

**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 # 3 – October 1, 2002**

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

**CFC Finally Assembles Membership Statistics ( Last 5 Years )**

**CFC Membership Stats 1997-2002**

As of May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year

	F	H	J	L	O	P	Total
1997	34	36	389	312	2206	291	3268
1998	29	37	344	309	2080	295	3094
1999	31	37	334	321	1949	405	3077
2000	31	37	316	329	1833	280	2826
2001	25	39	278	335	1745	140	2562
2002	16	43	233	338	1684	135	2449

Legend : F = Family; H = Honorary; J = Junior; L = Life Member; O = Ordinary;  
P = Participating Junior

Last winter, when rumours started to float around about a possible CFC deficit for 2001-2, a concern also arose as to the extent to which membership had been dropping over the last 5 years, and whether this was a great weakness in the CFC program. Initially, CFC stonewalled and didn't respond and never indicated they would be bringing the stats forward. So SCTCN&V took it upon itself to contact a helpful governor, to put in the request for the statistics in a formal manner. This spring the secretary handled the

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Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Ave.

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easy TTC access – 5 min. bus ride from either Woodbine Subway Stn. or Main St. Subway Stn.

inquiry by referring it to the CFC staff. There had just been a turnover of staff in the CFC office, and the new staff were having to prepare all the reports from the past year, and prepare for the upcoming CFC AGM in July. So the matter got put on hold until the AGM had been dealt with. To the staff's credit, they did then turn to our request, and the chart on page 1 was developed. It is very helpful not only as to the gross totals over 5 years, but shows the relationship between the various kinds of memberships to the total.

The chart does show that membership has consistently dropped each year over the last 5 years . At the end of each year, the drop was as follows :

1997-8 : 5.3%  
1998-9 : .5%  
1999-0 : 8.2%  
2000-1 : 9.3%  
2001-2 : 4.4%

This is serious cause for concern. In 2 of the last 3 years, we've lost just under 10% of our members. Obviously CFC must find a way of reversing the trend. But it can be said that these numbers are not as bad as had been rumoured – there had been an 1800 figure floating around. But the fact that the total of our Ordinary members as of May 1 is only 1684, is worrisome. This represents a 23.7 % drop since May 1, 1997, almost a quarter of our Ordinary members.

We think this points out the need for CFC to raise public chess promotion and marketing in its priorities. CFC must put in place a public relations person who can provide publicity support to organizers of both big and small tournaments. We have seen time and again that organizers can organize, but few have the energy or the resources to also do a full-court press on the media publicity angle. In addition, a strategy must be developed for marketing “ over-the-board “ club and weekend tournaments, in an age of internet chess. We have to highlight the attractions of face-to-face competition, to get internet players to widen their horizons and include OTB chess. We hope that publicizing these statistics will help further this debate on the absolute necessity of making the public marketing of chess one of the top priorities of the CFC.

### **FIDE Presidential Contest Turns into a Love-In**

President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov has for some time now strongly held the reins of power in FIDE. He has been a key factor in the changes to a knockout format for the World Championship. He was a driving force behind the move to shorten the times for classical chess to 1 ½ hrs.. And perhaps most of all, he has generated dissent because of the autocratic manner in which he has brought about these changes. He did go some way to rehabilitating his reputation, though, in his involvement in the Prague Unity Agreement, whereby a process was developed for again arriving at one undisputed World Champion.

But a while ago, nonetheless, the French Chess Federation issued a press release critical of Ilyumzhinov, and the direction in which he is taking international chess. This was followed up a short time later with the announcement of a new President/Executive ticket that would challenge Ilyumzhinov at the upcoming FIDE Congress in Bled, Slovenia, this November. It raised hopes that the disparate voice of dissent might now have something to coalesce around. The Presidential candidate was Ignatius Leong of Singapore, and the French Federation President was also on the ticket.

But it was not to be. Politics makes strange bedfellows. On Sept. 21, Kirsan and Ignatius signed an accord which ended hopes of a contested election. Ignatius agreed his ticket would withdraw, and support the Kirsan ticket. In exchange, Kirsan would appoint Ignatius and at least one other member of the Leong ticket to Vice-Presidential posts. Kirsan also agreed to support members of the other ticket who weren't appointed V-P's, to other positions for which they decided to run.

For some this is disappointing news. For others, it is good news – those who feel Kirsan has performed well in respect of the Prague Unity Agreement, and should be given a second chance to bring FIDE forward under this new process, agreed to by all the leading stakeholders. After the agreement was announced, Leong maintained that this was not an abandonment of “reform”, but that it was felt that at this time more would be achieved by trying to reform FIDE from “within”. Kirsan has still a very strong hand on the reigns of power. It remains to be seen if reforms can go ahead if he is in opposition.

In any event, this eliminates one of the more dramatic aspects of the upcoming FIDE Congress. We hope, however, that this process of public opposition will translate into something beneficial for FIDE in the long run.

### **FIDE ISSUES Sept. 20 Official “Rapid” Ratings List**

We are all familiar with the quarterly FIDE regular ratings list, which keeps track of ratings under classical time controls. But FIDE has been putting a higher priority in the last few years on “Rapid ( 25 min. )” chess, as perhaps being more exciting for the viewing public, and thus a good way to try to raise chess in the consciousness of the international public. So they started to issue a separate “rapid” list, since there were more, and more high profile, rapid tournaments taking place. FIDE itself changed its Grand Prix event ( a series of FIDE sponsored tournaments ) from classical to rapid chess.

The names that show up are familiar, but in somewhat different order than we are used to in the classical rating list. Tied for first are Alexei Shirov ( Spain ), Garry Kasparov ( Russia ), and Michael Adams ( England ). Shirov would actually be in #1 alone, but one recent rapid tournament where he did well had not been turned in for rating at the time the list was published. Close behind in 4<sup>th</sup> place is Viswanathan Anand ( India ), generally reputed to be the best rapid player, despite his current 4<sup>th</sup> place standing. Peter Leko ( Hungary ), current leader of the FIDE Grand Prix, is in 7<sup>th</sup> spot. Trailing badly, in 13<sup>th</sup> position, is the currently recognized Classical World Champion, who wrested the title from Kasparov in 2000, Vladimir Kramnik ( Russia ).

### **2002 European Club Cup**

This is a major team tournament in Europe, that recently ran from Sept. 22 – 28. Players do sometimes play for clubs outside their country. The list of team players reads like a who's-who of chess. 43 teams contested the Cup.

The winner on tie-break was the Bosna Sarajevo club of Bosnia & Herzegovina. It was originally ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and was composed of Shirov, Adams, Sokolov, K. Georgiev, Movsessian and Radjabov. Coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> was Norilsky Nickel of Russia, last year's champion, which this year had been ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>. It's members were : Bareev, Dreev, Malakhov, Svagincev, Rustemov and Dolmatov. 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team,

Polonia Plus GSM Warsaw. This team included Ivanchuk, Polgar, Kransekov and Rosentalis. The first ranked club could do no better than 4<sup>th</sup> place this year – the Paris-based NAO Chess Club. It had a very strong line-up, including : Kramnik, Svidler, Grischuk, Lautier, Bacrot and Fressinet.

### **Scarborough Chess Club Goes to Twice Weekly Meetings**

Scarborough has always had good turnouts for its Thursday and Sunday Swisses. But over the last few years, Tuesdays have posed a problem. SCC has tried numbers of different types of events on the Tuesdays, to give members some other tournament options. But these attempts were successful sometimes, and then unsuccessful others. On reviewing the last few years, and the turnout on Tuesdays since the start of September, the club has decided, for now at least, to suspend the Tuesday evening meetings. SCC will focus its promotion on the popular Thurs. and Sun. meetings. Come out and enjoy some “ over-the-board “ chess ( where you can see the whites of their eyes ! ).

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

3. 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.