

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 # 1 – September 1, 2002

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

SCTCN&V Starts Fourth Year of Publication !!

Can it be true ?? The little club newsletter of Scarborough Chess Club, that began in October 1999 as a one-page bulletin of internal club events posted on the club bulletin board, has continued, expanded, survived and thrived !! We went electronic in the first year, and then added past members to our existing members as subscribers. Next we did a pilot project of non-member subscribers, and the response was so positive, we created a general, free subscriber list of all players in the GTA/Surrounding GTA who wished to receive it. Now, not only do we have subscribers in other cities and provinces, it even has subscribers in a few other countries.

In terms of content, first of all, we added some out-of-club tournament reports (such as coverage of the Canadian results at the Olympics, World Championships, etc.). Then we added some political content (covered controversies at the Ontario Chess Association, CFC, GTCL and FIDE). Next we did a couple of series of articles (whether the Girls' CYCC should be abolished, reviews of chess movies, etc..). Our last addition was to present some chess games (we looked at the best games of many of our top GTA juniors).

In terms of the format of this electronic newsletter, we also made improvements. We changed to a colour masthead for the first page. Then we included the use of photographs we had been able to download off various chess websites. We included diagrams of game positions. One of the most enterprising of additions was the including of game databases as an attachment to the newsletter (each GTA junior highlighted had their 4 annotated games database attached). We got much positive feedback to this convenience of simply opening the database, and being able to click through the exact

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Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Ave.

(one block east of Woodbine Ave./Cosburn Ave. intersection, in former East York)
easy TTC access – 5 min. bus ride from either Woodbine Subway Stn. or Main St. Subway Stn.

games/annotations that were in the main text of the newsletter.

What we do with the newsletter content in the future is anyone's guess? We have tried to make the newsletter very flexible so that we could respond to various ideas as they cropped up. This seems to have served us well. And when we have tried something new, we have still maintained our more traditional content of international and Canadian tournament reports, and Canadian chess political content.

Over the years', we have been pleased to receive your spontaneous positive e-mails to us : praising the newsletter, confirming that it fills a valuable role, especially in reporting on GTA matters which are not covered elsewhere, and advising that you enjoy receiving it. Thanks to all for their encouragement, and we hope we are able to maintain your interest and support in our coming fourth (!) year of publication.

CFC New Year Fast Out of the Blocks

Peter Stockhausen and the new CFC Executive have to be given good credit for starting off their new tenure with efficient, timely, and solid steps. A number of good decisions have already been taken, and a couple of improvements announced for the future. On August 15th, 2002, Peter sent out a cumulative update to the Governors highlighting some of the steps taken to date and planned, and seeking feedback. He wrote on the following issues :

1. Doubling the Number of GL's to Monthly -

“ It appears that we will have our first GL by the end of this month. It will describe in detail what happened at the AGM in Montreal. Following that one I hope that with your and in particular Fred McKim's co-operation we will have the GL on a monthly basis. I will also continue to work with David Gebhardt, President of the OCA, Gerry Litchfield and Fred McKim to push ahead with getting our GL in an electronic format on our web site. ”

2. Olympic Teams' Selection Announced -

“ Thanks to the tremendous generosity of Belzberg Technologies we are able to once more send two full teams to the Olympiad. The team members have been picked and we have confirmation from all of them that they will be playing.

National Team

IM Pascal Charbonneau (Canadian Champion)
IGM Alex Le Siege
IGM Kevin Spraggett **
IM Yan Teplitsky
IM Jean Hebert
IM Mark Bluvstein

Women's Team

WIM Nava Starr (Canadian Champion)
Amanda Benggawan
Dinara Khaziyeva
Dina Kagramanov

*** News Flash – Yesterday, Kevin Spraggett announced that he was resigning from the team, for personal reasons. He wanted to be clear he had no argument with any team members, wished them well, and said he hoped to play in the 2004 Olympiad. – Ed.*

Officials

Mr. Sid Belzberg
Mr. Donald W. Wilson
Dr. Marc Ghannoum
Mr. Maurice Smith

Our thanks go to IM Brian Hartman and IM Pascal Charbonneau for working so thoroughly and quickly as the Selection Committee. “

3. Update on Funding for the Two Olympic Teams

“ While the National Team’s funding is secured we still have to raise some funds for the Women’s Team. The total cost for the Women’s Team will be around \$6,000. We have currently in our donation account about \$2,100 and we just received word that the CMA Executive decided to contribute \$500 to the Women’s Team in recognition of the fact that three out of four team members are Juniors. Our thanks go to Larry Bevand and his team. Surely this kind of message should convince the most skeptic that co-operation between our two Organizations is possible. We are still awaiting answers to a couple of letters I sent requesting support for the teams. Please help our cause. “

4 – Fiscal Responsibility & Financial Result (1st Quarter)

“ Our first quarter results show us ahead of budget by \$5,000 on the bottom line. There are still a number of smaller unresolved journal entries and accounts to be cleaned up and variances relating to remittances to Revenue Canada are being addressed. Gerry is looking at every possible cost containment measure and we will also be looking into initiatives to increase our sales for the holiday period in November/December. Bank reconciliations are done faithfully every month and the Financial Statements submitted to the Executive can again be considered accurate. Also our various accounts now actually balance.”

5 – CYCC Motion at AGM – Whether Majority of Governors Support It (Issue of Possible Illegality Not Yet Canvassed) -

“ At the AGM a motion was passed that included a radical change to the set up of our CYCC. The rule change in effect changes the group set up from the previous “Open” and “Girls only” sections to “Boys only” and “Girls only” sections. In other words, a girl is now **prohibited** from playing with the “boys”, even if she so desires.

Given the current gender discussions in our society, this rule change is controversial, to say the least.

And so, I have received quite a number of e-mails from coaches, parents and Governors commenting on this new rule.

What struck me the most is the fact that this Motion passed (legitimately so) without our customary in depth discussion in which ALL Governors have not only the ability to participate but also the opportunity to reflect for some time on the consequences such a change may entail.

(Normally a motion is discussed in two (2) GLs prior to any vote and Governors can see the various pros and cons being debated.) None of this was possible in this case and only eleven Governors were present at the actual AGM.

In order to give ALL Governors a say in this important matter I invite any of you to send me a Motion that rescinds the above rule. This Motion will then appear in the next two (2) GLs for a FULL discussion and subsequent vote. **Obviously if I do not receive a Motion to that effect, the rule change enacted in Montreal will remain in force.**

I will post the above on our web site so that the general membership also has an idea of this issue and how we intend to deal with it. “

(Note : there is in the motion passed, allowance for exceptions to be made by the Executive; the issue is whether or not this exception process saves the whole motion from being discriminatory and illegal; we believe it does not – Ed.)

6 – CMA/CFC Cooperation -

“ The Executive is currently working on some areas of possible co-operation with the CMA. This is indeed good news all around and the CMA’s support of the Olympic Women’s Team is testimony to the good will they bring to the table.

7 – Strategy for Increasing Membership

“ As we all know, growing our membership is a primary goal. We are currently working with David Gebhardt, President of the OCA, on a joint promotional venture. If this is successful, we could easily use the same approach and material to run it in other provinces. Hopefully we can come to an agreement by the middle of September. “

We hope the new Executive doesn’t burn itself out in this starting effort. Obviously, after such a drifting, difficult year last year, this beginning looks good, and gives some hope for a good year. We hope the staff situation now solidifies and stays in place for a while, since this is critical in a volunteer board situation. Congratulations to Peter and the Executive for a constructive, hopeful beginning.

2002 Mainz, Germany Chess Classic

This is a chess festival with a number of tournaments. The centre-piece was a rapid match of 8 games, played August 15-18. The players were 2002 FIDE World Champion, Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine), rated # 6, and the generally regarded best rapid player in the world, Viswanathan Anand (India), rated # 3, and 2000 FIDE World Champion. After 7 rounds, the match was tied – Ponomariov won game 3 (and narrowly missed winning game 2); Anand won game 4; the other 5 were drawn. But Anand triumphed with a win in the final game 8, where he played a devastating double sacrifice to get the point.

So where does this leave Ponomariov’s credibility as a top contender ? I think it’s still in tact. Although he lost, Anand is the best rapid player in the world, better than Garry Kasparov (ranked # 1), 13th FIDE World Champion, and Vladimir Kramnik, 2000 BrainGamesNetwork champion. And the match would have been drawn had Ponomariov won game 2. So I think Ponomariov has acquitted himself well here, and his result means he is still a new force to be reckoned with, along with the undisputed top three.

2002 Chess ‘N Math Assoc. Futurity II

This tournament was initiated by CMA to give top Canadian juniors an opportunity to play foreign GM’s, and try for IM norms. This tournament took place in Toronto at the

Dutton Chess Club from Aug. 12 – 21, and was a FIDE Category 6 (2393 Av. Rtg.). The prize fund was \$ 4000.

The sensation of the tournament was young 14-year old Toronto IM Mark Bluvshtein's amazing 1st – 4th tie finish, with the three foreign GM's. He scored 6.5 / 9 pts., along the way defeating GM Yuri Shulman (Belarus), drawing the other 2 GM's, and defeating 3-time Canadian Champion IM Igor Ivanov (USA). He was tied with Shulman, GM Dmitry Tyompkin (Israel), and GM Walter Arencibia (Cuba – a former World Junior Champion). One point back in 5th place was Toronto IM Igor Zugic.

Congratulations Mark – we all hope you soon start collecting GM-norms !!

New Toronto Tournament Added to the Fall Calendar

Wilf Ferner, and Martin Jaeger, following up on the success of their Toronto Senior Championship of the last few years, have now decided to introduce The Toronto Senior Active Chess Championship. The qualification age is 50 years or over.

It is scheduled for Sunday November 17/02 at the Bradgate Arms, a wonderful playing venue. It will be a 5 Rd. Swiss/one section/30 mins per game, with round 1 starting at 10:45 AM, and the last round 5 beginning at 4:30 PM.. The entry fee is a very low \$15 (no late fee). For further details please call Wilf Ferner at 416-439-8912; email: weferner@pathcom.com" .

SCC 2002-3 Annual General Meeting

SCC will start the season off with its regular annual meeting, the first Thursday after Labour Day, Sept. 5 at 7:00 PM.. We will hear President Bryan Lamb's report on the past year, elect the new Executive for the coming year, and develop SCC's agenda for the Fall, and the future year – a big issue is whether SCC should continue to offer chess three times per week (Tues., Thurs., Sun.), as it has in previous years, or whether this year we should cut back our hours somewhat, to lessen our expenses for the coming year. Other issues are to be discussed as well. This is a community-based, non-profit club, run by volunteers – it's our club, so let's get out and have our say. See you there.

A – Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, at 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.