

**Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess Vews & Niews**

[Happy April Fool's Day]

Newsletter of / Le Journal de

Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 15 – April 1, 2002

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

The 2002 Can. Closed/Zonal – IM Pascal Charbonneau is Canadian Champion !!

The 2002 Canadian Closed/Zonal was an 11-round swiss, held in Richmond, B.C.. It began Thursday, March 21, and ran to today (The main tournament ended yesterday, but today had been set aside in case a playoff was required, and it turned out to be needed).

Some of Canada's top players over 2300 were registered :

Registered Players

1. 2660 [Le Siège, Alexandre](#) Montreal, PQ
2. 2629 [Spraggett, Kevin](#) Montreal, PQ
3. 2490 [Cummings, David](#) Toronto, ON
4. 2470 [Hébert, Jean](#) Montreal, PQ
5. 2428 [Charbonneau, Pascal](#) Outremont, PQ
6. 2412 [Yoops, Jack](#) Vancouver, BC
7. 2397 [Ross, David](#) Montreal, PQ
8. 2391 [Glinert, Stephen](#) Toronto, ON
9. 2379 [Berry, Jonathan](#) Nanaimo, BC
10. 2353 [Reeve, Jeff](#) Edmonton, AB
11. 2346 [Ristovic, Nenad](#) Calgary, AB
12. 2327 [Huber, Gregory](#) Calgary, AB
13. 2323 [Milicevic, Dragoljub](#) New Westminster, BC
14. 2309 [Neven, Knut](#) Saskatoon, SK

Ted Kret, from the GTA, Ontario, attended, and was financially supported to

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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)

some extent by the fact of his participation in the previously held OCA Closed Bursary tournament, held last month. The main tournament was broadcast live by WorldChessNetwork. The software needed to follow the action was made available to be downloaded free, from the WCN website. The playoff action was posted on the official website.

There were 36 participants registered in the Closed. Unfortunately, the average rating of the Closed this year was lower (2278) than last year in Montreal (2283).

One does have to ask whether the regulations need to be looked at to prevent so many low-rated players from playing – after all, this is our national championship. The top players do not always end up playing each other, though they seemed to mainly in this Closed. But it is possible for a top player to fall behind, and catch up by picking up points off lower-rated players (especially when this year's organizers increased the swiss from the normal 9 rounds to 11 rounds; we all know a longer swiss allows for mistakes, and to catch up, despite your tie-breaking score being abysmal). If we had had a cutoff of 2300, absolute, no exceptions except provincial/territorial champions, we would have had this year 14 of our top players, and only a few others, in a most difficult and challenging swiss. If you look only at the top 14 players this year, the average rating is 2422 !! But this year, 61 % of the participants (22 players !) are below 2300. The average rating of this lower part of the championship was a very low 2187 !! This drags the overall Closed/Zonal average way down to the 2278, mentioned above.

When and how are we going to deal with this problem. It seems to be getting worse, rather than better. But enough politics. On with the chess !!

The tournament was won by former Canadian Junior Champion, IM Pascal Charbonneau, defeating former Canadian Champion, GM Kevin Spraggett in the first set of rapid playoff games (Game 30/10 incr.), 1.5 - .5 !! Congratulations Pascal, and on to the Fall 2003 WCC !!! [we have both complete games, with some annotations below !!]

As to some of the encounters in the main tournament, in round 3, Charbonneau and Spraggett drew. Then in round 6, Le Siege won his individual encounter with Spraggett . But the game is amazing from 2 points of view. In the early middle game, Kevin started an astounding combination, by sacking his knight, and then ending up with a Queen vs Alexandre's 2 Rooks. But Kevin had two centralized and powerful Bishops to support his Queen. The commentators were unsure who was winning. Then tragedy struck. Kevin later started a combination with a Bishop sacrifice which he felt would lead to him regaining his material and flushing Alexandre's King into the open. But when he checked with his Bishop, Alexandre just took it off with his Rook. The Bishop had been left hanging in mid-air, unprotected. Kevin is a meticulous player, and this has to rate as one of his worst blunders of all time ! No matter who you were rooting for, it is most unfortunate that the outcome depended on a “ hung “ piece.

But then in round 8, Alex came up against young IM Pascal Charbonneau. Pascal played strongly, and was able to come away with a win ! One GM down and one drawn ! Jean Hebert, who could have taken clear first if he had defeated Jack Yoos in round 8, went down a minor piece. But when it appeared lost, Jack blundered and allowed Hebert a perpetual check draw.

So going into the 9th round last Friday, was a logjam of players tied for first, with 6 points : GM Alexandre Le Siege, GM Kevin Spraggett, IM Jean Hebert, and IM Pascal Charbonneau. And there were 4 more players 1 pt. back at 5pts.. As someone from the

audience commented on WCN after the Hebert-Yoos game, “ It’s all quite a mess ! “

In round 9, the unexpected continued to happen. Lesiege, Spraggett and Charbonneau all drew their games ! And 2002 Can. Junior Champion, Stephen Glinert downed co-leader IM Jean Hebert, to draw even with him in 4th/5th , ½ pt. behind the 3 co-leaders now, Lesiege, Spraggett and Charbonneau. What future surprises did the previously lower-place players have for these top players in the last two rounds ?

In round 10 Charbonneau (black) won his game first. He exchanged his knight for 3 pawns and then got a pawn to Eric Lawson’s 2nd rank, and white resigned. For a short time, this left Charbonneau in clear first going into the final round, with 7 ½ pts. Then later in the evening, Spraggett, who had a strong opponent, David Ross, won his game, and he and Charbonneau were tied for first.

IM David Cummings, who had finally floated back up to the top boards, gave Le Siege quite a scare for a while, but Le Siege drew it ! This left Le Siege with 7 pts., tied for 3rd / 4th. 2002 Canadian Junior Champion, Stephen Glinert, defeated Jack Yoos, giving him 7 pts. as well, and he was tied with Lesiege.

In the final 11th round, Charbonneau played David Cummings and won, giving him 8.5 pts.. Spraggett then defeated Jeff Reeve, and remained a co-leader with Charbonneau, forcing a playoff today.

In 3rd, with 8 pts., was 2001 Canadian Champion, GM Alexandre Le Siege. Glinert drew his game for a 4th place finish, with 7.5 pts., achieving his IM title ! Congratulations Stephen !! Two players will also receive their FM titles for their scores of 6.5 pts. : Dave Herder and Eric Lawson – congratulations to you both ! (although the norm for FM was only 5.5 pts., and others reached it, it is our understanding that FIDE will only give 2 FM titles for this tournament [though we believe they would have discretion to give it to the others, if they wanted to.])

In the playoff today, which started at 1:00 PM (EST), Charbonneau defeated Spraggett 1.5 - .5, and gained the Canadian Champion title . Congratulations Pascal, and good luck in the 2003 WCC ! And thanks and congratulations to all the team who put on such a good tournament, WCN for broadcasting it and the official website for bringing us the playoff action live.

Despite any reservations about tournament format, all can agree that the top players fought it out, and it was definitely a most exciting Canadian Championship / Zonal.

Here are the two playoff games [we have attached to the cover e-mail, not only the newsletter, but also the .pgn database with these annotated games] :

GM Kevin Spraggett – IM Pascal Charbonneau

2002 Can. Cl. Rapid Playoff # 1 Richmond, BC, Can. (1), 01.04.2002
(Notes by Fritz 6 / Bob Armstrong)

B33 : Sicilian
1.e4 c5

[BA : Fritz 6 evaluates the Sicilian as an inferior defence (??) and evaluates this position as +/=. I will ignore this for our purposes in the opening, and treat the position as equal.]

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.a4

[Fr.6 considers this move inferior and evaluates the position as now = . Fritz 6 considers the best move to be 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.c4 Nf5= (Fr.6:+/=)]

7...a6 8.Na3 Be6 9.Bc4 Rc8 10.0-0 Be7 11.Re1 Nb4 12.b3 0-0 13.Bb2 Rc5 14.Bf1
[Fr.6: 14.Qd2 Qc7 15.Nd1 Bxc4 16.Nxc4 b5=]

14...d5 15.exd5 Nbx5 16.Bc4 Nxc3 17.Qxd8 Rxd8 18.Bxc3 Bxc4 19.Nxc4 b5 20.axb5 axb5
21.Ba5 Rdc8 22.Ne3

[Fr.6: 22.Nb6 Rb8 23.c4 bxc4 24.Nxc4 Rxb3 25.Nxe5 Rbb5 26.Bd8! Bxd8 27.Ra8 Rd5 28.Nc6
Rd2 29.Rxd8+ Rxd8 30.Nxd8 Rb2=]

22...Nd5 23.Nf5?? [Fr.6: 23.c3=] 23...Bf6?? [Fr.6: 23...Bf8=] 24.c4 bxc4 25.bxc4 Nf4
26.Bb4=?

[draw agreed ; Fr.6: 26.Nd6=]

1/2-1/2

IM Pascal Charbonneau – GM Kevin Spraggett

2002 Can. Cl. Rapid Playoff # 2 Richmond, BC, Can. (2), 01.04.2002
[Notes by Fritz 6 / Bob Armstrong]

B42 : Sicilian

1.e4 c5

[Fr.6 " prejudice " against Sicilian; evaluates position as +/= ?? I will treat it as = .]

2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.0-0 d6 7.c4 Nbd7 8.Nc3 Qc7 9.b3

[Fr.6 considers this move inferior, and now evaluates the position as = . It prefers 9.Be3= (Fr.6:+/=)]

9...b5 10.Bb2 b4 11.Na4 Bb7 12.Qe2

[BA : Fr. 6 prefers 12.Re1=]

12...Be7 13.f4 0-0 14.Kh1 g6? [14...Nc5=] 15.f5?? [15.Nc2=] 15...e5? [Fr.6: 15...gxf5 16.exf5 e5 17.Nc2 e4 18.Bxe4 Bxe4=]

16.Nc2 a5 17.a3 bxa3 18.Nxa3 Bc6 19.Nb5 Qb7 20.Rae1 Rfe8 21.Qf3 Bf8 22.Bc1 Qb8? [22...Be7=] 23.g4 Bg7 24.Ba3? [24.g5=] 24...d5 25.exd5 Bxb5 26.cxb5 e4 27.Bxe4 Ne5 28.Qg3 Nxe4

[Fr.6: 28...Qxb5 29.Bg2 Nfxg4 30.Be7 gxf5 31.d6 Rab8 32.Nc3 Qd7=]

29.Rxe4 Qxb5 30.Rfe1 Rad8 31.d6 Qd5 32.Kg1 Rxd6?–

[BA : Kevin's exchange sacrifice of R for B+P is unsound; Fr.6 gives: 32...Rb8 33.Nc3 Qxb3 34.Bc5 gxf5 35.gxf5 f6=]

33.Bxd6 Qxd6 34.Nb2 Qb6+ 35.Kg2 Qc6 36.Kh3 f6 37.Nc4 gxf5 38.gxf5 Qd7 39.Nxe5 fxe5 40.Rxe5 Rxe5 41.Rxe5 Kf7 42.Rc5

1-0

CONGRATULATIONS Pascal !!

Cohen Takes Us to the Chess Movies - Luzhin's Defence

A “Supplementary “Review of Movie # 1 in David Cohen’s Series of Articles

Written and Copyright 2002 by Bob Armstrong (Editor, Scarborough Community of Toronto Chess News and Views).

I had not seen the movie before I read David’s excellent review in SCTCN&V Issue # 13, of March 1. His description made it a must see for me. I must admit I truly loved the movie.

One point was especially intriguing to me. David hits on it when he states in his review:

“ The major theme of the movie is how a chess player deals with adversity in life. The author (of the novel on which the movie is based) is proposing that a chess player does so by escaping into the chess game.”

I agree with this analysis. But I would propose that there is a counterpoint within the movie. For the concept of “ escape “ only , from the trials and tribulations of life, is negative in connotation. There is only a fleeing “ from “ something. But it is not to “ anything “ that Luzhin flees .

No, it is **to** CHESS !! Whether it is the intention of the author of the book, or the producer of the movie, there is another factor of prime importance in this story. Luzhin has a passion for chess !! A consuming passion ! He is a prodigy from the first time he learns the moves. His chess has a very positive association with his aunt, so his chess is not just a place to flee; it is a place to passionately seek out ! There is no doubt that Luzhin’s childhood is dysfunctional, and he suffers dearly from it. And I do not deny that chess provides an escape from a life filled with pain. But I see this as just a side-effect of the situation. It is not the fleeing that is predominant. It is the seeking out the fulfillment of his being as a chess player that is predominant. He is actualizing himself to the fullest of his being. Without doubt, it is a very beneficial side consequence that it also diverts him from the troubles in his life, but it is the side consequence.

In his youth, we see him escaping from his home, going out windows, to go play in a chess tournament that he has been prohibited from entering. He is told that the doctors say playing chess is affecting his mind and making him sick. This is irrelevant to young Luzhin – the passion to play is everthing. Yes there is repulsion involved here – he is repelled by his life circumstances, toward chess. But he goes positively and passionately, not with his head bowed as if in some type of ignominious flight into oblivion.

It is the ATTRACTION that is the main component of his headlong rush to the chess board !!

Luzhin is at his peak in the movie when he is finally happy in life, and passionately living his chess being.

The dilemma begins, when he must choose between life and chess. It is then that we see the extent to which chess is his breath, blood and heart !!

And the movie raises a fundamental question about how we value a life. When are we to say a life has been lost, wasted, frittered away ? When are we to say that a life has achieved its apex, has actualized the principal element of its being ? The movie leaves the question hanging, but I think makes its definitive statement on this in the last scene !

Definitely, in my opinion, a must-see movie, for those who are victims to the chess addiction !

Cohen Takes Us to Many (6) Chess Movies

Chess Movie Review #3

Written and Copyright 2002 by David Cohen
(Organizer of the 2001 Canadian Women's Closed, and former CFC Women's Coordinator)

For my third and final installment in this series, I present a roundup of six movies that are of interest to Canadian chess players. Most can still be rented from your local video store; the first four are suitable for children.

1. Searching for Bobby Fischer, 1993

This movie is the real life story of the young Joshua Waitzkin. It is an account of his 1986 battle with Jeff Sarwer of Ottawa for the U.S. National Elementary Championship, Primary Section, Individual title. The movie, filmed partially at Upper Canada College in Toronto, features many cameos by New York chess players. For some enjoyable, in-depth chess reading, try 'Chess Gladiator' by Asa Hoffman, one of the players in the movie who was portrayed by an actor. Note that the movie's ending is fictional. Read the excellent book by Fred Waitzkin for the true account of how the competition ended. I highly recommend this movie, possibly the most famous chess movie of all time. Children who enter chess competitions, as well as their parents, must see it.

2. Geri's Game, 1997

This brief animated movie shows a geriatric fellow who can't get a chess game in the park, so he plays himself. A wonderful little movie with outstanding animation, it won for Pixar the Academy Award for Best Animated Short. It's available on the video of "A Bug's Life". Geri's character re-appears in Toy Story 2, 1999. I highly recommend this movie (as well as the other two!) for all who are young at heart.

3. X-Men, 2000

This live action movie of the Marvel comic book super-heroes with extra, mutant derived powers was mostly filmed in Toronto. The final meeting between the leader of the good guys, Professor X, and the leader of the bad guys, Magneto, takes place over a chess game. The chess position was designed by Ottawa IM Tom O'Donnell to match the discussion and action of the players. As Tom tells the story, he showed up at the set with an armful of chess books, ready to re-create any famous position from chess history.

When none of them proved satisfactory, the director explained the arm movements that he wanted the players to make. For example, the director wanted one player to make a reaching motion towards the other player. From this description, Tom invented a position requiring a long rook move up the board. The resulting scene works very well.

4. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, 2001

Wizard chess, in which the young sorcerers move the pieces around the board by mental effort, is twice featured in this excellent movie. The first battle takes place on an ordinary board; the second is the penultimate battle of the movie and takes place with life-size pieces on a huge board. The chess elements are all accurate and well done.

5. Doctor Zhivago, 1965

David Lean's depiction of the Russian Revolution is an outstanding movie achievement that took two years to film, mostly in Spain. The poetic part of Zhivago, and the romantic elements of Boris Pasternak's novel, are based on the married author's affair. According to IM Lawrence Day, Pasternak modelled the doctor part of Zhivago on Feodor Bohatirchuk, a Ukrainian radiologist. Zhivago carries on his work as a doctor whenever he is needed, regardless of which side in the war he is helping. Bohatirchuk was director of a medical research institute in Kiev; when the Nazis captured his city, he continued his research under their orders. After the war, he emigrated to Canada. USSR co-champion in 1927, he earned the IM title in 1954 and the Correspondence IM title in 1967.

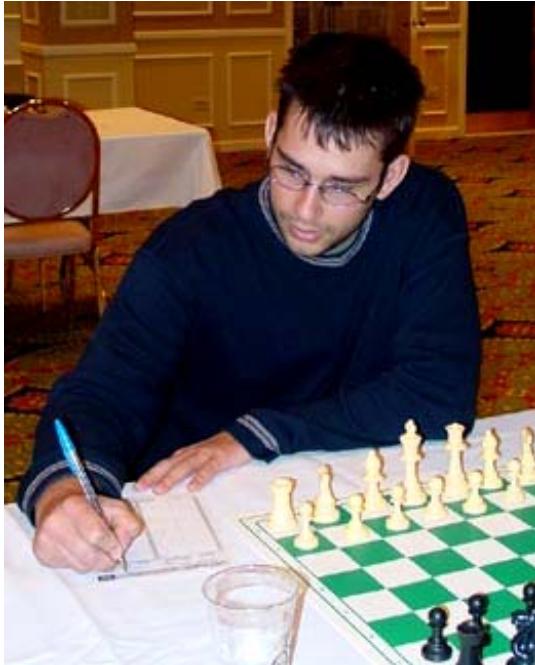
6. Moscow on the Hudson, 1984

Starring Robin Williams, this movie is supposedly based on IM Igor Ivanov's defection from the USSR to Canada.

I hope you enjoyed this series, and I'm sure you'll enjoy watching many of the movies that I've reviewed for you.

The SCTCN&V “ Know Your Chess Players “ Contest

Do you recognize this now world famous chess player ? (Answer in next Issue !)



SCC GETS NEW HOME !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SCC has suffered having to move a number of times since the amalgamation of the City of Toronto. But even before the high school cafeteria rates skyrocketed because of this, the Wexford Collegiate Institute was randomly pulling our permit, often at the last minute, sometimes when notice to members was hardly possible. Even when we did find a home, thanks to the support of the Wexford Seniors Centre, we were forced out of the centre a number of times for various reasons (room needed for other events, flu quarantine, basement renovations, etc.) And each time we were forced back into Wexford Collegiate Institute, with their exorbitant rates. We are not a wealthy club and could ill afford it.

The renovations in the Seniors' Centre started right at the beginning of the Fall, and we had to move back into the school for the Fall of 2001. According to Bryan, we could not get a straight answer from the Seniors Centre, when renovations dragged on throughout the winter, when the renos would be complete, and even whether we were going to be allowed back in. At the school, as time dragged on, we had to cut our hours, and cancel our Sunday meetings altogether, because of the financial burden. It's amazing SCC is still staggering forward, and doing it rather well we'd say.

Well, we have finally found a reasonable new home – a home where we will have a secure occupancy permit, which will not be able to be pulled on us anymore!!! At a SCC Special General Meeting of All Members , held Thurs., March 21, 73% of those present and voting, passed a motion that we move to the new location.

Our new schedule is :

1. The Executive Committee will arrange to move our equipment cabinet over to the new place early in the week of April 7; the normal Tues. meetings of April 2 & 9 at the highschool are cancelled.
2. Thursday April 11 - We move in for our first meeting. It opens at 6:45, with Rounds @ 7:00 PM, to 11:00 PM.
3. Tues., April 16 - 6:45 PM to 11:00 PM ;
4. the third Thursday of each month (here, April 18), we do NOT have a meeting, since at the moment another group has it reserved that night;
5. Sun. April 21 - 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM .
6. and three meetings per week thereafter on the same schedule (with the exception that we do not get it the THIRD THURSDAY of each month)

We get the preferred community non-profit organization rate of only \$ 10/hr.. We have access to kitchen facilities. It is air conditioned. The auditorium we are renting can comfortably hold 150 players !

It is not perfect – but, then, what is in life ?? But it is thought by those who have seen it, to be the best space we've ever had for SCC in our 42 year history (we admit we don't still have many members who have been with the club for 42 years, but we have some !!) So come on out and see our new space. You can just walk in and tell reception you're from the chess club, and you want quietly to just look at the auditorium, without bothering whoever may be there at the time. The staff are remarkably friendly. Kyla Brown, the recreationist (who plays social chess herself, and learned when she was younger), and Dave, in charge of maintenance, were particularly helpful during negotiations to get the site. So come on out and see it, and then show up for the brand new Swiss starting Thurs. April 11, at our new digs !!!

Oh, did I forget to mention where it was ? Silly me ! Just too excited I guess. It's the auditorium in the **Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse**, 373 Cedarvale Avenue, East York (reception – 416-396-2843). This is one block east of Woodbine , north off Cosburn Ave.. There is a large complex with clubhouse, skating arena and outside swimming pool. There is a small parking lot beside the arena, and a very large one opposite the swimming pool. By public transit you have a choice : coming from the east, take the Cosburn West bus out of the Main St. Subway station (5 min. and a stop right beside the arena); coming from the West, take the Woodbine bus north (5 min. to Cosburn, and then walk east 2 min. to the Clubhouse). Though in east Toronto, it's still very central, so we hope to start attracting more new and revived members from all over Toronto.

Regular Adult Membership for one year - \$ 100; discounts available for juniors, seniors, women, and subsequent family members !! Great playing conditions. Well run. Come out and take a look; you may like what you see, and decide to stay for many years !!

SCC 2001/2 Club Championship Concludes !

Our club championship started Nov.1, 2001. It was divided into 2 sections. The Championship section was an 11 player, 10 round round-robin. The second section, the Reserves, was a 9 round swiss.

The Club Champion for this year is junior Allan CAI, who scored 6.5/10 pts. Congratulations Allan !! Coming 2nd through 4th were : Angel CADAMOV, Ismail IBRAHIM, and Bryan LAMB, each with 6/10 pts.

The Reserves Swiss of 23 players was won by returning member Michael Sharpe – congratulations Michael.

We expect the tournament to be submitted for rating shortly, after some technicalities are ironed out.

Everyone had a good time, and there were lots of hotly-contested encounters !

“Spotlight “ on Top GTA Juniors

We interrupted our series this Issue, in order to give full coverage to the 2002 Canadian Closed / Zonal. But we will continue with the 7th part of our series next Issue. The junior being highlighted ? IM Mark Bluvshstein – be sure not to miss it !

A – Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, at bobarm@sympatico.ca ,or through SCC e-mail, to :

6. Be added to the free e-mail list; 2. Submit content (fact, opinion, criticism, recommendations!).
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.