



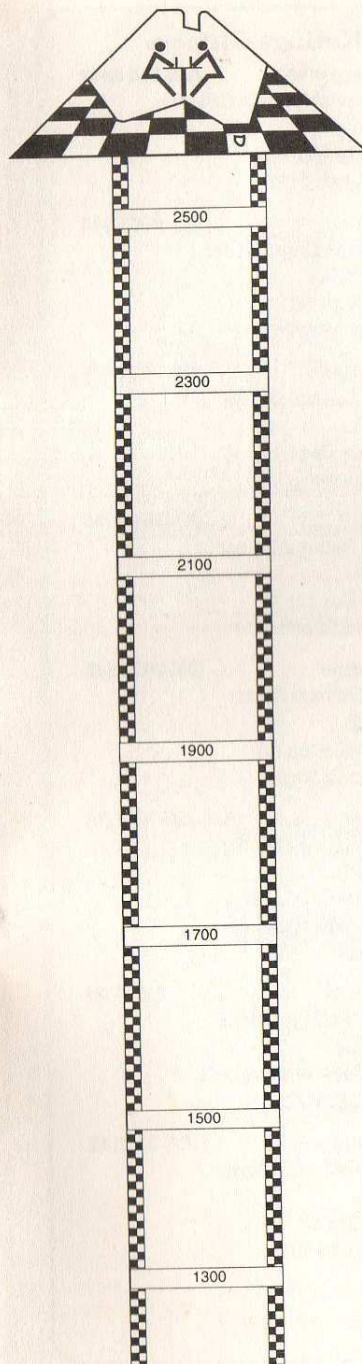
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Australian Chess Federation

# RATINGS

December 1993

1st December, 1993  
All players active since 1st January, 1992

Printed by Baron Printing 808 8606

## Advertising

The ratings booklet now takes advertising. Rates are \$60 per page, \$30 per half, \$15 per quarter.

The ratings booklet is probably the most-read chess publication in Australia: players are always anxious to learn their new rating, and the ratings of their friends, and to see whose rating is increasing most rapidly, who are the strongest players, and so on. Some players carry it as part part of their chess "kit," to look up the ratings of their opponents and record them in the space provided on scoresheets.

It is an excellent vehicle to carry messages to all Australia's active chess players.

Would-be advertisers should contact Robert Jamieson (PO Box 716, Mt Waverley, 3149) for further information.

## Introduction

### Thanks

are due to Borland Pacific who have given me a copy of Turbo Pascal Professional Release 6.0 to use in redeveloping the ratings system. TP 6.0 includes Turbo Vision, an object-oriented application development environment including lots of tools to simplify programming. Ratings officers can look forward to an easier-to-use ratings system including mouse support for those who like the rodents.

### Thanks too

to Don Maciulaitis who found a copy of Elo's book in his library and passed it on to me. To Craig Laird who sent me assorted old ratings books, a copy of the Second Edition of Elo's book (on loan for a few months) and many useful suggestions. To Bill Gletsos who also sent me a copy of Elo's book and who has discussed ratings with me at some length.

### New Ratings Officers

I wish to welcome two new ratings officers: Fred Maris (CAWA) who took over from Rob Rozycki for the December period. The first I heard was when I received the CAWA disk before due date and in perfect order. Truly a smooth takeover. Fred describes himself as a computer bunny: he doesn't know how much RAM is in the (CAWA) computer he uses. Between playing

## Ratings Officers

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Authorised by G.Bekker on behalf of the Organising Committee and the Victorian Chess Association Inc.

(and organising) chess, he runs a bicycle show in Mundaring which is near the edge of the Darling Range, on the fringe of the Perth Metro area.

Bill Gletsos has taken over from Ralph Seberry for the NSWCA. Bill is a Systems Engineer type with Fujitsu (I think he said, Manager of PC products). While he prefers Macintoshes (He's president of a Mac User's Group), he's capable with PC clones as well.

#### Changes

I imagine players will be pleased to hear I haven't changed the ratings calculations this period. Well, I did fix the documentation at the end of the ratings book, because it didn't correspond very well with how provisionally-rated players are actually handled.

ACF Council accepted my recommendation that players whose ratings were below 800 should have their ratings annulled. These players are being treated as new players with no rating who have played no games before the December 93 rating period.

I made this recommendation because many previously-calculated ratings were invalid. Until the August 93 ratings period, players could play nine games, lose them all and be given a rating 336 below the average of their opponents' ratings. Thus a player could play against Rogers, Jamieson, Johansen, Solomon & the like and get a rating of around 2150 based on a score of 0/9.

The assumption I made, and which was accepted by Council, was that most of the players who obtained ratings this way got very low ratings. Some others who got low ratings did so by scoring from players who had invalid ratings.

Many of the players previously rated below 800 are able to obtain a performance rating somewhat above 800. Provided they continue to play, these players will now get valid new ratings consistent with their performances. Geoff Saw (see Under 12) is one whose rating was reset.

In the future, players will be able to get a valid rating below 800. These players will retain their ratings: we will not be resetting them again. It was done this time to correct a previous error in the ratings system.

There may have been a few players with valid ratings below 800. If so, sorry folks. Keep playing and you will get a new rating near your old one, or play a little better and get a higher one.

#### Coming changes

I hope to implement the new ratings system in 1994. The SROs won't have it in time to process their April 94 results, although I hope to calculate ratings with it.

It will be necessary to use BOTH systems for a while: if the new one has serious problems (always a possibility with new programs), we will still be able to maintain ratings with the old program.

#### Ratings accuracy

A question that all players (and administrators) should ask, is "How accurate is a rating?" Professor Elo developed most of the theory behind the FIDE and USCF ratings systems on which ours is based. Elo defined a class interval as the difference in playing strength between (national) Masters and International Masters, and between International Masters and Grand Masters. Of course, there is no absolute difference: there are some IMs stronger than some GMs, and then there are other GMs.

Elo assigned the class interval a value of 200 ratings points, to quantify a rather vague notion and allow it to be processed mathematically.

Elo has a table in his book, "The Rating of Chessplayers, Past & Present," in which he details in various ways how (im)precise ratings are. But first, consider this.

*In the first round of a swiss tournament, a very strong player, say over 2300, blunders into a two-move mate. What does that say about his opponent's playing strength?*

According to Elo, after nine games we can be 71% certain that a player's performance rating is within one half a class interval (100 points) of his actual playing strength. After 20 games, we reach 88% and at 30 games 95% certain that the indicated value is within 100 points of the "true" value.

These are the theoretical limitations of the ratings. Administrative errors, such as mis-recording a result, can increase the uncertainty. If a player is entitled to bonus points, this can introduce an additional error of 30.

Similarly, a blunder such as that I mentioned above will add 15 or 30 points to a player's rating, and distort the rating. Over a short run, these incidental distortions are quite large. Over time, their effects are reduced, and counter-balanced by other errors. This does, however, highlight the imprecision of ratings systems.

#### Information in the Reports

The reports contained in the ratings booklet provide information tournament organisers need for ranking players in tournaments. The information contained is also of considerable interest to players: we are all interested in our own ratings: are we getting better? or worse? Do the rating changes reflect our own perceptions? How are our friends/peers/rivals going?

However, it's not immediately apparent to new readers what all the numbers mean.

In each report, the first column is the rating, the measure of the player's playing strength. The *Top Players* report is generally headed by Rogers, Johansen & Solomon. It's immediately apparent that bigger numbers represent stronger players. Closer examination of the *Top* reports

reveals that it's possible for several players to have the same rating. If players are equal in strength, that's reasonable.

In the *Top Under nn* reports, the next column is the player's age at the beginning of the year. This age is used to determine players eligibility for some tournaments, and combined with rating, to select players for World and Asian Under Age tournaments. If you're a junior with hopes of representing Australia in international tournaments, these will give you some idea of the standard to reach.

The *Top Improvers* report shows the amount the player's rating has increased in the rating period. An increase of 100 will usually get a player into the top 20 improvers, 200+ is exceptional, while 300+ is SO! (Simply Outstanding).

These reports also show the players' registered state.

The Active Player list is divided into states. Details shown are rating, number of games played in the latest rating period, and, of course, the player's name.

#### The rating

The rating column needs some explanation, since it doesn't always contain a rating.

Confirmed ratings are shown as three or four digit numbers. Provisional ratings are shown by a "p" following the rating. Provisional ratings should be used for seeding players in tournaments, and are used in calculating ratings for other players.

Players who have played fewer than nine games have, instead of a rating, a single-digit number followed by "R" — the number is the number of games remaining to be played before the player's rating can be listed.

In some cases, the rating is shown as "Unr" — this means the player has not qualified for a provisional or confirmed rating.

#### This Period's Reports

I found that last period I excluded provisionally-rated players from these listing. There seems no reason to exclude them (except from top improvers), so that accounts for some additions.

The top three are still Rogers, Johansen & Solomon. Davidovic moved into fourth spot. Wohl continues to move up the list and oh-so-nearly overtook Gedevani. Jamieson & Gluzman both dropped a few points this period. Australian Junior Champion J-P Wallace is another to slip a little.

The battle is on among the top Under 20s, with the top nine are as before, although Curtis (N) dropped below Rutherford (V) & Tao (S).

In the Under 16s, Leskiewicz (Q) lost a few points and was overtaken by Tindall (N) (now second), Au (N), Teh (W) & Low (V). Others now past 1700 are McDonald (V) & Dwyer (W). Pizzatto's rating remained the same despite 21 games! A Victorian cohort comprising Chow, Zeve & Cordover are pressing their claims.

There has been movement among the Under 12s. McDougall (N) remains on top, although age will see him out next list. Geoff Saw is new to senior chess and has taken is place at second. Geoff is the latest of a long list of Waverley juniors including Jamieson, Johansen, Hjorth and many others. Toby Hopf (Q) leaped into third. It does seem ACT's doing something right: 11 of the 20 are from the Canberra area. And watch out for Matthew Jones (A), 924. He's the top under eight.

The ranking of the top women is much the same as April & August with the top three a mile ahead of the rest. Alladjova-Wills moved to the top by not playing chess. Feldman played most chess, dropped a few ratings points and slipped to second. Mills improved her rating but not her ranking. Blanche Wilkie played a game and returned to the active list between Mills & Rogers.

The *Top Improvers* list is the most interesting. It's dominated by Victorian players with Lad Zeve the Younger topping the list (276). A pretty good effort following his previous efforts: 234 in August, 152 in April, 234 in August. His father (179) followed a little behind, in fourth spot. Stas Hempel (234) is the most improved non-junior. Daniel Feldman (181) made the list again and has passed the 1000 mark, and continues to terrorise players up to around 1500. Grant Szuveges is on the list yet again: 109 in December 92, 130 in April, 196 in August and now (only) 115. Toby Hopf (150, Q) and Laura Moylan (150, A) are the most-improved non Victorians.



















1441	0	Colmer, Geoff	3 R	0	Johnson, Mark
1367	25	Connell, Patrick	1400	0	Johnson, Peter
1274	7	Cougar, Michael	980p	13	Jones, Guy
1053	0	Coventry, Gordon	1583	0	Jones, Martin
1878	0	Creech, Ken E	924	0	Jones, Matthew
8 R	0	Crossman, Tania	Unr	1	Katyal, Sunil
1393	17	Cusack, Ben	1070	32	Kilgallon, Brian
1370p	17	Darling, Donald	1291	0	King, Neville
1236	0	Davenport, Daniel	1242p	13	Kojanovic, Stefan
818	0	Davenport, Susan	1852	7	Korda, Gus
8 R	0	Davies, Phillip	1695p	7	Kuyucak, Serdar
2009	0	Deeves, Kevin E	1540	18	Lamberts, Gunars
1660	5	Denoskowski, Adrian	1034	3	Laslett, Adam
1083p	12	Diplock, Brian	891p	9	Lee, Andy
7 R	2	Dobes, Martin	Unr	10	Lilley, Frances
1711	19	Doel, Hank	1476	0	Marks, Joe
941p	10	Doel, Morgan	1710	9	Marshall, Justin R
9 R	0	Dowling, Jason	1518	0	Martens, Gerry
1293p	29	Dunn, Paul	1042	24	Mayoh, Daniel
1352	0	East, William	862p	8	Mayoh, Kylie
1499	0	Egan, Bill	1590	27	McCart, Roger
2097	0	Farrell, Roger S	9 R	0	McKenna, Patrick
7 R	0	Firth, Matthew	1272	14	Mengelkamp, Alan
949	0	Forace, Lee	1186	5	Mengelkamp, Brian
4 R	5	Friedman, Paul	1912	0	Mescher, Michael
1446	9	Galli, Karl	1713	0	Meyer, Bob
1511	14	Georgopoulos, Steven	3 R	0	Momeni, Mark
3 R	0	Gillen, Matthew	1135	29	Moylan, Andrew
1119	18	Gilmour, Duncan	847p	21	Moylan, Clare
1943	0	Gilmour, Edward	822p	12	Moylan, Jenny
1077	4	Gonzalez, Roberto	1096	32	Moylan, Laura
4 R	0	Gray, John	1386	14	Murphy, Peter
1862	0	Grcic, Milan	1654	0	Nicholson, Scott
9 R	0	Green, Hugh	1595	17	Ninchich, Milan
1357	15	Green, Robert	1437p	11	Oakes, Ashley
1088	6	Green, Stephen	987	0	Obrien, Grainne
1055	14	Green, Tom	997	0	Obrien, Orla
1220	18	Griffiths, Nye	1578	30	Obrien, Rory
1668	7	Grinyer, Peter A	1055	12	Oglesby, Dianne
1200	0	Guerin, Jim	1085	6	Ostyn, Ivo
1250	5	Haigh, Peter	1010	0	Parker, James
1968	0	Haron, Greg	881	0	Parkinson, Jason
1627	11	Hartstein, Alan	1 R	8	Partenen, Ari
1358	30	Heiser, Bill	1374	0	Parums, Robert
2 R	7	Hill, Peter	7 R	2	Paternoster, Pat
1838	0	Hills, Richard	980	0	Phipps, Michael
1713	16	Hosking, Ian	5 R	4	Polatidis, George
1433	0	Howard, Gary	1559	5	Popovic, Ilya
1175	11	Hummel, Mark	9 R	0	Powell, George
3 R	0	Huynh, Dien	1697	22	Press, Shaun P
1328	0	Hyslop, Graham	1322	2	Price, Goronway
9 R	0	Joanson, Max	1380	12	Pullicino, Peter
1301	11	Jochimsen, Eric	1749	18	Ramakrishna, Gogulapati

1295	0	Reardon, Sean
1365	6	Redgrave, Andrew
1569	7	Redgrave, John
1829	32	Reeves, Tristan
5 R	1	Renet, Evan
1504	16	Riggs, Robert
1659	12	Roberts, Stephen A
1568	11	Robertson, Keith
1 R	8	Rodda, Peter
1470	3	Rose, Jim
1808	17	Rout, Ian C
9 R	0	Russell, Luke
617p	9	Sadkowsky, Helena
902	18	Sadkowsky, Leon
2013	0	Salasch, Alex
1162	12	Salvage, Tony
1461	6	Sermeno, William
4 R	0	Shannon, Eugene
1970	0	Simpson, Peter M
9 R	0	Sloan, Anthony
2 R	7	Smith, R
1609	7	Stern, George
1501	0	Stevens, Bruce
969p	19	Stevens, Chris
1901	0	Stirling, J Nathan
824	4	Summerell, Kenny
1718	18	Suptut, Jeff
1126p	18	Sutherland, Paul
4 R	5	Szoreny, Peter
828	0	Taylor, Liam
1781	16	Telfer, Ken
1287	0	Terei, Owen
1017	34	Thorpe, Rhys
946	5	Trayner, Mark
1488	0	Tridgell, Andrew
1372p	7	Trundle, G
6 R	3	Truong, Binh
1331	0	Vasic, Robert
1385	0	Vukovljak, Daniel
3 R	0	Warfield, David
1198	5	Watson, Frank
2 R	7	Webb, Angus
1488	6	Wesley, Anthony
6 R	3	Wheate, Nyle
9 R	0	Wheate, Rhys
1397	4	Wills, Colin
3 R	6	Winder, Tom
1440	16	Wood, Jeffery
1339	7	Wood, Leo
5 R	4	Woods, Richard
Unr	4	Woodward, Steven
1568	0	Wullen, Gunther

## The ACF Rating System

John Summerfield

The ACF produces three ratings lists per year. The publication dates and deadlines for submission of correctly-coded results to the National Ratings Officer are:

Period	Closing date
April	Feb 28
August	Jun 30
December	Oct 31

These deadlines are set to allow time for the National Ratings Officer to process all the results and produce the ratings booklets.

Our ambition is to have the ratings booklet, master-file and new databases distributed by the time the new ratings become effective. It takes time to produce the masters for printing, and then more time to pass them on to the printer, and for the printer to schedule the work.

Any problems with incorrectly-record events, bad disks, missing results and so on can easily add days to the time it takes to produce the new ratings list. Please take great care in providing tournament results, and if you have any questions, take them up with your State Ratings Officer.

Club officials are responsible for supplying accurate, complete and legible information to their State Ratings Officer. If tournament documents, such as pairing cards or draws & results are not provided to ratings officers, tournament organisers must pay particular attention to ensuring the information is copied accurately.

The National Ratings Officer only accepts results from the State Ratings Officers.

### Acceptable events.

To be rated, Events must conform to these standards: *The rate of play in the first time-control must allow at least two minutes per move, and the first time-control must not be before move 30. Subsequent time-controls requiring a more rapid rate of play are allowed.*

*Events played under the FIDE rules for Sixty-Minute (Rapid) Chess also may be rated. Note that in such events, each player must be allowed at least 60 minutes for all his moves.*

*The event may not be a handicap event, for example material or time.*

*The event may not be a fixed-opening event.*

*The event must be approved by the state association and/or ACF for rating.*

*Telechess events will be rated unless all parties involved agree otherwise.*

*The event must be submitted to the National Ratings Officer in good time. Normally, events should be processed in the period in which they finish, or if the end is near the deadline, the next period.*

Events reaching the National Ratings Officer more than one period late are worth little for calculating the current strength of players, and will be discarded. I know players who are regularly performing more than 400 ratings points above their published ratings even when their results are processed in good time.

Even when tournaments are processed promptly, it can be five months before they are reflected in published ratings. One list later, they are nine months old, two lists and over a year!

### What the ACF needs to know.

Each player who plays in a rated event is assigned an identifying number, and this is used internally to match game results with the central player file.

To ensure that State Ratings Officers can match tournament results and changes to player details, certain basic information must be provided:

Usual first name
Family name (surname)
Initials
Gender
Birth-date

Ratings officers cannot be expected to record tournament results correctly when the information provided to them is inaccurate or ambiguous. In Victoria, we have two Michael Kagans and two Ladislav Zeves. I have heard that NSW has identical twins with the same first initial.

If tournament organisers provide ALL the information we ask, it greatly improves our chances of producing correct ratings.

In addition to help distinguish between players with similar names, the birth-date allows us to produce reports of top players in various age-groups, and to produce other statistical information. The ACF has recently decided to award veteran titles, and it would be useful to be able to produce tables showing how strong our senior players are. Perhaps players would like a list of the top 10 octogenarians?

Players who move interstate should ensure that tournament organisers know they have already played elsewhere in Australia; tournament organisers must report

this information to the State Ratings Officer (if the change is more or less permanent), so the player file can be changed to reflect the player's new state.

### Obtaining a Rating

To obtain a rating, you must play chess. When chessplayers are first recorded in the ratings Player File, they are classified as new players. Each time some of their their results are recorded, their status is reviewed. Players are reclassified as provisionally rated after nine games provided that they have scored at least 6.7% AND less than 100%. Provisionally-rated players may be reclassified as unrated if their accumulated score drops below 6.7%.

At the beginning of processing for a rating period, players whose accumulated score is zero are reset to the status of new players. They are regarded as having played no games. The effect of this is to start calculating ratings from the period in which a player starts to score.

Provisionally-rated players may become unrated if their score falls below 6.7%.

Ratings are not published for players who have played fewer than nine games. For these players, a single digit followed by "R" may be recorded. These players are provisionally-rated, but they must play additional rated games for their rating to be published.

After the tournament in which players reach 30 games, provisionally-rated players they are given a confirmed rating provided that they have scored at least 6.7% and less than 100%. Players who do not meet the score guidelines remain classified as unrated, but they retain their playing history to be used to calculate their rating when they earn one.

The score of 6.7% is based on a score of at least two points from thirty games. A player's minimum rating will be around 422 below the average of all his opponents' ratings.

### Calculating Ratings

There are several different calculations made in determining a player's new rating. The choice of calculation depends on the circumstances.

I use the term *partially-rated* to describe a player who has played one or more rated games, but who does not have a confirmed rating. It includes unrated and provisionally-rated players.

We now have several possible ratings categories on the player file:

New players never played a rated game.

**Unrated** Played one or more rated games, score doesn't allow them to obtain a provisional rating.

**Provisional** Played fewer than 30 games, score exceeds 6.7%. Additional losses can return provisionally-rated players to unrated status.

**Confirmed** Players who have played 30 or more games, scored 2/3 or more but less than 100%. In addition, players who had confirmed ratings on the April 1993 list continue to have confirmed ratings.

For all calculations, results against unrated players are not used.

For a new player, a performance rating is calculated:

Symbol	Description
AR	Average of Opponents' ratings
TS	Total score
Sa	Score achieved
Se	Score expected
NG	Number of rated games
SR	the sum opponentss ratings
NG	the number of rated games
R	Rating.
P	the probable percentage score from table 2.
Ri	Rating increment
Rp	the performance rating.
Dp	the rating difference predicted in table 1.

Most of the above symbols may be suffixed with o (old) or n (new).

$$AR = SR/NG$$

$$Rp = AR + Dp$$

#### Example

Smith scores 1/5 against players with an average rating of 1250.

$$NG = 5$$

$$TS = 1$$

Sa = 1/5 \* 100 = 20. We locate the entry corresponding to 20% in table 1 and find Dp(20) = -240.

From the formula we have

$$Rp = 1250 + (-240) = 1250 - 240$$

$$Rp = 1010$$

Smith's performance rating is 1010.

Note that if Smith scored 0/5 in a previous rating period, that information is discarded, and this is deemed to be his first tournament.

Rp is retained as a provisional rating. If the player has fewer than 9 games against rated opponents, the provisional rating is not published. NG, AR and TS are also retained.

For a partially-rated player

$$AR = \frac{ARo \cdot NGo + SR}{NGo + NG}$$

$$Rp_n = AR + Dp$$

Table 1

P	Dp	P	Dp	P	Dp	P	Dp
1.00	-	.75	193	.49	-7	.23	-211
		.74	184	.48	-14	.22	-220
.99	677	.73	175	.47	-21	.21	-230
.98	589	.72	166	.46	-29	.20	-240
.97	538	.71	158	.45	-36	.19	-251
.96	501	.70	149	.44	-43	.18	-262
.95	470	.69	141	.43	-50	.17	-273
.94	444	.68	133	.42	-57	.16	-284
.93	422	.67	125	.41	-65	.15	-296
.92	401	.66	117	.40	-72	.14	-309
.91	383	.65	110	.39	-80	.13	-322
.90	366	.64	102	.38	-87	.12	-336
.89	351	.63	95	.37	-95	.11	-351
.88	336	.62	87	.36	-102	.10	-366
.87	322	.61	80	.35	-110	.09	-383
.86	309	.60	72	.34	-117	.08	-401
.85	296	.59	65	.33	-125	.07	-422
.84	284	.58	57	.32	-133	.06	-444
.83	273	.57	50	.31	-141	.05	-470
.82	262	.56	43	.30	-149	.04	-501
.81	251	.55	36	.29	-158	.03	-538
.80	240	.54	29	.28	-166	.02	-589
.79	230	.53	21	.27	-175	.01	-677
.78	220	.52	14	.26	-184	.00	-
.77	211	.51	7	.25	-193		
.76	202	.50	0	.24	-202		

#### Example

Smith plays another tournament, and scores 1.5/7 against a field averaging 1310.

We have

$$AR = \frac{1250 \cdot 5 + 9170}{5 + 7}$$

$$AR = \frac{6250 + 9170}{12}$$

$$AR = \frac{15420}{12}$$

$$AR = 1285$$

$$TS = TS_o + TS_n = 1 + 1.5 = 2.5$$

$$Sa = \frac{2.5}{12} \cdot 100 = .21 \cdot 100 = 21$$

$$Rp = AR + DP(21) = 1285 + (-230)$$

$$Rp = 1050$$

If the player has now played 30 or more games, the player is considered rated with rating = Rp, and further rating changes are calculated accordingly.

Smith has played 12 games, and now has a provisional rating of 1050. Since he has played nine or more games, his provisional rating can be published on the next ratings list, and be used to calculate ratings of other players. Note that if Smith had scored less than 1/2, his rating would not be published and would not be used to calculate other players' ratings.

Table 2

D	Pd	D	Pd	D	Pd			
Fig Diff	H	L	Fig Diff	H	L			
0-3	.50	.50	130-137	.68	.32	303-315	.86	.14
4-10	.51	.49	138-145	.69	.31	316-328	.87	.13
11-17	.52	.48	146-153	.70	.30	329-344	.88	.12
18-25	.53	.47	154-162	.71	.29	345-357	.89	.11
26-32	.54	.46	163-170	.72	.28	358-374	.90	.10
33-39	.55	.45	171-179	.73	.27	375-391	.91	.09
40-46	.56	.44	180-188	.74	.26	392-411	.92	.08
47-53	.57	.43	189-197	.75	.25	412-432	.93	.07
54-61	.58	.42	198-206	.76	.24	433-456	.94	.06
62-68	.59	.41	207-215	.77	.23	457-484	.95	.05
69-76	.60	.40	216-225	.78	.22	485-517	.96	.04
77-83	.61	.39	226-235	.79	.21	518-559	.97	.03
84-91	.62	.38	236-245	.80	.20	560-619	.98	.02
92-98	.63	.37	246-256	.81	.19	620-735	.99	.01
99-106	.64	.36	257-267	.82	.18	736+	1.00	.00
107-113	.65	.35	268-278	.83	.17			
114-121	.66	.34	278-290	.84	.16			
122-129	.67	.33	291-302	.85	.15			

For a player with an established rating:

$$RI = Sa - Se + 15 \cdot BP$$

$$Se = P(AR - Ro) \cdot NG$$

Note that if the difference between players ratings exceeds 336, it is set to 336. Thus, if Smith (1051) plays IM Jones (2400), then Jones' rating is set to 1387 for rating Smith, and Smith's is set to 2064 for rating Jones.

#### Example

Brown, with a confirmed rating of 1010, plays in a tournament and scores 1.5/7 against players whose average rating is 1250.

$$Sa = 1.5$$

$$Se = P(1250 - 1010) \cdot 7 = P(240) \cdot 7 = .20 \cdot 7 = 1.40$$

$$Ri = (1.50 - 1.40) \cdot 15 = 0.10 \cdot 15 = 1.50$$

BP is bonus points awarded for exceptional performances. For most players in most events, no bonus ratings points are awarded,

At the end of the rating period, all Brown's ratings increments are added to his old rating. If the processing of this tournament corresponded to the end of a ratings period, his new rating would be 1010 + 1.50 = 1011.5. The ratings list would record it as 1012.

At the end of processing for a ratings period, all rating increments for each player are added to his rating at the beginning of processing.

Bonus points may be awarded to players in tournaments exceeding five rounds as follows:

Games	Condition	Points
6-10	(Sa-Se) > 1	15*(Sa-Se-1)
11-15	(Sa-Se) > 2	15*(Sa-Se-2)
15	(Sa-Se) > 3	15*(Sa-Se-3)

Brown (1011.5) plays another tournament, and shows considerable improvement. Against a field averaging (after application of the 336 rule) 1210, he scores 4/7.

$Sa = 4$   
 $Se = P(1210 - 1011.5) * 7 = P(198.5) * 7 = .25 * 7 = 1.75$   
 $BP = 15 * (4 - 1.75 - 1) = 15 * 1.25 = 18.75$   
 $Ri = (4 - 1.75) * 15 + 18.75 = 2.25 * 15 + 18.75 = 33.75 + 18.75$   
 $Ri = 52.50$

In this case, Brown takes 33.75 ratings points from his opponents, and adds 18.75 to the ratings pool.

**Prospective changes**  
to the way ratings are calculated are:

Using various values for K for different players. The value of 15 is used for everyone at present. Low values would be used for very strong players who are presumed to maintained a steady level of competence. High values would be used for new players, particularly juniors, who are expected to be improving quickly. If you refer to the description of how ratings are calculated, you will see the number 15 is used. Over time, this number has little effect on the ratings of players who maintain the same proficiency. However, larger numbers mean that ratings change more quickly as proficiency changes. Elo describes K used in this way as a development coefficient.

Use a higher K value for players who have been inactive for a time: perhaps two years. This means that players who have been inactive in the ratings pool for some time will change more quickly when they return. It would work equally well for players who have improved through playing overseas, or become rusty through not playing at all.

Calculating rating changes for individual games rather than based on the average of opponents' ratings. This should give more accurate results where opponent with widely different ratings are encountered.

Calculating bonus points over a ratings period rather than for individual tournaments. This will result in smaller rating increases where players are inconsistent. It should also make it harder for players to achieve a rating in excess of their playing strength.

Require players to play regularly in order to obtain a confirmed rating. In Victoria, some juniors play the Vic Junior Championship but no other rated events in their first year or so of tournament chess. These players often play other chess, so early games are meaningless. This requirement would also eliminate players who play a few tournaments and decide tournament chess is not to their liking. Players who play a little and infrequently would not get a confirmed rating.

I have a strong feeling that the "336" rule distorts the relative ratings of players. I haven't yet put my feeling to any formal test, but it certainly depresses the ratings of players who are improving. In Victoria we have a player rated 845 who, in one tournament, beat players rated 1474 & 1477, and drawn with players rated 1556 & 1324, three of them juniors currently performing elsewhere above their current ratings. Under current rules, these games are being rated as if the opponents were rated 1181.

There is further evidence in that the performance ratings of strong players over all games much lower than their actual ratings. If rating differences were accurately predicting the results of games, this should not be so.

If accepted statistical tests confirm my suspicions, I may recommend to ACF that ratings be recalculated as for a new ratings pool. Elo's book describes how this should be done. If this is done, then there are advantages in aligning ACF ratings with FIDE ratings. I have sufficient data to recalculate ratings of most active players. Ratings of inactive players would be left alone for the present: their ratings would be adjusted quickly if they become active again by giving them a larger K value.

Any players who have opinions about how ratings should be calculated should talk over their ideas with their State Ratings Officers who get more detail on my ideas. I will welcome any reasoned suggestions about the ratings system, preferably written. It's important to me that ratings are calculated as well as possible. It's also important that players have confidence in the system.

Before I implement the new ratings system, I will be able to demonstrate just what the effect of the changes will be.

## Tournaments Processed in this Period

A93201	1993 Cold Comfort Cup	V93034	Victorian Junior Open	W93012	FREMANTLE OPEN 93
A93202	1993 Canberra Rapid	V93035	MCC City Of Melbourne Open	W93013	BUNBURY CLUB CHAMP 93
A93203	1993 Tuggeranong CC			W93014	STATE JUNIOR UNDER 14 CHAMP 93
A93204	1993 Belconnen Premier	V93036	Geelong Open	W93015	STATE JUNIOR UNDER 16 CHAMP 93
A93205	1993 Belconnen Major	V93037	Vic-Qld Womens TeleMatch	W93016	BUNBURY CLUB TEAMS LEG 1
A93206	1993 ACT Championship	V93038	White Horse Class B Tourney	W93017	BUNBURY CLUB TEAMS LEG 2
A93207	1993 ACT Major			W93018	W A STATE RESERVES 93
A93208	1993 ACT Minor	V93039	Kew Club Championship	W93019	STATE CHAMPIONSHIP 1993
A93209	Kilgallin v Brickhill I	V93040	Albury Open	W93020	GUFIELD CUP 93
A93210	Kilgallin v Brickhill II	V93041	Waverley Instant Revenge	W93021	SECONDARY SCHOOLS' TOURNAMENT
A93211	Kilgallin v Brickhill III	V93042	Waverley Winter Cup	S93201	1993 SA Championship
A93212	Kilgallin v World	V93043	Melbourne International	S93202	1993 SA Candidate
A93213	1993 Hetherington Memorial	V93044	VCA Winter Inter-Club C Grade	S93203	1993 October Weekender
A93214	1993 Ackermann Cup			S93204	1993 Modbury Club Championship
N93201	KAZPOV OPEN	V93045	Frankston Club Championship	S93205	1993 Women's Interstate Chall
N93202	KAZPOV II OPEN			T93002	Tasmanian Championship
N93203	HAKOAH PERPETUAL CUP OPEN	V93046	City Of Melbourne Under 2000	Q93035	Under 20 - Under 14
N93204	HAKOAH PERTETUAL CUP U1600	V93047	City Of Melbourne Under 1600	Q93036	Qld Young Masters
N93205	NSW JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP 1993	V93048	White Horse Open	Q93037	Womens and Girls Champ
N93206	REUBEN FINE MEMORIAL	V93049	Ballarat Club Championship	Q93038	Atherton-Qld Open
N93207	HAKOAH CUP OPEN	V93050	Dandenong Grades Tourney	Q93039	Bne Club Steinitz Memorial
N93208	HAKOAH CUP UNDER 1600	V93051	ANBYSC 'Best In The West'	Q93040	Val Valentine Tour
N93209	1993 NSW GRADE MATCHES OPEN	V93052	VCA Winter Inter-Club A Grade	Q93041	BCC Spring 4-pack - 1
N93210	1993 NSW GRADE MATCHES U1200	V93053	VCA Winter Inter-Club B Grade	Q93042	BCC Spring 4-pack - 2
N93211	1993 NSW GRADE MATCHES U1400	V93054	Box Hill Club Championship	Q93043	BCC Spring 4-pack - 3
N93212	93 GRADE MATCHES U1600 WEST	V93055	Winter Inter-Club A Reserve	Q93044	BCC Champ
N93213	93 GRADE MATCHES U1600 EAST	V93056	Winter Inter-Club B Reserve	Q93045	Disabled-Veterans Champ
N93214	1993 NSW GRADE MATCHES U2000	V93057	Box Hill Championship Play-Off	Q93046	Innisfail Winter
N93215	GREATHER SYDNEY U1600	V93058	Victorian Country Championship	Q93047	State Championship
N93216	GREATHER SYDNEY OPEN/U2000	V93059	Mentone Open Week-End	Q93048	State Major Div
N93217	Cepacol 1993 NSW U1900	V93060	Monash Club Championship	Q93049	State Minor Div
N93218	Cepacol 1993 NSW Championship	V93061	MCC Melbourne Cup Week-End	Q93050	Qualifying Match
N93219	Cepacol 1993 NSW U1650	W93007	FREMANTLE CLUB CHAMP 93	Q93051	Minor Title Decider
N93220	Cepacol 1993 NSW U1400	W93008	METRO CLUB A		
		W93009	METRO CLUB B1		
		W93010	METRO CLUB B2		
		W93011	METRO CLUB C		