

# **Scarborough Community of Toronto**

## **Chess News & Views**

Newsletter of / Le Journal de  
**Scarborough Chess Club**

### **“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”**

*ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS*

**Issue # 16 – April 15, 2002**

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

#### **GTA Juniors : Part of Canada's Present & Future ( Part 7 )** **“ Spotlight “ on Mark Bluvshtein !**

##### **Introduction**

This is the seventh article in the series highlighting GTA Juniors. Today we review the chess career of 13 year old Mark Bluvshtein, and 4 of his games.

##### **Mark's Progress and Successes**

Mark was born on April 20, 1988, in Yaroslavl, Russia, approx. 300 km. north of Moscow ( he turns 14 years old in 5 days – Happy Birthday ! ). He learned to play chess in Russia when he was 5 years old. Shortly thereafter, in 1993, he and his family moved to Israel. There he joined the biggest chess club in the city of Haifa.

When he was 7 years old, Mark played in Israel in his first rated tournament. At the age of 10 years old, he became the Israeli Under 10 Champion. Subsequently, he also became the Israeli Under 12 Champion ( with an amazing score of 8/9 pts. ). He sort of developed a rivalry with another very strong young Israeli, Leonid Gerzhoy, and there was much debate about which of them was in fact the better player. He feels he has been fortunate to have had some of the best coaches in the world.

In 1999, when Mark was 11 years old, he and his family came to Canada from Israel. In Canada, Mark got his first rating from the August Summer Open '99 ( U 2100 ), where he received a rating of 2178. While still 11 years old, he pushed his rating into the Master Class ( Over 2200 ) in the October Fall Open '99, ending up with 2263 ( he had the unbelievable performance rating that tournament of 2717 !!! ).

His first active rating was from the DC New Millennium Saturday Active'00, which saw him achieve a good master rating of 2382!

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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 )

In the March 2000 Toronto Class Championships ( Master Section ), his regular rating went over 2300, to 2310. His rating then plateaued for a year in the 2300 and just below range, until the 2001 Canadian Closed Championship in August. Here he put on a determined effort and finished third/fourth, behind the 2 Canadian GM's, Alexandre Le Siege and Kevin Spraggett. For his effort, he not only raised his rating to 2333, but obtained the title of International Master !!

In January 2002, he was invited to play in the Montreal CMA International Futurity Tournament. It was a FIDE category 3 tournament, with average rating of 2312. Mark made a fine showing in a strong field. He came clear third behind the winner, IM Jean Hebert, from Quebec, and a Russian GM in second. His rating went to his peak rating so far of 2382.

We wish Mark luck in continuing to raise his master rating, and one day soon, push it over the 2400 milestone ! And start gathering those GM norms !

Mark is now ranked #1 in the list of top juniors ( mixed ) in Canada ( Under 14 years old ).

Mark has added to his substantial international experience since coming to Canada. He has played in an international tournament in England, and is currently in the GM Group in a tournament in Norway. As well, he has represented Canada in the 2001 World Youth Chess Festival championships ( Under 14 ). He made the amazing result of placing 8<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> in Oropesa del Mar, Spain, in October 2001 ( we have below one of his games from those championships ). If he were to play again this year in the CYCC, and come first, and again represent Canada, he will head for the island of Crete, Greece, where the 2002 WYCF is being held. His closest competitors in this age group will be Thomas Roussel-Roozmon ( # 2 – 2182 ), from Quebec, and Sebastian Predescu ( # 3 – 2085 ), from Ottawa.

Congratulations Mark, and we look forward to seeing you rise up through the Master Class !!

### **On With the Games !**

#### **[ Note :**

SCTCN&V, as a service to its readers, attaches to the cover e-mail accompanying this newsletter:

1. a database in .pgn format ( this Issue, MarkAnn.pgn ) : It contains the annotated games in the text of this newsletter ! ( There may be minor variations between this database and the newsletter, due to newsletter text amendments, after the databases were created.) You need only open the attachment, and spend a few minutes clicking through these interesting junior games, and the full annotations ! We make your life easier. Enjoy !

2. a second database ( Mark.pgn ) : It contains Mark's games, but unannotated.

The main purpose of this is that some readers prefer to first play the games over unannotated, and to annotate them themselves. Then they look at the database annotations ( human & computer ).

The second reason we do this is to make the games easily available to those who may not have a chess program that uses a .pgn database, but do have a " chess game

reader “ ( many are free off the internet ). Annotations are a problem for “ readers “, unless they are properly set up in the database ( or in the main newsletter text ). And different readers have different requirements. So, for those of you who only have “ readers “, you will be able to enter and play over the unannotated game, following the annotations set out in the main text of the newsletter !! This gets those readers, with “ readers “, part way home anyway. We have some techies volunteering time to the newsletter, to see if we can find an acceptable way of getting those of you with only “ readers “, the annotations as well. Stay posted... but in the meantime, you have the main game to play over !!

**P.S. : SCTCN&V Junior Database** - we have the database of all junior games that have appeared in our series, since Jan. 1, 2002, annotated, in .pgn format. Simply contact the editor by e-mail, and request it if you would like it sent to you. ]

### **Mark Bluvshtein (2330) – Irwin Lipnowski (2303)**

Canadian Open, New Brunswick, July, 2001

*[ Notes by Mark Bluvshtein]*

#### **E11**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+**

[ I wasn't prepared for this, but was happy he did this, because I like the position I got, and after this game he told me he doesn't like those positions.]

#### **4.Nbd2**

[ Could have gone for the Nimzo Indian, but he plays a lot of stupid variations, I decided to go to boring chess.]

**4...0-0 5.a3 Bxd2+ 6.Bxd2 d6 7.Bg5**

[ Got that diagonal, now I just have to make him some more weaknesses, which I did.]

**7...Nbd7 8.e3 Re8 9.Be2 Qe7 10.0-0 b6?!**

[10...e5!? He has to start something fast, now he is about to push e4, still better for me, but this gives him some game.]

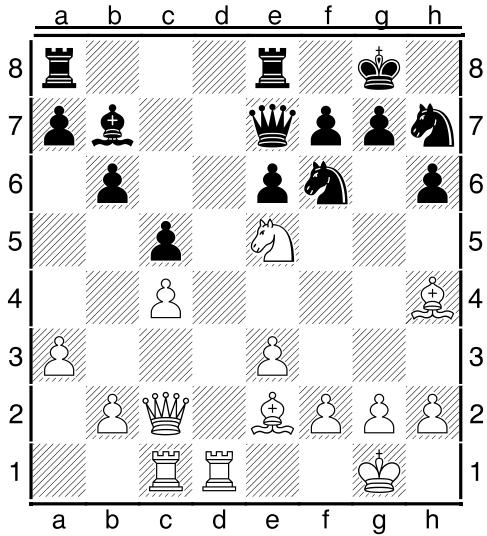
**11.Rc1 Bb7 12.Qc2 c5 13.Rfd1 Nf8 14.dxc5 dxc5**

[ I had a very similar game the tournament before, but there I played very stupidly, still won, but I knew how to play, so I didn't waste too much time on thinking. ]

**15.Ne5 h6 16.Bh4**

[ His position is pretty stupid!!! g5 might be the best chance! he just blundered a Queen and I easily beat him in the endgame.]

**16...N8h7**



Position after 16....N8h7

What is Mark's winning move in this position ?

**17.Rd7 Nxd7 18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Nxd7 Rxd7 20.Rd1 Rad8 21.Rxd7 Rxd7 22.Bf3 Bxf3 23.gxf3**

1-0

### Mark Bluvshtein (2303) – Ronak Kapadia (2150)

Canadian Open, New Brunswick, July, 2001  
*[ Notes by Mark Bluvshtein ]*

**D31**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6**

[ I wasn't ready for this, I expected dc, but I was happy he played this, because he is a tactical player. ]

**3.Nc3 c6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4 Bd6 6.Bxd6 Qxd6 7.e3 Nf6**

[7...Bf5 8.g4!? I beat some 2150 easily a couple of weeks before, but I never saw anyone play Nf6.]

**8.Bd3 Bg4?!**

[ A stupid move without a point, helping me play h3, after which g4 is dangerous! ]

**9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.h3 Be6 11.Nge2 a6 12.Nf4 c5 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.0-0**

[ An isolated pawn, better for me, because his dangerous Bishop is no longer alive, and now I couldn't believe how bad he started playing.]

**14...0-0 15.Rfd1**

[ Just getting some pressure on d5, his next move was as stupid as it gets!]

**15...Nxd3??**

[ you can see he doesn't understand anything about chess, exchange that perfect knight, but my dumb bishop! and now his dark squares are dead meat... man... never thought a player over 1900 will do this, oh well, I felt good after this...]

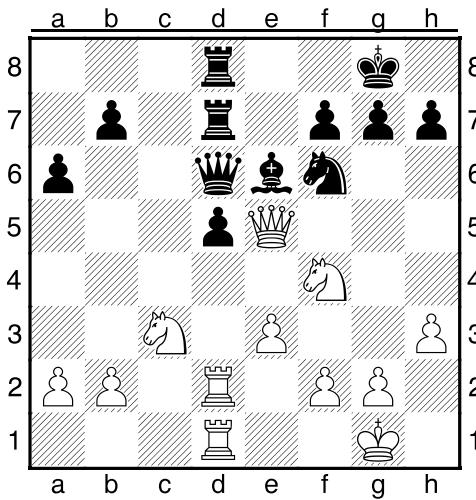
**16.Qxd3 Rfd8 17.Rd2 Qe7 18.Rad1**

[ I am tripled on the d file, positionally winning now.]

**18...Rd7 19.Qd4 Rad8 20.Qe5 Qd6??**

[ Blunders a pawn right away! 20...Kf8!! Only way to save the pawn, but still much better after I get g4! 21.g4!?]

Position after 20....Qd6??  
How does Mark win Bl.'s dP ?

**21.Qxd6 Rxd6 22.e4 R6d7**

[22...d4 23.e5 (23.Nxe6!! fxe6 24.e5 R6d7 25.exf6+-) 23...R6d7 24.Nxe6 dxc3 25.Nxd8 Rxd2+-]

**23.exd5 g5 24.Nd3 Bf5**

[24...Nxd5 25.Nc5 Nxc3 26.Nxd7 Nxd1 27.Nf6+ Kg7 28.Rxd8 Nxb2 29.Nd5 Should be winning for white, though not so easy.; 24...Bxd5 25.Nc5 Rd6 26.Nxb7+-]

**25.g4 Bxd3 26.Rxd3 b5 27.a3**

[ Now his pawns on the Q-side can't move, but it's not so easy to break through, I tried pushing f4... it worked, but if he would have played well it wouldn't be so easy...]

**27...Rd6 28.Kg2 Kg7 29.f4 gxf4 30.Kf3 a5??**

[30...h5!! 31.Kxf4!? hxg4 32.hxg4 Hard to do anything as black...]

**31.Nxb5 Rxd5 32.Rxd5 Rxd5 33.Rxd5 Nxd5 34.Nc3 Ne3 35.Kxf4 Nc4 36.b4**

[ all forced after a5... He didn't play well... but I showed nothing either... just crushed him slowly...]

## **Mark Bluvshtein – Amin Bassem**

World Youth Chess Festival Championship, October, 2001  
[Notes by Mark Bluvshtein]

**D35**

**1.d4**

[ Didn't feel like playing e4 in this tournament, decided to surprise everybody! ]

**1...d5 2.c4 e6 3.cxd5**

[ Worked 4 times in the tournament! This is one of the safer and easier games for me in Spain, against a not so weak player.]

**3...exd5 4.Nc3 Nf6**

[4...c6! 5.Qc2 g6]

**5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 Bf5**

[ Surprised me terribly with this quick move. After I thought for a couple of minutes, after running out the first five moves, he went all red all of a sudden.]

**7.Bxf6!?**

[ This is a must, so that the d5 pawn is weak.]

**7...gxf6?**

[7...Bxf6 8.Qb3+-]

**8.Bd3!?**

[ It's not so easy to understand if this move is good or bad. I decided not to play for the pawn, and play positionally. He has the weak square of f5 now, and doubled pawns. His king is very unsafe.]

**8...Bxd3?**

[8...Be6 9.Nge2; 8...Bc8 9.Nge2 c6 Only chance for black!]

**9.Qxd3 c6**

[ A must make move, which he should have done on the 6th move.]

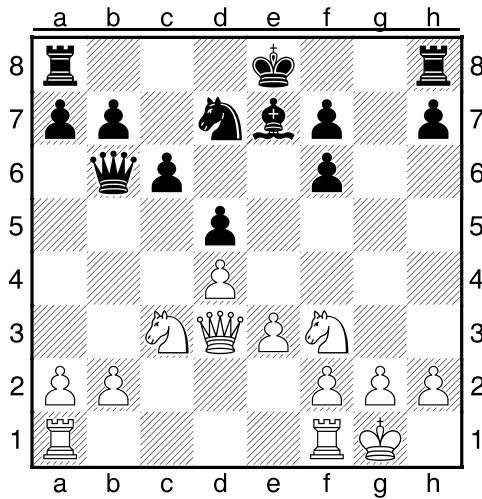
**10.Nf3**

[ My position is now positionally winning. My knight is getting to f5, or I can make the e4 breakthrough, one or the other, I am clearly winning.]

**10...Nd7 11.0-0 Qb6**

[ At least attacking the pawn, castling King side is for sure not safe, as the pawns are doubled. 11...Qc7 12.e4!+-; 11...0-0 12.Nh4 Re8 13.Nf5 Nf8 14.f4!? (14.e4!? Either one is easily winning, because soon enough the rooks will help with the attack.) ]

Position after 11....Qb6  
 What does Mark do now to get a “ winning “ advantage ?



**12.e4 dxe4 13.Qxe4**

[ Not letting black castle at any cost, now black is forced to lose.]

**13...Qxb2**

[13...Kf8 14.Nh4 Qxb2 15.Nf5 Re8 16.Rae1 Qb4 17.Qf4 (17.Qg4 Rg8 18.Qh4+-) ; 13...Kd8 14.Rfe1+- Easily converting to a win.]

**14.Rae1 Qb4 15.Re3!!**

[ Rb1, Rfe1, and Nh4 are all threats! ]

**15...f5 16.Qxf5**

[ I of course took the pawn back. The number of pawns is equal, but I have an attack! ]

**16...0-0-0 17.Ne5+-**

[ Nxf7 and/or Rb1 is unstoppable.]

1-0

### Mark Bluvshtein (2333) - Branimir Vujic (2320)

Dutton Chess, March, 2001

[Notes by Mark Bluvshtein]

**C00**

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Bd3**

[I just play this variation for fun... and white gets an advantage in all variations except one... and he doesn't really have too much choice here...]

**3...Nf6**

[3...dxe4 4.Bxe4 Nf6 5.Bf3 c5 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Ne2 e5!! 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.c3 cxd4 10.cxd4 exd4 11.Qxd4 Qxd4 12.Nxd4 This is unclear.... all other variations after Bd3 are better for white (Bluvstein–Vaingorten 1-0 Montreal 2000)]

**4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nf3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.0-0 Qb6 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qe2?!**

[ I should of just played b4! and then Qe2!!! and then white is almost winning!]

**9...a5 10.Bf4 h6 11.b3**

[ I am trying to develop my Knight, this has been played before...]

**11...Qc7 12.Re1 b6 13.Nbd2 Ba3**

[ Blocking a3, b4... ]

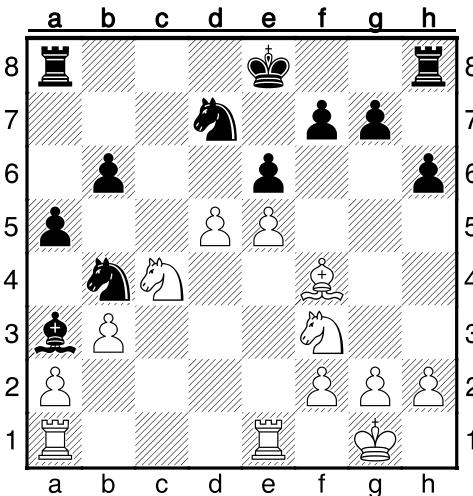
**14.c4 Ba6 15.cxd5 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 Nb4**

[ A very unclear position, I was lucky my opponent was on drugs or something... never seen him play that bad... ]

**17.Qc4 Qxc4??**

[17...Nxd5!! 18.Qxc7 Nxc7 19.Nc4 Be7 20.Be3∞ This should be a bit better for white... but very unclear...]

**18.Nxc4**



Position after 18.Nxc4

What should Bl. play to maintain the status quo ( +/- )

**18..Nc2**

[18...Nxd5! 19.Bxh6!! Rxh6 20.Nxa3 +/- White is up a pawn here... but this is better than what happened in the game!]

**19.dxe6 fxe6 20.Nxa3 Nxa3 21.Red1**

[ He is just lost here... no more comments are needed...]

**21...0-0-0 22.Rac1+ Kb7 23.Rd6 g5 24.Be3 g4 25.Rcd1 Kc7 26.Nd4 Nxe5 27.Nxe6+**

**1-0**

### **Backgrounder**

This is an SCTCN&V series on the top GTA juniors, such as Mark ( We have previously featured Alina Sviridovitch, Hazel Smith, David Hier, Shiyam Thavandiran, Irakli Vadachkoriya and Nikolay Noritsyn ). Unfortunately, we can only “ spotlight “ so many juniors in our series – some other deserving ones may not be reached. But we hope the highlighting of our GTA junior talent will encourage all juniors in the GTA to love the game, and continue to improve. We hope they all, and our adult readers, enjoy the series.

We are giving only a very short personal resume of the junior’s accomplishments. We prefer to let their games speak for them ! We’ve tried to choose an interesting collection of 4 games, that show their style, positional ability, tactical ability, etc..

And it shows the maturity of our juniors that they consent on occasion to have us use a game they LOST, when they had good wins to offer. They understand that a “ lost “ game is not necessarily by any means one of their “ bad “ games. And they agree in order to give the readers entertaining games to play over. For example, in one Issue Nikolay Noritsyn consented to us using a game which was exceptionally exciting, both positionally and tactically, but which he lost against another GTA junior, Gaja Srinivasan, in one of the Toronto weekend tournaments.

We have tried to limit the annotations, because of the nature of the newsletter, not too successfully, to about 15 key points in the game. We make no pretense to GM analysis. Yours truly (computer-enhanced ), the odd volunteer, some juniors, some juniors’ victims, are merely annotating to make the games a bit more interesting reading. It is more to highlight something about the junior’s style, rather than to be the last word on theoretical analysis of the position . However, the annotations are of good quality ; we think you will notice this if you play the annotation lines over in the games database accompanying this newsletter; you might even pair off our human/computer annotations against you and your computer’s best efforts ). We especially thank Mark for annotating each of his four games for this Issue, and for providing the article voluntarily, without cost ( as an IM, he now has every right to earn something from his chess articles ).

We hope you are enjoying our line-up of junior games. We hope our series contributes to GTA juniors’ enjoyment of chess, and provides some encouragement for them to continue to improve their chess.

## **The SCTCN&V “ Know Your Chess Players “ Contest**

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



( from ChessBase website )

[ Answer to identity of our chess celebrity in our last Issue # 15, of April 1 – IM Pascal Charbonneau, 2002 / 3 Canadian Champion ]

## **2002 Toronto Seniors’ Tournament**

Chris Takov



Ted Termeer

Bob Armstrong

## **SCC Players Play in Weekend Tournaments**

March 2&3, 2002 saw a number of members troop off to a local Toronto weekend tournament, the 2002 Toronto Seniors Championship. It was five rounds on the two days at a relatively fast time control. The premises where it was held are luxurious and the atmosphere was very friendly and congenial. A good time for all !

( photo courtesy of SCC member and tournament organizer,  
Wilf Ferner )

## **Scarborough C C Sponsors New Weekend Swiss Format ( May 31 – June 2 )!**

Last month, the SCC Executive was approached by a new chess organizing company, N-P Chess Organizing, to sponsor a tournament, with some different elements than are usually seen in Toronto weekend swisses. This new company is SCC – based, being composed of 3 members of SCC ( Andrew Philip, Ismail Ibrahim and Bob Armstrong ).

One substantial new aspect is the very low **\$ 30 regular registration fee**. Another is the participation of individual sponsor/guarantors. These are again 4 SCC members : Ted Termeer, SCC VP, , Ismail Ibrahim, SCC Treasurer, Andrew Philip and Bob Armstrong ). The TD for the tournament is SCC President, Bryan Lamb.

The tournament site is the new home of the Scarborough Chess Club. The tournament will help to promote SCC. Therefore, SCC agreed to become a sponsor, by renting the space in the Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse, and making it available to the non-profit, N-P Chess Organizing, for their May 31, June 1 and June 2 " Love of the Game " Open.

The " **Question and Answer Sheet** " on the tournament ( developed by N-P Chess Organizing ) is set out below :

### **" Love of the Game " Open '02 – Fri. May 31, Sat. June 2, Sun. June 3.**

373 Cedarvale Ave, East York ( one block east of the Woodbine Ave./Cosburn Ave. intersection ) – direct inquiries to [bobarm@sympatico.ca](mailto:bobarm@sympatico.ca)

#### **Questions & Answers**

##### **1. What is the registration fee, and why is it so low ?**

The low registration fee of \$ 30 is to make this tournament attractive and affordable to more players including those who do not generally play in Toronto weekend tournaments, or OTB in local chess clubs. New players will " graduate " to regular weekend tournaments, and to joining chess clubs that run CFC-rated OTB tournaments.

##### **2. What are the sections ?**

Open – any rating  
Intermediate : 2099 – 1800  
Up & Come'ers/ Unrated : Under 1800

( unrated players may only win a prize in the Open section, or the unrated prize in the bottom section )

### **3. Why are the sections divided this way ?**

It gives ranges that will allow for approximately equal registrations in each section, so prizes will be relatively equal ( except for the \$ 400 Guaranteed Open 1st Prize ). It is based on a breakdown of players in the last month's Toronto Open. It also minimizes the number of Prizes ( only 1st and 2nd ). With a \$ 30 registration fee, we hope people will play more " for the love of the game ", and less for \$ prizes ( though we still are trying to provide them as well ).

### **4. What will be the total prize money per section ?**

The registration fees , after expenses, STAY IN THE SECTION. So the percentage of the prize fund for a section will correspond to the % of players in a section in relation to the total number of players. The prize fund will be very modest, given the low \$ 30 registration fee. If there was a significantly larger turnout in the U 1800 section, they could conceivably end up with the biggest prize fund pool.

### **5. Are there any " Guaranteed " Prizes ? Why ?**

Yes; the Open Section 1st Prize is guaranteed at \$ 400. This is some recognition of the time and effort these top players put on their game, and results they have achieved. Also, it was felt necessary to attract top players who are more used to having an opportunity to win larger prizes in open sections. Titled players do receive free entry. There is no guaranteed % of registration fees for prizes, given the low entry fee and expenses to be covered.

### **6. Are there any registration fee discounts ?**

Yes; \$ 5 off the exceptionally low normal registration fee of only \$ 30 for : juniors ( 18 years or under ); seniors ( 65 years or over ); [ both as of May 30, 2002 ] ; women; 2nd and subsequent family members. Only one discount per person. Also titled players are free : GM, IM, FM, WGM, WIM, WFM.

### **7. Who is the " Organizer " for this tournament ?**

The organizer is a new, non-profit company called N-P Chess Organizing. It consists of 3 individual organizers ( Ismail Ibrahim, Andrew Philip & Bob Armstrong [ all SCC Members ] ). Each of them will work to make sure the tournament is set up properly and runs smoothly on site- each receives a \$ 25 Honorarium for the 32 hours of tournament time, all preparatory time, and the responsibility. There should be some token \$ recognition of their effort ( covers their lunch money ! ).

## **8. What is a " Sponsor/Guarantor " ?**

There are 4 : Ted Termeer, SCC V-P, and Philip, Ibrahim and Armstrong ( all SCC Members ) – each has contributed \$ 250 to a " guarantee pool ". This \$ 1,000 pool may be drawn on to the extent necessary by the tournament, depending on turnout. They could lose money if the tournament turnout is really low. It is from this pool that the Open section will have its prize fund sufficiently " topped up " to reach the \$ 400 1st prize guarantee. If any money is left over in the guarantor pool after the tournament, it is given back, equally to them. This is a return of their own funds. They will get a \$ 25 Honorarium for taking this risk for the chess community, in order to have a tournament like this happen , with low registration fee of \$ 30. They stand to make no profit on this tournament.

## **9. Are there any other " Sponsors " ?**

Yes; there is currently one " Group Sponsor " : SCC. It has rented the space, and is donating the space to the non-profit organizing company. The second sponsor is hoped to be the GTCL, who we want to formally " endorse " the tournament. We want them to donate a \$ 50 prize for the top Junior. N-P Chess Organizing will donate out of the registration fees, \$ 1 / player to the GTCL Scholarship Fund for Juniors. A motion to this effect is being brought before the GTCL Annual General Meeting at DCC on April 22.

## **10. Who is the TD for this event ?**

Bryan Lamb, president of SCC. He has done a lot of organizing – large tournaments, youth tournaments, the SCC Scarborough Active Series for 3 years, etc. He is best known, in Toronto, for being the TD the last few years for the Sept. Macedonian Labour Day Open . He will be paid the modest amount of \$ 5 / hour, for 32 hours work, which equals \$ 160.

## **12. How big is the playing hall at Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse Auditorium?**

It is quite spacious and has comfortably seated 150 people. They have sufficient table and chairs, so there has been no equipment rental cost . It is air-conditioned and bright, with good lighting.

## **13. Has a tournament ever been held there before?**

No - It is the new home of the Scarborough Chess Club, who started meeting there on April 11. SCC is pleased with the facility, and believes it is a fine tournament site.

#### **14. Will there be a concession stand ?**

Yes; the facility provides the use of the kitchen free – refrigerator, microwave, oven, etc. N-P Chess Organizing is contracting out the concession booth to SCC, who will retain for the club, any profits earned through the concession booth. N-P Chess Organizing makes no money from concessions.

N-P Chess Organizing ( 02/04/15 )

#### **Official April 2002 FIDE Rating List**

The situation remains with only two players over 2800 – Garry Kasparov ( Russia ), 13<sup>th</sup> FIDE World Champion ( #1 at 2838 – unchanged since July 2001 ) and Vladimir Kramnik ( Russia ), 2000 BrainGamesNetwork World Champion ( # 2 at 2809 – unchanged since Oct. 2001 ).

There are still 11 players in the 2700's as on the Jan. 2002 list. But some new faces have now jumped into the top 5 2700's : # 3 at 2752 is Viswanathan Anand ( India ), 2000 FIDE World Champion; #4 at 2745 is Veselin Topalov ( Bulgaria ); #5 at 2744 is Michael Adams ( England ); # 6 , only 2 pts. out of 4<sup>th</sup> place, at 2743, is the new 2001/2 FIDE World Champion, 18 year old Ruslan Ponomariov ( Ukraine ) [ he is one of SCTCN&V's 3 " terrible '83'er's " ( we've been watching them for a while now ) – only 18 years old on Jan. 1, 2002, and up and comers ]; # 7 at 2724 is the winner of the 2002 Corus Wijk aan Zee tournament in Jan., Evgeny Bareev ( Russia ). Peter Leko ( Hungary ), who is currently leading the 2002 FIDE Rapid Grand Prix, is # 11 at 2707.

At # 13 now, at 2702, is another SCTCN&V " terrible '83'er ", Alexander Grischuk ( Russia ); he recently just missed winning the first Dubai tournament of the FIDE Grand Prix, when he lost the last blitz tie-breaking game on time to Leko ( See report below ). 1999 FIDE World Champion, Alexander Khalifman ( Russia ) has jumped from # 18 up to # 14, at 2698. 12<sup>th</sup> FIDE World Champion, Anatoly Karpov ( Russia ), has moved up to # 15 at 2690. Judit Polgar, the world's strongest female player, has moved back up into the top 20, holding down # 20 at 2677.

The third " terrible '83'er " we've been watching, Etienne Bacrot ( France ), has moved up from # 41 to # 35, at 2653. We'd like to add now to our " SCTCN&V Watch List ", two more names : the young new Spanish star, who acquitted himself quite well in the recent Linares tournament, Francisco Vallejo Pons, at # 48 at 2638; Teimour Radjabov, the young 14-year old GM from Azerbaijan, at # 81 at 2610. Let's follow them, along with our " terrible '83'er's ", and see where they go ! The # 100 player was rated 2598, up from the previous 2596.

The highest FIDE-rated Canadian is 2001 Canadian Closed Champion, Alexandre Le Siege, at 2584, up from 2572.

## **2002 FIDE Rapid Grand Prix World Cup - # 1 Tournament – Dubai**

In order to try to give chess a higher profile, and to give the top chessplayers another opportunity to earn some money at their profession this year, FIDE has developed a 5 tournament circuit for 32 top designated players. The event is a knockout, but losers continue to play on to determine their exact finishing spot. The first 2 games are at 25 min., with 10 sec. increments ( sidenote : when FIDE first ran " rapid " tournaments, they were going to be " active " tournaments, at 30 min.; but for TV purposes, to get it into the  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour slot, they had to shorten it initially to 25 min.; this is why they are called " rapid ", and not " active " ( our Can. 30 min. tournaments ). If needed, there are then 2 playoff games at 5 min., with 10 sec. increments. For the final " sudden death " game, if needed, black gets draw odds and 4 min., and white gets 5 min.

The first tournament was held at Dubai on April 3 – 8, 2002. The future 4 tournament sites and dates are : Moscow, Russia – May 12-19; Bangalore or Bombay, India – July 9 – 16; Dubrovnik, Croatia – Aug. 2-9 ( TBC ); Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – Sept. 9-16.

The players, depending on their final placing, earn " ranking points " from tournament to tournament on some complicated formula. So, not only are there the tournament prizes, but there is a prize for the final Grand Prix winner, who, at the end, has the most number of ranking points ( s/he must have played in a certain min. no. of Grand Prix events ).

The United Arab Emirates Dubai Grand Prix was won by Peter Leko ( Hungary ), as mentioned earlier. He received a first prize of US \$ 43,200. He defeated Grischuk ( Russia ) in a final blitz game as also mentioned above, who won US \$ 22,800. One of the highlights of the knockout, was the victory by the 2002 Women's World Champion, 25 year old Zhu Chen ( China ), over 2002 World Champion, Ruslan Ponomariov ( Ukraine ), 1:5 - .5 !! We think this is the first time the women's champion has ever beaten the World Champion ( mixed ) in serious tournament play, or maybe ever ! However, she did end up finishing at # 16. The other three in the top 5 were : # 3 – Alexei Shirov ( Spain ), 2000 FIDE World Championship Runner-Up; # 4 – Kiril Georgiev ( Bulgaria ); # 5 – Anatoly Karpov, 12<sup>th</sup> FIDE World Champion.

FIDE had a major crisis on their hands getting this Grand Prix off the ground right at the start. 4 of the top players ( Leko, Shirov, Bareev and Khalifman ) threatened to walk out when informed the prize fund totaled only \$ 125,000, not the announced \$ 500,000. The organizers promptly added in \$ 240,000, and promised to get sponsors for the balance of the \$ 135,000.

After this first leg of the Grand Prix race, Peter Leko leads with 1,176 Grand Prix points, followed by Grischuk with 840 points. It may turn out to be an interesting race to follow. Maybe FIDE has done something right here to promote the game, using " rapid chess ". [ But this doesn't excuse the destruction they're doing to the game of chess at the " classical " time controls, where they've now got the game down to Game / 90 min..]

### **Scarborough " New Home " ( Thurs. ) Swiss '02**

On Thurs., April 11, SCC played for the first time in its new home at Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse in East York. We celebrated by starting round 1 of a brand new Swiss. 21 players registered for the event.

A number of members and past members came out just to check out the new " digs ". One old member came out and renewed ! One new member came out and is ready to join. A good start at our new home.

Remember everyone, we have to skip the third Thursday of each month ( the room is already booked by the " Garden Club " ). So round 2 of this tournament will not be until Thurs. April 25 ! If you missed round 1 and want to play, just show up on April 25, and you'll be given a bye for round 1.

### **Scarborough " New Home " ( Tues. ) Swiss '02**

We are now back to holding a regular slow time tournament on Tuesday evenings. Round 1 will be tomorrow, on Tues., April 16. And in fact, at a meeting of the members on the prior Thurs., it was decided that the club would make this its major tournament night , since there is the problem for the Thurs. tournament of having to skip every third Thurs. of the month. So we expect many of the players who are only playing one evening a week, will switch from the Thurs. tournament, to the Tues. tournament. But we hope there will still be enough players on Thurs. night, to continue our Thurs. night tournaments, as we have in the past. See you tomorrow night for Round 1.

### **Scarborough " New Home " ( Sun. ) Swiss '02**

Unbelievable but true – after all SCC's comings and goings, and having to cancel our weekend Sunday tournament for the past while, it's again back on the rails at our new home. We have the site from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM ! This allows us to go back to 40 moves/ 2 hrs. and Sudden Death/ 30 min., as we used to play. Round 1 will be on Sunday, April 21 !! So tell all your member friends ( and other chess playing friends ) that weekend chess IS BACK AT SCC on Sundays. Hope to see you there to kick-off our new schedule.

### **GTCL 2002/3 AGM – 7:30 PM, Mon. Apr. 22 @ DCC – All Welcome**

A – Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, at [bobarm@sympatico.ca](mailto:bobarm@sympatico.ca) , or through SCC e-mail, to : 1. 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.