

Secretary's Report for 1993-1994

After the first few quiet years of existence, the C.A.A. began to make positive strides forward in 1993. Apart from a small advertisement in the BCF Year Book, the organization was little known and kept most of its business to itself. Our members were naturally active doing what they did best, but the parent body was still a sleeping giant.

Early in 1993 the first batch of new candidate arbiters passed the BCF Exam. The paper had been re-written by Peter Purland and had weeded out some of the more esoteric items which while important in themselves, were not fundamental to the central concept of being a sound controller. A new syllabus was published which will appear in the 1994 Year Book.

In the Autumn the CAA's own magazine 'Arbiting Matters' was launched. The brainchild of Richard Furness, this provided both a vehicle for conveying current information and for propounding new ideas ranging from radical to rash. It seemed that there were so many systems to pair players in a tournament that one simply had to write down the pairings you wanted then look for a system that would best fit these.

Over the Christmas period the concept of a Regional Training Scheme was born. The three wise men (Croker, Purland, and Boniface) sought a stable system whereby we might produce stars. In short time disciples in the regions (Sedgwick, Lamb, and Hatto) were performing training with hopefully more to come.

Some healthy debate in the Chess Press ensured that the CAA's existence was known, and the first associate members were recruited.

Although one view of the CAA is as a controllers' trade union, one can only speculate on the effect a strike would have. Were we to follow the guidance of the RMT would we withdraw our services in rounds 3 and 4 of a weekend swiss? No, I can safely predict there will be no industrial action. Our absence would be FAR too popular with the players.

Steve Boniface Secretary, CAA