in. A player who had previously aroused suspicions because of his absences from the playing hall was followed by the arbiter Andrei Yegorov. One player, Dmitry Fraiman, ignored this request and was subsequently found in the toilet with his phone on. He was immediately awarded a loss on his round 10 game but was allowed to play in round 11.

In previous rounds this player had unexpectedly had some stunning wins, wins which showed a high correlation with Stockfish 8. This may have been coincidence but having an active phone on him in round 10 leaves the player open to suspicions and accusations.

He is clearly guilty of breaking at least one of the Laws of Chess.

### **EPSCA Rules**

"11. An illegal move suffers the normal penalties of the touch-move rule. Such a move is completed once the opponent's clock has been started. If either player has less than 5 minutes on the clock and an illegal move is made, the arbiter will award the opponent two minutes for the first offence, and two minutes for a second offence. A further offence will lead to the loss of the game."

It is easy to understand what this rule is trying to achieve. It wants inexperienced players who will often make mistakes to play a game of chess rather than losing on a technicality. Unfortunately, this rule can lead to some situations which young players will see as unfair. Certainly an extreme case but not altogether impossible, Player A has made a large number of illegal moves without punishment. One of the players then gets down to less than 5 minutes. Player B makes a first illegal move and is immediately punished. Player B is so annoyed by this that concentration is lost and a second and third illegal move follow.



Player A is awarded the game. How do you explain to a 7 year old they have lost because they made 3 illegal moves when the opponent has made many more illegal moves? Alex Holowczak also alerted me to another oddity. In the rules for an inter-association tournament an arbiter's decision can be appealed. This appears to be free unless you win a second appeal in which case there is a charge of £1.00. This charge only seems to apply if the second appeal is successful. To paraphrase—if you prove the arbiter wrong you have to pay but it is free for the arbiter to prove you wrong.

## Clock Review

English Chess Company Digital Game Timer

This company is new to producing digital chess clocks.

The clock produced is quite small (150mm x 102mm x 58mm) so easy to carry and is competitively priced. For a clock of this cost it offers a number of features including being programmable for multiple sessions with incremental and delay modes.

It has one rather different feature. The move counter is ignored unless it thinks there is a loss on time. Where it does think there is a loss the clock freezes and cannot be edited/reset other than by switching it off. When it believes that the time control has been reached it continues to run down until that clock reaches 0 at which point it adds the additional time onto that clock only. There are two types of flag. A white flag shows which clock has reached 0 first. This appears when the clock believes the time control has been reached successfully. The black flag described above appears if the clock does not think that the time control has been reached. The opponent will only get their additional time when their clock has reached 0. (This is the way that the Chronos clock works as well.) In theory it is therefore possible for one clock to be showing the time remaining in session 1 whilst the other clock is showing the time remaining in session 3. My opinion is that this is a major downside to the clock.



The clock has 37 preset time controls. If one of these time controls is edited then the edited time is saved in mode 99 and can be used again. When altering one of the settings for White the same setting is automatically shown when altering the Black side.

Mode 0 can be used to set an additional time control.

The clock has an on/off switch underneath, other than that it has 3 buttons, the start/pause, a plus and a minus button. For those familiar with the DGT 2010 the setting is fairly similar. It has one advantage in that holding down the stop/start button for 3 seconds in the middle of setting means that it comes out of that mode ready to be used. You do not have to cycle to the end.

Pressing the stop/start button briefly pauses the clock but if you hold the button it keeps running for 3 seconds. This could be a problem for someone trying to get an arbiter with only 2 seconds on their clock.

Like the DGT3000 it shows seconds all the time.

Press + or – for 3 seconds shows the number of move, or to be more accurate the number of clock presses. Holding both down allows the move counter to be changed. It is possible to change one move counter but leave the other unchanged. If going back to a previous position the arbiter must remember to change both counters.

I believe it will be priced to compete with the EasyPlus. I would certainly recommend it over that alternative.

### **Advantages**

Don't have to cycle to end holding down the button will take it out of editing mode

When setting White options come up automatically on Black side but not when editing

Shows session by number but small

Cheaper than DGT

### **Disadvantages**

Small screen size

Small flag

When black flag appears clock cannot be edited

No back button

When editing clock runs down for 3 seconds before entering edit mode unless pressed twice

You can set move counter for different number of moves played on both sides (eg white 12 moves black 7)





It is surprising how often players will sign scoresheets with no result written and sometimes even the wrong result entered. Although the Laws of Chess state that a player may have to accept a wrong result that has been signed for, good arbiters will still check that both scoresheets agree. It is better to discover such inconsistencies before the draw for the next round is started.

In the game under discussion the final position shows a slight advantage for Black but is near the time control so a win on time for White is also a possibility. At breakfast the following morning the arbiter spoke to Sasikiran who declared that he had lost on time, with his clock showing 59 minutes and the flag showing and the opponent's 1 hour. The clocks were not set with the move counter active so added on time when Sasikiran's went to zero.

The situation was explained to Tsekhovsky who was surprised but accepted the result change. The draw was unchanged but the players' scores were altered for future rounds. The board arbiter certainly made mistakes in failing to notice the clock and the different scores on the scoresheets. It is also possible that it was the arbiter who filled in the wrong result on Sasikiran's scoresheet, though it may have been the opponent. The sector arbiter could have spotted the different results on the one scoresheet but seeing the same result at the top of both would be very unlikely to look for a contradictory result. As such it is difficult to attach any blame to that arbiter.

It is certainly a very unusual situation where a player resigns as his opponent runs out of time. It is even more unusual as the player would appear to have resigned after making a move. And with the opponent very short of time the resignation is even rarer.

Contemporary reports suggest that 39 ... Bg5 left Black clearly better though computers now give only a slight advantage for this move and suggest Be1 as another possibility with again only just over a half pawn advantage.

## **You are the Arbiter**

The following situation arose in one of the supporting events at Hastings. Thanks to Matt Carr for supplying it.

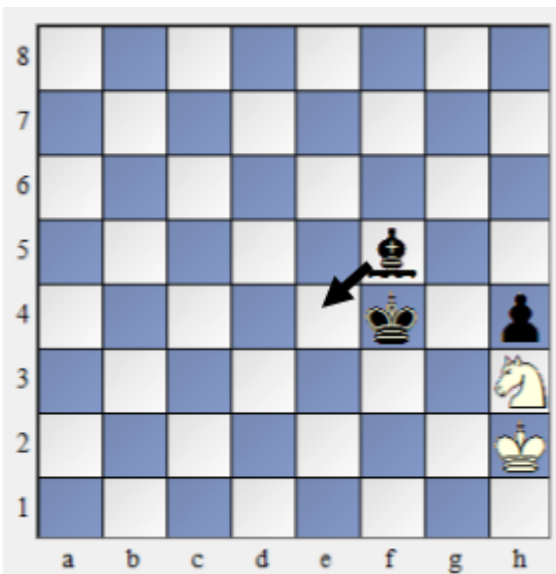
It was a standard game and in the position on the next page. Black played 1 ... Be4 and pressed the clock. As Black is in check this is an illegal move. As it was the first illegal move White was given an additional 2 minutes. But it raised the question of what is the right decision if this had been Black's second illegal move or a Rapid or Blitz game.

In such a situation the game is lost unless "... the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player's king by any possible series of legal moves".

In this case, having touched the bishop the only legal move for Black is 1 ... Bxh3. This would leave White unable to checkmate. Should the illegal move take precedence?

So what is your decision (a) a win for White or (b) a draw?

A second situation with the same position. Black is in the process of capturing the knight when the flag falls. What is your decision?



Dealing with the second situation first. If the knight has been captured then there is no doubt that the game is drawn even though the clock has not been pressed. If there is any doubt about the exact sequence of capture v clock fall then I think the benefit of doubt should be given to the person making the move and the game declared a draw. If the bishop has simply been touched then I would rule that Black has not done enough to justify the draw.

Returning to the first situation. An early thought that I had was that ½-0 was a result worth considering. However that was ruled out when the wording of Article 7.5a was considered. It clearly states that the game is **drawn** if no checkmate is possible.

We therefore return to the two results given. As it is theoretically possible that Black would not be able to find Bxh3 (or certainly not within a reasonable time) I do not see how the draw can be given. Although I would have sympathy towards Black's plight it is a situation that the player caused to themselves. The decision of 0-1 could always be appealed if the player considered himself hard done by.





### **NEW LAWS from 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2017**

The new Laws were finally published by FIDE on 6<sup>th</sup> April for implementation in only 3 months time on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The Presidential Board at its March meeting added some new Laws but also reversed some of the changes agreed in Baku the previous year.

The new Laws can be downloaded from the FIDE or CAA websites as can a copy of the Laws with interpretations. A document highlighting the changes and prepared by the FIDE Rules Commission is available as well.

A change to 11.2.4, which previously allowed a player on the move to ask the arbiter for permission to leave the playing area has been changed. It is now his opponent who must ask. The implication of this change is that a player on the move cannot leave the playing hall. The changed wording was effectively used at the Olympiad where it proved to be very unpopular.

The format of the numbering has been changed to give consistency throughout. There are some other changes to terminology. Competition Rules has been changed throughout the Laws to regulations for the event and rapidplay is now simply rapid chess. Many of the changes are simply a tidying up and these are not mentioned here. Some areas have now been moved to Guidelines. These 'relegations' include quickplay finishes and situations arising from the use of analogue clocks.

## Important Changes

The following is a breakdown of the changes which may be useful.

4.2.2 clarifies an aspect of touch move. If a player accidentally picks up the wrong piece then he will be expected to make a move with that piece as this could not be thought of as accidental touching.

5.2.3 Both players must have made a move before a draw can be agreed.

6.7.1 If no default time is specified then it will be 0.

The Laws on both flags being down have been moved to the Guidelines

7.3 In the past if players started with the wrong colours the arbiter would decide if they would continue. Now unless ten or more moves have been played the game will be stopped and restarted with the correct colours.

7.7.1 & 7.7.2 Where a player uses two hands to make a single move this will be treated in the same manner as an illegal move. Two such offences by the same player will cost the game.

7.8.1 & 7.8.2 Restarting the opponent's clock without making a move will also be treated in the same way as an illegal move.

These situations cannot be combined. For example a player who has completed an illegal move and also used two hands to castle will not lose due to a cumulation of these to irregularities. Only repeat offences of the same type will merit a loss.

9.1.1 Where a minimum number of moves must be played before a draw can be agreed a player is no longer allowed to offer a draw before this number is reached. Previously this was allowed only accepting the draw was banned!

9.6.1 The arbiter should declare the game drawn if the same position has occurred at least 5 times. There is now no restriction on when the positions occur.

10.2 The total score for a game cannot exceed the maximum points for the game. Scores such as  $1\frac{1}{2}$  are not allowed. Neither are scores such as  $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ .

11.2.4 The regulations of an event may specify that the opponent of the player having a move must report to the arbiter when he wishes to leave the playing area. This must be taken to mean that it is no longer acceptable for a player on the move to go to the toilet even with the arbiter's permission, only the opponent can go. This was unpopular at the Olympiad.

11.3.2.1 is the phone in the bag regulation that couldn't become law in the 2014 version.

11.3.3 It is now acceptable for the arbiter to request a body search of a player.

11.3.4 E-cigarettes are now treated in the same way as real cigarettes.

11.11 Both players must assist the arbiter in reconstructing their game.

11.12 both players must assist the arbiter in checking a draw claim.

12.1 The arbiter must ensure that the Laws are obeyed. The word strictly has been removed.

12.2.7 Arbiters must follow anti-cheating procedures.

12.9.8 A new penalty of being excluded for one or two rounds has been added to the list of sanctions open to an arbiter.

A.2 In a rapid game a player not recording does not lose the right to claim draws by repetition etc. The player may also ask for a scoresheet at any time to start recording.

A.3.2 in a rapid play which is being recorded by an arbiter the player may ask to see this scoresheet to a maximum of 5 times.

A4.3 To claim a win on time in rapid a player may stop the clock, previously he had to do so.

A.4.5 confirms that an arbiter may call a flag fall in rapid.

B.3.2 in a blitz play which is being recorded by an arbiter the player may ask to see this scoresheet to a maximum of 5 times.

B.4 Where a blitz game is not being played under the rules for standard chess articles A2 and A4 of rapid will apply.

C.8 confirms that players can use hyphens and long notation when recording e.g. e2-e4 is acceptable.

D.2.6.1 accepts that visually handicapped players may use a digital clock which announces the number of moves and time.

D.2.11 an assistant must be used in a game between a blind and deaf player.

Laws regarding Quickplay Finishes, Adjournments and Chess960 are moved to the Guidelines.

III.4 In a QP finish increments may be used. Using delay mode is no longer acceptable.

### **Proposed changes that have been removed**

The FIDE Presidential Board removed some of the proposed changes as follows.

7.2.1 The restriction of ten moves to correct a wrong initial position has been removed.

7.2.3 As a result of the above potential restrictions on castling have been removed

7.5.1 The restriction of 10 moves to correct an illegal move has been removed as has the statement that the game will continue after that time.

7.5.3 The ability of the arbiter to warn a player without necessarily giving the two minute penalty for an illegal move has been removed. The two minute penalty remains compulsory.

7.6 The restriction of 10 moves on correcting a displaced piece has been removed.



7.7 The discretionary part of giving a two minute penalty for using both hands to move pieces has been removed

7.8.1. Pressing the clock without moving is now regarded in the same way as making an illegal move.

It is not disappointing to see that the 10 move restriction on correcting irregularities has been removed. The idea might have had some merit but there was no provision on what to do in a situation where a player had been in check for more than 10 moves, a not uncommon situation in junior beginner games.

The removal of the proposal to allow arbiters to decide if the two minute penalty should be applied is less welcome. In some situations the opponent does not welcome the delay in play while two extra and needless minutes are added to their clock.

## Alternative Glossary

Some more definitions that aren't quite what they should be.

S	
Saxophones	An arbiter's collection of player's mobiles
Skewer	What the Arbiter's late night meal is cooked on
Smothered Mate	What most chessplayer's wives think of doing to their husband.
Stalemate	A partner who has been around for a while
Strategy	The skill of avoiding buying a round of drinks
T	
Time Control	Bladder retention when short of time to complete the game
Time Pressure	The feeling in the bladder and surrounding area when suffering the above
U	
Underpromotion	Media coverage of chess
Under Rated	Term used to describe the 1200 who beat you convincingly
Upset	To raise the pieces to a higher level

## **BUCA**

The British Universities Chess Association (BUCA) Team Championships produced a few incidents. During round 3 a large number of spectators (ie players who had finished their games) had phones on in the playing hall. A senior arbiter before round 4 went on at some length about this, highlighting that although we didn't expect cheating was going on, it was the 'fear' of such for the opponent. Despite the announcement, one player decided at the end of his game to take a photo of his scoresheet using his phone. A teammate chose that moment to lean over our 'David Bailey' wannabe. Not too surprisingly the captain of the opposing team protested. The photographer initially refused to accept that he had caused a problem even when reminded about the pre-game announcement which he admitted he had heard. Eventually the penny dropped that he, even though no cheating had happened, through his actions had created a situation that legitimately worried the opposition and he became very apologetic. A strong warning was issued and he was left in no doubt that a repeat would result in a penalty for his team. Importantly, the opposing captain was happy with the outcome.

At the start of the final round an arbiter is called over by a player. His opponent is not present and he wants to know what to do. The arbiter informs him that as he is white his clock will be started and he will make a move. His clock is started and he picks up the king pawn. He returns it to its square and goes to move his queen pawn. The arbiter steps in and reminds the player of the touch move rule. The player is surprised to learn that touch move applies when the opponent isn't there. After a short discussion he accepts that touch move does apply. Hopefully he thought that touch move did not apply with the opponent absent only at the start of the game and not during it as well!

Having gone through all of the previous rounds without a draw by repetition claim there were two near the end of the final round. In one case the opponent was not sure that the claimant's scoresheet was up to date and correct. This had the slight complication that it might be argued that the move written on the scoresheet as repeating the position could be taken to be a previous move. As the games were played on the live boards this was checked on the computer and the draw given. In the second case neither player had been keeping score (both players had been living on their 10 second increments). Again the computer was checked and the draw claim upheld. In both cases the computer effectively replaced the need for an arbiter to try to keep score.

The Oxford University team played in a mixture of dark and light tops as can be seen from the pictures below.



“OK Guys—colours are supposed to alternate. Try again.”



“Still not right—but what do you expect from university students?”

## **Historical Laws of Chess**

Thanks to David Welch several more historical copies of the Laws of Chess (FIDE and British Chess Company) have been added to the website. Other historical versions have also been added and, hopefully, more will be added in the next few weeks.

## **Borislav Ivanov Postscript**

It may be remembered that this Bulgarian player was ejected from a tournament in Spain for refusing to undergo a search following some surprisingly good results. He has been in the news again after a TV programme has allegedly caught him selling driving licences and university diplomas. The police have charged him over the former. The TV programme also claims to be investigating alleged irregularities in the accounts of two chess tournaments in Bulgaria where money was sent to an 'ECU' account which had nothing to do with the European Chess Union. In this case a former President of the ECU is under suspicion.

## **ECF Guidance to Tournament Organisers**

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/grading/ecf-tournament-rules/>

The above is a link to useful advice on organising events in England. It is worth reading.

### **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

Safeguarding Officer – Lara Barnes (Temp)

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

**[ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk)**