

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association July 2018

Issue 30

A number of important matters are covered in this issue. The FIDE elections will produce a new leadership for the world body. There are three teams standing with two of them having an English candidate both of whom have commented on arbiters. (See page 2 for extracts.) It seems likely that either being successful could see changes in the way FIDE appoints arbiters. The third ticket is led by someone whose father was an International Arbiter.

The FIDE Ethics Commission rejected a case involving accusations of cheating. The reason for rejecting the case seems to have been that the evidence was not strong enough to support a conviction which may subsequently have been challenged in an external court. There is strong feeling in certain quarters that a cheat may have been allowed to get away with it. The outcome highlights the importance of arbiters handling such cases properly. (See page 5) There is also extracts from an email sent by the ACP dealing with anti cheating measures.

The draft document on Safeguarding is now available and will be discussed at the AGM. This document is given from page 7. It is important that the CAA has such a policy in place and all members are advised to follow the code. The document is by necessity fairly lengthy. But does give current good practice.

**AGM – Sat 4 August at 11am, Hull.
For venue follow directions at the British
Championships.**

Comment

The FIDE elections are coming up and, perhaps for the first time, it is not clear in advance who will win. Nigel Short is standing for President and Malcolm Pein for Deputy President. Both cannot be successful as they are on different tickets and the countries vote for a block of candidates. It seems reasonable to look at what both have said.

"The tournament in Riyadh was a revelation to me. I have run many elite events but this was the first time I have been closely involved in a FIDE event. I found the standard of arbiting on some occasions to be low. Two appeals that went to the Appeals Committee were the result of very bad decisions by arbiters. We need to develop a team of professional arbiters who are professionally trained and who will receive feedback from players, organisers and officials and be regularly tested. Every continental federation should have an arbiter team like that for events in their continents." – Malcolm Pein in an interview about standing as Deputy President of FIDE.

"They have used arbiting as a way of rewarding people. We see this at the Olympiad — we actually have lower quality arbiters at the Olympiad than we do for regular events because [while] some of them are there on competence grounds, a large number are there on political grounds, and they barely know the rules. The quality is very low. There are people who don't know how to



set the clocks. That is very much a minority, but there are a huge number of people who wouldn't recognise a three-fold repetition if it occurred in front of their eyes. Just as in football you wouldn't have some 120-kilogram 65-year-old guy appointed as a referee trying to keep up with the ball, in the same way with chess you ought to have people who can follow the game — at high speed, by the way — and make correct decisions." - Nigel Short in an interview about standing as President of FIDE.

It is difficult to argue with what Malcolm Pein says. The obvious concern about having a group of professional arbiters is that it will reduce the chances of other arbiters getting a chance at the big events. This would be made worse in Britain by, I would imagine, an unwillingness to give up a 'real' job to live on an arbiters' wages in much the same way as many of the potentially top players prefer a secure income. Football certainly has such a system but the financial differences are considerable.



Building a structure of arbiters starts at the bottom. Unfortunately, in Britain too many events use unqualified 'arbiters'. (Note there is a considerable difference between unqualified and trainee. Some events use people who have possibly never read a copy of the Laws of Chess.) FIDE licencing of arbiters has been widely attacked. The one positive thing which has come from it is that not just anyone can act as an arbiter at a FIDE rated event. In

Britain that is not the case. A few years ago a leading GM complained about a decision which went against him and was unhappy with the arbiters. He was correct to be annoyed by the decision but the people making it were not arbiters. The lack of differentiation by players and organisers is a real problem.

It would be good to see FIDE losing its 'grace and favour' method of making many appointments. However, we shouldn't be complacent in Britain. Many appointments to congress chess are based on who will do it for nothing (or as little as possible) rather than who would be best for the event. It is understandable that organisers want to keep costs as low as possible but this can have adverse effects if something goes wrong.

Both Alex Holowczak and I are on a FIDE committee which is looking at retesting arbiters but to date not much has happened. Undeniably, at the FIDE events I have been at I have seen some poor arbiters. I have also seen many good

arbiters, not all of whom have been recognised. It would be pleasing to see the better arbiters progressing and poorer ones being offered advice and retraining when necessary. I often wonder how many of the 'top' arbiters could handle a weekend congress.

FIDE grading of arbiters is only an indication of the events they have done. It takes no account of performance at these events.

The ECF Home Director is trying to make progress, perhaps not always in a way that all approve of. One suggestion is to require events to have a qualified arbiter or grading will be refused.

Obtaining feedback on arbiters is difficult. Players only seem to complain about an arbiter when they disagree with a decision. On only a handful of occasions have I, as the Chief Arbiter, had a player come up and comment about another arbiter. Many players at the end of an event will thank the arbiter but this cannot be collated. Surveys have been tried but these suffer from a major problem. If a player marks an arbiter as a middle mark is this because they thought there was room for improvement or is it because they didn't need to involve the arbiter in anything? The same arguments can be applied to an arbiter given a high mark.

Continuous Professional Development is used in many jobs. Can it be used in chess arbiting? Some arbiters would welcome it but many would object. Should the CAA be considering how to progress CPD? Currently, we do provide guidance on Law changes and situations which have arisen but arbiters are free to ignore these.

It is also difficult to argue with Nigel Short's paragraph above. Also in the interview it was said that only 25% of arbiters reached the required standard. Even at the Olympiad where there are a higher number of less experienced arbiters this figure is difficult to accept. At the Olympiad a mentoring scheme could be used to improve less experienced arbiters. Such arbiters are kept away from the top sections.

Arbiter Appointments

Congratulations to ECF Home Director Alex Holowczak who has been appointed as a member of the TAP team for the upcoming Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. The TAP team (Technical Administrative Panel) responsible for doing the pairings for each round. David Sedgwick, Alan Atkinson, Alex McFarlane and Matt Carr are selected as Match Arbiters

Olimpbase lists the Chief Arbiter of the first official Olympiad which was held in London as Mr Hardcastle. At that time Mr. G. R. Hardcastle was the Hon. Secretary of the London Chess League. More information would be appreciated.

FIDE Rules Commissioners Meeting

The Commissioners had a meeting in Poland in April. From the minutes it seems that the next revision of the Laws will be in 2021 as expected.

The use of the move counter on digital clocks will be discussed in Batumi in September/October.

The matter of refresher courses on the Laws of Chess is under consideration and again information will be available following Batumi.

Knight's Tour

In holiday mood then try to work out the following messages. Start at the correct square and then with the appropriate knight moves the message will reveal itself. Answers on the last page. Note that it is two different tours.

F	I	P	B	H	T	A	T
P	R	C	M	W	Y	E	E
Y	O	M	L	I	S	H	L
P	A	A	S	E	E	R	S
T	R	A	N	A	H	A	H
R	K	O	E	H	T	L	S
E	W	L	I	O	Y	O	N
D	T	V	O	U	D	W	L

T	L	O	T	D	R	S	R
N	O	U	A	I	S	L	E
P	I	U	C	S	E	E	O
S	G	Y	L	Y	U	T	Q
L	P	E	F	U	U	H	B
R	I	U	V	E	I	E	A
E	S	D	N	I	I	R	S
E	R	R	S	A	S	L	S

First board hint: Start at d3.

Second board hint: d6 this time.

Cheating – An exemplar in ‘How Not to Deal with a Situation’

The FIDE Ethics Commission has made its decision relating to allegations of cheating or attempted cheating at the St Petersburg Championship. Dmitry Fraiman was accused of using a mobile phone during the tournament. The Ethics Commission rejected the case on the grounds that, although Fraiman’s actions were suspicious, there was not sufficient proof that he had cheated or attempted to cheat.

The arbiters of the event, if reports are accurate, made a number of mistakes. Players were allowed to freely carry phones on their person during the first 9 rounds. Following this round some complaints were made about Fraiman. The arbiters did not request that those who were making complaints should put them in writing. Early in round 10 Fraiman was asked to hand over his phone which was still in his pocket despite the ‘policy’ on phones having changed. It appears that he may have initially refused and left the hall. On his return he handed over his phone which was switched off at this point. No attempt seems to have been made by the arbiters to see when the phone had last been used or what software was on it. The player was defaulted in that game but allowed to play in the final round (Rd 11).

What went wrong?

Players should not have been allowed to walk around with their phones in their pockets.

The player took frequent toilet breaks. These were not collated to the move number on the board. Nor was the player questioned about these. (These could have been required for a number of legitimate reasons.)

The player was allowed to leave the hall with his phone and to return. From what has been reported he was not escorted at that time. When his phone was handed over it was not inspected other than to check that it was now switched off. The phone was requested after move 3. Unless the arbiters were certain he had one on him this could have been a considerable disturbance to the player. If they were sure he was carrying a phone delaying the request for it could have produced more concrete evidence.

He was allowed to continue in the tournament which is a strange thing to do if suspected of cheating and following his delay in handing over his phone. The latter would have been sufficient reason on its own to exclude him from the remainder of the tournament.

Software analysis of his games did produce a worryingly high correlation figure between his moves and those of chess engines. This figure was just in the danger zone, so possibly not enough on its own to convict him.

This case highlights the importance of arbiters taking proper action when cheating is suspected. In this case elementary procedures seem to have been ignored and the investigation poorly handled.

It is unusual for Arbiting Matters to name a player who has been found not guilty of cheating. In this case, due to the actions of the arbiters, there was not sufficient concrete evidence to convict but the player's behaviour was suspicious and at the very least contributed to the concerns of others.

A recommendation of the Ethics Commission is that phones should not be allowed into the playing hall. This is impractical for many British events as they would not be able to provide a safe storage solution for mobile phones during play. It would be unfortunate to say the least if poor decision making by a few arbiters caused major problems for many others.

Chess Arbiters Association – Safeguarding Policy (Draft)

Chess can and does have a powerful and positive influence on people, especially young people. Not only can it provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement, it can also develop qualities such as self esteem, structured thinking and leadership. These positive effects can only take place if chess places the safeguarding and protection of young people first and adopts good practice. Throughout this document the term 'young people' is used. The same safeguards should be applied, if necessary, to vulnerable adults.

Arbiting can involve varying levels of contact and responsibility for young people. An arbiter or organiser can develop strong positive relationships and will often be seen as a role model. Every individual has a responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of participants.

Arbiters should adopt the highest standards as they have an important role in safeguarding and protecting young people and in providing a safe environment in which they can enjoy their chess experiences.

Principles of the Policy

- Chess should be fun and enjoyable, and fair play should be promoted.

- All young people within chess, regardless of age, ability, sex, race, religion or belief, ethnic origin, social status or sexual orientation, have the right to be protected from harm.
- The rights, dignity and worth of all individuals should always be respected
- Everyone who has a concern, MUST report it.
- It is the responsibility of child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, but it is everyone's responsibility in chess to report concerns.
- The roles and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding young people must be recognised.
- Any policy or procedure is only as effective as the ability and skill of those who operate it.

The CAA acknowledges that good practice when dealing with people is essential. All people in a position of trust are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

- always be publicly open when working with young people. Ensure that whenever possible there is more than one adult present during activities with young people, or at least that you are in sight or hearing of others
- treat all young people with respect
- provide an example of good conduct you wish others to follow
- respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour that they do not like
- remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned
- challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspensions of abuse
- give guidance and support to inexperienced volunteers

Never

- allow or engage in any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with young people
- allow young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- make sexually suggestive comments to a young person, even in fun
- allow allegations of a young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon

- do things of a personal nature for young people that they can do for themselves
- invite or allow young people to stay with you at your home unsupervised
- allow bullying or bad behaviour by young people
- allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour
- make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of young people
- jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- either exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues
- show favouritism to any individual
- believe 'it could never happen to me'.

Reporting

As an arbiter you are not expected to be an expert in recognition; however all adults have a duty of care to be vigilant and respond appropriately to suspicions of poor practice, abuse or bullying. This does not mean that it is your responsibility to decide if a situation is poor practice, abuse or bullying, but it is your responsibility to report your concerns.

- in response to something a young person has said to you – a disclosure
 - in response to signs or suspicions of abuse
 - in response to allegations made against another official or a volunteer
 - in response to allegations made about a parent or someone not working within chess
 - in response to bullying
 - in response to a breach of these guidelines
 - observation of inappropriate behaviour
 - in response to anything which makes them uncomfortable based on inappropriate behaviour of an adult or changes in behaviour of a young person
- It is important to note that even if an incident occurs outside of the chess environment, it should still be reported if the adult or young person concerned is involved in chess. This is in accordance with standard practice in sport.

What to do if concerns are raised with you

- stay calm
- reassure the person reporting their concerns that they have done the right thing in telling you
- keep an open mind
- listen carefully to what is said and take them seriously (it adds to the distress if the information has to be repeated unnecessarily)
- find an appropriate early opportunity to explain that it is likely that the information will need to be shared with others – do not promise to keep secrets
- ask questions for clarification only, and at all times avoid asking questions that suggest a particular answer. To help you to do this, try to ask questions starting with what, how, where, when, who
- tell them what you will do next and with whom the information will be shared
- report the incident to the CAA Safeguarding Officer without delay*
- record in writing what was said using the young person's own words as soon as possible
- do not approach an alleged abuser or take sole responsibility.

It is not the arbiter's nor organiser's responsibility to decide if a child is being abused or poor practice has occurred. Any concerns or allegations will be managed by the Safeguarding Officer. It is your responsibility to report your concerns, not act on them.

*If the Safeguarding Officer is not contactable, and a child is at immediate risk or in danger, you must seek advice immediately (do not delay) from your local authority Children's Social Care Department (previously Social Services) or the Police. It is acceptable if this course of action is followed immediately even if there is no immediate risk. The Safeguarding Officer should be informed of any such contact made at the earliest opportunity.

The above is the draft policy. Further guidance on how to identify those who may be at risk will be issued in the near future. It is intended that these will be advice notes and not, as such, part of the official policy.

Correspondence

in the latest issue of your CAA newsletter (number 28, April 2018) is a contribution to Sealed First Move on page 6.

The justification for allowing the seal of the first move is clear, especially when a digital chess board is in use with live coverage on the internet.

However, nothing is said about when the player sealing his first move may start the opponent's clock. According to the Laws of Chess it is not allowed to press the clock before the own move has been made. But, it may, of course, be in this case that Guidelines I.1.1 are used.

In any case, it is a big hassle to monitor the board to make sure that the sealed first move is to be completed on the board. If there only a few digital boards are in use, that can easily be done. But in an event of some hundred players with, for instance, at least 50 digital boards, you need a small army of arbiters to ensure the players first-move-seal rights.

I will continue to follow the CAA newsletter with great interest, because a comparable instrument is not available at German Chess Federation. But maybe that will come one more day.

Best regards, Roland Schmitt, National Arbiter

Reply: I'm glad that you find the newsletter of value.

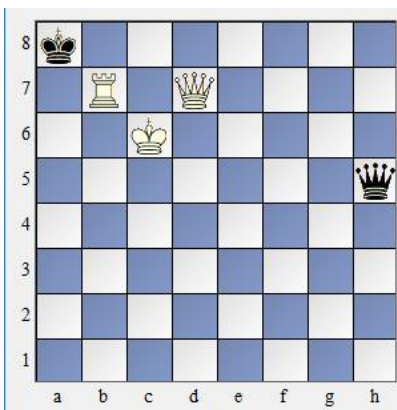
Players seldom ask to seal their first move. I don't think I've ever had more than one player do so in an event and the total is less than 10. There is a risk, of course, that numbers could increase. I've had over 32 DGT boards and this has been used, although normally it is no more than 8.

My experience is that players don't ask for this unless they are playing an unusual opening or they have real concerns about the integrity of their opponent.

What normally happens is that the player writes the move on the scoresheet and turns it over. When the opponent enters the playing hall the move is played. If the player who sealed is going to be away from the board he must inform the arbiter. I have only had to explain once to an opponent why this process was used.

An arbiter will normally notice the opponent coming and be at the board too. If the opponent is not a player that an arbiter would recognise then the arbiter will try to stay near the board.

You are the Arbiter



Consider what you would do in a weekend congress which is being played with a time control of all moves in 110 minutes with a 10 second increment. It is Black to play. The clocks currently show White has 2 seconds and Black has 2 minutes. Black plays ... Qc5+. White, who had been expecting Qh6+, is surprised by this move and freezes. While thinking, he runs out of time. Black claims a win on time. Does the arbiter support the claim?

Answer: The appropriate Law to consider is 6.9, in particular the final sentence.

6.9 Except where one of Articles 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3 applies, if a player does not complete the prescribed number of moves in the allotted time, the game is lost by that player. However, 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.

Following 1 ... Qc5 White's only legal move is 2 Kxg5 giving stalemate. Therefore the arbiter should declare the game drawn. Note that if White's flag had fallen after either ... Qb5 or Qd5 it would have been given as a win for Black.

Questions

I have a question regarding FIDE law 8.1.4: "The scoresheet shall be used only for recording the moves, the times of the clocks, offers of a draw, matters relating to a claim and other relevant data."

As part of clock management, at the beginning of a game I like to mark time targets on my scoresheet according to the time limit. For example, if 90 minutes for 40 moves, ignoring increment, I group the moves into 15-minute sections, 7 in 90-75, 7 in 75-60, 7 in 60-45, 7 in 45-30, 6 in 30-15, and 6 in 15-0. I then mark move 7 with 1.15, move 14 with 60, move 21 with 45, move 28 with 30, and

move 34 with 15. During the game, this allows me to compare my clock time and give me an idea where I stand on time.

Does this contravene FIDE Law 8.1.4, or could this come under "other relevant data"? If so, could I simply underline moves 7,14, 21, 28, and 34?

Very grateful for your thoughts on this.

Regards, Mike Kwan

8.1.4 The scoresheet shall be used only for recording the moves, the times of the clocks, offers of a draw, matters relating to a claim and other relevant data.

As can be seen from the above what is allowed to be written is limited. Matters relating to a draw include marking the move where the first repetition occurred or when the last pawn moved or piece was captured. It could also include indicating the move at which the 50 move rule would apply. Other relevant data is things like the names of the players, the tournament, round and board number. It could also include the name of the opening played (though I've heard it argued that that could be regarded as making notes). The times of the clocks could be the time expired or the time remaining as well as the actual time on an analogue. The time control is regarded as a relevant piece of information as is marking the 40 move mark (or whatever the time control is if different).

Although I have not heard it discussed in formal circles, my thoughts are that writing down proposed clock times would be regarded as illegal.

Two grey areas which are common to see on scoresheets are lines drawn across the scoresheet, for example every 10 moves, to indicate where a player should be and to write a countdown to the time control (move 31 has a 10 between the white and black halves, 32 has a 9, etc.). These are possibly illegal under a strict interpretation of the Laws (though actually underlining move 40 to indicate the time control is acceptable) but are so common that most arbiters will allow players to do this.

ACP on Cheating

A Director of the Association of Chess Professionals (ACP) , Yuri Garrett, has sent a long email to its members. The letter is in defence of the FIDE Anti Cheating Commission (ACC) which has been under attack recently for the time

it takes to make recommendations and for its part in the suspension of a player for making false accusations. Garrett is also Secretary of the ACC.

The letter does contain some useful points. It confirms that the ACC sets the standards used and also acts as a sort of prosecutor with the Ethics Commission of FIDE being the judge.

From the email, "ACC also has a rather neglected role as consultant. Some federations, arbiters and players come to us asking the right way to proceed in a given situation. We always reply to these requests, and the outcome is generally that of putting up a stronger team against cheating and cheaters. Unfortunately, this excellent practice seems to be unknown to most of the chess world."

Chess Scotland is discussing setting up an anti-cheating committee.

The email has a useful section on what an arbiter should request from a player making a claim that the opponent is cheating. Unfortunately, this advice is hidden in a paragraph which emphasises what a player should not do. "A player is allowed to ask for protection from an arbiter. Of course he can. There are two things he cannot do: write on every wall that XXX is a cheater (as this will likely lead to a sanction from both Ethics and/or a civil court) AND file a report where all he says to support his claim that the opponent cheated is "XXX played too well for his rating". This is a manifestly unfounded accusation. However, turn that "XXX played too well for his rating" into "XXX was scarcely concentrating, was walking all the time, going to the toilet, wore a cap and a wig AND played like a computer as is shown by the following evidence [data follows]" and the accuser will never be prosecuted, even if ACC cannot find the player guilty for whatever reason."

The ACC will publish new Anti Cheating Guidelines later in the year. It is rumoured that these will include scanners being used at all FIDE Rated (not just norm) events. It is very likely that a request will be made that tournaments which do not have anti-cheating measures in place will be refused rating.

Chess Injuries

During the Altibox tournament in Norway one of the players, Ding Liren, had a bicycle accident in which his hip was broken. Surgery was required. His next game was postponed to see if he was going to be able to continue. Fortunately common sense prevailed and he withdrew from the event. Unfortunately we were therefore unable to see what provisions the organisers would have made had he continued.

This raises the question of what to do if a player with an injury wants to play on. What measures should the arbiter take? And indeed, what measures should the arbiter allow?

In 1985 during the Tilburg Tournament Tony Miles played several games lying face down on a table, having injured his back.

Miles tied for first place but several opponents claimed he should not have been allowed to play in this manner as it was distracting.



A player with a genuine injury should always be allowed to withdraw, even if on conditions. Sometimes it has been known for a player to want to play on but the arbiter and organiser together have decided that it is in the player's best interests not to do so. The arbiter faces problems when, as in the Miles case, some players object. In those circumstances it really is a judgement call. Whatever the decision, someone will be upset.

Obviously neither incident happened at the board but there are stories about injuries incurred while playing. Almost certainly apocryphal, Aron Nimzovich is claimed to have broken his leg during a game. He allegedly twisted his leg round that of the chair he was sitting on and, having made his move, attempted to stand only to fall over and break his leg. (As neither the event nor the opponent are mentioned in any account I have seen this seems to be an

round of the 'Moscow Candidate Masters' Chess Championships'. No one else was hurt but four players and three officials were sprayed with blood and brain matter. The relevant page is shown.

Unfortunately true is the story of four chess players knifed at an event in China. This was reported by Reuters on 16 June, 2014. Knife-wielding attackers in Xinjiang, western China injured four people in a crowded chess hall as the country grapples with a wave of unrest in the region.

Four people were injured in a struggle with the attackers in the previous day's incident. Two of the attackers died from serious injuries and a third was arrested.

Other injuries seem more mundane such as minor scalding after spilling tea or coffee.

Arbiter Errors?

Prearranged results can be very difficult to deal with. The main problem is that there is no proof that the games were actually pre-arranged rather than both players independently reaching the same conclusion that a draw is a satisfactory result.

There are two reasons for players deciding the result in advance. One is to maximise the value of the prize to be won (or to ensure that a prize is won). The other is to register a protest.



The following game is believed to come into the latter category and was allegedly played as a protest against the imposition of a tournament regulation preventing the agreement of draws before a minimum number of moves had been played.

The game was played in an all play all GM tournament in Berlin in 2009.

Paehtz, Elisabeth vs. Tischbierek, Raj
1. d4 d6 2. Qd2 e5 3. a4 e4 4. h3 f5.

5. Qf4 Be7 6. Qh2 Be6 7. Ra3 c58. Rg3 Qa5+ 9. Nd2 Bb3 10. d5 Bh411. c4 e3 12.
f3 f4

Not the shortest stalemate possible but one which is extremely difficult to believe was reached without collusion.

The difficulty is usually in proving that it was agreed in advance and not at the board during play. In this case the game had been played before, also in Berlin, during the 1990 East German Championship. On that occasions Tischbierek was also involved but was the white player. The opponent was ... Thomas Paehtz, Elisabeth's father!!!

The game was actually constructed almost 100 years before by Sam Loyd. It was published in 1906.

The arbiter on the second occasion (2009) admonished the players. Would a double default have been a more appropriate result?

FIDE Taken to Court

IM Fernando Braga took FIDE to the Court of Arbitration for Sport to try to get his IM title upgraded to GM. The player was claiming that his rating had reached the required level and he had the norms. FIDE has no record of his rating ever reaching 2500. The case was rejected by the court but it does highlight a duty of arbiters which isn't always realised. Titles are awarded on a published or **interim** rating. The interim part can take place in the middle of a tournament. Note that this regulation applies to FIDE Master and Candidate Master titles as well as IM and GM. It is the player's responsibility to obtain proof that a title threshold has been reached. An arbiter will not know whether a player has played other games still to be included in a rating so cannot confirm the award. If approached by a player a good arbiter will note a player's performance ($w-w_e$) round by round and provide the player with a printout of a crosstable for the tournament at the point of maximum gain.

I have to say that I have never had a player concerned about a CM title but have certainly had players hoping to get over 2500.

The regulations state:

- 1.53a Such a rating need not be published. It can be obtained in the middle of a rating period, or even in the middle of a tournament. The player may then disregard subsequent results for the purpose of their title application. However the burden of proof then rests with the

federation of the title applicant. It is recommended that players receive a certificate from the Chief Arbiter where they achieve the rating level during an event. Such a certificate should include a note of the date each game was played. Title applications based on unpublished ratings shall only be accepted by FIDE after agreement with the Rating Administrator and the Qualifications Commission. Ratings in the middle of a period can be confirmed only after all tournaments for that period have been received and rated by FIDE.

Signing and dating the printout with, perhaps, a one line explanation is all that is needed. It is then up to FIDE.











If the player is still above the required performance at the end of the event then the arbiter doesn't have to do anything.

FIFA to use Elo

Football's governing body is about to adopt the Elo system to calculate national rankings in a way very similar to that used to calculate chess ratings. A modified version of the Elo rating is currently in use for the FIFA Women's World Ranking but it will also be used for the men's game too from the new season.

The formula is very similar to that used by FIDE.

$P = P_{\text{before}} + I * (W - W_e)$ where P_{before} is points before the match $I =$ importance of match very similar to the k factor but varies from 5 for an

Elo Rank	Team	Points	Confederation	FIFA Rank
1	 Germany	2086	UEFA	1
2	 Argentina	2043	CONMEBOL	3
3	 Brazil	2042	CONMEBOL	5
4	 Colombia	2009	CONMEBOL	4
5	 Netherlands	1988	UEFA	6
6	 Spain	1937	UEFA	10
7	 Chile	1932	CONMEBOL	16
8	 France	1917	UEFA	9
9	 England	1900	UEFA	15
10	 Uruguay	1896	CONMEBOL	8

'unofficial' friendly match to 60 for the quarter final stages onwards of the World Cup. Losing a match in the knockout stages of a competition will not affect a country's 'rating'.

Knight Tour

Solutions:

1. Every arbiter should know the laws of chess and how to apply them impartially.
2. Congresses should utilise qualified arbiters to supervise unruly players.

Opposite is the basics for the first tour given. Note that every row and column adds up to 260. Unfortunately it is not a magic square as the diagonals have a different total.

31	54	47	8	33	10	27	50
46	7	32	53	28	49	34	11
5	30	55	48	9	36	51	26
56	45	6	29	52	25	12	35
43	4	57	20	61	14	37	24
58	19	44	1	40	23	62	13
3	42	17	60	21	64	15	38
18	59	2	41	16	39	22	63

CAA Officials

Chairman - Lara Barnes

Secretary -

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

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