

Letters: *Adjournments!*

READERS WEIGH IN

Editor's note: Our February cover story, "May I Have the Envelope, Please?" generated significant interest! Here is a small sampling of the many thoughtful letters we received on this article:

The Albur/Crumiller piece on adjournments in February's issue of *Chess Life* is a banquet. Page after page, it is such a sumptuous feast that I couldn't finish it in one sitting. It alone will keep me eating for at least another week.

Lewis Jenkins
via email



The highest compliments to GM Lev Albur and Jon Crumiller for their excellent work on adjournments in the February 2020 issue of *Chess Life*. As a longtime life member of US Chess, I have wondered for years what has happened to longer-term controls and adjournments. They provide an important facet of the chess experience and counterpoint to the current vogue for quick chess. I definitely vote for bringing them back!

Don't get me wrong, I love playing in tournaments with faster and sudden-death time controls,

as well as the delay or cumulative features normally part of them. But I'm sorry that the alternative experience of longer controls and adjournments has been totally absent. I miss such experiences of intense analytical involvement in a still pending tournament game. I enthusiastically support the rebirth of longer time controls and adjournments!

Allen Bishop
via email

When I first saw the cover of the February 2020 magazine I thought the analog clock was going to [signal a] return to official tournament play. I eagerly turned to the wonderful article on the history and possible return of adjournments inside. Even though it appears that analog clocks will remain relics of the distant past, our great 7th edition of the *Official Rules of Chess* has sagely anticipated their return and ruled thus:

20F1. Adjournment help outside playing room allowed.

While a game is adjourned, a player may receive help outside the playing room from any source, including other players, books, or computers. A prohibition on such help would be unenforceable and would penalize only those honest enough to observe it.

I suggest that every member should have a copy of this wonderful book! I hope this prescient rule helps speed the return of a nearly lost form of chess art.

William H. Stokes
via email

While I appreciate the history of adjournments written in the article, "May I Have the Envelope, Please?" by GM Lev Albur and Jon Crumiller, I am extremely horrified at the suggestion of bringing back adjournments. Chess games should be geared toward fans. Adjournments will make chess players far less interested.

You want to attract millions of new chess fans on television by making the games much shorter and no longer than 90 minutes. Preferably each player should be given 25 minutes plus a 10 second increment. Each player could be given a five minute timeout during the game.

The recent world championship matches have been disappointing because there have been too many drawn games. With quicker games, more fans will appreciate the increase in decisive games. The prize fund of the world championship matches would increase again.

Eric Grabowski
via email

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