Arbiting Matters Too

Editorial

The Women's European Championship dominated the chess columns when accusations of cheating were made against one of the participants. In this case there does not seem to be any evidence to back up the claims. It will be interesting to see if any action is taken against those who appear to have made false accusations.

A FIDE Commission is about to investigate Accelerated Pairing methods. It has been given a copy of the CAA method.

My thanks to Gerry Jepps for his evaluation of the Vega pairing program.

VEGA Pairing Software

1 Introduction

Issue 6 of Arbiting Matters contained a useful comparison of pairing programs by Alex Holowczak. This summarised the capabilities of Swiss Master, Swiss Manager and Tournament Director/UTU Swiss. Missing from the comparison was the Italian program Vega (http://www.vegachess.com). This was a significant omission, although Vega is relatively little-known in the UK. This report aims to correct that omission and to evaluate its performance based on recent use at the May 2015 Frome Congress.

This report does not aim to be comprehensive or to describe all of Vega's capabilities. In particular, no attempt has been made to evaluate Vega's use for team tournaments or to exercise all the alternative pairing methods available. There is a much more complete description in the Vega User Manual (http://www.vegachess.com/ tl/tl_files/music_academy/distrib/vega_en.pdf) which also has plenty of screenshots

of the user interface, which I have not reproduced in this report.

2 Vega

Vega is the work of Luigi Forlano, a FIDE Arbiter, and is a FIDE endorsed tournament management program (http://pairings.fide.com/approved-programs.html). It is widely used in Italy (obviously) but also in a number of other countries as diverse as Spain and New Zealand (where the national federation insists that it must be used for all FIDE tournaments). The pairing engine for the Swiss (Dutch) system is Roberto Ricca's JaVaFo, (http://www.rrweb.org/javafo/aum/JaVaFo_AUM.html) which is the same pairing engine as that used by Swiss Manager.

Possibly, the reason why Vega has had little use in the UK is that until recently the interfaces to the ECF grading system, although present, were not quite correct, rendering it unusable in practice. However, with version 7.1.6 (the current release) those interfaces are fully functional and worked correctly when used for the Frome tournament.

One advantage of Vega is that it is relatively inexpensive. The Linux version is entirely free, whilst the Windows version is free for tournaments of up to 30 players. An unrestricted Windows licence is 50€.

3 Quick Comparison with other programs

In issue 6 of Arbiting Matters Alex Holowczak compared different tournament management programs using the following table. Copied below it is a bit hard to read and the original is slightly clearer in Arbiting Matters. The colour code is that Green means the requirement is met fully, yellow means the requirement is partially met and red means the capability is not present at all.

Types of Tournament	Vega
Individual Swiss	
Individual All-Play-All	Single or double round. Max 24 players
Team Swiss	Max 10 boards per team
Team All-Play-All	Single or double rd. Max 24 teams

Importing Players for Tournament	Vega
Import players from FIDE rating list	
Import players from ECF grading list	Either the web-site CSV text file or the graders' master list (after conversion to CSV format)
Import players in bulk	From any formatted CSV file

Producing Pairings	Vega
British Pairing System	
Dutch Pairing System (FIDE)	Also does Dubov
Speed of Producing Pairings	

Quality of Presentation	Vega
Website Presentation	
Customisable Pairing Printouts	
Quality of Pairing Printouts	
Prints Result Slips with names	
Prints Match Cards with names	
Variety of other Printouts	

Rating Reports	Vega
FIDE-rating files	
ECF-grading files	
Note that the ECF Grading Checker has the functionality to covert FIDE-rating files into ECF-grading files.	

Usability Issues	Vega
Speed of adding players	
Adding byes in advance	
Changing default pairings	
Calculating variety of Tie-Breaks	
Player Limit	999
Round Limit	20

Other	Vega
Web Output	
Export PGN Files	

Licencing	Vega
Cost of Standard version	Free Linux, 50 Euros Windows
Number of Installs	No practical limit

4 Evaluation
4.1 Preamble
This evaluation should come with the caveat that this is the first tournament management program I have used, so I have no first-hand comment to make on how well usability compares with other programs. The comments below simply reflect whether the program did what I needed it to do and my impression of its fitness for purpose.

The program was used at Frome for managing four sections, one of which was FIDE-rated. The tournaments were set up so that FIDE ratings were used for the Open and ECF ratings used for the other three sections. As this was the first time the Congress had used Vega, and it was to some extent a trial, Vega's automatic pairings were used for the Open (but checked manually), whilst manual pairings were retained for the other sections (but the results management handled by Vega). All the player data, pairings and results were input into Vega for display on the Congress web-site and to generate the required grading/rating files.

4.2 Tournament Set Up & Player Input
Initially setting up the tournament (number of rounds, pairing system and tie-break methods etc.) was quite simple and straightforward.

Inputting the players as the entries came in was also quite simple. The program comes ready configured to use the grading database that can be downloaded in csv format from the ECF web-site. This database can be used 'as is' without any modification, but is more limited than the graders' master list. However, there is an option in Vega to use any other customised database of choice. Since the graders' master list was available, this was converted from Excel to csv format and used as the input database.

To use the master list It was only necessary to define a 'filter' to tell Vega that (for example) the national ID was field 0, player name field 1, ECF grade field 5 etc. which was simple and straightforward to do using the interface Vega provides for this purpose. The filter was set up to read in player name, ECF and FIDE codes, ECF grade and club code. The filter is a simple text file which I copied back to the program's author and it has now been incorporated into the library of national filters supplied with the program.

The 'Federation' field in Vega was used to display club name for the non-FIDE rated sections, whereas for the Open this field was necessarily the 3-character FIDE federation code. Dates of birth were read from the grading database in ECF format mm/yyyy), but necessarily had to be converted manually to FIDE format (yyyy.mm.dd) for the Open section. Any of the data fields in the input player list can

be manually edited. In particular, FIDE ratings and FIDE titles had to be input by a manual edit as these are not contained in the ECF database.

The option to use any customised database would be especially useful when there is an existing set of players to be imported en bloc.

One not-so-obvious 'wrinkle' is that a customised database has to use the semi-colon character ';' as the field separator and not the comma ',' as is standard in the UK. Fortunately, the standard separator is customisable in the Windows control panel using the regional differences tab, and with that set appropriately Excel had no difficulty in saving the master list in the required format.

Vega automatically generated html files so that the evolving player lists could be displayed on the Congress web-site as the entries came in. Each player name was hyper-linked to their FIDE profile so data like current rating could be easily checked. There is a 'player status' setting that allows byes or withdrawals to be pre-set. The player list has a coloured marker indicating those players that will not be included in the next round's pairings because of the player status setting.

Once player registration is closed, the player list held by Vega is automatically sorted into descending rating order and the first round pairings can be made. It is, however, possible to re-open registration to cater for the unexpected very late entry (and we had one of those).

4.3 Pairings

Automatic pairings are carried out in accordance with the Dutch system using the same pairing engine as that used by Swiss Manager. The automatic pairings used in the Open section worked just fine. The pairings were as I and (more importantly) the players expected.

It is possible to 'customise' the automatic pairings to some extent, e.g. to avoid pairing two players from the same club. The pairings can also be modified manually or, indeed carried out completely manually.

Manual input of the pairings that were generated the old-fashioned way using cards was quite quick and it was easy to correct any errors, swap colours, move pairings up and down the board order etc.

Pairings (and other reports) can be passed to an in-built text editor. From that editor they can be printed directly or edited first (e.g. to change the point size of the printed text).

4.4 Rating Reports

Vega generates both FIDE and ECF rating reports. Very little manual editing of the files is required.

In the case of the FIDE rating file, the time control used has to be added manually. In the case of the ECF files, the Treasurer's multi-line postal address, if required, has to be inserted manually as Vega will accept only a one-line email address. Also, the Event code is too restrictive in the number of characters allowed (6) [Version .7.1.8 now allows 10 character event codes] But these are comparatively trivial edits to the header information – the bulk of the results files are perfectly fine.

Both the rating reports for Frome were submitted the same evening as the Congress finished and both were accepted first time.

4.5 Web Site Generation

Web-site generation is completely automatic, apart from the need to upload the 'www' folder. The style of web-site generated is best appreciated by looking at the Frome Congress web-site, i.e. http://www.somersetchess.org/ frome_congress/2015/wwwFrome%20Open%202015%20%28Vega%29/index.html Player names in the cross-tables are hyper-linked to the player's history card show-ing opponents, their grades, the results and the calculated player performance rating for the tournament. The latter is calculated according to ECF grading rules using the ECF grades.

A nice feature is the ability to link to a pgn viewer for display of the games (see the link above for an example)

5 Conclusion

I quite enjoyed using this program and it was definitely worth the effort required to gain familiarity with it. It did everything that I required it to do and I can thoroughly recommend it. An additional positive comment is that I have found the author Luigi Forlano to be very responsive to any comments received and helpful in imple-menting suggested bug-fixes/improvements.

---

[1] In fact , Luigi Forlano now recommends his new program Orion for team tournaments http://www.vegachess.com/tl/index.php/downloaden.html

[2] http://www.newzealandchess.co.nz/NZCFdocs/VegaNZInstructions.pdf

[3] The Vega User Manual says that when a player doesn't have a FIDE rating the program will use the na-tional rating instead. Rather than rely on that statement, and because it wasn't clear how/if the program would convert between ECF and FIDE grades, I preferred to manually calculate the FIDE equivalent rating and insert it as an edit. There is a utility to convert between FIDE and ECF grade/ratings (but one at a time not en bloc0.

Gerry Jepps

A lengthy article which I hope will help others who wish to use pairing software.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

There is no doubt that cheating occurs in chess. In my early days as an arbiter (so not exactly yesterday) a player was disqualified for going to the bookstall and checking on the opening line he was playing. Another received similar punishment when he went to the analysis room and the position on his board was discovered there. There was even an instance of a someone playing in place of a friend. The problem nowadays is that it is so easy to have, for example, a chess engine running on a phone that more people are increasingly suspicious that their opponent may be getting outside advice.

Such suspicion took root at the recent European Women's Championship in Chakvi, Georgia. The 45th seed, Romanian WGM Mihaela Sandu was leading on 5/5 when two letters of concern were received by the organisers requesting anti-cheating measures to be put in place. One of these letters named Sandu.

Sandu, a 2300 player had defeated an 1862 and then 4 2400 players. Whilst this performance was unusual it would not be correct to describe it as exceptional, particularly when one game was won on time in an inferior position and another by a bad mistake by her opponent. Sandu lost in round 6 when transmission of her game and one other was delayed for technical reasons. She then won again in round 7, this time against a 2500. During the rest day which followed the situation escalated. A letter was written and posted on the hotel noticeboard. The letter stated "We, the participants of the 16th European Women Championship would like to express our grave concern regarding raising suspicions of cheating in the tournament. We would like to ask organisers cooperation in this regard. There are a few ways to fight with advanced technology, and we strongly believe organisers should do their utmost to avoid such situations. We have already asked for a 15 min delay in the live transmission of all games. It is a common solution, used in many top level tournaments. If it is technically not possible, then we would like to ask organisers to propose another solution of this problem for the remaining rounds of the Championship." This letter was signed by 32 of the 98 participants.

A second letter was signed by 15 players. It stated "We, participants of the 16th European Individual Women Championship, want to express concern about the situ-

ation with M.Sandu's performance. We would like to ask organisers not to include her games from the rounds 8-11 in a live transmission and publish them after the rounds. We do not see any important reason to dislike this precautionary measure for both sides. We hope that such a decision will prevent all the possible suspicions."
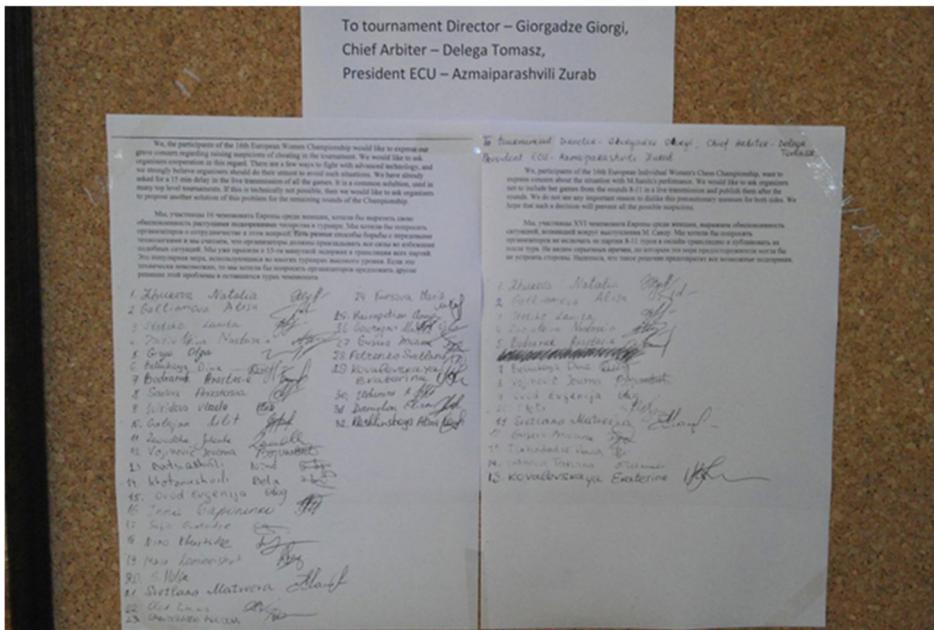
Two players have subsequently asked for their names to be removed from the second letter.

The tournament organiser stated that "we don't share concerns of 'rising suspicions of cheating' in this tournament". In a reply to the second letter it was stated "After consultation with arbiters and also with grandmasters, organisers are sure, that there is not any particular reason not to transmit the games of Mrs. Sandu. Grandmasters have checked her games with different programs and did not find any use of computer help during the game."

"We consider this accusation as unfair, insulting and creating some psychological pressure. We think that both letters should be seriously discussed in ECU to find the right way to protect players from advanved technology, so that not a single chessplayer is put under psychological pressure or undeserved insult.

Organisers ask those 15 players to show their respect to their colleague and to withdraw their signatures."

The player lost her remaining four games This case has been described as a witch hunt. It appears that there is no evidence that Sandu did anything wrong .

As an arbiter I would want players to come to me if they had concerns about their opponent's behaviour. Whilst I would not expect the players to necessarily be able to provide proof of their concerns I think I would expect them to claim more than just that the opponent was playing very well and therefore must be cheating. FIDE requires the accuser to complete a form when making an accusation. It also warns that action may be taken against those making false accusations.   I would not expect action to be taken against anyone expressing genuine concerns.

As Chief Arbiter at norm bearing events I have had 5 accusations of electronic cheating made to me. In three of the cases players were simply having a very good run and playing a bit above rating, in one of these an accused also had a medical condition which meant he was absent from the board more often than normal. In one case it was quite clearly a case of sour grapes by a GM losing to an untitled player. The fifth case remains one of some concern but is probably nothing more than a good run.

Certainly, in only one of these would I consider suggesting that action could have been taken against the accuser. In the case of the above tournament, it is one thing to ask the other opponents of a player if they shared your concerns. It is quite another to openly canvas for signatures accusing the player of cheating.

Bits 'n' Pieces

Glasgow League

Relegation in the top division of the Glasgow League, amazingly called Division 1, was decided by a decision of the Management Committee. There was a dispute between two teams in which every individual submitted a different view of the

events. However all basically agreed the gist of the matter which was that Player A was very short of time. Just before his flag fell he called out "Draw!". His team-mates interpreted this as an appeal under Appendix G.5 (the old 10.2—draw claim in the last 2 minutes) but the opposition thought it was merely an offer to their player.

Since it was generally agreed that the player was staring into space rather than at the opponent when he made the call the decision of the ManComm was that it was a claim rather than an offer and the draw was awarded.

NE England Megafinal

The regional heats of this schools' tournament through up an interesting little problem. In round 5 of one of the Girls' sections one player had already scored the 4 points needed to progress, her schoolmate opponent was on 3. The player on 3 points won with Fools Mate. White's time 6 seconds, Black's time 0 seconds. On being told that the result of prearranged games was 0-0 the players argued that it had not been pre-arranged. The arbiter then said that they could be accused of bringing the game into disrepute and that the result of that would also be 0-0. It was agreed that a proper game should be played which Black eventually won.

ARBITING MISTAKES?

Almost every arbiter will admit to either having made a mistake or of wishing they had handled a situation differently.

Here is one where the arbiter's decision affected the outcome of the US Championship.

 The game in question was played in New York, April 17, 1942 between Samuel Reshevsky and Arnold Denker. Chess Review reports "When Tournament Director (L Walter) Stephens forfeited Denker for overstepping the time limit in the … game from the sixth round, the crowd demonstrated its disapproval with boos and jeers." Another player, Kashdan, described it as "a near riot". Tournament Director is the American term for arbiter.

The story is that Denker claimed a win on time. The arbiter arrived at the board behind the clock, lifted it up and turned it round to look at it. This action put the

clock with the expired time at Denker's side. Stephen's declared Denker to have lost. Reshevsky apparently did not correct the error.

Denker put in a protest which included a complaint that the clock had no flags and that his opponent was not recording. It is likely that Reshevsky was not recording for religious reasons but under US Rules that would have prevented him from claiming a win on time.

The arbiter is quoted as saying "Does Kenesaw Mountain Landis (a tyrannical baseball Commissioner of the day) ever reverse himself?".

The protest was disallowed.

The game and final position which is generally regarded as drawn follows.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. a3 Bc3 5. bc3 c5 6. e3 O-O 7. Bd3 d5 8. cd5 Qd5 9. Nf3 cd4 10. ed4 b6 11. c4 Qd6 12. O-O Bb7 13. Ne5 Nc6 14. Bb2 Rfd8 15. Nc6 Qc6 16. f3 Rac8 17. Qe2 Qd6 18. f4 g6 19. Rae1 Re8 20. Rf2 Nh5 21. Qg4 Ba6 22. Rc1 Re7 23. c5 bc5 24. Ba6 Qa6 25. dc5 Rec7 26. Qg5 f6 27. Bf6 Nf6 28. Qf6 Rc5 29. Rc5 Rc5 30. Qd8 Kf7 31. Qd7 Kf8 32. h3 Qb6 33. Kh2 Rc1 34. Re2 Qg1 35. Kg3 Rc3 36. Kh4 Qc5 37. Qh7 Qe7 38. Qe7 Ke7 39. a4 Kf6 40. Re4 Ra3 41. g4 a5 42. Rc4 Rf3 43. Rc5 Rf4 44. Ra5 g5 45. Kg3 Rb4

It therefore appears that Reshevsky scored at least ½ point more than he should have from the game. This was to be decisive . Reshevsky eventually won the 1942 U.S. Championship, but only after some further adventures, including a tie-breaking match with Kashdan. As for poor Denker, he finshed tied with Pinkus in 3-4th place, 2 points behind Reshevsky and Kashdan.

Denker refers to the incident in his book 'My Best Games 1929-1976' "Toward the end of the time control, the maddest time scramble in which I have ever participated, took place. In the excitement,
the Tournament Director forfeited me by mistake. On being informed of his error, he replied tartly, "Does Kenesaw Mountain Landis ever reverse himself?!" So my hopes of the title went glimmering.
I drew two morals from this outcome. One is the realization that important tourna-

ments should be fully staffed, so that officials are not handicapped in the performance of their duties.

Second was a determination to avoid time trouble in the future. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

TOP 10 EXCUSES GIVEN TO ARBITERS FOR LOSING

1. The batteries died in my hidden receiver
2. I got lost on my way back from the hotel (genuine!)
3. Lost too much time hiking to the smoking area (genuine but said as a joke)
4. Lost too much time pondering over the latest ECF/CAS legal case
5. After making a move I punched my opponent instead of the clock
6. Studied "How to Beat Bobby Fischer" but was unprepared for other opponents
7. The WC cubicle with my mobile and its chess app in it was always occupied
8. The arbiter reject my draw claim just because my flag was down
9. Wrote a note to myself telling me not to write notes to myself
10. Dog ate my scoresheet so arbiter defaulted me for refusing to score
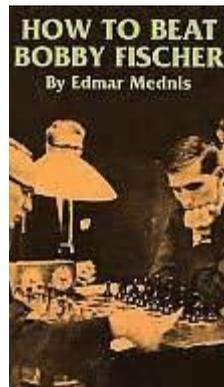
You are the arbiter

What happens if the 75th move without a capture or pawn move is mate? Is it a draw, does the mate count or should the arbiter record the score as ½ - 1?

Would it make a difference if the mate came on move 76 but before the arbiter stepped in?

Answer on Page 15.

Wesley So Postscript

So lost a game in the US Championship after making notes not directly related to moves but to help him concentrate. Some players felt this was a bit harsh. The problem with a player making notes is that it could be impossible to establish their real significance. Squiggles could be designed to disguise a move being analysed.

It was not always illegal to make notes during a game. Dr Savielly Tartakower (1887 -1956) the Polish and French player of Grandmaster strength for example was well known for writing during his games. Tartakower a leading journalist and author in the 1920s and 30s is believed to have annotated his columns whilst playing.

Leonard Barden gives an anecdote about his note making at Southsea in Chess Notes 6990 on ChessHistory.com

FIDE & Pairing Rules

At one time it was acceptable to alter pairings to create norm chances. This has not been the case for some time and though FIDE have recommended pairing systems they have not insisted that these be used. It has been acceptable to indicate which pairing system was used. However, in future it may be that FIDE will insist that in norm events the draws can be checked by computer.

If this does come to pass then the CAA pairing system would need to be submitted to FIDE for approval if it were to be used. This would almost certainly require it to be written as a software program. Is there anyone willing to attempt this not inconsiderable task?

FIDE is also looking at producing software to do accelerated pairings. The appropriate FIDE Commission will consider the CAA method towards the end of this year. This system would not necessarily be restricted to the British system but would work equally with the current Dutch Pairing System which is favoured by many.

Accelerated pairing systems do come under considerable criticism, some more so than others. I believe FIDE are trying to remove acceptability from some of these systems.

Targeting the Arbiters

American GM Grigory Serper produced a column on Chess.com entitled "Do Arbiters Know The Rules Of Chess?". In it he complains about the number of arbiters he has encountered who have made mistakes. This, he says, is particularly prevalent in scholastic tournaments in the United States.

 The situation in the States is made more complicated by using either the FIDE Laws and the USCF Laws depending on the tournament. It is not surprising that players and arbiters get confused, despite recent attempts to bring the two codes closer together.

Serper also claims that he teaches his students about the most common errors that arbiters will make.

In his article he talks about the infamous K+N v K+N Armageddon game from the Women's World Championship in which one of the players was flagged out. The arbiters originally gave the result as a draw to be overruled by the Appeals Committee. He then equates this to an incorrectly made repetition claim by an opponent of his. If his account is correct the arbiter wrongly allowed the claim to be investigated after the player had made his move which repeated the position instead of writing it down. (This procedure of prewriting a move leading to a claim is often criticised by players but is intended to give them protection from the unscrupulous opponent who will simply reply to the drawing move and argue that no draw claim was made at the time.) Again the Appeal Committee decided against the arbiter and the game continued later the same day. Obviously this was unsatisfactory. Any delay in a game should be avoided if possible.

It is easy to knock arbiters. In both of the above cases it was implied that arbiters were inventing their own 'spirit of the law' rules rather than the actual wording. I admit that on a couple of occasions when a draw claim had beenmade and the game had continued until flag fall I have tried to persuade a player to accept the draw claim offered in the last two minutes. On those occasions I had no doubt that had the claiming player had another minute any doubt about the result would have disappeared. But when the opponent has refused to accept this I have had to award the win as I felt that a couple more moves needed to be played to demon-

strate beyond any doubt that the claimant would hold the position.

Often in Britain when mistakes are made they are by non-qualified people calling themselves arbiters. Players do not differentiate. We should all urge unqualified friends to attend a course and get qualified. (Details of courses are on the website.)

Loss on Time—The Origins?

The current laws has introduced the possibility of fining players for offences. To many this seemed revolutionary but in fact was not uncommon in the 19th century.

It would be reasonable to assume that a loss on time came into existence at the same time as timing devices were used. The first timing devices, which were sandglasses, gained popularity in the 1860s. However a loss was not the recognised penalty then. Initially a player exceeding the time allowed would be fined for the offence. The London International tournament of 1883 pioneered the use of the dual chess clock in a single apparatus. The rules of the London event also provided that a player exceeding the time limit forfeited the game. This was relatively novel at the time but thereafter gained in popularity.

You are the Arbiter Answer

The Laws state that checkmate immediately ends the game. It does not say the same about the 75 move rule. This should be given as a mate.

In the second case the arbiter should should check that 75 moves have been played without a capture or pawn move by both sides before the mate was played. If that is the case then the draw should be awarded.

British Arbiters Abroad

Both Lara Barnes and Alex McFarlane have been invited to officiate at the World Youth Under 16 Olympiad in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Alex has been appointed as the Chief Arbiter and will also conduct a FIDE Arbiter course when there.

Forsyth Notation
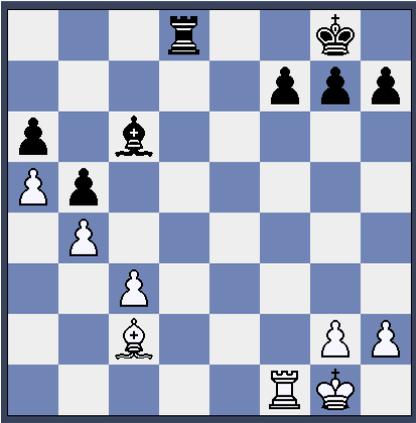
A draw has been claimed in this position. You have to move the players some distance to check the claim. It is therefore necessary to note down the position. There is no diagram blank readily available so what do you do?

The simple answer is to use Forsyth notation to make a note of the position.

Starting at a8 we record as follows with upper case for White and lower case for the Black pieces. Empty squares are numbers.

This gives: 3r2k1/5ppp/p1b5/Pp6/1P6/2P5/2B3PP/5RK1

The originator of this concept was David Forsyth (1854-1909). He showed his idea to friends who persuaded him that it deserved a wider audience so an explanation was given in the Glasgow Weekly Herald of 10th February 1883. A copy of the column is given on the next page. When Forsyth was Treasurer of the Scottish Chess Association he would give players a chess problem to solve on the back of their receipts of membership. The positions were, of course, given in his notation.

Steven J Edwards extended this to be supported in use by computers. This is Forsyth Edwards Notation or as it is more commonly recognised FEN. This is an integral part of Portable Game Notation files (pgn).

Only in the U S of A (1)

I believe the following to be factual.

A potential player contacted an organiser in Kentucky asking for confirmation that it was OK for an 'open weapon' i.e. a gun which was visible to anyone to be present at a chess tournament. The player himself was not going to have it but it would be in

THE SHORTHAND METHOD OF NOTING CHESS POSITIONS.

We beg to direct attention to Mr Forsyth's suggestion as to the notation of positions. We have already found it useful. He has so clearly explained the method himself that it is unnecessary for us to enlarge upon it further. We will only say that so far as we are aware it is thoroughly original, and it is the case that any position may be taken down on a piece of paper the size of a postage stamp.

(To the Chess Editor of the Glasgow Weekly Herald:)

BLACK.

```
0 R 5
5 P P 0
R 0 R 4 P
0 R 0 P P 3
2 P X 0 P P 0
7 P
0 P 6
2 K 5
```

WHITE.

When a game at Chess requires to be adjourned, or when an interesting position occurs which one would like to preserve for subsequent examination, it can be noted in either of two ways—1st, by a blank diagram; or 2d, by stating with reference to the squares on the board the position of each individual piece and pawn. The latter method is very tedious, and the former is only available when blank diagrams are at hand. Since beginning to learn Chess I have used a system (so far as I know entirely original), by which a position can be recorded very expeditiously, the only necessary material being a pencil and a scrap of paper the size of a postage stamp. The combination of letters and figures in the margin denotes, according to this method, the position of the second game between Messrs Bryden and Young after Black's 40th move. In order to set up the position, place the board before you as if for play. Beginning with your opponent's royal rank, it will be found that his Q R Sq. is vacant, this being represented by 0 in the note; the next square, Q Kt's, is occupied by a Black R, the line underneath the letter R denoting that it is Black. The remaining six spots in the same rank are vacant, the figure 6 indicating so. In the next rank there are 5 blank spaces at the right hand, then two Black Pawns and a vacant square. And so on through the remaining ranks of the board.

As further examples, I give two positions which occurred in actual play:—

```
7 B
2 P 4 P
0 X 6
P P 3 P 0 R
5 R 4
P 7
2 B 0 K 5
8
R 6 K
P 4 P 2
0 P 5 Kt 0 P
0 P 2 B 3
5 P P 5
Kt 4 P 2
P 0 P 2 K 0 P
6 R 0
```

Black, having to play, acquired such a superiority in three moves, that White resigned :—

BLACK.	WHITE.
P to Q B sixth	R to Q B fifth
B to Q B fifth	B takes P
R to Q R sixth	And White resigned.

(I enclose this position in another form. *)

White gave mate in five moves:—

WHITE.	BLACK.
Kt to Kt eighth (ch)	K to R second
Kt to Kt seventh (ch)	K to R square
R to Kt sixth (ch)	K to R second
R takes R P (ch)	K takes Kt
R to R eighth (mate)	

(Probably there are other solutions in the same number of moves.)

D. FORSYTH.

* This is the end game between Messrs Harrison and Forsyth given last week.—ED.

---

the possession of his body guard.

The request was denied on the grounds that the gun could be seen as an intimidating influence on the opponent. It could therefore potentially give the person with the gun a psychological advantage.

The organiser then sought advice from others that he had acted correctly!!!

One of the replies mentioned that a TD (Tournament Director, the American term for an arbiter) he knew had carried a gun with him and when anyone had a dispute about the rules he would display it. He went on to say that that person's events had few disputes.

Most said that it was the correct decision, but one person suggested that tournaments where people had guns were actually safer.

Several stated that having an open gun was more threatening but probably less dangerous than having players with concealed weapons.

Can you even imagine discussing this in Britain?

Only in the U S of A (2)

The US Open to be held in Arizona was under threat until recently due to a legal challenge.   It would appear that someone who was prevented from organising for profit poker tournaments because of the States gambling laws started a legal action which, if successful, could have affected the structure of the event. It would appear that the poker organiser was unsuccessful.   One of the reasons being that the USCF would not make a profit from the event (a Governance meeting being held with it would ensure that there was no surplus).

Quote ... Unquote

Vladimir Kramnik   "I believe that it is necessary to introduce a rule: if there are not some kind of anti-cheating measures, the tournament is simply not counted**.** So, if it is an open, people come and play for money, without any rating gains or losses, and that's that."

FIDE Arbiter Title
Currently an arbiter can be licenced with FIDE from the age of 18 but you cannot become a FIDE Arbiter (FA) until the age of 21. The Welsh Chess Union have put a proposal to FIDE that it should be possible to become an FA at the age of 18. This proposal is supported by the ECF and Chess Scotland.
To gain the title an arbiter must obtain three norms from tournaments and a 4th norm from successfully completing a course. British arbiters recognised by FIDE to conduct these courses are Alex McFarlane, Stuart Reuben, David Sedgwick and David Welch.

Times Past
Attached is part of an entry form from the 1975 Birmingham Weekend Chess Festival. The prizes have not changed much in the following 40 years but the entry fee was only £5. The event was held at the Royal Angus Hotel from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 March, 1975.
The arbiters (or controllers as they were referred to) were W. Ritson Morry (FIDE), J.H. Baines and D.D. Collman. The Tournament Secretary was K.G. Humphreys. The closing date for entries was 12 March.
The supporting events make interesting reading.
The time control of 50 moves in 2 hours and 10 moves in each additional 5 minutes could have meant several clock manual resets in a long game.

THE 'EUROPA' OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

A 6-Round Week-end Tournament: open to all chessplayers.

Time-Table

Round 1: Friday, March 21st 1975   18.30 to 22.30 hours
Round 2: Saturday, March 22nd 1975   09.00 to 13.00 hours
Round 3: Saturday, March 22nd 1975   14.00 to 18.00 hours
Round 4: Saturday, March 22nd 1975   19.00 to 23.00 hours
Round 5: Sunday, March 23rd 1975   09.30 to 13.30 hours
Round 6: Sunday, March 23rd 1975   15.00 to 19.00 hours

Time-limit: 50 moves in first 2 hours and 10 moves in each additional 5 minutes.

Prizes:

First: £150 plus
Second: £100 plus
Third: £75 plus
Fourth: £50 plus

Special Awards: The 'Royal Angus' Trophy, and £40. to be held by the British player making the highest score; £20, £15, £10 and £5 for the four players under Grade 190 whose games show the greatest improvement over their existing grading figures.

Prize for the Best Score returned by an ungraded player: £10

N.B. — The Committee will increase the value of the principal prizes and the number of special awards if the total entry exceeds 200.

The tournament will count for triple points in the 'Cutty Sark' Grand Prix.

Entry Fee: £5   Closing Date: 12th March 1975

Entries bearing a postmark later than March 11th 1975 will be accepted on payment of a surcharge of £1.


ROYAL ANGUS HOTEL

Accommodation

The Royal Angus Hotel, one of Birmingham's newest and most luxurious hotels, offers special terms for the Festival:

Full Board: inclusive from dinner on Friday evening to after lunch on Sunday: £15 (including service charge and VAT)

Bed and English Breakfast: £3.50 per night (including service charge and VAT)

140 Luxury bedrooms, sleeping 220 guests.

All rooms have television, radio and telephone.

A National Car Park adjoins the hotel by means of a covered bridge.

Large restaurant specializing in succulent Angus Steaks.

EMI A member of the EMI Group of companies
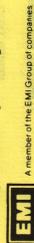
✱ Please book DIRECTLY with the Hotel Management.

OTHER SPECIAL FESTIVAL EVENTS

1 — JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: For up to 60 players over the age of 11 and under 14 on January 1st 1975.

Prizes: 40%, 25% and 10% of total entry fees.

Entry Fee: 20p.

Closing date for entries: March 12th 1975.

Entries bearing a postmark later than March 11th will be accepted on payment of a surcharge of 5p.

Time-Table

Round 1: Saturday, March 22nd   09.00 - 11.00 hours
Round 2: Saturday, March 22nd   12.00 - 14.00 hours
Round 3: Saturday, March 22nd   15.00 - 17.00 hours
Round 4: Sunday, March 23rd   09.30 - 11.30 hours
Round 5: Sunday, March 23rd   12.30 - 14.30 hours
Round 6: Sunday, March 23rd   15.30 - 17.30 hours

☆

2 — PROBLEM SOLVING TOURNAMENT: 6 Problems will be set and each of the first three sets of correct solutions opened one hour before the final prize-giving ceremony on Sunday March 23rd will win a prize of 25% of total entry fees.   Entry Fee: 25p.

☆

3 — 'FIND THE WIN' SOLVING TOURNAMENT: 6 game positions will be set and prizes will be awarded on a similar basis to the Problem Solving Tournament. Entry Fee: 25p.

☆

4 — LIGHTNING TOURNAMENTS: Classified sections of 10 players will be run during each session of the Festival. Players may enter as sections are announced. Prizes: £1; 75p; and 25p in each section of 10   Entry Fee: 25p per section.

☆

5 — CHESS TALKS: Of approximately one hour duration by leading experts to be arranged at convenient times on March 22nd and 23rd. Admission to each Talk: 25p. Announcement of times will be made in the tournament hall.

✱

N.B. — The above subsidiary events are arranged for players unable to play in the Europa Open or having free time.

✱

Admission to the Festival will be 50p by purchasing a programme at the door. Any player holding a programme (other than players in the Europa Open and Junior Championship, who receive free competitors' programmes) may participate in ANY TWO of the Special Events without paying any entry fee on production of his programme which will be marked accordingly.

Chess Arbiters Association

Annual General Meeting

1845 hours Sunday 2nd August 2015

Warwick University

• Apologies for absence

Guest speaker-to be confirmed (10 minute presentation)

• Minutes of the previous AGM-Attached

• Matters Arising-

Subjects for discussion

(1) Should all arbiters to become recognised by FIDE

(2) Has the CAA outlived its usefulness and if so should it continue ?

(3) Should there be revision courses for experienced arbiters ?

(4) Should there be seminars on the laws of chess for League captains ?

(5) Should the CAA seek to have greater influence over decisions taken by FIDE ?

(6) After attending the 'World Youth Championships' In South Africa there was a failure by the organisers to pay the arbiters. Should the CAA have an agreed rate for English events ?

(7) Should the CAA have basic fees which should be recommended to event organisers i.e. Hotel accommodation, £0-45p mileage and £25-00/day subsistence

• Chairperson's Report-Lara Barnes

• Secretary's Report-Alan Ruffle

• Treasurer's Report-Tony Corfe

• Election of Officers

• Date of next meeting

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

ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk