

CHESS ARBITERS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Special General Meeting of the Chess Arbiters' Association held at the Butterfly Hotel, Longthorpe Parkway, Peterborough, on Saturday 20th April 1996.

Present : Morning and Afternoon : Eric Croker (Chairman), John Robinson (Committee Member), David Welch (Committee Member), Ewart Smith (Full Member), Richard Haddrell (Associate Member)-

Morning only : David Sedgwick (Secretary), David Eustace (Treasurer), Richard Furness (Information Officer), John Dunleavy, David Thomas, David Woodruff (Full Members). Stewart Reuben (Full Member) was present for a short period.

Apologies for Absence : Steve Boniface (Full Member), Neville Belinfante (Associate Member) The Meeting commenced at 1130 hours. The Chairman explained that the Meeting had been convened to consider the Association's response to the Draft Laws of Chess circulated by the FIDE Rules Committee. No other business would be taken. He thanked John Robinson for his work in preparing a draft submission. The Final version had to be ready in the next few days. The Chairman suggested that major points only should be considered in the morning and detailed matters in the afternoon; this was agreed. The Chairman said that Associate Members were not entitled to vote on any formal decision. However, he proposed to proceed mainly by way of straw polls in which all present would be invited to indicate an opinion.

The key decisions were as follows:

5.2 (Incorrect Claim of a Draw by Repetition) The majority supported the existing Rule.

7.7 ('No Communication' Rule) The Meeting backed the strong opposition of the BCF.

9.A (Procedure on Flag Fall) The majority supported the variation under which a player must claim. However, during the afternoon session a number of concerns were expressed about the consequences of this.

3.1 (Definition of Attacked Square) Richard Haddrell pointed out a serious error in the definition.

b.6 ('Touch Move' Rule) A substantially different version prepared by Richard Haddrell received support but was eventually not adopted.

The Meeting closed at 1830 hours.