

“SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY OF TORONTO CHESS TALK”

Newsletter of / Le Journal de
Scarborough Chess Club

e – mail : scarboro@idirect.ca Website : <http://webhome.idirect.com/~blamb/>
Wexford Seniors’ Apartments (Comm. Ctre.), 1860 Lawrence Ave E. (just east of Pharmacy Ave.)
(easy access – Victoria Park Stn./Pharmacy Bus; Lawrence E. Stn./Lawrence W. Bus)

“FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS
ISSUE # 21 – July 1, 2001- HAPPY CANADA DAY !

DO YOU KNOW ? / SAVEZ-VOUS ?

Spotlight on the GTCL (Part 6)

Below the Surface of the GTCL Scholarship Policy Battle

The GTCL Motions

The current GTCL Scholarship policy is that the modest scholarship of about \$ 35 has “no strings attached”. It is more like a prize; it can be spent on anything, and need not even be chess-related.

At the Oct. 18, 2000 Board meeting, a motion (# 1) was brought to change the policy, and make the scholarships CFC-related. It was defeated on a tie vote !

But the motion was substantially re-worded, and a new motion (#2) was reintroduced on Dec. 18, 2000, though the core of the motion was still to tie the GTCL scholarships to CFC-related expenditure. The “new” motion 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. ”

It was adjourned to Feb. 12. At that time, the seconder of the motion, Maurice Smith, rep. for Rouge Valley CC, and CFC President, who had seconded the initial simpler motion, first saw the specific wording of the new motion. Though he felt the intention was supportable, he saw the motion as too complex, and with too many conditions. So he advised that he was withdrawing as seconder. No new seconder was sought at that time, and it was adjourned to the April 17 meeting of the new 2001/2 Board of Directors (the AGM had been just held). It was then taken off the agenda by the mover, Martin Jaeger, at the April 17, 2001 meeting, with notice that it would be re-introduced sometime in the future. Subsequently, Martin has publicly invited Board members with other ideas to bring them forward and he will seriously consider a satisfactory alternative.

With respect to the intent of the motions, Martin advised SCTCT : “ The GTCL...has some responsibility, as yet unfulfilled to integrate promising juniors into the general chess community and to help/encourage them to play in the national age group championships. These things are what was sought by the motion. ”

The “ Apparent “ Scholarship Policy Argument

The surface issue, giving rise to the upheaval these motions have caused, can be fairly easily stated :

a) for the policy status quo – scholarships should be given to junior players without any strings (read “ conditions ”) attached; it is a small reward for their having worked hard on their chess, and been seen to exhibit good sportsmanship, and be a credit to the chess community; it is similar to a tournament prize, in that it can be spent on anything the winner wants, whether chess-related or not.

b) for amending the current policy – if the scholarship is to “ promote “ chess, then there should be a “ specific condition ” that will require that the “ scholarship ” be spent in some “ chess-related ” way. For example, it would be legitimate to tie the \$ to the purchase of a CFC membership, or, to a tournament entry fee, which tournament will be CFC-rated, and/or will be CFC-organized.

Which side are you on ?

National Undercurrents Destabilizing Local Scholarship Policy

But things are not as straight-forward as they seem. The key to understanding the “ hidden agenda ” here, is the fact that the only proposals for making the scholarships “ chess-related ”, involve direct benefit to the CFC ! Obviously there is more at stake here than how a GTA junior uses a \$ 35 Scholarship!

The real issue winds its way into the national capitalistic marketplace, where CFC and CMA are duking it out over junior chess, chess ratings, and chess supplies sales. The fact is that the “ chess-related ” scholarship proponents are really “ CFC-related ” scholarship proponents. It is argued that GTCL is part of the Ontario Chess

Association/CFC system. The scholarships therefore should be tied into GTCL's Constitutional mandate, allegedly the obligation to try to support wherever possible the activities of the CFC. Notice that no one has suggested that a scholarship be a gift certificate for chess supplies at the Toronto Chess 'N Math Store. The real purpose of the failed motion, and the now-pending one, was to drag GTCL clearly into the CFC camp, in the national duel of CFC vs CMA, using this small local issue as the excuse.

GTA Juniors Have Lost Big !

The supporters of the amendment motion were well aware that CMA had been donating approx. \$ 500 to the GTCL scholarship fund each year. They were well aware that CMA would not stand for having its donations turned into CFC-specific scholarships (though CMA was willing to leave its donation neutral re expenditure – the “ no strings “ donation left it open that a recipient might make a CFC-related expenditure; it would be left to the marketplace). So they knew that the direct result of the success of the motion would be that CMA would likely cease to donate. But national ideology ruled, and the tying of GTCL to CFC on this issue was worth GTA juniors potentially losing \$ 500 worth of scholarships per year, it appears, to the proponents.

Fortunately, this position could not win the day – yet. Motion # 1 was defeated, and Motion # 2 is not yet back on the agenda.

Unfortunately, though, the damage has now been done ! At the GTCL Board meeting on Feb. 12, 2001, CMA gave formal notice that it would no longer be contributing to the fund (despite the fact that the Scholarship Policy at that time, and now , remains unchanged). This was again confirmed by Larry Bevand (CMA rep.) at the June 5, 2001 meeting of the new Board, at least in respect of the 2002 scholarships.

The Future of the GTCL Scholarship Fund

In addition to the loss of the CMA donation, GTCL currently has no tournament income coming into the Scholarship Fund. The reason for this is the withdrawal at the start of this year of Dutton Chess from organizing any GTCL-sponsored tournaments, where the scholarship fund levy of \$ 1 was made on each player. Part of the reason given by Mark Dutton for this action, was his company's strong objection to changing the Scholarship Policy.

Scholarships were able to be given out this June 2001. And, since only part of the fund was used, there are sufficient funds for scholarships in June 2002. But after that ?

Maybe we need to ask this question to those supporting the motion to amend the policy ??

In fairness, it must also be said that the GTCL Board members have stuck with the issue, and there are now extensive communications flying back and forth in an attempt to devise a policy that might win majority, if not unanimous consent. It is a task worth pursuing and we wish them luck.

We will look at some of these negotiations in the next article on the policy.

Inaugural 2001 Americas Continental Championship

We gave the background to this tournament next month in our lead FIDE article in Issue # 18. It puts up for grabs, at least 7 first-round places in the 2001 FIDE World Chess Championships. And it is open to anyone in the Americas (FIDE considers North, Central and South Americas the continent of the " Americas ", for their purposes), regardless of rating.

It will be held from August 9-19, in Cali, Columbia. The formal invitation to register, in English, can be found on the CFC website – " news ". It is an 11 round swiss, and the prize fund is \$ 76,000 (U.S.). The registration fee is \$ 100 (U.S.), not bad for such a prestigious tournament. It is hoped that it will attract the top players from all countries in the Americas, including already designated Zonal Qualifiers.

In the case of Canada, FIDE Zone 2.2, we will get to send 2 " official " representatives, whose board and lodging will be paid by the organizers. The 2 who were initially announced as being invited by CFC to go, were Alexandre Lesiege, and Kevin Spraggett. As well, free board and lodging will be given to any Zonal Qualifiers who play. Since our 2001 Canadian Closed & Zonal in Montreal is not until August 21 – 29, Phil Haley, FIDE Rep. and Canadian Zonal President, inquired whether the offer to current Zonal Qualifiers would extend, in Canada's case, to our 2000 Canadian champion. Unfortunately, Alexandre Lesiege is committed to play in the 2001 Montreal International Chess Tournament (a 12 player closed invitational, with Category X FIDE designation) from Aug. 2 - 13, and so he will not be available to play for Canada in the Continental.

We look forward to CFC finalizing the Canadian representatives, and releasing their names once they have accepted. In addition, it would be interesting to know what other top Canadian players are intending to participate. Good luck to all going ! Get one (or more !) of those 7 places for Canada !

Scarborough June Bug Active '01

This 8th and last tournament in the 2000/1 Scarborough Active Series was held Saturday, June 23. It drew 29 players, its largest turnout of the series, and was played in 2 sections (Open & U 1800).

The surprise Open winner was SCC member Andrew PICANA ! (ahead of second-place finishers Ochkoos, Milicevic, Rakhinshteyn, and Lamb). Congratulations Andrew ! The U 2000 winners were Steve LAUGHLIN and Arnie LUCKI. The U 1800 section winners (the section contained 12 juniors out of 16 players) were 2 SCC juniors – Henry LIAM (won the U 1600 prize) and Gaja SRINIVASAN.

Thanks to all the players who came out and supported this series, especially the SCC members, who often attended in significant numbers. SCC expects to begin its new 2001/2 series in November /01.

SCC Mid-Summer (Sun.) Swiss '01

On Sunday June 24, 9 players showed up to contest this added-to-the-schedule last Sunday tournament of the 2000/1 club year. It is 5 rounds, with the date of the last round to be announced (sometime between July 29 and August 12). You can still enter, even if you missed the first round – just show up on Sunday, July 8 for round 2, and Ismail Ibrahim, who'll be acting club manager that Sunday, will give you a bye for round 1. So work July into your chess schedule, and come on out. The breakdown for the participants is : Expert – 1; A – 1; B – 4; C – 1; D & U – 2.

NOTE :

A – Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, or through SCC e-mail, to :
1.be added to the e-mail list; 2. submit content (fact, opinion, criticism - recommendations help!).
B – An item in any language may be submitted for publication, if accompanied by an English translation.
C – The opinions expressed here are those of the editor, and not necessarily those of the Scarborough CC.