



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

April 2018 Issue 28

The CAA and the ECF have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The full document is on the CAA website. This document formalises the relationship between the two bodies. The ECF has also provided guidance on new data protection guidelines (see page 3).

AGM: The AGM of the CAA is being proposed to coincide with the British Championships in Hull. The proposed date is Saturday 4 August, 2014 at 11am. In addition to the normal items there will be discussion/acceptance of the new Constitution and discussion of recommendations for arbiter fees.

As part of the MoU the CAA have to propose a 'wage structure' for arbiters. It is accepted that many arbiters do not want a fee but it is also felt that if such a fee is waived it should be considered to be a donation and appear in the accounts as such. This structure is being worked on and will include the arbiters qualifications and position held as well as the nature of the event. It is certainly clear that no organiser should expect an arbiter to be out of pocket.

Arbiter Courses: There have been a number of ECF Arbiter Courses held and a FIDE Arbiter Course is to be held in Hull at the start of the British Championships. Chess Scotland arranged its first FIDE Seminar in February in which six out of the eight participants passed.

League Chess: There have been some incidents reported to us which have taken place in events with no arbiter present. In all of the cases presented a basic knowledge of the Laws would have prevented escalation of what were relatively minor incidents. There is now a guide on the documents page which deals with common problems that occur in League matches.

ECF & CAA Memorandum of Understanding

This document formalises the relationship between the CAA and the ECF. In it there is agreement that the ECF will organise arbiter courses in England but that the CAA will provide training material for those courses. The exam itself is the responsibility of the ECF's Chief Arbiter. The ECF will provide the CAA with documents from FIDE (World Body), the ECU (European body), and the Commonwealth Chess Assoc relating to arbiters and organisers. The CAA will extract the appropriate information and pass it on to the BICC (British Isles Chess Coordinating Committee). The CAA will also set up a Standards Committee for which the ECF will provide suitable insurance. This Committee will look at chess related disputes. In general only issues arising from graded/rated events will be considered and only after local attempts at resolution have failed. The ECF will enforce any decisions made or publish its reasons for not doing so. The CAA will also recommend fees for arbiters who work at ECF graded chess tournaments.

Expected outcomes of the agreement

It is accepted that acknowledging that the ECF is ultimately responsible for the training of arbiters in England will be unpopular in some areas. It should be noted that the agreement does not preclude a CAA system of arbiter titles. But at the current time this is not thought necessary.

Currently the CAA does provide information to arbiters. In general this information is obtained by individuals through contacts and knowledge of procedures. It is hoped that by being provided with news releases, etc from international bodies that a more formal and comprehensive compilation of material will be made available to a wider arbiter and organiser base. Examples of this include such things as changes to the Laws of Chess, tournament regulations and arbiting opportunities at Olympiads.

Perhaps the most significant outcome will be the Standards Committee. This committee will hopefully be seen as a neutral method of dispute resolution. A Congress may feel that an arbiter has not coped well or that a player has been abusive to officials. Other than banning the player from that event or never using the arbiter again there are no other form of sanctions. In the case of the arbiter the CAA may be able to suggest suitable retraining if necessary or explain to the congress that its expectations were unreasonable. In the case of the player it can provide an independent body to resolve the case. It must be emphasised that this committee should not be seen as the first port of call. Internal measures to resolve the problem should be exhausted before it progresses to that level.

DATA PROTECTION ISSUES

New legislation, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into effect on 25th May this year. Please see the full advice given at this link

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/GDPR-County-and-Club-Guide.pdf>

Some of the advice given to stay within the law will affect congresses and clubs. Some main points and suggestions follow.

Obtaining data for grading and membership purposes and to pass on to national bodies is acceptable.

Paper records have to be kept securely. If in club premises these should be locked away. It may be advisable only to bring necessary info to congresses. Giving arbiters printed entry lists which also contains addresses could be a breach.

Only authorised people should have access to membership records. Contact details should only be displayed if specific permission has been given for this. This applies to websites and also clubs lists which some clubs have distributed to all members.

Data should be stored in the minimum number of places.

When data is collected those from whom it is collected should be informed of

- The legal basis for doing so;
- What data you collect;
- How it is stored;
- To whom you pass it on and for what purpose;
- For how long you keep the data;
- What they can do to limit how you use your data.

This will usually be achieved via a Privacy Notice, which may be on the club/congress website, but a printed copy should also be available in the club and be sent to those who request it. Members/entrants should be directed to this Privacy Notice on every occasion when you collect data, so it should be referred to on the application forms.

FIDE Tournament Registration

Organisers of FIDE rated events should make sure that they are registered with FIDE in plenty of time. FIDE may not accept an event for registration if it is not done within the specified time. For a rated event the deadline is seven days before the event but for ones where title norms may be possible then the deadline is 28 days. Things like play-offs if they follow immediately after will normally be accepted with a minimum of notice eg Championship play-offs need only be registered when it is known that they will happen provided this is immediately after the main event.

Questions

A larger than usual number of questions has been sent to me. Hopefully you will agree with the answers given.

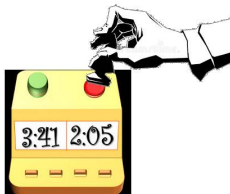
“A player presses his clock with the knight he has captured. Is this legal?”

Pressing the clock with the piece is fine assuming the piece is in the hand used to capture it. Having said that when I have seen this done the piece has usually banged the clock which is not allowed. So using the piece is, in theory, OK but how it is used will determine if it should be punished.

“A player’s pen runs out when he is short of time. Is he allowed to stop the clock to get another?”

The player is entitled to stop the clock to seek advice from the arbiter. If it was thought to be frivolous the player could be punished. I think if the pen had been playing up since the beginning of the game he would

need to explain why he didn't sort it out earlier. Many, many years ago, before the rule about the scoresheet having to be visible to the arbiter came into force, I pulled up a player for not recording. He lifted the top sheet of his duplicate scoresheet to show that he had been scoring. His pen had run out but he had kept recording with the dud pen leaving a clear recording on the scoresheet below. I gave him another pen.



“A player with king and pawn v king and knight runs out of time. He claims a draw as the opponent does not have mating material. The opponent agrees and that result is handed in. The opponent subsequently realises that he should have won. Can the result be changed?”

Firstly if an agreed result is handed in the arbiter can accept that result even if it is wrong. Here one player has been denied the win because they were not aware of the rules. That is their own fault. A slightly different scenario - The player initially accepts that it is drawn but then realises that there is a helpmate possible before leaving the board and before the result is handed in. Is he forced to accept the draw? This is more complicated. If the draw was agreed before the flag was known to have fallen then the draw should most certainly stand. If he has tacitly accepted the draw because of the actions of the opponent the situation is much less clear. It is analogous to the player who wrongly claims mate and the opponent is so shocked by the unexpected move (and the outstretched hand!) that they briefly accept the

mate claim. My opinion is that if it is realised soon enough then the win should be given. Any significant delay would mean that the draw result should stand.

In a similar vein, in a league match a player is mated. He is shocked and shakes hands. Subsequently he realises that the move producing mate was illegal. What should be done? The opponent claims that he has accepted the result. Here timing is important. Clearly if the result has not been handed in then the game should be restarted. If the illegal move was not realised until the following day then there is a much stronger case that the result, although wrong, should stand .

“In a game played under Blitz rules Black leaves his king in check. White captures the king and claims a win. Black claims a win because an illegal move has been played by the king capture. The arbiter is called over. What is his decision?

Firstly it should be noted that the 2018 Laws state that it needs two illegal moves to lose in Blitz (and Rapidplay). So unless one player has made a previous illegal move neither player is entitled to a win. Probably the first thing the arbiter should do is to look at the clock. If White’s clock is still running then the White capture has not been completed. If Black’s clock is running then White has completed an illegal move. If the clock is paused it is important to establish who paused the clock. If White did it having assumed he has won then I would consider that he had completed the capture. If White has completed the illegal king capture then he should be penalised for the illegal move and Black given an extra minute. If White has not completed the move then A.4.2 has to be considered.

A.4.2 If the arbiter observes an action taken under Article 7.5.1, 7.5.2, 7.5.3 or 7.5.4, he shall act according to Article 7.5.5, provided the opponent has not made his next move. If the arbiter does not intervene, the opponent is entitled to claim, provided the opponent has not made his next move. If the opponent does not claim and the arbiter does not intervene, the illegal move shall stand and the game shall continue. Once the opponent has made his next move, an illegal move cannot be corrected unless this is agreed by the players without intervention of the arbiter.

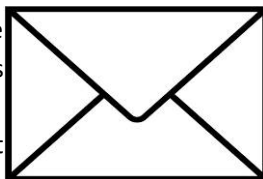
White has made a move, though he is now going to take it back as he is entitled to do. My interpretation is that the piece which made the king capture must be moved. If in doing so the king is no longer in check then there is no problem and the game continues. If the king is still in check the arbiter cannot do anything until Black plays his next move. The players may

correct the situation themselves, for example by going back to the position when Black is put in check and allowing Black to move out of check. The arbiter should not be involved in this reconstruction.

Sealed First Move!?!

A player asked to seal his first move. This was because the opponent was not present. In a recent case this request was refused but other arbiters have allowed it.

Why would a player want to do this? The simple answer is that he fears his opponent could be preparing for the opening with



the knowledge gained. If this is on a live board with no delayed transmission it would be very easy for the opponent (Player B) to sit in his car, wait until the move is played and then analyse. Alternatively another player could relay the played move to him. This would be particularly useful if Player A had played 1 c4 instead of his normal 1 d4.

There is nothing in the rules which specifically allows a player to seal their first move. In the Guidelines on adjournments it does say that if an opponent is not present then a player can seal his next move.

The Preface states “Where cases are not precisely regulated by an Article of the Laws, it should be possible to reach a correct decision by studying analogous situations which are regulated in the Laws. “ Many arbiters would regard this as sufficient reason to allow it.

Certainly if the game is being broadcast live then I would have no hesitation in allowing a player to simply write the move on his scoresheet and only play it when the opponent arrives. Even if the transmission is being delayed by 10-20 minutes I would consider such a request as reasonable. In a normal game, where at least two people would be involved in cheating (Player B and the person telling him the move) then it is not unreasonable to discourage such requests.

If such a request is allowed then someone has to be at the board when Player B arrives to make sure that the move is played and that there is no confusion.

ECF Manager of Arbiters

Tom Thorpe is the new ECF Manager of Arbiters. Any questions relating to ECF matters in this area should be directed to him in the first instance. Geoff Gammon, who had been doing the job, is reducing his chess commitments.

Blackpool Conference



Why is it called the Blackpool Conference rather than the Blackpool Congress? (I'll leave the matter of chess events being called congresses to a later issue.) Well the answer now is really just tradition but there is a reason. When the event was held at the Winter Gardens the local Council had a number of times that they could nominate conferences for a free hire. By calling it a conference the organisers satisfied the Council's requirements for a free let of the venue.

The Standard produced some interesting situations. In round 1 a player, who had not been on the initial list, claimed that he had not been included in the draw. Foolishly the arbiter accepted his word for it and paired him against the player who was due to get the bye. The arbiter then tried to add that pairing to the computer to discover that the player was already in the draw and was now about to 'give a simul'. Before play started the arbiter went to confirm with the player that he had indeed been in the draw and would play his original opponent. He was at neither board but was sitting at a third with his scoresheet filled in with the name of the person sitting opposite him.

Result slip errors are not uncommon but in round 2 a result slip was handed in recording that Player A had both won and lost the game. This was achieved by entering the same name for the black and the white players.

A player was pulled up for not recording. "But I have permission" he insisted. On investigation the permission was given by an arbiter who was not officiating at the event. The player was told that he needn't record if he had a medical condition. "Oh no, there is nothing wrong with me I just forget when I get worked up." He is told that if he is not recording then he should have his time reduced at the start of the game if the arbiter gives permission. His reply was that he would not be seeking to do that as an arbiter had deducted what he considered to be an unreasonable amount of time on the occasion that he had done so.

I also had a player request an extra queen. Despite what the Laws say about a player being allowed to stop his clock to make this request, I rejected it. The main grounds for doing so was that the game (in fact the tournament!) had not even started so the request

for the extra queen was, to say the least, premature. The same player made the same request in round 4, but at least this time waiting until shortly after the game had started. He received the same answer. There was no doubt on this occasion he was hoping to intimidate his young opponent. The player did not stop his clock to ask for the queen. If he had I would have given serious consideration to penalising him for not having a valid reason to have done so.

These people walk amongst us.

Putting Players in Order

Kevin Markey has suggested the following refinement to the system that was outlined in the previous issue. It is used at the Cotswold Congress.

Here players with the same rating/grade were put in order by FIDE taking precedence over ECF. Where players had the same ECF grade then they were ordered by the letter which gives an indication of activity. So a 160A would be listed before a 160D.

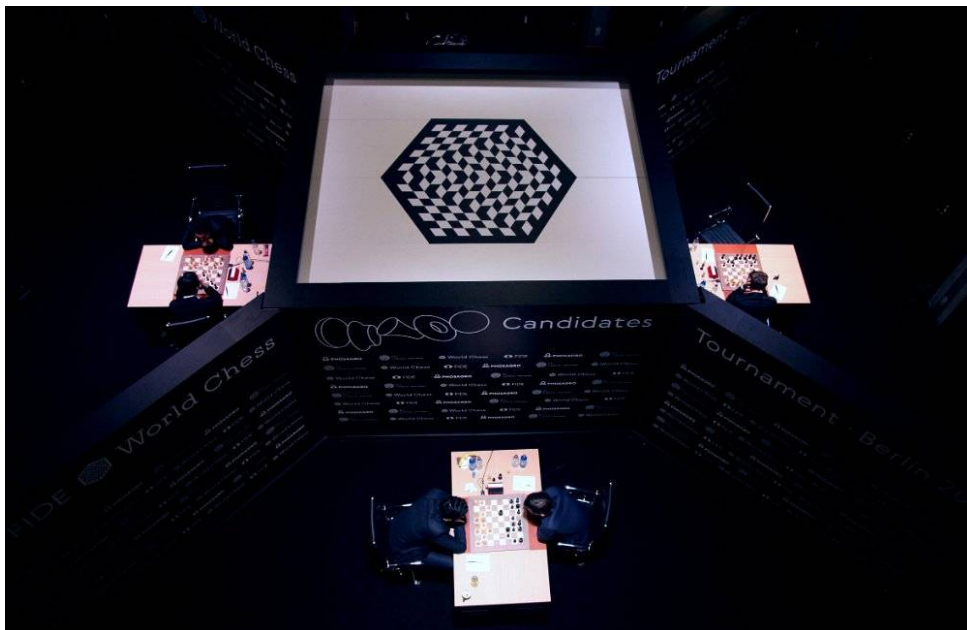
The method has logic. Those using computer pairing software will have to remember not to undo the manual tweaking needed to achieve this by doing a quick resort after a late entry.

The Ideal Venue

Chess finances in Britain often dictates that if the price is right then almost anything will do as a venue.

This raises the question that is such a strategy counter productive? 4NCL Congresses in hotels are attracting increasing numbers whilst events held in village halls see declining attendance. Finding affordable venues can be an impossible task. I was once quoted a price of £2000 a day by a hotel. This would reduce to a mere £1800 if I would guarantee room bookings of £15000 per night. Schools, once a relatively cheap option, now charge near four figure sums for a weekend.

Even when money seems to be freely available organisers still seem to come up with venues that are less than ideal. The recent Candidates matches seem to be a case in point. Agon, the organisers, have gone for the dramatic but it may not be to the benefit of the standard of chess played. They have taken over a former building in which beer used to be stored after it was used as a cool storage area and transformed it into a theatre to promote chess. As the picture shows, they have gone for the dramatic with spectators looking down on the combatants.



The players initially were complaining about noise levels and about a lack of water in the toilets which has produced the comment "This proves that Agon couldn't organise a piss-up in a brewery." The venue relies on vending machines to provide drinks and snacks. There are no real catering facilities as we would expect at a chess event of this stature. For those attending it is reported that even leaving the venue produces limited success with only one cafe in the immediate area. GM Grischuk is quoted as saying after his first round loss "It's a bad day for me for this question, because I think the playing conditions are absolutely terrible. Now that I've lost, it will sound like an excuse, but believe me it's not. There's not even water in the toilet!" The Candidates tournament is an 8 player all-play-all to determine who plays Carlsen later in the year in London to decide the World Championship. The London venue has still to be announced.

Oh Dear!

An arbiter points out to a colleague that a player is frequently leaving the room. The arbiter notes that is indeed the case. He decides to follow him. The player is followed to another hall where another section is being played. The player sits at a board and considers his next move. Only then does the arbiter realise that the player he has been following is not in his section and not even in his room!!!

Oh Dear! Oh Dear!

An unsighted player is scheduled to play on a sensory board. The arbiters arrange for him to have space for his clock and set. They neglect to remove the original clock. Some time into the game the opponent asks “In the case of a dispute, which is the official clock?” He had been pressing both clocks until that point.

Oh Dear! Oh Dear! Oh Dear!

The players had been told that to avoid accusations of cheating all mobile phones had to be put in a bag. The bags which normally hold the sets were available for this purpose. At the end of one game a player brings this bag out of his pocket and removes his mobile phone from it!! As this was a university student it is to be hoped that he wasn't studying logic.

Clock Review



Leap KK9908. This budget clock is the latest to be approved by FIDE. My thanks to Andrew Butterworth and Chess Direct for allowing the opportunity to review this clock. It is a later model than that branded for the English Chess Company (Leap PQ9907S?) which has previously been reviewed (see CAA website).

The clock is very similar looking to that one but blue in colour. One big difference is that if the move counter is inactive then additional

time shows on both clocks at the same time. Previously, it only added on the time when each clock reached zero so one clock could be well into the second session whilst the other was still in the first. This anomaly has been removed.

As on other clocks the move counter is inactive if the clock is set for 0 moves. However this only seems to work on the user defined modes 00 and 99. If a preset mode is edited then the result may not be as expected. For example mode 4 is 90 minutes for 40 moves with 30 second increments and then a further 30 minutes is added, a standard setting and therefore very useful to have. However, if you try to edit the setting so that the

move counter is ignored it will let you change the 40 to 00 but when it is switched on it goes almost immediately to the second session, treating the 00 as no moves rather than an undefined number of moves. Watching closely, the expected time seems to appear very briefly to be replaced by the second time control. The clock shows you are in the second session but the time 'left over' from the first session is lost i.e. it shows only 30 minutes and not 2 hours (1hr 30mins + 30mins).

One really simple, but very useful, feature is the red band on the rocker arm (see illustration). This makes it much easier to see from a distance which clock is going.

The clock requires only one AA battery and has quite a small footprint which may make it popular for venues with little space between the boards. One downside is the manual which appears to be a poor translation of the original Chinese. Having said that, anyone used to setting other digital clocks should be able to do so without too much trouble.

The clock is currently selling at around the £30 mark and is therefore good value.

It's Snow Joke

Recent bad weather has caused the cancellation/postponement of two congresses and affected several other events.

"The Beast from the East" meant Bristol was called off when the venue announced that it would not open for safety reasons. Durham organisers debated whether to call that congress off initially before finally doing so. This proved to be the correct decision. A main road connecting the venue to the A1 was closed for many days, firstly for fear that snow would fall off a cliff onto the road and then, until it was checked, that the snow had not weakened the cliff face with the risk of rock falls. Other events found that players withdrew reducing their entry.

Version 2 of the bad weather meant that the Enniscorthy team were stuck on a ferry, missing a 4NCL match. The ferry was supposed to dock at 6am. It had several futile attempts before finally giving up and returning to Dublin. It had been hoped that the ferry would be able to dock at 1pm and a delayed start to their match against Manchester Manticores was agreed. When that attempt failed Manticores were awarded the match. One team short meant that there would have to be a triangular match on the Sunday. Within two hours of the draw being published the arbiters received a message that players from Bradford's teams had struggled to get home and if conditions had not improved then they were unlikely to be able to field all three teams the following morning. The absence of one Bradford team was confirmed at 8.30am. The repairing was published and affected teams notified. That however was not the end of the

arbiters' problems as players continued to drop out. The draw, giving the players, was supposed to be published at 9.30am. At this point changes were still being made and the publication was delayed by a few minutes. Five minutes after that further team changes were made as it was discovered that one more player would not be coming. Changes were made pairing default v default when ever possible and affected teams notified of the changes at 9.58am.

The arbiters' problems were not over. The Captain of one team made contact to say he had no idea how many of his players would make it but 5 had set out (the other was their board 6 so not a significant problem in the grand scheme). Players were also casting doubts about whether one other team would make it. In the end all the expected players did arrive – and on time. There was one player without a game but there was what was a suitable opponent, assumed to be a reserve, willing to play him. They were matched up. Only when attempting to enter this pairing into the computer system was it discovered that the additional player was not registered for any team and had simply turned up to spectate!!

English Counties Championships

There is much current debate about proposed changes to the rules for the ECF Counties Championships.

There seems to be three viewpoints, those who want change to encourage greater participation, those who believe change will reduce participation and those who won't take part regardless.

However, the recent match in the U120 competition between Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire may indicate that a more fundamental change in the rules is required.

Equipment disputes in the past have tended to revolve around table sizes and whether seats must have backs on them or will benches do.

The above match has added a new dimension. The picture on the following page, not from an actual game, will let you decide if Nottingham had grounds for complaint.

The Lincoln team forgot to bring boards with them. There were sets and clocks but no boards! The attempts at improvised boards did not meet with the visitors approval. As a result no play took place.

For those in any doubt Law 2.1 is the one which applies.

- 2.1 The chessboard is composed of an 8 x 8 grid of 64 equal squares alternately light (the 'white' squares) and dark (the 'black' squares).

The chessboard is placed between the players in such a way that the near corner square to the right of the player is white.



Clearly the suggested board satisfies 75% of the above rule – the board is correctly positioned and 32 of the squares are white. The dispute revolves around whether the other 32 squares can be accurately described as ‘dark’. It is also debatable if the squares are large enough to comfortably hold the kings and queens. It is unlikely though that the size would have caused problems if

everything else had been acceptable.

My normal advice when a dispute arises in a match where no arbiter is present is to try to continue and let the organisers sort it out later. In this case it can be argued that any game which took place on these ‘boards’ would be at best a variation of chess. My fear would have been the higher probability of illegal moves being completed. It is common in tournaments to give the best equipment to the top boards. However, in the hypothetical situation of the board being constructed of 64 squares of the same colour it is likely that it would be stronger players who could cope best. Beginners are likely to make some interesting bishop moves.

Another consideration is the durability of the board particularly to water damage. At the moment it seems to me at every event a board suffers from the spillage of tea, coffee or water. (As an aside I have heard of an incident in a Minor section of an Australian tournament. Cardboard boards were being used. There was an accidental water related incident before the start of the game. The water was mopped up but obviously not very well. As the game progressed the corner of the board where the water had penetrated started to curve upwards. Initially this was not a problem but as the game progressed the board contorted even more until the players requested a replacement.)

Back to the Counties, the tournament controller declared the match a draw deciding there was blame on both sides. The Appeals Committee overturned this decision awarding the match to Nottingham 12-0.

Very few competitions actually state the minimum quality of the equipment to be used. Many years ago at a league match I objected to the clock I had been given. It had white

minute and hour hands against a white dial. Whilst it could be read, it was not easy to do so. In that case the clock was exchanged for another without any problems.

My thanks to Neil Graham for alerting me to this story though the text is not his.

Awkward Situation

My team was winning 6-1. There was one game still in progress. This game involved the captains of both teams. The losing team captain claimed a draw with 20 seconds remaining on his clock. My team mate had 1min 40sec on his.

The two players were disagreeing over the result. I was asked for my opinion.

The position was K,R+3P v K,R+2P with the claimant having the extra doubled pawn. All the pawns were on the one side of the board. The last two moves had seen the pawns on the other side of the board removed.

Summarising, the claimant had an extra pawn in what should be an easy position to draw (and probably win) but the position on the board was 'new' so he had not demonstrated this. If it had been a congress game the arbiter would have said play on and would almost certainly have been able to award the draw a few moves later. One obvious move should have lead to a win, other obvious moves lead to a draw. Other than moving the rook en prise there was little way of losing.

I was asked for my opinion. I tried to persuade my captain to accept the draw, but having lost a recent game in a similar, though less clear, situation he was loathe to do so. The opposition were now trying to adjudicate. I had to point out that it was not an adjudication. I then had to explain that if I received the claim I would have to decline it because the player had not demonstrated that they knew what they were doing. Some of the opposition were unhappy with me until it was pointed out that my first action had been to try to get my team-mate to accept the draw. Following this reminder everyone was happy with the way I had dealt with things. Had I simply stated my interpretation of the situation and told my team-mate straight away that in my opinion he would win the dispute my reputation with the opposition team would have been damaged. It could have had knock-on effects at congresses.

At the end of the night no agreement was made. The position was initially submitted to an opposition player/arbiter who agreed his player had claimed too soon to be successful. Increments anyone?

History – Time Controls

From the 1830s to the 1850s the slowness of chess players was getting much criticism. No timing mechanism was used. In the 1834 match between La Bourdonnais and McDonnell, George Walker timed one of La Bourdonnais moves at 55 minutes but also commented that the opponent was ‘incomparably the slower player’. The 21st game in the 1843 Staunton-St Amant match took 14½ hours for its 66 moves. Chess was being seen as a battle of stamina. In the 1851 London Tournament this came to a head. One player reportedly took 2 hours and 20 minutes on one move.

In the 19th Century many players used pseudonyms, one such was Cantab who, after the London Tournament, proposed: “Let each player have a three-hour sandglass at his elbow and a friend on either side to turn it. While the player is thinking, the sand must be allowed to run; while his opponent is thinking, his glass will be laid horizontally on the table and the running suspended.” Note that two sandglasses were required, one for each player each being turned 90 degrees (laid on its side) after a player made his move.

Sandglasses proved to be less than ideal as they were affected by temperature and humidity which affected the accuracy. It also happened that players turned the glass the wrong way meaning that the elapsed time became the remaining time.

As a result the strong German, Tassilo, Baron von Heydebrand und der Lasa, suggested using two watches and noting the time used for each move. (Although a strong player the Baron was more often involved in organising and writing. In 1898 he was awarded the first honorary membership of the German Chess Federation.) It was also the Baron’s idea to have rates of play as opposed to a fixed time for each move.

Initially there was no punishment for exceeding the time limit. It is believed the first tournament to introduce a punishment was the 1867

Paris International. The time limit was 10 moves per hour. A fine of 5 francs was levied for each 15 minutes that this was exceeded.

Sandglasses and individual clocks continued to be used until 1883.

The following table lists some of the top events and the time control used in these early days.

Year	Tournament/Match	Time Control	Device
1861	Anderssen v Kolisch	24 moves each 2 hrs	Sandglass
1862	London	20 moves in 2 hours	Sandglass



1865	Dublin	20 moves in 2 hours	Sandglass
1866	Anderssen v Steinitz	20 moves in 2 hours	Clock
1866	De Vere v Steinitz	24 moves in 2 hours	Sandglass
1867	Dundee	30 moves in 2 hours	Sandglass
1867	Paris	10 moves in 1 hour	Sandglass
1870	Baden-Baden	20 moves in 1 hour	Clock (but players had option of using sandglass)
1871	Congdon v MacKenzie	24 moves in 2 hours	Sandglass
1871	Cleveland	10 moves in 1 hour	Sandglass
1872	Steinitz v Zuckertort	15 moves in 1 hour	Clock
1873	Vienna	20 moves in 1 hour	Clock
1875	Philadelphia	15 moves in 1 hour	Sandglass

The 1883 London tournament had two historical firsts. It was the first tournament to use a dual chessclock and it was also the first to penalise a player failing to make the time control with the loss of the game. However the fine continued in many tournaments until 1906 when Nurenbeg was the last major event to do so.



The clock used was similar to the one shown and was designed by Thomas Bright Wilson and produced in Bradford by Fattorini. Wilson was Secretary of Manchester Chess Club.

It is claimed that Blackburne gave advice on the construction of the clock.

The following year saw the first patent for a chess clock. That was issued to Amandus Schierwater of Liverpool. Frisch Schierwater and Co (later Schierwater and Lloyd Ltd) had a business at 29 Church Street, Liverpool. In 1886

this company patented another chess clock that showed the ordinary time, but registered on separate dials the period occupied by the players. It also indicated the

number of moves in a game and whose turn it was to play. The expiration of time was indicated by the ringing of a bell.

Hendrik DB Meijer, Secretary of the Dutch Chess Federation, had the idea of adding a flag to the clocks to indicate the expiry of the time in 1899. However it took two decades before these were common on clocks.

Many regarded claiming a win on time to be poor sportsmanship and declined to do so. This became an issue at Vienna in 1882. James Mason exceeded the time limit in one game but eventually won the game after his opponent declined to claim the forfeit. Another contender for first prize, Wilhelm Steinitz, appealed Mason's victory, and a loss was imposed instead by the committee. After this the forfeit was regarded as mandatory. The clocks shown opposite were popular at the turn of the century. The top one was sold by Jaques for 21/- and the bottom one by Tanner, who still produce clocks.



Veenhoff of Groningen is credited with perfecting the analogue push-button clock in 1900 but in both of the clocks opposite the actual timepieces were made by HAC (Hamburg American Clock) Co. This was a German company using American methods and designs.

Both Jaques and Tanner would have bought the movements and had them assembled. Time controls were not standardised but did increase in speed generally.

After the Second World War one time control did become the standard for international chess. This was 40 moves in 2½ hours followed by 16 moves an hour. It was normal to have adjournments after 5 hours. By the mid 80s the standard control was 40 moves in 2 hours followed by 20 in an hour with adjournment after 6 hours.



As few games lasted over 60 moves adjournments diminished.

In 1950, Borchardt GmbH or BHB, was established in Germany and became the leading manufacturer of chess clocks in the world. The company lasted until 1989. These became the standard club clock with



the Garde clock being used for international matches. The BHB clock proved so reliable that it possibly restricted the move to digital clocks in the UK as many clubs refused to update from the reliable standard to new-fangled electronic clocks.

Electric and then electronic clocks started in the 1970s. They had limited success. An electric clock is shown below.



In 1964, the first electronic chess clock was manufactured by the Kiev Relay and Automatic Works, a Russian firm.

The first digital chess clock was created in 1973 by Bruce Cheney, a Cornell University Electrical Engineering student.

In 1975, the first patent was granted to Joe Meshi on a fully operational, microprocessor-based,

digital chess clock.

In 1988, Bobby Fischer patented a new digital chess clock that gave each player a fixed period of time at the start of the game and then added a small amount of time after each move. The clock was used in the 1992 Fischer-Spassky 'return' match in Yugoslavia. Prior to the match, not even a working model of the clock had been constructed. With the announcement of the match, a clock was made for the event in five days. It gained world attention though not as much as Fischer's return. Arguably the long term effect has been much more! The rules of the match stated that each player begin with 111 minutes on his clock and received one minute for each move played. This meant that after 40 moves each player had 151 minutes, or one minute more than the 40 in 2½ format used when Fischer won the championship title from Spassky in 1972. For the second control, the match rules gave each player an additional 40 minutes to play 20 moves but also added an extra minute for each move played. The influence of this type of time control on chess has been significant.



The digital market has been dominated by DGT. It was established in 1992 under the name DGT Projects by Ben Bulsink (research and development) who had prototyped the first digital clock in 1985 and IA Albert Vasse (sales and marketing). The company officially registered the following

year. In 2007 the company name was changed to Digital Game Technology. Competitors have had limited success.

In 2009 FIDE attempted to standardise time controls. For events hoping to have norms organisers had to choose one of 6 time controls (3 incremental and 3 'traditional').

- * 90 minutes with 30 seconds cumulative increment for each move starting from first move

- * 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes with 30 seconds cumulative increment for each move starting from the first move

- * 100 minutes for 40 moves followed by 50 minutes for 20 moves, then 15 minutes for the remaining moves with 30 seconds cumulative increment for each move starting from first move

- * 40 moves in 2 hours followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game

- * 40 moves in 2 hours followed by 60 minutes for the rest of the game

- * 40 moves in 2 hours followed by 20 moves in 1 hour followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game.

The first of these controls was only supposed to last for a year but was extended.

Indeed this time control has proved very popular with events having more than one round per day. The third of these time controls was used at the British and at Hastings but is no longer used, having been replaced by option 2. Only games between very strong players, such as the world championship, seem to use this time control now. For a time the FIDE Grand Prix, Candidates matches and the World Championship were played at a rate of 40 in 2 hours, 20 in an hour and only at move 60 were increments introduced. There are still some blitz tournaments where the increment does not come into force until move 60. Setting the clock in these situations requires a bit of lateral thinking. The move counter must be activated. It is then done by setting the increment in the first session(s) to zero. Alternative setting of the clock come close to this but will not add on the increments until a player's time goes to zero.

FIDE has now dropped any additional restrictions on time controls for norm events though there are still restrictions for rating. The minimum length of a playing session varies with a player's rating but all insist that where there is more than one session the number of moves in that session should be 40 for time control purposes. A minimum of 4 hour sessions are required for all games to be eligible for rating.

Bad Humour Alert

Two arbiters were having a discussion on what the chemical symbol for Neon was with one saying Nn and the other Ne. Another arbiter who was in earshot suggested that Ne was the symbol for Iron. On being told that was Fe he attempted to sing “#Ne old iron, Ne old iron, Ne, Ne old iron!” (Unfortunately true!)

What did the arbiter say to the chess player with a beautiful woman on his arm?
“Nice tattoo!”

An arbiter was having trouble with his computer. Despite putting it into mute mode the computer kept bursting into song. What did he expect - it was ‘A Dell’.

A Dutch Arbiter was so keen on keeping noise down that he even wore inflatable shoes. Unfortunately he is no longer available as he popped his clogs.

Every player has the right to be stupid, but some abuse that privilege.

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
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