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)

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ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

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DO YOU KNOW ? / SAVEZ-VOUS ?

Spotlight on the GTCL (Part 7)

GTCL Still Struggling to Find an Acceptable Scholarship Fund Policy

Scholarship Policy Fiasco Recap

- it started with the abortive attempt by a minority of the GTCL Board to change the GTCL Scholarship Policy – they wanted to turn a " no strings attached " GTCL junior scholarship of about $ 35, into a specifically CFC – tied CFC membership/tournament entry fee scholarship.
- their original motion was defeated at the Oct. 16, 2000 meeting.
- amazingly, the side that WON resigned/boycotted ! The then-President Peter Boross-Harmer resigned Jan. 2. Dutton Chess expressed unhappiness, and Dutton Chess Club is still boycotting GTCL Board meetings.
- undaunted by their loss, the faction brought an amended motion (to the same effect) at the Dec. 18, 2000 meeting, which got adjourned a few times.
- When it came before this year's 2001/2 Board of Directors' April 17 meeting, the motion was withdrawn by the mover.
- but the mover has given notice the motion will return, unless a better alternative surfaces.
- So, 2 years of heat and light, and the effort has given rise to – nothing; no change !!

Consequences

The defeat of the motion meant that the annual CMA donation to the scholarship fund of $ 500 would have remained " neutral ". It would NOT have been turned into a scholarship tied to a CFC-related expenditure. But then, despite CMA funds having been

protected by the GTCL Board, Larry Bevand (GTCL rep. for CMA) advised that CMA would now no longer donate. He advised that CMA would find other ways for it to benefit chess-playing juniors. So the damage was done anyway.

Further, Dutton Chess is still refusing to bid on GTCL-sanctioned tournaments, and so no scholarship tournament entry fee levy is being paid into the scholarship fund (part of the reason given for the refusal was the attempt to amend this policy).

Only in the world of chess, you say ???

A Compromise Proposal

Bryan Lamb, an original backer of the motion, now President of the GTCL, is trying for a compromise position, to deal with a number of the underlying issues. The main thrust of his proposal is to make the fund multi-faceted, rather than monolithic (which is the defining characteristic of the amending motion waiting in the wings). The idea would be that the donor of money to the fund could propose conditions as to how the money would be used for scholarships. The donor and the GTCL would then try to negotiate a satisfactory package.

For example, if Chess 'N Math decided to donate again the $ 500, it could propose that the scholarships be tied to entry into CMA tournaments, or the purchase of chess books, supplies, etc., at a CMA store (or could leave it completely " strings–free ", as it did in the past). The only issue would be getting GTCL to approve the conditions. It is expected that most conditions would be acceptable to GTCL, and the GTCL policy would direct that it do everything possible to accommodate such conditions.

Are Negotiations Going Anywhere ?

Initially, the pro-motion faction was the problem. It now seems the positions are reversed. The anti-motion faction now is the stumbling block !

Unfortunately, (based on our recent interview with Bryan Lamb), there has been a deafening silence in response: CMA has not responded to this proposal – no objections, no proposed changes, no acceptance, no dialogue, except that CMA has confirmed they will not donate to the 2002 scholarship fund. The same goes for Dutton Chess and Dutton Chess Club, 2 members of the initial anti-motion faction, that got the initial motion defeated back in Oct. 2000.

GTCL fears that nothing will now interest the anti-motion faction, precisely because they've lost interest in the fund itself. The CMA is not donating. DC is not raising any scholarship tournament entry fee levy in its own tournaments. DCC seems to have lost interest in the very GTCL itself.

The Future ?

Given the course this issue has taken, the first question is whether there is majority agreement that the current policy (or non-policy) is insufficient. The pro-"some-motion" faction needs to check this out, since we now have a new GTCL Executive, and some new Board members. Unfortunately, it may fall to a new majority,

to put together something and pass it. Then the search will be on for new sources of funding for the scholarship fund.

Not exactly the way some hoped the new GTCL ship was going to sail !

2001 10th Canadian Women's Championship
(and Americas Women's Continental CC Zonal)

18 of Canada's top women players participated in this 6 round swiss held at the Dutton CC on the Simcoe Day long weekend. This well-run and enjoyable tournament (organizer/TD David Cohen, assisted by Mark and Christine Dutton), was a mixture of very experienced, as well as up-and-coming, players. 12 were juniors, including 10 year old Hazel Smith, and 9 year old Alina Sviridovitch, (is Canada starting to do something right in junior girls' chess development ?).

The winner was Women's International Master, and 7 times Canadian Women's Champion (between 1978 and 1995 previously), Nava Starr. She had won the tournament by round 5, with 5 straight wins, and drew in the last round. As winner she will represent Canada at the Americas Women's Continental Chess Championship this year, in Venezuela, Sept. 20-30. It is at this tournament that the top women in the Americas compete for the Americas first round places in the 2001 FIDE Women's World Chess Championship.

1 ½ pts back, at 4/6 pts. were Women's FIDE Master, Stefanie Chu, and Amanda Benggawan, both juniors. They had to have a play-off (Game in 30 min., with 10 sec. increments), which was played Aug. 8, to determine Canada's 2nd " official " rep. for the Women's Continental. In an SCTCT interview, David advised that the second rep. has host country expenses paid by the host country, but the CFC does not contribute to the travel cost, as it does with the winner (out of revenue generated by the tournament itself). It was an upset win by Benggawan, on time !

Under other " upset notes ", Hazel defeated WIM Vesma Balgailis on time, and, as well, 2001 Canadian Highschool Girls Champion, Olya Shishkina. Hazel also drew WFM Doina Brestoiu (2100). Alina managed to hold Amanda to a draw. Congratulations Hazel and Alina !

The Ontario Chess Association, in furtherance of its objective of supporting Ontario chess players, donated a $ 600 entry fee rebate to the Ontario women playing, to be divided among the 16 of them. Thanks is due also to David Gebhardt, who made a private donation toward the tournament.

2001 Montreal International (Closed – FIDE Category 9 – Av. Rtg. : 2456)

This was a very important tournament for Canada, held Aug. 2 - 13. It was a 12 person round-robin. Unfortunately, too few are organized as an invitational that allows Canadians to play for GM and IM norms. There were 5 GM's and 2 IM's. 7 Canadians participated.

The winner was our own Canadian Grandmaster, Alexandre Lesiege (2564), with 8/11 pts., ½ pt. ahead of 3 second place finishers : GM Tomas Oral (Czech Republic – 2540); GM Eduardo Rosentalis (Lithuania – 2588); GM Vladimir Kosyrev (Russia – 2554).

Here are the scores of the other Canadians : FM Sylvain Barbeau – 6/11 (he obtained his first IM norm !); FM Igor Zugic – 5 ½ /11; FM Pascal Charbonneau – 4 ½ /11; FM Goran Mikanovic & IM Jean Hebert – 3/11; FM Danny Goldenberg – 2 ½ /11 .

Defeat of Proposed CFC " Conflicting Tournaments " Policy

2 GTA Governors, at the request of Dutton Chess, brought a motion before the recent CFC AGM, that would have had CFC rate a tournament, even if it had been designated by a provincial organization as a " conflicting tournament " (meaning it was being held on the very weekend of a provincially-sponsored tournament). The majority of comment before the vote had supported this " no regulation/ no date protection " approach. But the motion was defeated ! A number of factors went into this surprise defeat.

We present below, with thanks for this contribution, the view of our reader, Maurice Smith, past CFC President, and SCC member, on this unexpected result :

> " I wanted to mention something about the voting on the two motions [on the proposed CFC " conflicting tournaments " policy } at the AGM that some Toronto people don't realize. The Governors are tired of listening to problems from situations in Toronto. Remember several years ago when we had the Mark Dutton/Ignac Vucko controversy about running conflicting tournaments and the posting of prize funds. This resulted in four motions being made. Frank Thiele made them and asked me to support them which I did. Well that year the AGM was in Calgary and all I heard from the Governors was "Can't Toronto look after their own problems." and "Why do we have to change the rule book every time there is a problem in Toronto." This year the same feeling is evident. The answer seems to be that Toronto and Ontario must solve their own problems that they have created for themselves. This will result in less motions and less surprise when they don't pass. "

SCC Summer Closing

Tomorrow, Thursday, Aug. 16, is the last day the club is open this club year (round 5 of the Mid-Summer (Thurs.) Swiss '01). We are then closed for the last 2 weeks of August, and the Labour Day long weekend.

We re-open, for the 2001/2 club year, on the first Tuesday of Sept. (Sept. 4). That night, we will be holding our club Annual General Meeting (free pizza, pop & coffee to kick off the year !). It will start at 7:00 p.m.. It's OUR club; we run it – come out and give other members your input !

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.
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