

## MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE RTRC TALLINN 1 October 2013

Chairman and Secretary: Geurt Gijssen (NED), Stewart Reuben (ENG)

Councillors: Franca Dapiran (ITA), Shaun Press (PNG), Ashot Vardapetyan (ARM)

Members: Alexander Tkachev (RUS), Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh (IRI), Sevan A Muradian (USA), Eddie Price (RSA)

Observers: Georgios Makropoulos (GRE), Nigel Freeman (BER), Ignatius Leong (SIN), Panagiotis Nikolopoulos (GRE), Werner Stubenvoll (AUT), Lakhdar Mazouz (ALG), Mahdi Abdulrahim (UAE), Roberto Ricca (ITA), Christian Krause (GER), Jouni Lehtivaara (FIN), Michalis Kaloumenos (GRE), Gary Wastell (AUS), Walter Brown (USA), Stephen Kisuze (UGA), Robert Katende (UGA), Herman Hamers (NED), Ralph Alt (GER), Hal Bond (CAN), Filipowicz Andrzej (POL), Hesham Elgendy (EGY), Inaganti Amarnath (IND), Samir Zerdali (ALG), Allan Herbert (BAR), Nick Faulks (BER), Klaus Deventer (GER), Graham Boxall (JCI), Thomas Luther (GER), Russell Smith (TTO), Dr. Dirk J.A De Ridder (BEL), Francisco Guadalupe (USA), Igor Vereshchagin (RUS), G. Luxman Wijesuriya (SRI), Yuriy Gnyp (UKR)

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming those attending.

He asked for a moment's silence in memory of Lembit Vahesaar (EST) who had passed away in May 2013.

The Chairman explained the chronology of the events regarding the Laws since September 2012 in Istanbul.

8 January 2013 he had a meeting with the Deputy President. The unresolved points from Istanbul were discussed.

22 February a number of members of the PB discussed these matters and the minutes of this meeting were sent out on 11 March. The time required for arranging a final version of the Laws for distribution and translation was now too short. Therefore it was decided that the implementation of the Laws of Chess should be delayed until 1 July 2014.

28-29 August a meeting was arranged between members of the PB and RTRC in Tromsø. It was decided that new proposals should be discussed.

It was agreed first to discuss proposed radical changes to the Laws of Chess.

- A. Delete 5.1b. The opponent shall indicate his resignation by placing his king outside the board or on its side.
- B. Delete 5.2e and 5.2g.
- C. The following had been approved in Istanbul 2012
  - 6.2a. During the game each player, having made his move on the chessboard, shall stop his own clock and start his opponent's clock (that is to say, he shall "press" his clock). This "completes" the move. A move is also completed if:
    - (1) the move ends the game (see Articles 5.1.a, 5.2.a, 5.2.b, 5.2.c and 9.6), or
    - (2) the player has made his next move, in case his previous move was not completed.
- D. Delete 'relevant' in 6.2e. This adjustment of the clock shall not apply to the clock of a player with a disability.
- E. Delete 5.2e, 5.2g from 6.9.
- F. The amendments to 7.5 were agreed.
- G. Delete 'relevant' in 8.1d. This adjustment of the clock shall not apply to the clock of a player with a disability.
- H. The following were agreed:
  - 9.6 If one or both of the following occur(s) then the game is drawn
    - a. the same position has appeared, as in 9.2b, for at least five consecutive alternate moves
    - b. each player has made at least 75 consecutive moves without the movement of any pawn and without any capture as in 9.3b.
- I. Delete Article 10 Quickplay Finish and Appendix D from the Laws of Chess. The voting of the whole meeting was 18-15. The voting of the members of the RTRC who were present was 5-4. Due to the closeness of the voting the Deputy President recommended that further discussion on these matters should take place before finalisation by the Executive Board.

## MINUTES OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE RTRC TALLINN 2 October 2013

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The meeting discussed further points in the Draft Laws of Chess. The following was agreed.

- 11.3a. During play the players are forbidden to use any notes, sources of information or advice, or to analyse **any game** on another chessboard.
- 11.3b. **During play, a player is forbidden to have a mobile phone and/or other electronic means of communication in the playing venue. If it is evident that a player brought such a device into the playing venue, he shall lose the game. The opponent shall win. The rules of a competition may specify a different, less severe, penalty. The arbiter may require the player to allow his clothes, bags or other items to be inspected in private. The arbiter or a person authorised by the arbiter shall inspect the player and shall be of the same gender as the player. If a player refuses to cooperate with these obligations, the arbiter shall take measures in accordance with Article 12.9.**
- 12.1 It was decided not to include the proposed 12.1.
- 12.2** The arbiter shall
- a) ensure fair play
- 12.7. If someone observes an irregularity, he may inform only the arbiter. **Players in other games are not to speak about or otherwise interfere in a game. Spectators are not allowed to interfere in a game.** The arbiter may expel offenders from the playing venue.

### Appendix A. Rapidplay

- A.1 A 'Rapidplay' game is one where either all the moves must be **completed** in a fixed time of **more than 10** minutes but less than 60 minutes for each player; or the time allotted + 60 times any increment is of **more than 10** minutes but less than 60 minutes for each player.
- A.2 Players do not need to record the moves.
- A.3 The Competition Rules shall apply if**
- a. one arbiter supervises at most three games **and**
- b. each game is recorded by the arbiter or his assistant and, if possible, by electronic means.**
- A.4 Otherwise the following apply:
- a. From the initial position, once **ten** moves have been completed by both players, no change can be made to the clock setting, **unless the schedule of the event would be adversely affected.**
- b. **Once** each player, from the initial position, has completed **ten** moves, no claim can be made regarding incorrect set-up or orientation of the chessboard.

In case of incorrect king placement, castling is not allowed. In case of incorrect rook placement, castling with this rook is not allowed.

- c. **An illegal move is completed once the player has pressed his clock. If the arbiter observes this he shall declare the game lost by the player, provided the opponent has not made his next move. If the arbiter does not intervene, the opponent is entitled to claim a win, provided the opponent has not made his next move. However, the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player's king by any possible series of legal moves. If the opponent does not claim and the arbiter does not intervene, the illegal move shall stand and the game shall continue. Once the opponent has made his next move, an illegal move cannot be corrected unless this is agreed by the players without intervention of the arbiter.**
- d. To claim a win on time, the claimant must stop the chessclock and notify the arbiter. For the claim to be successful, the claimant must have time remaining on his own clock after the chessclock has been stopped. However, the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player's king by any possible series of legal moves.
- e. **If the arbiter observes both kings are in check, he shall wait until the next move is completed. Then, if both kings are still in check, he shall declare the game drawn.**

**A.5** The Rules for a competition shall specify whether Article A.3 or Article A.4 shall apply for the entire event

## Appendix B. Blitz

B.1 A 'blitz' game' is one where all the moves must be completed in a fixed time of 10 minutes or less for each player; or the allotted time + 60 times any increment is 10 minutes or less.

B.2 The penalties mentioned in Articles 7 and 9 of the Competition Rules shall be one minute instead of two minutes.

B.3 **The Competition Rules shall apply if**

- a. one arbiter supervises one game **and**
- b. **each game is recorded by the arbiter or his assistant and, if possible, by electronic means.**

**B.4** **Otherwise, play shall be governed by the Rapidplay Laws as in Appendix A.4.**

B.5 The Rules for a competition shall specify whether Article B.3 or Article B.4 shall apply for the entire event..

NOTE: Subsequent to the first meeting, the current Article 10 and Appendix D were added to the Laws of Chess as **Guidelines for Quickplay Finish Games**

Stewart Reuben spoke about the Glossary. It is new to the Laws of Chess, but is not part of them. It will be a living document that can be amended and added to in the future as necessary. It will be possible to expand the material to include 'The Tournament Regulations', Arbiters, Qualification Commission material and so on. Eventually it may even become a dictionary, including such commonly used expressions as 'zugswang'.

He would welcome input from other people.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Geurt Gijssen and wishes for a speedy return to better health.

Chairman  
Geurt Gijssen

Secretary  
Stewart Reuben