

“SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY OF TORONTO CHESS TALK”

Newsletter of / Le Journal de
Scarborough Chess Club

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“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS
ISSUE # 20 – June 15 , 2001

DO YOU KNOW ? / SAVEZ-VOUS ?

Spotlight on the GTCL (Part 5)

GTCL Scholarship Policy Under Attack

Recap

The GTCL scholarship policy has operated without controversy for three years, giving GTA juniors of merit, small monetary “ scholarships “. At the Father’s Day Open ’01, on this Sunday at 3:00 p.m., some of the 22 junior recipients will each receive \$ 35 in a special presentation (the others receive it by mail). Seems pretty innocuous, doesn’t it. But, amazingly, controversy surrounding it has already brought about the resignation of the then 2000/2001 President of the GTCL, led one chess club to begin a boycott of GTCL Board meetings, and one GTCL officer threatened to resign !

What is it about these scholarships that is stirring so much passion ?

The Cause of the GTCL Scholarship Policy Storm

The fireworks started to fly back in the Fall of 2000. At the GTCL Board meeting of Sept. 11, 2000, a motion was introduced to amend the Scholarship Policy. Now, the main feature of the current policy is that the “ Scholarship “ can be spent on anything (doesn’t even have to be chess-related). The motion, which ended up being adjourned to the Oct. 16 Board meeting, proposed to make the “ no strings attached “ scholarships, into specific “ CFC-tied ” ones. The motion was :

“ Scholarship would consist of \$ 25 CFC membership, Free entry to Labour Day Open and Toronto Open, \$ 75 towards CYCC participation. “

At the Oct. 16 meeting, the 12 Board members present split into 3 equal camps when voting on the motion -- 4 supporting the motion : Martin Jaeger (for Willowdale CC), who brought the motion; Roger Langen, (Past Pres.); Bryan Lamb (then-Secty. & initially Scarborough CC Rep.); Randy Moysoski (for Macedonian CC) -- 4 against : Mark Dutton (then, and still, Communications Officer & initially Dutton Chess rep.); Christine Dutton (Dutton Chess Club Rep); David Gebhardt (then, and still, Club Team League Co-ordinator & initially Oshawa Durham CC Rep.); Chris Field (for Toronto Secondary School Chess League), by proxy (voted by Mark); -- and 4 abstentions : Peter Boross-Harmer (then-President & initially Dutton CC Rep.); Ari Mendrinos (then-Vice-Pres. & initially Scarborough CC rep.); Brett Campbell (then-Treas., & initially former City CC rep.); Wilf Ferner (then Officer-At-Large, and formerly Scarborough CC Rep.). [Note : Cesary Posylek (for Polonia CC – Mississauga) had left the meeting before the vote occurred; Maurice Smith, seconder for the motion, and Rouge Valley CC rep./CFC President, was not present at this meeting.]

Due to the tie vote, Peter as then-President had the constitutional 2nd tie-breaking vote. But instead of voting, he abstained. So the motion was defeated, since it was a tie vote. So the current policy of “ no strings “ stayed in place.

The “ Amended “ Motion

But, the proponents’ of the motion, undeterred, took into account the suggestions made during and after the debate, on the wording of the motion. In particular, in accord with a number of suggestions from Chris Field, Toronto Secondary School Chess League rep., the mover/seconder substantially amended their motion, though the core point was the same. They hoped the new wording would win majority support, and re-introduced the “ new “ motion at the next Dec. 18 meeting. It now read :

“ Each scholarship recipient shall be eligible to receive a one-year CFC membership, free entries to the next following Labour Day and the Toronto Open, and \$ 75 travel grant upon completion of participation in the next following CYCC.

It will be a condition of bids for the Labour Day and the Toronto Open that free amateur entry be granted. The GTCL will assume the costs of per player additional hall rental (if it exists) and rating fee. The Scholarship Fund levy for free entries shall be waived.

The number of scholarships awarded will be the Scholarship fund balance divided by the per player sum of CFC membership, additional hall rental fee (if it exists), rating fee and travel grant. Funds not awarded will be held over for the next year. “

The motion was only dealt with briefly this time (discussion on the motion but no vote). The same Board members were mostly in attendance. Missing this time were Board members : Roger Langen ; Randy Moysoski; Chris Field. The respective positions

were again stated, somewhat repetitively, as already raised at the prior meeting. But at the end of it all, the motion was adjourned to the Feb. 12, 2001 meeting, and no action was taken concerning the policy.

On Feb. 12, it was adjourned without discussion to the first Board meeting after the Annual Meeting. This board meeting was held April 17. At this meeting, the mover, Martin Jaeger, then announced that he was temporarily taking the motion off the agenda, but that it would be re-introduced in future.

The Current Situation

So today, the policy is still unamended, and scholarships have “ no strings attached “, as it has been for years. This is the policy applicable for the distribution of the 2001 Scholarships this month.

But notice has been given that the motion is still alive, and will return ! It hangs like a sword over the current Scholarship policy.

Understanding the Conflicting Positions

What is behind this raging controversy? We'll examine this in the next article.

GTCL Seeks a Good Start to the 2001/2 Year

On Tues., June 5, the GTCL Board of Directors met for its second meeting of the new year, at the premises in Mississauga of the Polonia CC, with new GTCL President, Bryan Lamb, “ in the chair “. Some of the items dealt with were :

1. Executive Position - Ismail Ibrahim, the current SCC Board rep., was appointed by the Board to fill the vacant position of Secretary for the balance of this year.
2. GTCL-sanctioned Tournaments – A standard form contract was approved for use. Now when an organizer wins a bid for a tournament, one of the terms of granting the tournament will be that the organizer signs this standard form contract. The need for this contract became apparent when Dutton Chess returned this year's contracts to GTCL, on which they had previously successfully bid, and which DC had started organizing. GTCL had no way to penalize DC for breaking the bid contract, in its view, because there were no penalty clauses in any of the written bid materials. Now clear notice is in the contract, advising the organizer of the penalties for failing to complete a bid contract. Of course, like any contract, the terms may be amended, depending on the negotiations that may take place with the organizer. Mark Dutton advised SCTCT that his company, DC, would never sign the contract as it now stands, if it ever decided in future again to bid for a GTCL-sanctioned tournament.
3. 2001 Thanksgiving Tournament (GTCL) – the Board authorized the President to seek an organizer and location for this tournament, since the lead time might be too short if the matter had to wait 'til the next Board meeting. Of course, it is open to Dutton Chess to bid on this tournament, and DC has advised that it has not yet fixed its own “ independent “ schedule this far in advance. But DC has also not yet indicated a change in its current position that it will not bid on GTCL-sanctioned

tournaments. So, GTCL could potentially find “ another Toronto organizer “ to bid, and if successful, then GTCL would be on a collision course with DC, if it also decided to run its own Toronto Thanksgiving Weekend tournament. It would be a repeat of the OCA/DC standoff this past Victoria day weekend, only this time with GTCL instead of OCA, and with both tournaments being right in Toronto !

4. GTCL Scholarship Policy : With respect to the current tug-of-war, referred to above, Bryan Lamb presented an outline for possible scholarship terms, as a guideline for trying to construct a possible consensus policy. He stated that in the coming year, he hoped to put a positive and successful policy into place which is fair to recipients and also fair and encouraging to prospective contributors. Further, he saw the GTCL expanding its search for funding sources. We'll take a look at this in future articles.

Canadian Youth Chess Championships – Ontario Qualifier Finals

These were held on June 2, and SCC juniors did very well. Allan CAI, in the Under 16 section, tied for first, but then lost in the play-off. In the Under 14 section, Gaja SRINIVASAN came third on play-off. Shiyam THAVANDIRAN was top boy in the Under 10 section; he just turned 9 this past May 25 (see below re his phenomenal SCC tournament result).

This is the first year the OCA has been responsible for the organizing of the qualifiers. Ontario CYCC this year is helping fund top girls as well as top boys, in equal amounts. Bryan Lamb, SCC President, and OCA Junior Co-ordinator stated in an interview with the SCTCT : “ This year the OCA tried to take a more active role in the CYCC cycle within Ontario. In the coming year, we will look forward to a number of improvements and initiatives. The OCA will be evaluating and trying to strengthen its presence and improve its visibility and image in promotion of junior chess in the province. ”

SCC has 5 juniors going to the CYCC Nationals in New Brunswick next month. In the Under 16 section will be Allan CAI, Gaja SRINIVASAN, and Liam HENRY. Nimalan THAVANDIRAN will play in the Under 14 section. Shiyam THAVANDIRAN will be in the Under 10 section. Bryan Lamb, who will be accompanying them as coach, stated : “ I am looking forward to witnessing the CYCC Nationals take place, and to assist the organizers as well. I hope for excellent results from our SCC players and I'll do my best to assist and encourage them. ”

GTCL Club Team League Final Standings

On June 12, the second portion of the SCC A vs Brampton CC match was to have been played at the SCC club, but for the second time the 3 Brampton CC players failed to show. So SCC A won 3 : 1 (LAMB [W-f]; HENTSCHEL [L]; CAI [W-f]; PICANA [W-f]). In the final standings, SCC A came clear SECOND (12 pts.), behind Polonia A in first (14 pts.). Polonia B was third (11 pts.). In fourth place was DCC A (9 pts.).

Thanks to David Gebhardt for his overseeing the League play, and we look forward to the 2001/2 season starting in the Fall.

Scarborough CC Adds New Sunday Tournament

The last Sunday tournament shown on the SCC general flyer issued at the start of the club year ended on Sunday June 10, due to schedule disruptions during the year. This left us with 5 Sundays until we likely close for Sundays in August. So the Executive has decided to offer an additional 6th Sunday tournament, starting Sunday, June 24. It will be called the Mid-Summer (Sun.) Swiss '01. The other 4 rounds will be July 8, 15, 22 & 29. So come out and play in the last Sunday tournament of this club year.

Scarborough CC Spring (Thurs.) Swiss '01

This 33 player, 7 round, multi-week tournament ended on May 24. The various class winners were : Open – 1st - Allan CAI (6.5/7); 2nd – Bryan LAMB (5.5/7); A – Angel CADAMOV (4.5/7); B – Patrick DOUCETTE (4.5/7) / Murtadha RAMZI (4.5/7); C - junior Shiyam THAVANDIRAN (4.5/7) – he had an amazing tournament; at the start of the tournament, he was rated 1472; on the way, he defeated Paterson, Armstrong, Rolavs, and Morra, and drew Srinivasan; he garnered for his effort, in this one tournament, 216 rating points! President Bryan Lamb commented that he didn't ever remember seeing a player get so many points in one tournament. Congratulations Shiyam!!; D – Irv ORLOFF (2.5/7).

Scarborough CC Spring (Sun.) Swiss '01

17 players participated in this event which ended June 10. The winners were : Open : Bryan LAMB / Ismail IBRAHIM / Jim PATERSON (4/5); Under 1700 – Murt RAMZI / Liam HENRY (3/5).

Scarborough June Bug Active '01 – Reminder !

This 8th and last tournament in the Scarborough Active Series 00/01 will be held Saturday, June 23, at the McGregor Park Recreation Centre, 2231 Lawrence Ave. East, just west of Kennedy Rd.. Registration begins at 1:15 p.m.. The series has been notable in two respects this past year – we have drawn strong players from across the GTA, and have also had strong support from SCC members. Mark it in your calendar, and hope to see you there (the new 2001/2 Series will begin again in Nov./01).

NOTE :

A – Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, or through SCC e-mail, to :
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B – An item in any language may be submitted for publication, if accompanied by an English translation.
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