

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 # 14 – April 1, 2005

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

Amazing Development - Chess Solved!

(Submitted by David Cohen)

News reports out today claim that the game of chess has been solved. Researchers had described three possible theories as to how a game of chess might be concluded, should a solution ever be found. First, White could win every game by force, using the advantage of the first move to seize the initiative and attack first. Second, every game would end in a draw, as the White and Black forces were equally balanced. Third, Black could win every game, as the onus on White of having to move first would place White into zugzwang, where the compulsion to move would weaken White's position and give an advantage to Black.

The second theory proved to be correct. Using the power of distributed computing, a network of thousands of home personal computers, which would otherwise have remained idle, slaved away for years to reach this conclusion.

Initial reaction from top level grandmasters is highly critical - they fear a loss of their livelihood. Chess teachers are more upbeat, emphasizing the educational benefits of instructing children in the game at an early stage in their development. Noted Canadian chess historian David Cohen was quoted as saying "It's incredible! But if you believed all this, then you're an April fool."

FIDE Unification Proposal

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov has given an interview to Yuri Vasiliev of Sport Express with a

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World Championship Unification proposal. The decision was taken at the FIDE Presidential meeting in Tbilisi 26th-27th February 2005.

Eight players will be invited: Rustam Kasimdzhanov (Fide champion), Michael Adams (Fide runner-up), Vladimir Kramnik (Braingames champion, a very interesting use of terminology), Peter Leko (Braingames runner-up), Garry Kasparov (now retired), Viswanathan Anand, Vaselin Topalov and Alexander Morozevich (the four top rated players) for a double round robin.

All 8 players will be sent official contracts by 15th April 2005. A player declining invitation will be replaced by the next highest rated player. Elista, Russia, is proposed as venue for the time being, although other countries are expected to bid. The prize money for the tournament is currently 500,000 US dollars. Singapore, Armenia and Georgia have so far expressed willingness to organize this tournament. Their official offers are awaited. In December 2005, a world cup tournament (on the lines of FIDE KO) will be held. Its winner will be the challenger to play against the Unified champion.

We will be very interested in Kramnik's response to this. He has maintained throughout that he is world champion, and the system of reunification, whatever it is, is to find a challenger to him. We doubt he sees himself as one among equals, who is to play with the rest in a supertournament. We await his response.

Fischer Released !

On March 18, Iceland's parliamentary committee on citizenship recommended to the parliament that Bobby Fischer be granted citizenship. Iceland had previously granted him residency and a passport, but this had not persuaded Japanese authorities to release him from detention. Japan gave initial indications that citizenship in another country could lead to his release to that country. On March 21, Iceland's parliament passed a special bill granting Fischer citizenship. Then on Thursday, March 24, Japan recognized Fischer's new citizenship, and released him to travel to Iceland.

In his characteristically defiant manner, Fischer blasted the US and Japanese governments, calling for USA President Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi to be hanged as war criminals. We doubt this is the last we'll hear of Bobby, given his penchant for making news off the chessboard.

2004-5 SCC Club Champion – Bryan Lamb !

The club championship was run from January through to March. The championship section was a 12-player round robin. Although some games are still outstanding, Bryan Lamb has clinched clear first place with his undefeated score of 9.5 / 11 pts.. Currently tied for 2nd/3rd are Imtiaz Husain and Ismail Ibrahim with 7 points, but Imtiaz has 2 games left to play, and Ismail 1 game. No one else can catch them.

The Reserves championship was composed of 2 6-round swiss tournaments, with the total score of the 2 tournaments counting towards the winner. Newcomer Donal Deiseach won the Reserves with a score of 9.5/ 12 pts.. 2nd was Maurice Smith with 8.5 pts.. Tied for third with 7.5 pts. were yours truly, Bob Armstrong, and Steve Karpik.

On Thursday, March 31, SCC started its 7-round Spring Swiss tournament, with 20 players registered. You can still get in in later rounds with byes for the rounds missed, so if you'd like to play, come on out !

Continuing Discussion on History of the Canadian Chess Website of David Cohen

Two Issues ago, we published an article by David Cohen on his Canadian Chess Website. Maurice Smith, past CFC president, wrote last Issue to argue that David was unfairly criticizing the CFC office staff in his article. David wrote back to Maurice as follows :

“ I understand that Canadian chess history is not of interest to most CFC members. I also understand that the CFC Business Office has no time to provide this service to those members who are interested in it. However, we need to record and display our history for a different reason: to provide the background material and facts to support our publicity and fundraising efforts.

I laid out the case for this in my article in SCTCN&V and CCE. Here's an example: suppose we approach a company to sponsor the Canadian Open Championship. Among other things, they're going to want to know: what is our experience? how many years have we been doing this? So, we need to have the history of the event handy - we've been around since 1872, we've run this event over 40 times, etc.

The motions which I am introducing with Kevin Pacey, to establish directors of publicity and fundraising, are a recognition that the Business Office has no time for these important organizational functions. These will be volunteer positions, the same as for the Ratings Auditor or Women's Coordinator. I ask for your support for these motions.”

Maurice wrote back to David as follows :
“ I understand the reasons for your work on these matters and I have no problem with your motions. As long as there are no shots taken at the Office which is unfairly criticized by various people, then the reaction to your work will be positive. ”

We are always pleased to have our readers write in on any article they see in the newsletter, or on any chess issue for that matter. We will try to get them published if possible. So don't be shy !

Canada's Newest IM – Junior, Zhe Quan !

At the recent Foxwoods Open in USA, Canadian Junior Champion, Zhe Quan, scored 5.5 : 3.5 , defeating GM Gildardo Garcia 2523 along the way, and getting his second IM norm. Congratulations Zhe !

Canadian Youth Chess Championships

This tournament was held March 24-27 in Victoria, B.C.. The winners of each section get entry and travel expenses paid to the WYCC. The winners were :

Under 10 – Boys – Aquino Inigo - 6/7 pts.

 Girls – Miriam Roy - 7/7 pts.

Under 12 – Boys – Lloyd Mai – 6/7 pts.

Girls – Yelizaveta Orlova – 5.5/6 pts.
Under 14 – Boys – Noam Davies – 6/7 pts.
 Girls – Hazel Smith – 6/6 pts.
Under 16 – Boys – Jonathan Yu – 6.5/7 pts.
 Girls – Tiffany Tang – 5/5 pts.
Under 18 – Boys – Mark Bluvshtein – 6.5/7 pts.
 Girls – Anastasia Kazakevich 4/4 pts.

Greater Toronto Chess League – Annual General Meeting

This will be held Saturday, April 16, at 1:00 P.M. It will be held in the Library, first floor, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (GOMT), 86 Overlea Blvd., between Don Mills and Thorncliffe, turn North at William Morgan Drive, turn East and through gates. It's two doors East of the Macedonian Community Centre, where the annual Labour Day Open has been held for the last dozen years. All are invited to attend and discuss Chess in the GTA.

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.
- D - To review this newsletter after it has been deleted, or any of the archived newsletters back to Sept. 1, 2002, visit our own SCTCN&V official website at : <http://scarboroughchess.webhop.net>.
- E – Please notify us if you wish to be removed from the free subscription list.