

## Hats off to FIDE. Chess ruling body in move to check spread of cheating

In a move sure to send shock waves through the chess playing world, chess chiefs have announced plans to ban all forms of head wear from January 2006.

Coming in the wake of speculation that banned Chelsea supremo, Jose Mourinho (himself an accomplished chess player), contacted assistant Steve Clarke via an earpiece concealed in the number two's woolly hat, chess governing body FIDE are facing accusations of jumping on a band wagon and of overreacting.

However, a leading FIDE spokesman denied this, claiming, 'There is no question of a bandwagon. This is something we have been concerned about for some time. In recent months, more and more arbiters have been commenting on the unusually high number of chess players now wearing hats. What makes this even more suspicious is the lack of any fashion sense people cannot be wearing these to look good; there must be some ulterior motive.'

**Our graphic shows what might happen**



The move, however, is likely to prove unpopular in Scotland.

A member of Glenrothes Chess Club, who wanted to remain hairless (nameless, ed.), commented, 'It's all very well for folk in Spain and hot places like that, but it's just not on here in Scotland.'

His colleague, himself follicley-challenged, agreed before going on to add, 'Anyway, it's all those continental chess players that are into this sort of thing we play the game fair and square here in Britain.'

Another Glenrothes player commented, 'I only wear a baseball cap and this doesn't cover my ears. What's more, I only wear it to avoid eye-contact, look serious and to try to intimidate opponents there's no question of using it for anything unsporting'.

The most tragic tale, though, comes from North of the Tay. A former Dundee member explained his need to wear a hat. Apparently, when he first came to Dundee he tried to fit in by drinking as much as the local chess players even though he was unaccustomed to drinking strong liquor. The results were predictable. 'By the time I got to move seven', he recalls, 'I couldn't tell my Petroff from my Scotch' It was at this point that some of, what he now refers to as, 'thon bunch o' alkie fae Dundee', took advantage of his state of inebriation and told him of the 'initiation ceremony'. This 'ceremony', involved tattooing a near-naked image of local hero, Colin McNab, on his forehead. 'To tell the truth', he says, 'I never really felt comfortable with it I never liked Colin's style of play, I was always more of a Motwani man.'

**Artist's impression of Dundee player**

