



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

September 2018

Issue 32

FIDE Elections: Two of the candidates for the position of FIDE President have indicated that they will end the 'grace and favour' method of appointing arbiters to major events. There have certainly been some appointments which are difficult to justify on ability. The current FIDE administration admits that some arbiter posts are awarded in recognition of services to FIDE. This, provided the arbiter is competent, has got some merit though it is to be hoped that other arbiters too would be given a chance to officiate.

The number of English arbiters at the forthcoming Olympiad is the highest in recent years.

Team Captains. At our AGM there was a discussion on what team captains should be allowed to do and what they shouldn't. This discussion is continued on Page 5.

ECF Senior Arbiter. The ECF abolished the title of Senior Arbiter. The reason given was that it was confusing to players to find a Senior Arbiter in charge who had no FIDE titles. The ECF therefore introduced a 4 tier system. After a couple of years in operation is it time to review the situation? See Page 11

The ECF will have a new Home Director in place following the October ECF AGM. The position will be contested. Both candidates have arbiter qualifications. This would seem like a good time to lobby for any changes that we feel would be beneficial. Members comments on the topics mentioned above are most welcome.

FIDE Arbiters Magazine Issue 7 is now available for download. It is well worth reading and some of the matters raised are covered in this issue of AMToo. It can be found on the FIDE website by going to the Arbiters Commission area. There is also a link on the CAA website.

Anti-Cheating Measures

There is no doubt that the anti-cheating measures used at an Olympiad (World Team Championship) are beyond what most congresses could achieve. However, who would have thought even five years ago that hand held scanners would be a common sight at British events. As electronic devices become smaller there is every chance that congresses, to maintain their integrity, will need to take action against even everyday objects like pens. The following proposals will be discussed at the FIDE Congress in Batumi in October.

The following technical equipment is recommended by FIDE for cheating prevention, according to the level of the tournament and to local laws:

- hand-held security metal detectors;
- one or more additional anti-cheating arbiters;
- walk-through metal detectors;
- automatic electro-magnetic screening devices for metallic/non-metallic items;
- closed circuit cameras.



In most cases, a hand-held metal detector will prove enough to secure that electronic devices are not being carried into the playing venue, and should thus always be considered as the first-

choice device for maximum protection. When two measures are required, it is strongly suggested to appoint an additional anti-cheating arbiter.

Standard protection - to apply to all FIDE rated tournaments

i) Organizers must clearly and carefully designate areas for players (the “Playing Area”) and for spectators. Organizers and arbiters shall prevent getting any chess information from outside the “Playing Area”. Organizers shall endeavour, in so much as possible and reasonable, to avoid contact between players and spectators. If possible, provide separate refreshment/toilet/smoking areas for players and spectators (in team competitions, this should be extended to include captains as a separate category);

ii) Adopt at least one security measure from the list above.

iii) Recommendation to send all available games in PGN format for screening by the FIDE Game Screening Tool. Obligation to send norm-related tournament games in PGN format for screening by the FIDE Internet-based Game Screening Tool;

iv) When registering the tournament with the FIDE Qualifications Commission (QC), organizers are required to confirm that they are in compliance with the Anti Cheating

(AC) Prevention Measures. Waivers can be granted solely by National Federations and must be requested at least 4 weeks before the start of the tournament;

v) The chief arbiter is encouraged to devise a system for operating random checks during the game.

Increased protection - to apply to tournaments where norms are possible.

i) As Standard Protection (i) above

ii) Each tournament must adopt at least two security measures from the list.

iii) The chief arbiter must devise a system for regularly checking the venue, before during and after the game, in cooperation with the Head Anti-Cheating arbiter (if any).

iv) Recommendation to send all games in PGN format for screening by the FIDE internet-based Game Screening Tool. Obligation to send in norm-related tournament games in PGN format for screening by the FIDE Game Screening Tool;

v) Organizers applying for waivers must do so with FIDE QC, at least 4 weeks before the start of the tournament. Waivers shall be granted only by FIDE QC;

vi) Organizers are strongly encouraged to provide secure storage facilities for electronic devices;

vii) Organizers and arbiters are encouraged to carry out screening tests during the event via the FIDE Internet-based Game Screening Tool.

viii) The chief arbiter is encouraged to devise a system for operating random checks during the game, in cooperation with the Head Anti-Cheating arbiter (if any).

Maximum Protection – to apply to FIDE Events, Elite events (Prize fund of €100,000 or All play Alls with average rating >2600 or 2400 if restricted to women) and National Championships (Individual and Team) where norms are available.

i) As (I) before

ii) Watches, pens and other writing devices containing metal are not allowed in the playing area. However, these items can be stored in the facilities under v) below. Each tournament must adopt at least two security measures. Additional security in the form of ACC-certified metal detectors/X-ray machines, scanners, manned by qualified security staff, subject to applicable restrictions in each individual jurisdiction, is strongly recommended;

iii) The chief arbiter must devise a system for regularly checking the venue, before during and after the game, in cooperation with the Head Anti-Cheating arbiter (if any);

iv) Obligation to send in all available tournament games in PGN format for screening by the FIDE Game Screening Tool. For Rapid and Blitz events, the requirement is downgraded to a recommendation;

- v) Organizers are required to identify the anti-cheating measures used, when registering the tournament with the FIDE QC;
- vi) Organizers are required to provide secure storage facilities for electronic devices;
- vii) Organizers and arbiters are strongly encouraged to carry out screening tests during the event via the FIDE Internet-based Game Screening Tool;
- viii) The chief arbiter must devise a system for operating random checks during the game, in cooperation with the Head Anti-Cheating arbiter (if any).

13 year Old Caught Cheating at European Youth

An Austrian Junior (FM rated 2373 before the championship) was caught with his mobile phone in a toilet at the European Youth Championships in Riga, Latvia. The player was leading the Open Under 14 event with 5½/6 at the time of the discovery. His round 7 game which had initially been recorded as a draw was changed to a loss for the Austrian and he was withdrawn from the remainder of the event. His previous games were also recorded as losses for him but remained losses for his opponents as well (the half point he dropped appears to have been a bye). A phone, subsequently shown to belong to the player, had been found in the tournament toilet during play. After the conclusion of the game the player with the head of his delegation was interviewed by the arbiters. He admitted the phone was his He was also asked to enter the password on the phone so that it could be checked for usage and to determine what software was loaded on it. After the player made three wrong attempts at entering the code the phone locked itself. The phone was then retained for further investigation.



As a result of that interview and what happened at it, the action detailed above was taken. It is reported that the Austrian Federation will deal with his punishment. The matter has also been passed to FIDE and the European Chess Union. Although there were 3 players from both

England and Scotland and one from Ireland in the event, none of them were drawn against the miscreant.

The anti-cheating measures in place for the event involved monitoring the hall for mobile phone use (see picture on previous page). This apparently did not detect the phone activity in the toilets.

When someone is caught like this the obvious question is how long has it been going on for? Was it a one off, did it happen in every round and how many tournaments could be affected? A rapid improvement might be a strong indicator with an adult but with a junior such things are less clear due to natural progression. His improvement has been 200 points per annum in his standard rating for the last two years. His Blitz and Rapidplay ratings are about 2100 but he has played in events of those types much less frequently. Probably the most that can be said about his previous results is that they may be an indication of cheating but are far from conclusive.

Team Captains

The duties of a team captain vary significantly from one event to another. About the only tasks that all regulations agree on is that the team captain is the person responsible for handing in the board order of his team or for exchanging this with the opposing team captain, whichever is appropriate and that the Captain shall report the final result of the match.

In the ECF Counties Championship that is the limit of what an a captain can do. In many leagues the captains act together as arbiters. If an event is FIDE rated this task would not be allowed unless both captains were licenced as National Arbiters. In such events only the players can call flag fall. Any disputes over the Laws would need to be referred to an official arbiter. In the early rounds of the Scottish Club Championship (Richardson Cup) there are arbiters 'on standby' who can be contacted by phone if need be. A similar situation exists in some English events.

50 years ago it was common for the captain to be allowed to determine the result of a game. At the end of the first session the two captains would get together and agree things such as "We will resign board 5 if you resign board 7". Although this continues in some leagues to this day it is now clearly regarded as unacceptable in most events.'

In most tournaments the arbiter is allowed to advise his team on the match score but what is needed by that player only when asked.

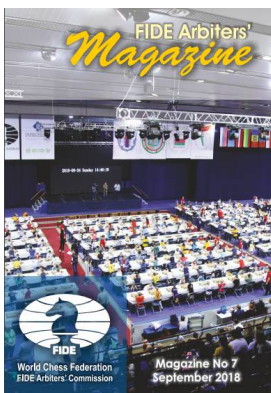
FIDE regulations allows the captain and player only to talk to each other in the presence of the arbiter. Further regulations insist that a captain can only stand behind his team

and should not leave the playing venue without the arbiter's permission. These last two are as a result of cheating by a French captain who was leaving the playing hall to receive moves by text message and then passing those moves on by simple code. FIDE regulations also allow the captain to be proactive in indicating to a player, for example, that a draw in their game will be good enough to secure a win in the match.

It is generally accepted that a captain cannot advise a player about the position in his or her own game. If the player asks the captain if they can offer a draw the captains answer should be based on the match situation only. "We need a win in your game" is an acceptable answer. "You have the better position, play on" is not.

The Draconian limitations in the Counties Championship is probably down to an over-reaction to some problem which has arisen.

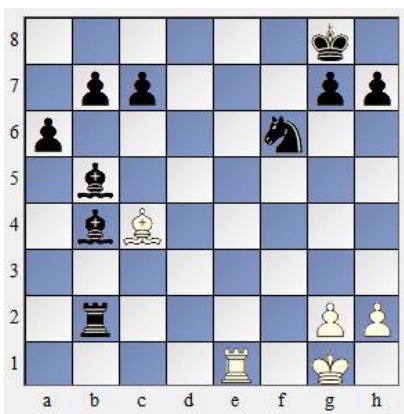
FIDE Arbiters Magazine



The September 2018 edition of the FIDE Arbiters Magazine is available for downloading from the FIDE website (See Arbiters Commission Section). Some of the issues raised have already been covered by AMToo but it is worth dealing with these again.

Consider the following situation in a Blitz or Rapidplay game. No illegal moves have previously been played. The arbiter is not present to see what has happened and the normal Laws of Chess did not apply as there were not enough arbiters per game. The arbiter should step in if (s)he sees an irregularity.

In this position Black has just played 1 ... Be8-b5. Black has

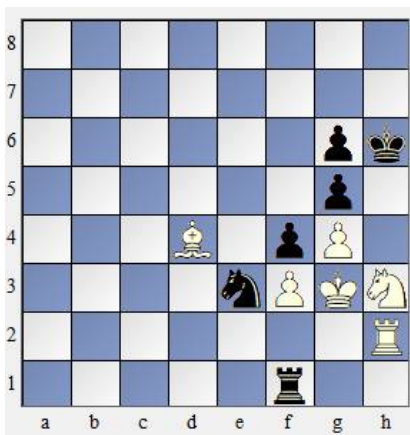


failed to notice that the bishop on c4 is attacking the king on g8. White plays 2 Re8 and announces mate. Black claims that White's move is illegal. What does the arbiter rule?

The White move is a legal move so the Black claim can be dismissed (it is Black who played the illegal move, not White). The arbiter should rule that the mate stands as Black cannot get out of the double check. This decision will annoy a number of arbiters, especially if it is felt that

White knew about Black's illegal move but did not claim it. Unfortunately, under the 2018 Laws the mate must stand.

In a Standard game or Rapid or Blitz with the appropriate number of arbiters then both the rook and bishop moves would be retracted and Black forced to play 1 ... Bf7.



In the second position from a Standard play game White has already made an illegal move earlier. White now plays 1 Nf2 and announces "mate!". Black claims the game as it is a second illegal move by White. Who is correct? The answer here is neither.

White has played a second illegal move but White's only legal move is 1 Nxf4 which, if it had been played initially, would have lead to mate. As Black cannot win by any series of legal moves the game is declared drawn.

To extend the second example further, if White thinks he has been mated and ends the game by signing the scoresheets 0-1 does that 'resignation' stand? If White plays any illegal move or even runs out of time then the game would be recorded as a draw. My feeling is that a resignation must stand even though no losing moves can be played. Others may think differently.

Further examples can be found in the FIDE Arbiters Magazine.

Arbiter Errors?

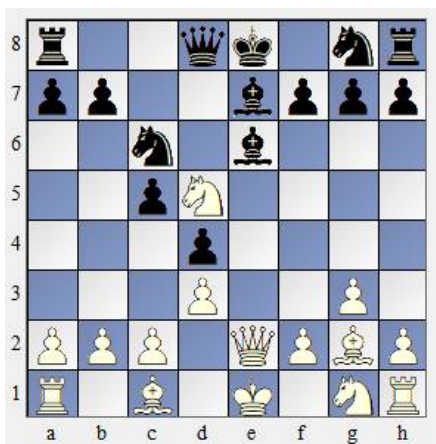
On 1st July 2014 a new set of FIDE Laws came into force. These Laws introduced two additional ways in which an arbiter could declare a game drawn. They were where 75 consecutive moves had been played without a pawn move or a capture and where the same position occurred 5 times.

The following game was played just over a year after these changes were introduced.

Narciso Dublan, Marc (2521) - Grigoryan, Karen H (2580)

Barbera del Valles op 38th Barbera del Valles (9), 12.07.2015

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 e6 3. g3 d5 4. exd5 exd5 5. Bg2 d4 6. Qe2+ Be7 7. Nd5 Nc6 8. d3 Be6 9. Nf4 Bc8 10. Nd5 Be6 11. Nf4 Bc8 12. Nd5 Be6 13. Nf4 Bc8 14. Nd5 Be6 15. Nf4 Bc8 16. Nd5 Be6 17. Nf4 Bc8 18. Nd5 Be6 19. Nf4 Bc8 20. Nd5 Be6 21. Nf4 Bc8 22. Nd5 Be6 23. Nf4 Bc8 24. Nd5 Be6 25. Nf4 Bc8 26. Nd5 Be6 27. Nf4 Bc8 28. Nd5 Be6 29. Nf4 Bc8 30. Nd5 Be6 31. Nf4 Bc8 ½-½



To avoid playing through the game here is the position after 8 ... Be6.

It is also the position after black's moves 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30.

I have failed to find the tournament regulations for 2015 but in earlier and later events a limit on the number of moves before a draw can be agreed is not in the main regulations displayed on the website.

Regardless of whether such a restriction was put in place the inaction of the Spanish arbiters has to be questioned. Why was the game not

declared drawn following Black's 16th move? Even if the arbiters were unaware of the year old changes to the Laws why was a position allowed to be repeated 12 times without the players being charged with bringing the game into disrepute. It is difficult to believe that players would repeat the position so many times without attracting an audience.

Grigoryan had an unusual tournament as not only had he this 'interesting' last round game but two of his opponents failed to show (rounds 1 and 3). He therefore won the event playing only 6 real games.

The two met again with the same colours at least twice more later that year which ended in a 59 move draw and a 56 move win for Black. However, the pair did have a 29 move draw by repetition in January of the following year.

The tournament itself finished on 12 July but the grading data was not received by FIDE until 9 August. Currently rating regulations would have required it to have been submitted by 28 July.

Perhaps not an event for the arbiters and organisers to be overly proud of. If that were not enough the outside temperature reached 41°C and the air conditioning did not function properly.

Early Arbiters (History)

The earliest versions of the Laws assumed that there was no such thing as an arbiter. The players were expected to sort out any disputes themselves. If the players could not agree then a passer-by should be asked to make a decision.

George Walker in his 1832 book 'A New Treatise on Chess' gives the following which were the Laws adopted by London & Westminster Chess Clubs. Although not used by all, use by prestigious clubs would mean that a set of Laws had a significant following and usage.

No. XXV. Should any dispute occur, as to points of the game for which the laws have not provided. the question ought to be referred to a third party: and the decision then given must be considered as final.

In 'The Chess Player' George Walker/WS Kenny (1840) the Law is shortened and remarks about its use given.

LAW XXVI. Every dispute as to the laws of the game, shall be referred to a third party; whose decision must be received as final. REMARKS. The laws cannot provide for every case which may arise, and disputes will occasionally occur even among the first class of players. It is the best way to refer similar matters to the by-standers, and to agree that their decision shall be considered binding; or, should you prefer so doing, agree upon a written statement of the case, and submit it to a third party of acknowledged skill in the game. When the decision is once given, never revive the matter, should it go against you, but acquiesce with the best grace you may. Of course, you may still consider yourself in the right, but do not say so. Be a victim in your own mind, and bear the honours of martyrdom meekly.

The change in wording is interesting. In the 1832 version can almost be interpreted as 'On the few occasions that the players should disagree (should **any** dispute occur)', whereas the 1840 version expects there to be disputes (**every** dispute). One can only speculate on changing attitudes in the 8 years between.

The idea that a random person should be asked simply because they were in the vicinity changed over time as one might expect. As still happens in clubs, it is likely that some 'third parties' were seen as being more reliable than others and would be sought for their opinion.

The role of the arbiter became more formal as time progressed and for the 1886 World Championship match between Steinitz and Zukertort the agreement signed on 29 December 1885 had a clause in the main document appointing The Honourable Charles F Buck of New Orleans as the Referee.

The section headed minor rules and regulations had the following:

1. Each player shall nominate an Umpire for each of the divisions of the match*, three days prior to the commencement of such division. The gentleman thus nominated shall be a member of the Club under whose auspices the respective match portion is to be played, and his election shall be approved of by his opponent. Should either party, however, reject two gentlemen thus named, the

Committee of the Club may be appealed to by the opponent for the purpose of electing another Umpire, whose appointment shall then be final.

2. Each Umpire may nominate one substitute to take his place in case of unavoidable absence, and the appointment of such substitute shall be confirmed in the same manner as that of the original Umpire.
3. The Umpires, or their substitutes, shall be present in the room, where the match is being played, during the progress of each game, and they shall settle all disputes that may arise between the two players. In the case of the two Umpires disagreeing, or if either player claims that their decision is contrary to the conditions of the match, the decision of the Referee on appeal shall be final.
4. The games shall be played within an inclosure (sic) which shall only be accessible to the players, their Umpires or substitutes, and the officers of the respective Clubs under whose auspices the match is played.

Additional tasks of the Umpires included being with the opponent during adjournments when their player could not (essentially following the opponent to make sure he didn't analyse the game), receive the opponent's sealed move if appropriate and check the accuracy of both sets of 'double stop clocks' provided for the match (one was a spare).

If either player was in violation of the main conditions then the Referee was entitled to apply fines ranging from \$50 to \$250. Such fines were to be paid to the opponent.

Effectively the Umpires were the match arbiters and the Referee the Chief Arbiter. The games were played under the code of laws published in what was then the most recent edition of the German Handbuch with the exception of a draw by repetition rule also being included.

* The match was played in three venues, or divisions, namely the Manhattan Chess Club (New York), St Louis Chess, Checker and Whist Club, and the New Orleans Chess, Checker and Whist Club.



Charles Francis Buck (November 5, 1841 – January 19, 1918) was born in Durrheim, Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, Buck emigrated to the United States in 1852 with his parents, who settled in New Orleans, Louisiana.

He entered the legal profession and was admitted to the bar in 1867, and commenced practice in New Orleans. He served as member of the school board of New Orleans for many years and was city attorney

from 1880 to 1884. Buck was elected as a Democrat to the 54th Congress (March 4, 1895 - March 4, 1897). He declined to be a candidate for re-election in 1896, resuming the practice of law. In the build up to the Championship he was responsible for ensuring that the funding was in place.

ECF Arbiter Titles



A few years ago the ECF did away with the idea of awarding the title of Senior Arbiter to new applicants and introduced its current system of grades 1 to 4. Effectively Level 1 means that you have

passed an exam, Level 2 means that you have had satisfactory reports from events, Level 3 means that you are an FA and Level 4 means that you are an IA. Is this system any better or worse than the previous one?

On the face of it it does seem to be a simplification. A serious problem with this new system is that the ECF now has no way of recognising good arbiters beyond Level 2, it relies on FIDE to promote its arbiters. This may not seem too bad until you realise that one Level 4 arbiter has never passed an exam of any description having got his title before FIDE introduced exams and having failed the ECF exam (possibly twice). Many IAs across the world achieved their IA titles simply by having 4 satisfactory reports submitted. Few arbiters are brave enough to give an unfavourable report. FIDE has also tightened up on the tournaments from which norms can be achieved. A lack of 7 and 9 round events in England means that opportunities to progress will be limited.

Scotland and Wales have retained their systems which have Senior Arbiters. In Scotland the title is awarded only after an oral exam in which a candidate has to say what they would do in certain situations. These involve thinking on your feet and there may be no perfectly correct answer.

I accept that the one example that I gave above does not mean that the system is fatally flawed but it was brought in to cure a 'problem' which is perhaps less of an issue. It has to be accepted that it might look a bit odd for the Chief Arbiter of an event not to have a FIDE title whilst those working under him do but that is more a reflection of the structure of chess in Britain than it is of the arbiter system. Until quite recently there was no need to get a FIDE title and many British (and here I do mean British, not just English) arbiters

did not bother to acquire a FIDE title. As time progresses these arbiters are getting fewer. I can think of only two and neither is now active, except for perhaps a local event or two. Has the ECF used a sledgehammer to crack a nut? Should the system be re-examined and the ECF lobbied to introduce its own title structure?

Clock Problems

In Britain we have a debate on digital clock setting. This involves does the extra time get added on when one clock reaches zero or when the time control is reached. The latter method certainly gives the players the correct information on time available but the former has



the advantage that incorrect clock presses do not mean that the clock will add on the time at an unexpected moment. In the US where as well as increments they have delay. In delay, the clock 'freezes' until the delay time is used up and only then continues counting down. This means that clocks there can be set in an even greater variety of ways. There are often several ways to set the same clock for the same control, especially if the clock is a Chronos. For example, do you set it so that it always shows h:mm:ss for the main time, and just a flashing colon for the delay? Or do you set it to show h:mm until the main time drops below 60 minutes, then switch to mm:ss, so that the delay can always be shown as a countdown digit? Or do you set it so that it shows h:mm during the delay, then switch to mm:ss after the delay drops to 0? Additionally some of the clocks add on the delay from the start and some only after the first move. These are on top of having the same debate as we have.

Using delay also caused some consternation at the Sinquefield Cup. Chris Bird, a US arbiter originally from Hull and who officiated at the British Championships, asked if notation had to be kept with 30 delay as you could never gain time by playing some fast moves. FIDE confirmed that this was indeed the case and that for all applications of the Laws of Chess delay and increment are treated in the same way.

If You Feel Frustrated ...

It can often be frustrating to run a chess tournament. You are always aware of the problems and disputes but seldom get feedback on the positive affect your actions are having. Four years ago a severely disabled player took part in the Commonwealth Championships held in Glasgow. I never met him again. We were thanked at the time and as far as I was concerned that was the end of the matter until I recently received the news from his parents that he had died. The same email contained further thanks for organising the event and making arrangements for him. Even though it was unknown to me the efforts made by the organising team had brought joy into the player's life and the happy memories he got from the event stayed with him and his family. News like that makes the effort in running chess events worthwhile. So the next time you think "That's it ... no more" remember your actions may be more appreciated than you realise.

Malaysian Open 2018 Security Measures

As part of its anti-cheating measures the Malaysian Open insisted that players before going to the toilet had to report to an arbiter. With 398 players the arbiter assigned to this task was swamped, fortunately not literally, by a queue of players during round 1. For the remaining rounds each player was issued with a bar code which was scanned by the two arbiters now assigned to the task. The players were also not allowed to have watches in the playing hall.

Torneo Pairing Program

I don't know of anyone in Britain who uses this though there was an email marketing operation held here fairly recently to promote it. It has been rejected by FIDE and a recent upgrade seems to have made it worse. Byes seemed to be treated as if either a full point has been awarded or no points at all were given, apparently the decision of which variant was quite random. The CAA has never recommended this software and on current evidence seems unlikely ever to do so.

I believe the bug may have been fixed but only after several weeks.

Having typed the above I received news about an Allegro in Australia. (Are Scotland and Australia the only countries to refer to Rapidplays as Allegros?) In this event the program ignored the latest ratings and reverted to an earlier version. This was either not noticed or ignored by the organisers resulting in some strange pairings and unhappiness over the

rating prizes which were awarded on the wrong ratings and possibly to one player who should have been too highly rated for the band..

My advice would be to avoid this software at all costs.

It would be interesting to hear from anyone who has recently used Sevilla from JBF Software. A review would be particularly welcome.

World Dive Chess Championships

This event was held in London on 25 August. The board, with magnetic pieces was placed on the bottom of a swimming pool. When it was a players turn to move they submerged themselves and were not allowed to breathe until they had made their move. So although no clocks were used the time per move was limited to the length of time a player could hold their breath.



The winner was Radjco Vujatovic of Morgan Stanley (FIDE 2222). His dress for the event might be described as unusual (see opposite). It is not clear if what appears to be a propeller on his head gave him an unfair advantage when surfacing. Games could take up to an hour but the normal was between 30 and 40 minutes.

There is no truth in the stories that the Irish heats were cancelled due to a waterlogged playing area or that three arbiters drowned while investigating an illegal move claim. The assertion that there are certain players who would benefit from submersion in water, especially if soapy, has yet to be confirmed.

Radjco has previously been involved in chess-boxing.

League Chess and Increments

A number of leagues now have the possibility of playing matches with increments. Some others have changed from a two session format to playing with all moves in x minutes. The reason given for this change being that it will make it easier to introduce increments in the future. With evening league sessions being limited to 3 hours or less having two sessions with increments does not seem to make a lot of sense.

There has been resistance to change. The main worry being that increments mean that players have to play faster and/or cannot spend a considerable proportion of the time available on playing the opening. The counter argument that increments mean that the time is more equitably distributed over the whole game and that a proper ending can be played does not seem to carry much weight with those players.

The fear that games may overshoot the normal club finishing time is certainly justified and has led to leagues effectively reducing the time of sessions to allow for the occasional long game finishing without caretaker (or even last bus home) problems.

Where increments are being used it is important that clubs have sufficient members able to set and adjust clocks. I visited one club for a league match where analogue clocks were being used. I jokingly asked for an explanation of how they worked. I was immediately told that they had digital clocks in the cupboard but they were never used because no-one knew how to set them!

There are genuine worries about clocks being wrongly set, in particular clocks being set without increments.

This problem can be overcome by an official of the home club cycling through the setting of each clock before the start of play. This should be done even where the clocks retain the setting and the use of the clocks is supposedly restricted to tournament play. Accidents happen and settings can be altered.

Where a clock is incorrectly set it should be altered as soon as this is noticed. If a game has otherwise ended, then it is too late to do anything about an incorrectly set clock. League rules though may punish a club which has set clocks wrongly, especially if only the away team has suffered.

We Don't Always Say What We Mean

"I enjoyed the commentary as usual, and went to sleep expecting a Caruana v Aronian playoff this evening, and was surprised to see Carlsen won his game when eating my cornflakes." Alex Holowczak on the ECFForum.

We await a reason why Magnus was sharing a bowl of cereal with Alex. It is also to be hoped that the resultant 'snap, crackle and pop' did not disturb Carlsen's opponent.

And, but for the Rev Spooner the following fishy announcement may not have been made at the start of a congress. "The *plate* of *ray* is 40 moves in ..." Nor would the junior organiser trying to get silence have announced "*Stocking tops*, please!". And neither would the agitated junior have proclaimed, "He *knook* my *tight* when he's in check!".

The previous paragraph may of course be an arbiter's nightmare – a *lack of pies*.

CAA Officials

Chairman - Lara Barnes

Secretary – Alan Atkinson

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



**Items for inclusion in future issues should be sent to Alex McFarlane
ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk**