



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

May 2020

Issue 42

FIDE Arbiters' Manual

The 2020 edition of the FIDE Arbiters' manual is now available to download from the FIDE website. There have been a number of significant changes to the order and presentation. The Interpretations within the Laws (and elsewhere) have been significantly revised. Download from:

https://arbiters.fide.com/images/stories/downloads/2020/ARB_Manual_2020.pdf

The manual was edited by Shohreh Bayat with input from British arbiters.

FIDE has been asking for bids to stage its events in 2022. The bidding process indicates that these events, although scheduled for 2022, may not take place until 2023. The Olympiad, due to take place in August has already been postponed until the summer of 2021 (no dates confirmed). The Candidates tournament was halted in the middle of the event. It took the Chief Arbiter over a week to get home due to border closures. All of the other participants, including Andy Howie, managed to return within one day of the call-off.

The FIDE Arbiters' Commission has set up a working group to improve arbiter education. One of its priorities will be to establish 'Refresher Courses' for arbiters. Although initially, these courses will be on a voluntary basis it is possible that retaining an arbiter's licence will depend on participation.

The other immediate priority is on some standardisation of FA seminars. The intended seminars at Hull in June (FIDE and ECF courses) are in abeyance until the current situation is resolved.

FIDE Veteran Award

Gerry Walsh, has been named as one of 17 recipients of FIDE's Veterans' Awards for 2020. Gerry is a founding member of the CAA. He was for many years President of the ECF and its delegate to FIDE.

The awards are granted to distinguished players, coaches and organisers for their sterling services to chess over the years. Gerry, a leading arbiter and one of the foremost tournament organisers from the North of England, is best known for staging an impressive series of international events in Teesside in the 1970s, and for being the organiser of the popular Scarborough weekend congress in its early years. Gerry was also Deputy President of the European Chess Union and has been heavily involve in Braille chess.



Cheating – but different

As some of you may know FIDE has a rule on rating matches between two players. In a ten game match, for example, FIDE does not rate any games played after one of the players reaches 5½. So if the score was 5½ – 2½ the final two games would not be rated unless this had been agreed in advance.

The US has a similar restriction but one organiser tried to get round this in a rather creative way. He submitted the tournament as a Swiss with 62 players. In reality there were only 3 people. Player A played Player B 27 times and also player C 4 times. The computer accepted this but fortunately it was spotted by a human. The USCF Ethics Committee took action.

If you are wondering why the software checking process did not spot this it is because the program is written to take account of the process fairly common in the states of having different rates of play in the same event and multiple entries from the same person. For example in a nine round tournament with a 1,2,2,2,2 format (1 round on the first day and two on each of the others) new players can enter on day 3 and play five faster games to enter the main event on day 4 with the score achieved. But it is also possible for a player who played badly in days 1 and 2 to withdraw and re-enter playing in the faster day 3 schedule. Some tournament schedules allow a player to withdraw and re-enter twice. The re-entry fee is usually less than the original entry fee.

Why do we become Arbiters?

Alan Ruffle comments: "I am receiving feedback to the affect that people do not become arbiters to spy on players who go to the toilet, to check on players who need to leave the playing area to look after a sick relative or to follow players who may have left the playing area whilst in possession of a mobile phone. It has been suggested to me that this is the responsibility of the tournament organiser who should arrange for these duties to be carried out by officials who have the necessary authority to carry out searches and surveillance "

From the Laws of Chess Article 12: The Role of the Arbiters

12.1 The arbiter shall see that the Laws of Chess are observed.

12.2 The arbiter shall:

12.2.1 ensure fair play,

12.2.2 act in the best interest of the competition,

12.2.3 ensure that a good playing environment is maintained,

12.2.4 ensure that the players are not disturbed,

12.2.7 follow the Anti-Cheating Rules or Guidelines

Of these, only the last one is relatively new. However, all of the others do involve preventing cheating from taking place.

The inclusion in the FIDE Laws of an arbiter (or Competition Director as the position was initially called) did not happen until 1955 when Article 19 stated that the Competition Director should ensure the rules were followed and enforce penalties when they were broken.

Not so many years ago arbiters were objecting to having to use pairing software as it was seen as de-skilling the role. Although one of the less savoury aspects of the job, anti-cheating is an important part and will become more acceptable. It should be remembered that the main purpose of the measures mentioned by Alan is not primarily to catch cheats but to reassure the other players that cheats will be caught. It is therefore 12.2.1-12.2.4 that are the prime motivations in those actions.

Larger events do utilise additional arbiters primarily for the purpose of doing these security checks. In the Olympiad there is a team of arbiters specifically for that purpose. Alan Atkinson, ECF Manager of Arbiters, was one of that team at the Batumi Olympiad. At 4NCL events there is a designated Anti-Cheating or Fair play arbiter, but that is an additional task rather than the only duty. Employing professionals to do these checks would be beyond the financial wherewithal of the vast majority of chess events in Britain.

FIDE Working Group on Arbiter Education



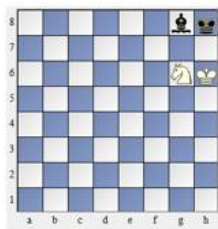
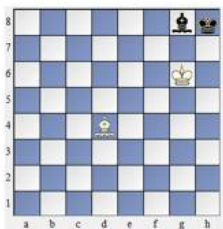
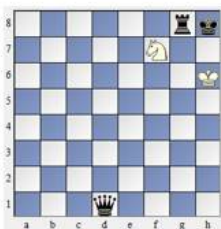
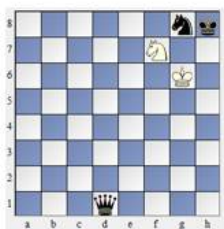
The FIDE Arbiters' Commission has set up a working group to consider all aspects of arbiter education. This group will look at a variety of areas including FA Seminars and Refresher Courses for all arbiters.

Input and suggestions from arbiters on how to improve skills are welcome. Please send any ideas to Alex McFarlane who is chairing the group. Shohreh Bayat is also a member of the group.

An example of the type of material which will be produced is the following table which indicates the result to be given on flag fall.

Player who runs out of time's material	Opponent's Material	Result
K + Q	K + N or K + B	Draw
K + R	K + N	Win for opponent as a mate is possible
K + R	K + B	Draw
K + N	K + N	Win for opponent
K + N	K + B	Win for opponent
K + B	K + N	Win for opponent
K + B	K + B (opposite colours)	Win for opponent
K + B	K + B (same colours)	Draw
K + Q + P	K + N or K + B	Win for opponent. The pawn could be under promoted

Positions to illustrate the table.



Arbiter Reminiscences

During these times and with no events to distract us it would be good if some of our members could commit some of their recollections to 'paper'. I am indebted to Alan Ruffle for the following item. Alan has published a book called "The Chess Scene" (available from Amazon – advert over)

As an apprentice arbiter I worked with John Robinson about ten times. John was a quiet sensitive man who preferred to avoid confrontation. He was a very competent senior arbiter. He supervised me through the maze of complications that exist in the controller's role.

Whilst working with him at a rapid-play chess tournament at Cannock in the West Midlands in about 1990. A dispute arose between two very experienced but not strong players regarding a close finish. Analogue clocks were in use and Rule 38 (Rule 38 was in the BCF regulations in place at that time – Ed) was being applied, for finalising the result of the games. Voices were raised and the situation was very tense.

John whispered to me "Will you look at that one, Alan?"

The decision was an easy one. The board position was simple both players had a King and a lone Pawn which were blocking each other in the middle of the board, it was a draw. Except for the fact that the clocks were stopped, and White's flag had fallen. I immediately awarded the win to Black.

White strongly made the point that this was not in the spirit of the game and that his opponent was unsporting in not giving him a draw, he was unreceptive to the explanation I gave, that he could have claimed a draw at any time during the last two minutes on his clock.

John said "Well-done Alan. You got that right."

John, pictured left, was always keen to support junior chess; we debated the selection method of the ECF regarding the numerous different ways that Junior clubs operate and how selection for the national team was made. We were both concerned that supportive parents ended up with a huge bill to send their child to the World and European Chess Championships. We agreed that there appeared to be a bias towards Southern and especially London based players although we knew it was not true.*



We further agreed that selection tournaments were competitive, attractive to players, flexible and could be used as a method of raising finance to assist to cover the expenses of the players selected instead of entirely relying on parents. Even more importantly than that. It underlined the claim of chess to be recognised as a sport.

In 2005 I became Junior Director with the “British Chess Federation” and I tried to implement my plan. I had identified several tournaments that fitted the bill ... The British Championships, Blackpool, Wiltshire Junior Championships and Coulsden. I tried to identify a chess tournament from the North East of England but never achieved this. Unfortunately, my idea never got off the ground.

John had outlined a plan which I now realise was better than mine, it was more practical and might have been more successful. He suggested that instead of relying on established tournaments, it was better to organise new tournaments to play in a series of Union Championships, Involving the five chess Unions of the British Chess Federation. North, South, East, West, and Midlands. The best players would qualify to play in a National Championships tournament in the Midlands. The results of which would decide selections for the England Team, to play in the World and European Championships.

- Alan Ruffle

*John left a considerable sum of money in his will for the promotion of junior chess. There is now a Trust which carries his name and provides considerable support to events promoting junior chess.

Arbiter Title Distribution

It may be of interest to compare the number of arbiters recognised by FIDE in Britain compared to the rest of the world. The figures are correct at 13 April. There are a number of British titles and categories awaiting ratification. At IA and FA level. NAs are normally updated weekly as the process for this is less rigorous in terms of FIDE requirements. (England and Scotland both require a person applying for the NA title to have passed an exam.)

For the FA title only categories C and D are possible. NAs are not recorded as being inactive.

Title	World Active	World Inactive	ENG Active	ENG Inactive	SCO Active	SCO Inactive	WLS Active	WLS Inactive
IA cat A	90	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
IA cat B	153	5	2	1	1	0	1	0
IA cat C	353	27	1	0	0	0	0	0
IA cat D	1053	681	7	6	2	3	2	1
FA cat C	48	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
FA cat D	1977	270	13	2	1	0	1	0
NA	9710	-	72	-	4	-	9	-
Total IAs	1649	714	13	7	3	3	3	1
Tot FAs	2025	282	13	2	1	0	1	0

LAWS OF CHESS REVISION

The FIDE Rules Commission has informed me that the scheduled review of the Laws, with a new version due to be published in 2021 is very likely to be postponed for a year to allow proper consultation to take place.

French Juniors Caught Cheating

Two 14 year olds have been caught cheating in February during attempts to qualify for the national Youth Championship reports Echec64. Both were caught using their phones during games. One of the players was caught in round 8 and the other in the final ninth round of different qualifying events. If the latter had won his last game he would, in theory, have won the event. He had been under suspicion though for some time.

The cases have been referred to the French Federation for sanctioning.

The first was caught when his opponent alerted the arbiters to the possibility. The culprit got a snack then went off to an unused room which had previously held a junior event. There the arbiter found him with his phone which had been

on the chess.com site. The position on the phone was only a pawn move different from that on the board!

The second player had been under suspicion at other tournaments and so was being monitored closely. He had been asked to leave his phone on the arbiters' desk. This he had done in the previous 8 rounds. Despite this process he was still amongst the leaders and the suspicion now is that he had a second phone. This suspicion is fuelled by his prolonged absence from the board, sometimes for up to 15 minutes if reports are to be believed. At the start of the ninth round he did as previously and put his phone on the table. However, during this game and when he thought the arbiters were busy he removed his phone from the desk and went with it to the toilets.

He had been spotted though and was followed at a distance.

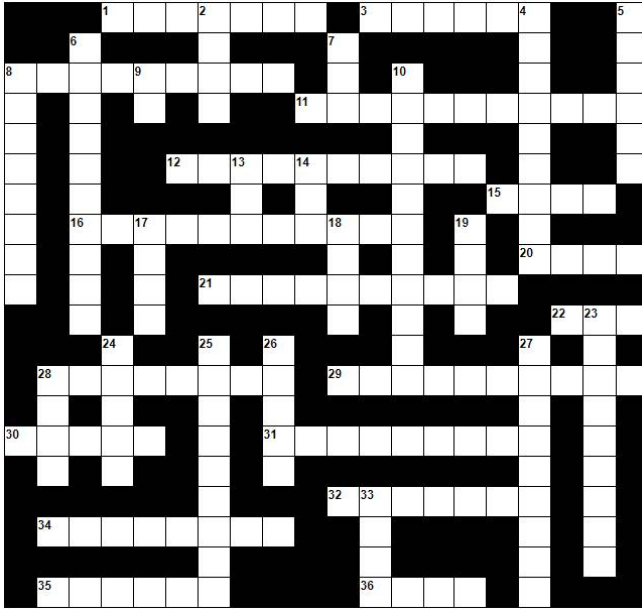
The boy was caught with the phone in his pocket attempting to return to the playing hall. When it was checked it was still on and recent use included contact with his trainer and the Lichess website. The implication being given is that someone, possibly the coach, was giving info through the Lichess portal.

The boy's father and his trainer have both tried to minimise the severity of the offence, as he was only a child.

4NCL Online

AMToo does not normally cover Internet chess. However, in these days of no over-the-board activity a brief mention will occur.

It is worrying to note that, at the time of writing, 12 players cannot take part. 5 of these had previously had their accounts suspended by Lichess, the online server being used. The other 7 have been suspended, subject to appeal, for activity during their 4NCL games. It would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage other than to indicate that the Regan software, used by FIDE, is also being used at this event. My experience of this software is very positive. As an example, a number of years ago (and before scanners and searches were allowed) a player at a major British international event was under suspicion. Nothing could be proven. Two years after this I was in touch by email with Prof Regan and commented how it had been unfortunate we hadn't been using his software then.. Less than an hour later he came back correctly identifying the player. He had been monitoring the tournament. (His score was only in the 'suspicious' range.)



- 7 Points for defaulting (3)
- 8 50 auditioned for two part movie without me (8)
- 9 Sir, short and old (2)
- 10 Might be zero (7,4)
- 13 Devised ratings (3)
- 14 32 bits (3)
- 17 Sounds like a friendly end (4)
- 18 As an example, White starts (4)
- 19 Change position (4)
- 23 An add on (9)
- 24 Chess between 10 and 60 (5)
- 25 Pawn capture (2,7)
- 26 Very fast (5)
- 27 Official notation (9)
- 28 Tie (4)
- 33 Not a bad row of squares (4)

Across

Across

- 1 Concede (7)
- 3 Religious Piece (6)
- 8 The aim (9)
- 11 A second one loses (11)
- 12 64 squares (10)
- 15 Nail this column (4)
- 16 40 in 90 (4,7)
- 20 Needed for a title (4)
- 21 This time adds up (10)
- 22 This might needle you (3)
- 28 Bishop's path (8)
- 29 Two faced timing device (10)

Across

- 30 Not slow chess (5)
- 31 Requirement of contact (9)
- 32 The Boss (7)
- 34 60 minutes or more (8)
- 35 Sir moves strangely (6)
- 36 Protect this at all costs (4)

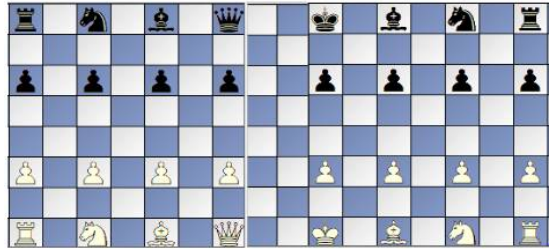
Down

- 2 Is this at half mast or fully down when you lose? (4)
- 4 A big change (9)
- 5 Contest decision (6)
- 6 Not again! (10)

Coronavirus and Chess some cartoons



Hopefully some light relief in these trying times. The first is from Private Eye.



A 'socially responsible' chess set – unfortunately no captures are possible as the pieces cannot get close enough.

From Spain's El Diario



Well now ... *If I advance the pawn.*



On-line Arbiter Seminar: Observing precautions

Jailed for going to the Chess Club

Sixteen members of a chess club in Braće Jerković, a suburb of Belgrade, Serbia were placed under house arrest after attending a gathering at the chess club. Like Britain, there was a lockdown which prevented gatherings. This was ignored by the players. When they appeared in court all pleaded guilty and were sentenced to between 4 and 6 months for failing to comply with health regulations. As they pleaded guilty they have been allowed to complete their sentences at home rather than in prison. The group was caught following a police raid at 4.30pm on Wednesday 15th April and sentenced the following day. Justice is swift in Serbia. Perhaps as a warning to the wives of those sentenced the Prosecutor went on to say that all who break the law would be punished “especially perpetrators of the crime of domestic violence”.



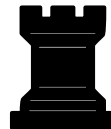
"But Darling, I can't go shopping I'm under house arrest!"

Sign on an American Arbiter's Desk

Questions Answered \$1

Questions Correctly Answered \$5

Explanation of Answers \$100



Translation Tribulations

The following is a question which appeared in a FIDE arbiters' exam. I hate to think what sort of answers the English speaking candidates gave.

“Give 3 tea-breaks for both events (3 pts)

Donnez trois moyens de départage de chacun des tournois suivants!

إقتح ثلاث طرق لفرز المتعادلين في كل من الدوريتين

Individual Championship – SS- 50 players (22 rated players)

Individual Championship – RR- 12 rated players “

While the idea of having three official tea-breaks during rounds may appeal to some British arbiters the question was mis-translated. It is really wanting three different types of **tie-break!** Therefore the answer “Start play at 10.30 so that we can have elevenses” would have been marked wrong.



CAA Officials

Chairman - Lara Barnes

Secretary – Alan Atkinson

Treasurer – John Shaw

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
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