

The referee's song

Francis Roads

"Dives and Lazarus",
English traditional melody

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. Above each staff are guitar chords: Dm, Gm, F, C, F, Bb, C; Dm, Gm, F, C, F, Gm, Dm; F, F, G, C, F, Bb, C; Dm, Gm, F, C, F, Gm, Dm. The lyrics are: "1. A go player came to the tournament; a very rude player was he, He talked, he smoked and he rattled his stones, so they sent for the referee. The referee came striding in, a clipboard by his side, He found the player and said, 'This conduct we cannot abide.'" The melody is simple and repetitive, with a clear 4-beat structure per measure.

A go player came to the tournament; a very rude player was he,
He talked, he smoked and he rattled his stones, so they sent for the referee.
The referee came striding in, a clipboard by his side,
He found the player and said, "This conduct we cannot abide."

"If you cannot play properly," the referee did say,
"I'll take your clock, and adjust the time, and take half of it away."
"Oh, I don't care for your penalty," the rude go player then said,
"I can play as well with half the time, so go and bury your head."

"If you cannot behave yourself," the referee's answer came,
"I'll go up to the results sheet, and write zero by your name.
The player said, "Oh, I don't care at all for a zero score,
For win or lose is one to me, so your threat I will ignore."

The referee said, "In that case if the rules you won't obey,
I'll take your name from the draw, and no more games of go you'll play".
The player answered, "I don't care, there's plenty else to do,
I'll visit Dublin's sights, and have as merry a time as you."

The referee then sadly said, "I've no alternative,
But report you to the Rules Commission of the EGF."
"Oh, I don't care for the EGF," the rude man then did boast,
"They can't touch me, and if they try I'll have them all on toast."

The referee said, "There's one sanction left at my command,
If you refuse to behave, then I will give a reprimand."
The player turned white, and he said, "The rules I'll promise to obey,
For a reprimand I cannot bear, so I'll do whatever you say."

Japanese rules, Chinese and European the referee knows of course,
But it's no good knowing the rules, if you've no means them to enforce.
So all you brave young referees, pray listen to my song,
If you practice giving reprimands, you scarcely can go wrong.

The author writes: " In 2001 I had the honour of acting as Chief Referee for the European Go Congress in Dublin in 2001. I was given copious notes on the various rules in force, but no guidance whatsoever about what to do if somebody broke them. This song was the result."