

# Readers' Letters



## Online Cheating

The June *CHESS* Editorial discusses online chess and the topic of automatic, machine, cheating recognition. As Malcolm writes, the current methods of detecting cheating return a probability score – not a definitive yes or no! I agree: policies and processes must be agreed, across the world including locally and internationally. Restricting a player for a period of time, from a particular platform, such as six months, is, in my view, an appropriate punishment, to an incident of a player using a computer for one move (not every move in their game).

The punishments should be restricted to that platform only. This is because it is that platform that is making the allegation of cheating. That is, it their machine algorithm that flagged the possible cheating. Using a chess engine to generate the probability score does not necessarily mean any secrecy should exist anywhere in the process. The chess engine should be made available, if not already so, to the arbiters of that tournament, so that they can repeat the algorithm's findings and verify validity.

The online world and the physical worlds must remain separate when it comes to arbitration. They are, literally, different worlds with different norms and modes of expression. The millennial generation spend more time online than in the physical world. This has to be factored into the future arbitration processes.

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Member of Irish Computer Society*

## The Seventh Seal & the Lowenthal

In Ingmar Bergman's classic *The Seventh Seal* (which debuted in Sweden in February 1957), a knight, Antonius Block (Max von Sydow), plays chess not with the Devil, as mentioned by John Taylor last month, but against Death (Bengt Ekerot) in the hope of prolonging his existence. The knight had returned from a crusade to find plague is rife. This is likely, though I cannot remember whether it is specified, to refer to the Great Mortality (commonly, the Black Death), which reached Sweden a little later than most of western and northern Europe in around 1350.

The Sicilian Lowenthal with 7...♟f6 was played twice by Anatoly Lutikov at the 23rd USSR Championship semi-finals of 1955. His opponents Anatoly Lein (1-0, 46) and Alexander Chistyakov (½-½, 37) both tried 8 ♟d2 to which he replied 8...♟g6. I do not know whether these games had been published widely, but they may have been by 1957.

*Aidan Woodger*

## 84 Glorious Years

Our beloved *CHESS* has completed 84 glorious years and let us commemorate it with a knight's tour on an 84-square board.

The knight's tour is a classical puzzle, almost as old as the game of chess itself, and the knight is the only piece whose weird looking move has not changed since its inception. In the knight's tour puzzle, the challenge is to move a knight over an empty board so that it covers all the squares in successive jumps, without visiting any square twice.

The grid below is a semi-magic tour of a knight. Readers can see that the sum of all the rows is the same, that is 170. It has an odd number of rows, namely 21, resulting in unequal number of light and dark cells along the columns. Therefore, the sum of columns will be, alternately, odd and even.

3	40	61	66	170
62	67	2	39	170
41	4	65	60	170
68	63	38	1	170
5	42	59	64	170
58	69	6	37	170
21	36	43	70	170
84	57	22	7	170
35	20	71	44	170
56	83	8	23	170
19	34	45	72	170
82	55	24	9	170
33	18	73	46	170
54	81	10	25	170
17	32	47	74	170
80	53	26	11	170
31	16	75	48	170
52	79	12	27	170
15	30	49	76	170
78	51	28	13	170
29	14	77	50	170
923	944	841	862	

5	38	79	48	170
78	49	6	37	170
39	4	47	80	170
50	77	36	7	170
3	40	81	46	170
76	51	8	35	170
41	2	45	82	170
52	75	34	9	170
1	42	83	44	170
74	53	10	33	170
11	32	43	84	170
54	73	12	31	170
13	16	69	72	170
70	55	30	15	170
17	14	71	68	170
56	59	26	29	170
27	18	67	58	170
60	57	28	25	170
19	22	63	66	170
64	61	24	21	170
23	20	65	62	170
833	858	927	952	

How many such tours are there on 4x21 board? Are there semi-magic tours in which all the odd columns or all the even columns have the same sum? Readers are requested to look into these questions and may like to compose such tours on boards of various sizes.

Congratulations *CHESS* on the successful completion of 84 years and we now look forward to celebrating its centenary!

*Awani Kumar, Lucknow, India*

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