

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

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Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 9 - 12 – February 15, 2007

Chess Strength and Aging

(by Frank Dixon, from ChessTalk Posting Jan. 31/08)

Many GMs believe that a player's peak can occur as late as the mid-30s.

GM J.R. Capablanca became world champion in his 33rd year;
GM Alexander Alekhine became world champion for the first time in his 35th year;
GM Max Euwe became world champion at age 34;
GM Mikhail Botvinnik became world champion for the first time in his 37th year;
GM Vasily Smyslov became world champion at age 36;
GM Tigran Petrosian became world champion in his 34th year;
GM Boris Spassky became world champion at age 32.
GM Bobby Fischer became world champion at age 29.

There were some exceptions to this pattern. GM Mikhail Tal became world champion at age 23. Then we have more recently had a drop in ages for world champions gaining the title. GM Anatoly Karpov became world champion in his 24th year (by default), and may have reached his playing peak in his mid-to-late 30s (chessmetrics ratings). GM Garry Kasparov became world champion for the first time at age 22, and may have reached his playing peak in his early to mid-30s. More recently, GM Vishy Anand won the unified world championship in 2007 in his 38th year.

Then we have had GM Wilhelm Steinitz, who was still able to successfully defend his world title in 1892 in his 56th year against GM Mikhail Chigorin. GM Steinitz

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played chess at a top-5 level past age 60. GM Aron Nimzowitsch reached his peak as a player with his win at Carlsbad 1929, over a world-class field (missing only Alekhine among the top echelon) in his 43rd year. We have had GM Emanuel Lasker, who won New York 1924 in his 56th year over a world-class field, including the world champion Capablanca. GM Lasker played superb chess into his late 60s, with outstanding results as late as Moscow 1935, which he won against a very strong field. GM Mikhail Botvinnik was still virtually a top-ten player into his late 50s, competing only occasionally. GM Vasily Smyslov reached the Candidates' final in 1984 at age 63. GM Efim Geller won the USSR Championship in 1979 in his 54th year. GM Lajos Portisch was a top-ten player into his late 40s. GM Samuel Reshevsky won an international tournament at Reykjavik 1984 in his 73rd year, and competed successfully for several years after that. GM David Bronstein won the 1995 Hastings Challengers' Swiss in his 71st year. Nowadays, we have GM Viktor Korchnoi, who was a Candidate in 1988 in his 57th year, and still maintains a 2600+ rating into his mid-70s.

Closer to home here in Canada, GM Abe Yanofsky at age 61 in the 1986 Canadian Zonal scored well enough to qualify for the Interzonal, but generously ceded that opportunity in favour of a younger player. IM Lawrence Day will soon celebrate his 59th birthday (tomorrow I believe!), and he made a respectable result in the 2007 Canadian Open. I note with pleasure that IM Day will compete this weekend in Guelph! Good luck and good skill, Lawrence! Happy birthday, and many happy returns! IM Jean Hebert tied for the Canadian Closed title at Kitchener 2007 in his 50th year, before losing in playoffs.

The oldest player to become a Grandmaster is the Latvian Yanis Klovans, a contemporary of GM 😊 Mikhail Tal, who was in his mid-60s when he earned the title. A convincing argument could be made that Klovans reached that level of strength earlier, and likely deserved the title earlier, but was denied because of lack of norm opportunities in the Soviet Union.

If a player can maintain a good level of physical fitness, can remain mentally sharp and competitively tough, and can devote enough time to study and train, it seems highly possible to obtain good chess results into one's golden years, maybe even the best of one's life!

FIDE Sets Up 2008/9 Grand Prix

This concept was unveiled by FIDE some time ago, when they were initially setting up the 2008-2010 World Championship Cycle. The idea is to have a series of 6 world class round robin tournaments (14 players), and players will amass cumulative points for their standings in the various tournaments (their best three results). The Grand Prix winner will be the player with the most points accumulated by the end of 2009. This winner will then play a Candidates' Match with the 2009 FIDE World Cup winner, for the right to play for the World Championship in 2010 (the right to play for the 2009 World Championship will be determined in a match this year between Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), 2005 FIDE World Champion, and 2006 World Championship Challenger, and American Gata Kamsky, winner of the 2007 FIDE World Cup).

The venues and dates for these 6 tournaments have now been announced (apparently FIDE has tried to schedule so as not to conflict with already established major tournaments like Corus, Morelia/Linares, Sophia, Dortmund, etc.):

April 20th – May 6th 2008, Baku, Azerbaijan

July 30th – August 15th 2008, Krasnoyarsk (or other Russian city), Russia

December 13th – 29th, 2008, Doha, Qatar

April 14th – 28th, 2009, Montreux, Switzerland

August 1st – 17th, 2009, Elista, Russia

December 7th – 23rd, 2009, Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic

Reserve cities are Istanbul and Teheran.

The 14 qualifiers for this series are: Anand, Kramnik, Topalov, Kamsky, Shirov, Carlsen, Karjakin, Ivanchuk, Mamedyarov, Leko, Morozevich, Aronian, Radjabov and Gelfand. The reserves are, in order, Adams, Svidler, Polgar and Grischuk.

Moscow Open

This 9 round swiss tournament was played in Moscow, Russia from February 2 - 10. There were over 30 GM's over 2600 in the Open A Section. There was also a women's tournament. Here are the final results:

Final Top 10 Standings (Open Group A):

1 GM Timofeev, Artyom RUS 2664 7.5



- 2 GM Riazantsev, Alexander RUS 2628 7.0
- 3 GM Volkov, Sergey RUS 2623 7.0
- 4 GM Efimenko, Zahar UKR 2638 7.0
- 5 GM Lastin, Alexander RUS 2604 7.0
- 6 GM Jobava, Baadur GEO 2643 7.0
- 7 GM Inarkiev, Ernesto RUS 2681 7.0
- 8 GM Kazhgaleyev, Murtas KAZ 2594 7.0
- 9 GM Moiseenko, Alexander UKR 2643 7.0
- 10 GM Kurnosov, Igor RUS 2577 7.0

Final Top 5 Standings (Women's Group):

- 1 IM Muzychuk, Anna SLO 2460 8.0



- 2 IM Ushenina, Anna UKR 2484 7.5
- 3 WGM Zhukova, Natalia UKR 2443 7.0
- 4 IM Harika, Dronavalli IND 2455 7.0
- 5 GM Lahno, Kateryna UKR 2475 7.0

New book on Canadian Grandmaster Duncan Suttles – Book Review

(submitted by Erik Malmsten)

Chess on the Edge by Bruce Harper and Yasser Seirawan is just being published by Chess'n Math and I proofread the final draft. The publishing of the Suttles game collection has been a life-long dream of Vancouver master Bruce Harper. For those of us over 50, we can remember Suttles as the Canadian grandmaster who threw a wrench into classical opening theory and took on all comers playing 1.g3 or 1...g6. Canadians en masse adapted the Rat Defence as our own.

Suttles was one of only 100 Grandmasters at the time who played all the top players in two Interzonals. He also played in eight Olympiads and many top round-robins. This game collection isn't just his best wins, as well as his wins over top players like Larsen it includes his losses to Fischer, Tal, and Gligorich. It shows the evolution of his opening ideas and the book would greatly aid those who play, or play against, the Rat.

The organization of Volume 1 is brilliant. Suttles most interesting 100 games are divided into themes such as Positional Play, Space, Positional Sacrifices, Rook Pawns, King Walks, Weird Maneuvers, Psychology, Just Plain Funny, Blow Outs, Tricks, and Crash and Burn. This makes this volume useful to today's students to learn about specific aspects of the game. Interesting discussions include the idea that non-losing choices are equally good versus striving to find the one best move.

The other two volumes lists 513 more annotated games by opening (Volume 2 ECO A openings). Many of these games were interesting enough to have been in Volume 1. The Suttles System is g2-g3, d2-d3, Nc3, Bg2, Bd2 and Qc1. He also liked playing a3 or Nh3. The line between Black and White is often blurry in Suttles' games.

A collection of quotes from the book:

Suttles once said, "the point of chess is to trick the other guy." Suttles confused his opponents to induce them to make errors. Lawrence Day notes, "A student can learn much about the handling of unclear positions, deferred options, positional tension, speculation and pawn power from his games." Suttles' dexterity with his knights is legendary. He is committed to the element of pawn structure, even at the expense of time, space and material. The more unusual the pawn structure the better, as then both he and his opponent must orient themselves to unfamiliar positions. He is a positional player with a propensity for provoking wild tactical slugfests. His style is based upon a ruthless objectivity, combined with a cold-blooded willingness to play moves most players would be afraid to play. Yasser Seirawan writes that in 1973, "His original style of play thrilled and delighted us all." Duncan's style involves flinging down a gauntlet and proudly exclaiming, "Refute this -- if you can!" Suttles was not afraid to lose games.

It's hard to choose a sample game. There were interesting battles with Browne, Seirawan and Spassky. This game has been simplified from three pages of notes:

Jeremy Silman - Duncan Suttles
Lone Pine 1975
B06 Rat

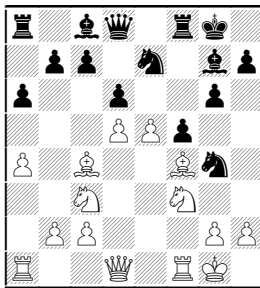
1. e4 g6 2. d4 d6 3. Nc3 a6 4. a4!? Bg7 5. Nf3 Bg4 6. Be3 Nc6 7. Be2 e5 8. d5
[8. dxe5=]

8... Nce7 9. Nd2 Bc8 10. 0-0 f5 11. f4!?

[11. exf5?! gxf5! 12. f4 e4 13. Bh5+ Kf8 Nikkanen-Suttles 1981 (0-1, 21 moves).]

11... exf4!? 12. Bxf4 Nf6 13. Bc4 0-0 14. e5!? Ng4!? 15. Nf3?

[A classical formation. 15. e6?! c6!-+]



15...dxe5! 16. Bg5

[16. d6+ Kh8 17. dxe7 Qxe7-+]

16...Kh8 17. h3 Nf6

[17...e4]

18. Nxe5 Qd6! 19. Bf4?

[19. Bb3 Nfxd5 20. Bxe7 Qxe7 21. Nxg6+ hxg6 22. Qxd5=]

19...Qb6+ 20. Kh1 Nh5! 21. Bh2

[21. d6!? cxd6 22. Nf7+ Rxf7 23. Bxf7 Nxf4 24. Rxf4 Qxb2 25. Rc4! Bxc3 26. Rb1 Qa3 27. Rb3 Qa1 28. Rb1=]

21... f4! 22. d6?!

[22. Qe1!? Nf5 23. Bxf4 Nxf4 24. Rxf4 g5! 25. Rf3 Qd4 26. g4! unclear]

22... cxd6?

[22... Nf5! 23. d7 (23. Qd5 Nxd6 -/+) 23... Nhg3+ 24. Bxg3 Nxg3+ 25. Kh2 Nxf1+ 26. Bxf1 Bxd7 27. Nxd7 Qxb2 28. Nxf8 Rxf8-+]

23. Nf7+ Rxf7 24. Bxf7 Nf5

[24... Qxb2? 25. Qxd6+/-]

25. Re1

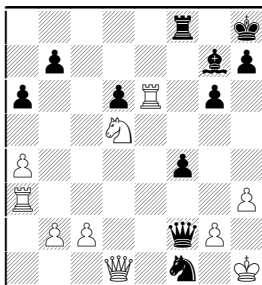
[25. Rf3!?!]

25... Bd7 26. Nd5 Qf2 27. Ra3?

[27. Bg1 Qh4 28. Nb6=]

27... Rf8 28. Be6?

[28. Bg1 Qh4 29. Be6 Re8 30. Nc7 Bc6 31. Nxe8 f3 32. Rxf3 (32. gxf3) 32... Bxf3 33. gxf3 Qxh3+ 34. Bh2 Be5 35. Rxe5? (35. Qd2=) 35... Nf4 36. Re2 Qxf3+ 37. Kg1 Nh3#] 28... Bxe6 29. Rxe6 Nhg3+ 30. Bxg3 Nxg3+ 31. Kh2 Nf1+ 32. Kh1



32... Bd4! 33. Ne3 Bxe3 34. Rxe3 Nxe3 0-1

Sample pages of the book can be seen at www.suttlesbook.com.

Guelph Winter Pro-Am – Report

This 5 round swiss in 4 sections, held Feb. 2/3, with time control of Game/50min. (+ 50 sec. increments), drew 104 players ! The winners were:

Open Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	TBrk[P]
1	GM Bator Sambuev	2528	D8	W12	D3	W9	W2	4.0	2327
2	IM Artem Samsonkin	2455	W18	W4	W11	W6	L1	4.0	2271
3	IM Nikolay Noritsyn	2458	H---	W10	D1	W11	D5	3.5	2340.5
4	FM Michael Dougherty	2284	W19	L2	H---	W8	W11	3.5	2247.5
5	FM Jura Ochkoos	2345	H---	D8	W19	W13	D3	3.5	2238.5
6	Liam Henry	2292	W14	W17	H---	L2	W10	3.5	2211

U 2100

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	TBrk[P]
1	Alex T Ferreira	1964	W21	W15	W6	D2	W7	4.5	1933
2	Iulia Lacau-Rodean	1966	W24	D12	W3	D1	W6	4.0	1884
3	Brent Zhang	1863	D20	W9	L2	W21	W10	3.5	1902.5
4	Inigo Francis	2092	L15	W23	W17	D7	W12	3.5	1840

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U 1800

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	TBrk[P]
1	Joe Bellomo	1731	D13	W16	W9	W12	W2	4.5	1687.5
2	Mei Chen Lee	1613	W30	W28	W20	W6	L1	4.0	1506
3	Phillip Chan	1493	L12	W30	W22	W21	W7	4.0	1458

U 1500

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	TBrk[P]
1	Daniel Wong	1079	W6	W18	W5	W2	W4	5.0	1342.5
2	Frank Lee	1378	W11	W16	W7	L1	W9	4.0	1353.5
3	Fred Lai	1373	W21	W13	W12	L4	W8	4.0	1303.



SCC'ers Go to Guelph
(Part 1 of a 3-part series)

A strong contingent of SCC members showed up at the Guelph sectional swisses reported on above. The players and their results were:

Open Section – Yuanling Yuan – 2.5
U 2100 – Alex Ferreira 4.5 – 1st place !
Alex is right front



Richard Douglas – 2.5
Josh Sherman – 2
Bob Armstrong – 2
U 1800 – Joe Bellomo – 4.5 – 1st place

Joe Bellomo



Kevin Wu – 3.5

Mario Moran-Venegas – 3

Nathan Farrant – Diaz – 3

Doug Gillis – 2.5

David Farrant – 2.5

Tom Muir – 2 (only played 2 rounds !)

Dinesh Dattani - .5

U 1500 – Marc Ben-Avraham – 2.5

As usual, on bended knee and in a pleasant voice, I begged them to give me for the newsletter their “ most interesting “ game from the tournament. Obviously a big upset would qualify generally. But it could also be a game that was lost, but was well-played and had complicated tactics. Here are some of the games submitted (I’ll spread them out into a three-part series in the next few Issues).

I’ll start with my nice K-side KID-Samisch attack against former SCC member, Jaimie Solis (with a Q-sac mate to finish it off). Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Bob Armstrong (blue shirt and glasses)

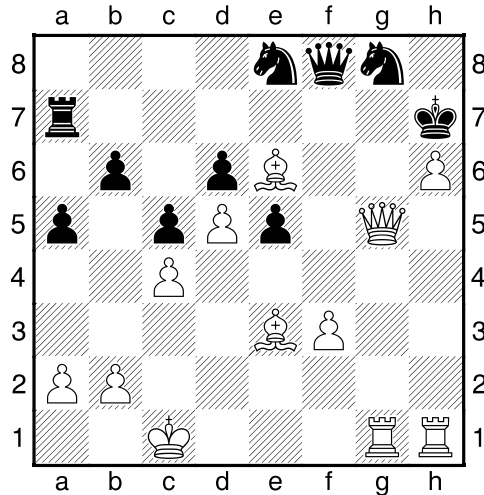


Armstrong, R (1873) – Solis, J (1805) [E87]

Guelph Winter Pro-Am (U 2100) Guelph (4), 03.02.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3= [5.Nf3±] 5...0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 [7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Rd1 Rxd1+ 10.Kxd1 Be6=; 7.Nge2 Nfd7 (7...exd4?! 8.Nxd4 Re8±) 8.Qd2 Nb6=] 7...a5 8.g4 c5?± I get a " clear " advantage [8...Nfd7 9.Qd2 f5 10.gxf5 gxf5 11.0-0-0 Na6±] 9.Nge2 [9.Qe2 Bd7 10.0-0-0 a4 11.a3 Qb6±] 9...Na6?!+- I get a " winning " advantage, even at this early stage of my anticipated K-side attack. [9...Ne8 10.Qd2 a4 11.0-0-0 Nd7±] 10.Ng3 h6 [10...a4 11.a3 (11.Nxa4?! Bd7 12.Nc3 h6±) 11...Nd7 12.Qe2 Bf6 13.h4! Bxh4 14.Qh2 g5 15.0-0-0 Nf6+-; 10...Ne8 11.Qd2 a4 12.a3 (12.Nxa4?! f5 13.gxf5 gxf5 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Nxf5 Rxf5±) 12...Bf6+-; 10...Nd7 11.Qd2 a4 12.h4+- (12.Nxa4 Nb6 13.Nc3 Bf6+-)] 11.Qd2 Kh7 12.h4 Ng8 13.0-0-0 Nc7 14.Bd3 Bd7 15.Rdg1?!± [15.Kb1 Ra6 16.Nf5! gxf5 17.exf5 Kh8 18.g5 e4 19.fxe4 Be5+- 1.96] 15...Qe8?!+- [15...Ra6 16.Kb1 Rb6 17.a3 Ne7±] 16.Qg2?± [16.g5 h5 17.Nf5 gxf5 18.exf5 f6 19.f4 b5+- 3.58] 16...f6?+- [16...b5 17.cxb5 Nxb5 18.Bxb5 Bxb5 19.h5 g5 20.Nf5 Ra6±] 17.g5 2.40 [17.f4 Bxg4 18.h5 g5 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.exf5 exf4 21.Bxf4 Qd7+- 1.75] 17...h5+- 18.gxf6?!± [18.f4 fxe5 19.hxe5 exf4 20.Nxe5 gxe5 21.e5+ Kh8 22.Rxe5+ Qxe5 23.Rh1 Qxe5+ 24.Qxe5+ Nh6 25.e6 Bxe6 26.dxe6 Nxe6 (26...fxe3?? 27.gxe6 Kg8 28.hxe7 Kxe7 29.Qh7+ Kf6 30.Ne4+ Kxe6 31.Qg6+ Kd7 32.Qxd6+ Ke8+- 16.44) 27.gxe6 Be5 28.Qxb7 Ng5+- 5.80] 18...Nxf6?!+- Jaimie captures with the wrong piece [18...Bxf6 19.f4 exf4 20.Bxf4 Be5±] 19.Nf5! a thematic move in the KID – Samisch attack (often as a sacrifice) 19...Bxf5 [19...gxf5?? 20.Qxg7#] 20.exf5 Kh8 21.fxe6?+- 3.39 not the strongest continuation; I go up a P, and now the hP is weaker [21.Ne4 Nfxd5 22.cxd5 Nxd5 23.Bd2 c4 24.Bb1 Nf4 25.Bxf4 exf4 26.Qxg6 Qxg6 27.Rxg6 Bd4 28.Rd1 Be3+ 29.Kc2 Rfd8+- 7.94] 21...Qd7 22.Qg5 I want to bring my light -squared B up, and want to put pressure on the hP. 22...Nce8 23.Ne4 Kg8?+- 5.70 allowing me to position my B with tempi [23...b5 24.Ng3 bxc4 25.Bxc4 Rb8 26.Nxe5 Qa4 27.Bb3 Rxb3 28.axb3 Qxb3+- 3.17] 24.Ng3 winning the hP will allow my hP to push forward 24...b6?+- 6.46 a more aggressive defence is needed [24...e4 25.fxe4 Ng4 26.Nxe5 Bh6 27.Qxg4 Qxg4 28.Rxg4 Bxe3+ 29.Kb1 Nf6 30.Nxf6+ Rxf6+- 4.80] 25.Bf5 Qc7 9.02 [25...Qa4 26.Nxe5 Qxc4+ 27.Kb1 Ra7 28.Be6+ Kh8 29.Nxf6 Qd3+ 30.Ka1 Nxf6 31.h5 Nh7 32.gxe7 Qxe7+- 8.91] 26.Be6+ Kh8 27.Nxe5 I am now up 2 connected, passed P 27...Ra7?+- 12.19 [27...Ng8 28.Qg2 a4 29.Nxg7 Qxg7 30.a3 Rf4 31.Bxf4 exf4 32.Bxg8 Kxg8+- 10.18] 28.Nxg7?+- 10.96 I take the wrong piece [28.Nxf6 Nxf6 29.h5 Nh7 30.gxe7 e4+- 16.70] 28...Qxg7 29.h5 the advancing pawns are decisive 29...Ng8??+- allows mate in 11 moves [not a lot better however is 29...Nh7 30.h6! Nxg5 31.hxe7+ Kxe7 32.Rxg5 Rh8

33.Rxh8 Kxh8 34.Rh5+ Kg7 35.Rh7+ Kxg6 36.Rxa7+- 14.96 I would be up R + B] **30.h6 Qf6** [30...Rf4+- takes a few more moves to mate] **31.g7+ Kh7 32.gxf8Q** [32.gxf8N+ Qxf8 33.Qg7+ Rxg7 34.hxg7+ Nh6 35.Rxh6#] **32...Qxf8**



33.Qg7+- a nice Q-sac mate to finish off a strong attack; Jaimie resigned since it is mate – no matter which piece captures the Q **33...Rxg7 34.hxg7+ Nh6 35.Rxh6# 1-0**

Tom Muir could play only the first 2 rounds of this tournament, but he won both games. Here is his win over former SCC junior, Jonathan Lai (Annotations by Tom Muir, using Fritz):

Lai, J (1459) – Muir, T (1672) [B17]

Guelph Winter Pro-Am (U 1800) Guelph University, 02.02.2008

158MB, Fritz10.ctg, TOM-8A899E70138 **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Bd3 Nxe4 7.Bxe4 Nf6 8.Bd3 Bg4 9.c3 e6** last book move **10.Be2 Qc7 11.Be3 Bd6 12.h3 Bh5 13.0-0 Nd5 14.Qd2 Nxe3 15.fxe3 Bg6 16.Bd3 0-0-0 17.b4 f6 18.a4 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 e5 20.Rfb1 exd4 21.exd4 h5 22.c4** [0.01 Fritz 10: 22.a5 0.67/16] **22...Qd7 23.Qc2** [-0.85 Fritz 10: 23.c5 Bc7 24.b5 g5 25.Rb3 Rhe8 26.bxc6 Qxc6 27.a5 g4 0.53/16] **23...g5 24.c5 Bc7 25.b5 g4 26.bxc6 Qxc6 27.Qf5+** [-2.19 Fritz 10: 27.Nh4 Rxd4 28.Nf5 Re4 29.Re1 Rhe8 30.Rxe4 Rxe4 31.h4 g3 -1.54/15] **27...Kb8 28.hxg4 hxg4 29.Qxg4 Rhg8 30.Qf5 Rxd4 31.Rd1** [-4.14 Fritz 10: 31.Rb2 Rf4 32.Qh7 Qxc5+ 33.Kh1 Qf8 34.Rc1 Rh8 35.Rxc7 Rxh7+ 36.Rxh7 Rb4 37.Rd2 -2.39/16] **31...Rdg4** [-2.57 Fritz 10: 31...Rf4 32.Qd5 Qxd5 33.Rxd5 Rxf3 -4.14/15] **32.Rd2** [-3.36 Fritz 10: 32.Ra2 Rf4 33.Qh7 Qxc5+ 34.Rf2 Rc8 35.a5 Rxf3 36.gxf3 Bg3 37.Rdf1 Bxf2+ 38.Rxf2 Qxa5 -2.57/16] **32...Rf4 33.Qh7 Qxc5+ 34.Kh1 Qf8 35.Nh2** [-12.03 Fritz 10: 35.Rc1 Rh8 36.Rxc7 Qh6+ 37.Qxh6 Rxh6+ 38.Kg1 Kxc7 39.Nd4 Kb6 40.Rb2+ Ka6 41.Rd2 b6 42.g3 Rg6 -3.36/17] **35...Rh8 36.Qc2** [-#22 Fritz 10: 36.Qxh8 Qxh8 37.g3 -12.03/18] **36...Rxh2+ 37.Kxh2 Qh6+ 38.Kg1 Bb6+ 39.Rf2 Bxf2+** [-20.44 Fritz 10: 39...Rh4 40.g3 Rh1+ 41.Kg2 Rh2+ 42.Kf3 -#15/13] **40.Kf1** [-#6 Fritz 10: 40.Qxf2 Rxf2 41.Kxf2 Qf4+ 42.Ke2 Qe5+ 43.Kf3 Qxa1 44.Kf4 Qe5+ 45.Kf3 Qd4 46.a5 Qd5+ 47.Kf4 Qg5+ 48.Kf3 Qf5+ 49.Ke3 Qxa5 50.Ke4 Qe5+ 51.Kf3 b5 52.Kf2 -20.44/18] **40...Bd4+ 0-1**

Josh Sherman (on the left)



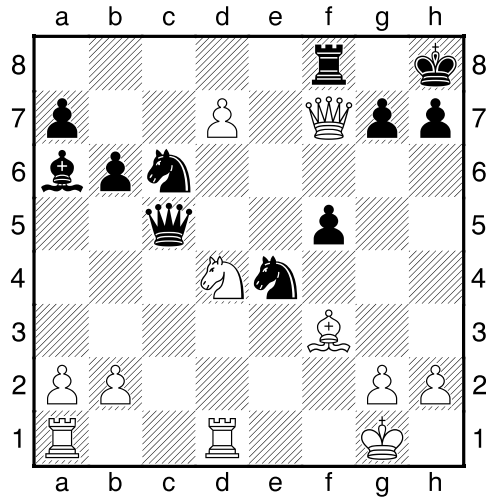
won a nice tactical game in the opening round against a strong expert (top-rated player in the section), going up the exchange first, and then sacking his Queen to queen a pawn. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Sherman, J (1850) – Assaripallam, I (2092) [C00]

Guelph Winter Pro-Am (U 2100) Guelph, 02.02.2008

1.e4 e6± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **2.d4 d5 3.c4?±** an unsound gambit [3.e5±] **3...dxe4** Inigo goes up a P **4.Nc3 f5?!±** a weaker defence to this gambit [4...Nf6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Qd2 (6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.d5 Ne5 9.Ng3 exd5 10.Qxd5 Qxd5 11.Nxd5 Bd8±) 6...c5 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0-0 (8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.Nxe4 Bxd4±) 8...Nbd7±] **5.f3?!±** Josh invites Inigo to help him with his development, at the cost of letting him undouble his extra P [5.Nh3 Nf6 6.c5 Be7 7.Bc4 Nc6±] **5...exf3?±** Josh gets equality with his lead in development [5...Nf6 6.Be3 Bd6 7.Nh3 0-0±] **6.Nxf3 Nf6 7.Be2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qb3 c5 10.d5 b6 11.Rd1 exd5 12.cxd5** [12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.cxd5 Bd6=] **12...Bd6 13.Ng5 Qe7?±** Josh gets a " clear " advantage [13...Ng4 14.g3 Qe7=] **14.Bf4 Kh8 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Nb5?±** Josh loses his advantage [16.Ne6 Rf7 17.Rf1 Re7 18.Nb5 Qe5 (18...Qxd5?! 19.Bc4 Qe5 20.Rae1 Ne4+-) 19.Bf3 Na6±] **16...Qe5?±** [16...Qf4 17.Qg3 Qxg3 18.hxg3 a6 19.Nd6 Ra7=] **17.Bf3 Ne4?!+-** Josh gets a " winning " advantage [17...a6 18.d6 c4 19.Qc3 Qxb5 20.Bxa8 f4± Josh would be up the exchange, with Inigo having a P compensation] **18.d6 c4 19.Qxc4** material equality **19...Ba6?+-** 4.21 [19...Nxc5! 20.Bxa8 f4+- 2.25 Josh would be up the exchange less advantageously] **20.Nf7+ Rxf7 21.Qxf7** Josh goes up the exchange **21...Nc6 22.d7 Qc5+?+-** 7.09 [22...Rd8 23.Rd5 Qe7 24.Nd6 Nxd6 25.Qxe7 Nxe7 26.Rxd6 Kg8+- 4.64] **23.Nd4 Rf8?+-** 11.29 a blunder – Josh finds a nice tactical win [23...Nxd4 24.Qe8+ Qf8 25.Qxf8+ Rxf8 26.Rxd4 Rd8+- 7.39 Josh would be up the exchange]

Position after 23...Rf8



24.Qxf8+! Josh sacs his Q ! **Qxf8 25.Nxc6** Inigo has Q vs 2 R, but Josh has a passed P on the 7th rank **25...Qc5+?+-** 20.16 [25...Kg8 26.d8Q Qxd8 27.Rxd8+ Kf7+- 14.60] **26.Rd4+-** 19.59 Inigo resigned. Mate is coming **26...h6 27.d8Q+ Kh7 28.Bxe4 fxe4 29.Ne7 Bc4 30.Rc1 Qxd4+ 31.Qxd4 Bf7 32.Rc6 Be6 33.Rxe6 b5 34.Qd8 g6 35.Qg8# 1-0**

ChessBase Christmas Chess Puzzles – Lamb “The Solver”

The chess website, ChessBase, before Christmas issued some chess puzzles for players world-wide to solve and send in solutions. And who do they choose to quote for the solutions/explanations for the puzzles – none other than our own SCC President, Bryan Lamb: See link -

<http://www.chessbase.com/puzzle/christmas2007/chr07-sol1.htm>

WTG Bryan – the logic was unassailable !

2007/8 SCC Club Championship

On Jan. 3 SCC started its 2007/8 Club Championship. It is in 2 sections again this year. 52 players registered.

The top section A is a 10-player 9-round round robin. It is composed of the top 8 rated players who registered, plus the first and second place winner in the 2006/7 Club Championship Reserves. Playing this year are a master, 4 experts and 5 A players (ratings as of start of the tournament): Master Bryan Lamb; junior girl expert Yuanling Yuan, expert John Hall; expert Alex Ferreira; expert Erwin Casareno; A player Rick Garell; A player Randy Moysoski; A player Yibing Fan; A player Bob Armstrong (1st - Reserves); and A player Josh Sherman (2nd - Reserves).

The other 42 members play in a one section, 10 round swiss. The first and second place finishers earn the right to play in the Championship Section for the 2008/9 Club Championship.

After 7 rounds, the following players lead:

Championship Section: 1st Provisional Master Erwin Casareno – 5 ½ pts.

2nd – Master Bryan Lamb – 4 ½ pts (but he has one game outstanding, and so could tie Erwin for first theoretically)

3rd – Expert John Hall – 4 pts. (but he also has one game outstanding, and so theoretically could have 5 pts.)

4th – Expert junior girl Yuanling Yuan – 3 ½ pts. (but she also has 1 game outstanding, and so could theoretically have 4 ½ pts.)

Reserves: 1st – junior Kevin Wu – 6 pts (undefeated)

2nd – junior Aaron Wu – 5.5 pts. (only loss was to Kevin)

3rd / 5th – 5 pts. - Oscar Villalobos

Ken Kurkowski

Pepin Manalo

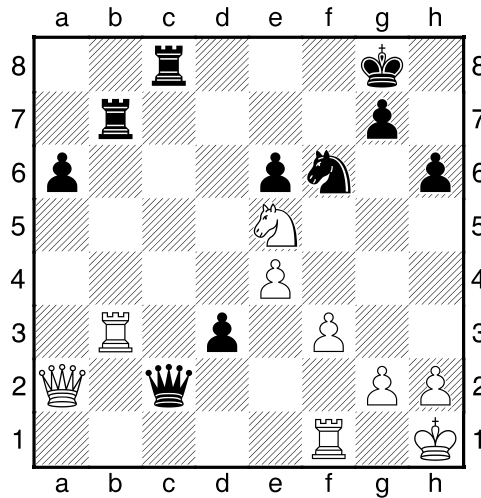
In Rd. 5 in the top section, Erwin Casareno took sole possession of first place with a win over Alex Ferreira – he went up a pawn, and got a winning advantage; in desperation, Alex decided to sac his rook for attacking/drawing possibilities, but they fizzled out. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ferreira, A (1964) – Casareno, E (2371) [B90]

SCC Club Championship SCC (5), 31.01.2008

1.e4 c5± Sicilian Defence; Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** [5...e6±; 5...g6±] **6.a4** [6.Be2 g6 7.h4 Bg7 8.Be3 h5±] **6...e5** [Fritz interestingly prefers going into a Sicilian Dragon 6...g6 7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 Nc6±] **7.Nf3 h6 8.Bc4 Be7 9.0-0 Qc7 10.Qe2** [10.Bb3 Nc6 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 0-0±; 10.Qd3 0-0 11.Nh4 Kh8 12.Be3 Nc6 13.Bb3 Bd7±] **10...0-0 11.Be3 Nbd7?!±** Alex gets a " clear " advantage [11...Nc6 12.Rad1 Nb4 13.Bb3 Bg4±] **12.Nh4 Nb6 13.Ng6?=[13.Bb3 Be6 14.Ng6 Rfe8 15.Nxe7+ Rxe7±] 13...Re8?±** [13...Nxc4 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Qxc4 Be6 16.Qd3 Rac8=] **14.Nxe7+ Rxe7 15.Bb3 Be6 16.Bxb6?=[16.Qf3 Nbd7 17.a5 (17.Qg3?! Bxb3 18.cxb3 Re6±) 17...Bxb3 18.cxb3 Nc5 19.b4 Nb3 20.Rad1 Qc4±] 16...Qxb6 17.Bxe6?!±** for the first time in the game, Erwin gets the advantage [17.Ra3 Rd8 18.Qd3 Red7 19.Bxe6 fxe6=] **17...fxe6 18.Rab1** [18.Ra3 Rf8 19.Rd1 Ref7 20.Kh1 d5 21.f3 d4 22.Nb1 Qc6±; 18.Qd3 Rc8 19.Rab1 Qc6 20.Rbc1 d5 21.exd5 exd5±] **18...Rc8 19.Kh1** [19.Qd3 Qc6 20.Rbd1 d5 21.exd5 exd5 22.Nxd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5+ Nxd5 24.Rxd5 Rxc2±] **19...Qb4 20.f3?!±** this will lose a P. Erwin gets a " clear " advantage [20.Qd3?! Rc4 21.f3 d5 22.Rfe1 Qc5±; 20.Rfd1 Rc4 21.f3 Rd4 22.Rf1 Rc7 23.Qe3 Rf7±] **20...d5 21.Nd1?!-+ right square, wrong piece.** Erwin gets a " winning " advantage [21.Qd1 Rd7 22.f4 d4 23.Ne2 Nxe4±; 21.exd5 exd5 22.Qd3 d4 23.Ne4 Nxe4 24.fxe4 Qxa4±] **21...Qxa4** Erwin goes up a P **22.c3 d4?!±** [22...dxe4 23.Nf2 Qc4 24.Rfe1 exf3 25.gxf3 Qc6-+] **23.b3** [23.Nf2 dxc3 24.bxc3 Rxc3±] **23...Qc6 24.c4 b5 25.Nb2 Rb7?!±** Erwin is losing his advantage [25...Rec7 26.Nd3 Nd7 27.c5 a5±] **26.Nd3 bxc4?!=** [26...Nd7 27.Rbc1 Rbb8 28.c5 b4±] **27.Nxe5 d3 28.Qa2?+-** [28.Qe1 Qb6 29.Nxc4 Qd4 30.e5 Nd5=] **28...cxb3 29.Rxb3 Qc2?!±** Erwin should have used his back rank mate threat [29...Qc1 30.Rb1 Rxb1 31.Qxb1 Qxb1 32.Rxb1 d2 33.Nd3 Rc3 34.Kg1 Rxd3-+ Erwin would be up N + passed P on the 2nd rank]

Position after 29...Qc2



30.Rb2?!-+ – 13.25 Alex wrongly, and somewhat in desperation, decides to sac his R for attacking possibilities with N & Q [30.Ra3 Qxa2 31.Rxa2 Rc2 32.Rxa6 d2 33.Raa1 Rbc7 34.Nd3 R7c3 35.Kg1 Rxd3-+ – 4.23 Erwin would be up an N (with a passed P on the 2nd rank)]
30...Rxb2 31.Qxe6+ Erwin is up a R **31...Kh8 32.Ng6+ Kh7 33.Nh4** – 18.37 [33.Nf4 Rc6 34.Qf5+ Kg8 35.Rg1 d2-+ and it is mate in 12 moves] **33...Rb1?-+** – 10.88 Erwin misses a mate [33...Rc5 34.e5 d2 35.Qxa6 Rxe5 36.h3 Re1 37.Qa5 Rxf1+ 38.Kh2 d1Q 39.Qc3 Qf2 40.Qe1 Qdxe1 41.Ng6 Qxg2#] **34.Qf5+ Kg8 35.Qe6+ Kh8 36.Rg1?** – 35.06 [36.Qxc8+ Qxc8 37.Rxb1 Qc2 38.Rg1 d2 39.h3 d1Q 40.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 41.Kh2 Nh5 – 15.99 Erwin would be up a Q vs P]
36...Rxxg1+ 37.Kxxg1 Qc5+?-+ – 35.34 again there is a missed mate. Alex resigned. [37...d2 38.h3 d1Q+ 39.Kh2 Qg1+!! 40.Kxxg1 Qc1+ 41.Kh2 Qf4+ 42.g3 Qd2+ 43.Ng2 Rc2 44.Qc8+ Rxc8 45.g4 Rc2 46.Kg3 g5 47.f4 Qxg2#] Coming is **38.Kf1 Qc1+ 39.Kf2 Qd2+ 40.Kg3 Nh5+ 41.Kh3 Nf4+ 42.Kg3 Nxe6-+** Erwin would be up Q + R **0-1**

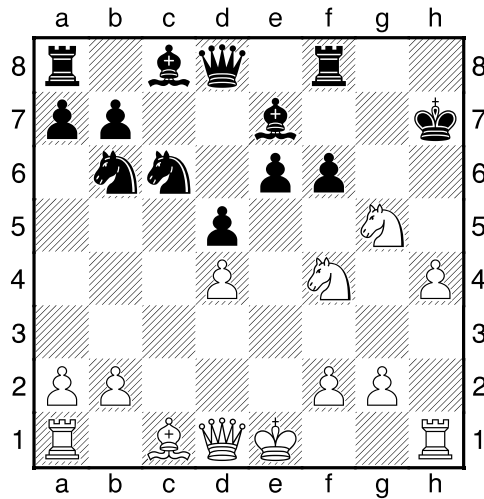
In the Reserves, in Rd. 5, Aaron Wu won a nice tactical miniature against Jim Roe, sacking his bishop for an attack. This moved him into sole possession of first place. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Wu, A (1724) – Roe, J (1603) [C06]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (5), 31.01.2008

1.e4 e6± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **2.d4 d5 3.Nd2=** [3.e5±] **3...Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nc6 8.Ne2 Be7?!±** [8...Qb6 9.0-0 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 11.Nf3 Qg4=] **9.Nf3 0-0 10.Nf4?!=** [10.0-0 Nb6 11.Re1 Bd7±] **10...Nb6?!±** [10...Qb6] **11.h4 f5?!±** Aaron gets a " clear " advantage [11...Qc7? 12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Ng5+ Kg8 14.Qh5 Bb4+ 15.Kf1 Re8 16.Qh7+ Kf8 17.Qh8+ Ke7 18.Qxg7 Nd8+-; 11...h6? 12.g4 Qc7 13.g5 h5 14.g6 Nb4 15.gxf7+ Rxf7 16.Ng5 Nxd3+ 17.Nxd3 Bxg5 18.hxg5 g6+-; 11...f6 12.0-0 Qe8 13.Qc2 f5 14.Bd2 Qd8±] **12.exf6?±** for the first time in the game, Jim gets the advantage [12.Ng5 Qe8 13.Kf1 Nxd4 14.Be3 Nc6 15.Ngxe6 d4 16.Nc7 Qf7 17.Nxa8 dxe3 18.Nxb6 axb6±] **12...gxf6 13.Bxh7+** Aaron decides to sac his B for an attack, though it is not quite there **13...Kxh7** Jim is up B vs P **14.Ng5+**

Position after 14.Ng5+



fxg5??+- a fatal blunder – allows mate [14...Kg8 15.Ngxe6 Bxe6 16.Nxe6 Qd7 17.Nxf8 Rxf8
Jim would have 2 N's vs R + 2 P's] **15.Qh5+-** Jim resigns. It is mate **15...Kg8 16.Qg6+ Kh8**
17.hxg5# 1-0

In the lower section in Rd. 5, Steve Karpik started some tactical complications against Jim Paterson, but in the ensuing melee, got mated. The win moved Jim

Jim Paterson



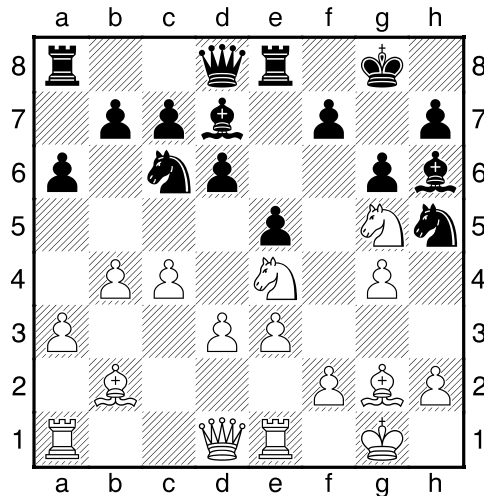
up into a multi-way tie for 4th place. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Paterson, J (1821) – Karpik, S (1585) [A15]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Scarborough Chess Club (5), 31.01.2008

[Armstrong, Robert]

1.b4 **Nf6** **2.Bb2** **g6?!=** [2...e6 3.a3 a5 4.b5 d5] **3.Nf3** **Bg7** **4.c4 0-0** [4...d5 5.e3 0-0 6.Nc3 a5=; 4...a5 5.b5 d5 6.e3 Bf5=] **5.g3?!=** Steve gets the advantage [5.Nc3 d6 6.d4 c5 7.bxc5 dxc5 8.e3 Nc6=] **5...a6** [5...d5 6.Na3 Qd6 7.c5 Qc6] **6.Bg2** **Nc6?!=** [6...d5 7.cxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qf5] **7.a3** [7.Qb3 Re8 8.0-0 e5=] **7...Re8** [7...d5 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qf5 10.d3 Rd8=] **8.0-0** **d6** **9.d3** **Bd7** **10.Nbd2** **Qc8** **11.Re1?!=** [11.d4 e5 12.d5 Ne7 13.e4 h6=] **11...e5** **12.Ng5** **Bh6?!=** [12...h6 13.Nge4 Nxe4 14.Nxe4 Bh3] **13.Nde4** **Qd8?!=** now Jim gets the advantage [13...Nxe4 14.Nxe4 Bg7 15.e3 Bh3=] **14.e3?!=** [14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Ne4 Qd8 16.e3 Bg7] **14...Nh5** **15.g4**



Bxg4?± Steve believes he's found a sac that wins a P, but he ends up giving Jim a " clear " advantage [best is 15...Ng7 16.Nxf7! Kxf7 17.Qf3+ Kg8 18.Nf6+ Kh8 19.Nxe8 Nxe8 20.Qg3 Bg5=] **16.Qxg4?±** Jim misses the nice tactical line, keeping his " clear " advantage [16.Nxf7! Bxd1 17.Nxd8 Raxd8 18.Raxd1 Bg7± material equality] **16...f5** **17.Qh4?±** right file; wrong square. Steve gets the advantage [17.Qh3 Bxg5 18.Nc3 Bf6± but Steve would be up a P] **17...fxe4** Steve is up a P **18.f4** **exf4?±** Steve takes the wrong P; Jim now gets a " clear " advantage [18...exf3 19.Nxf3 Qxh4 20.Nxh4 Nf6] **19.exf4** **Bxg5?!+-** Jim gets a " winning " advantage [19...Bg7 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Rxe4 Qf6 22.Rae1 Rxe4 23.Rxe4 Kg8±] **20.fxg5** **exd3??+-** Steve goes up 2 P's....but gets mated ! [20...h6 21.Bf6 Nxf6 22.gxf6 Re5 23.Bxe4 Rg5+ 24.Kh1 Qxf6 25.Qxh6 Rh5 26.Qxg6+ Qxg6 27.Bxg6 Rh3+-] **21.Bd5+** **Kf8** **22.Rf1+** **Ke7?+-** Steve could have stalled the inevitable a bit [22...Qf6 23.Rxf6+ Ke7 24.Qh3 Kd8 25.Bxc6 bxc6 26.Rf7 Re7 27.Raf1 Nf6 28.Bxf6 Ke8 29.Rxe7+ Kf8 30.Qh6+ Kg8 31.Qg7#] **23.Rf7# 1-0**

In Rd. 6 in the Championship Section, master Erwin Casareno



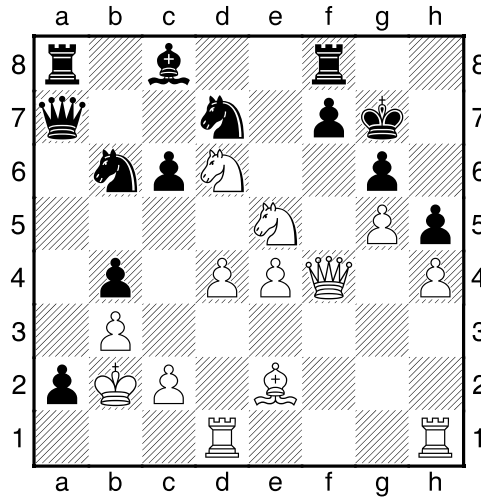
kept hold of first place with a win over your intrepid editor, Bob Armstrong, where he certainly dodged a bullet: I missed getting a second queen; I missed a mate; I force him to sac his Q; I decided against taking a draw by repetition and went for a win (a good decision really); I missed winning a free B; I miss a draw and make a terrible blunder at the end in time pressure that gives him a win. My play is certainly inconsistent – get good positions, and then don't convert them. But Erwin had to play a long time under 5 min., and did well given the time pressure. Here is our game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Casareno, E (2371) – Armstrong, R (1839) [B07]

SCC Club Championship Toronto (6), 07.02.2008

1.e4 g6± 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 Nf6 Pirc Defence **5.f3 0-0 6.Qd2 c6 7.Bh6?!=** [7.h4 h5 8.Bd3 Na6 9.0-0-0 Qa5±] **7...e5?±** Erwin gets an early " clear " advantage [7...b5 8.Bd3 b4 (8...e5?!±) 9.Nce2 Bxh6 10.Qxh6 Qc7 11.c3 c5=] **8.Bxg7 Kxg7 9.0-0-0 Qa5 10.g4 b5 11.h4?!±** [11.a3 Ne8 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.h4 h6±] **11...h5** [11...b4 12.Nb1 h5 13.Bc4 Nbd7 14.Bb3 Qb6±] **12.g5 Nfd7?!±** [12...Ng8 13.a3 Na6 14.Rh2 Rb8±] **13.f4?!±** [13.Kb1 Kg8 14.a3 (14.Nd5?! Qxd2 15.Ne7+ Kg7 16.Rxd2 Bb7±) 14...Qb6 15.d5 b4 16.Na4 Qc7±] **13...b4 14.Nb1 exf4 15.Qxf4 Qxa2?!±** [15...d5 16.a3 bxa3 17.Nxa3 Na6±] **16.Qxd6** material equality **16...Qe6 17.Qf4?±** for the first time in the game, I get the advantage [17.Qxe6 fxe6 18.Bc4 e5 19.Nd2 exd4 20.Ne2 Re8 21.Nxd4 Ne5±] **17...a5** I now start to determine the course of the game **18.Bh3 Qc4** [18...Qe7 19.e5 (19.c3 bxc3 20.bxc3 a4 21.Rh2 c5±; 19.Nd2 a4 20.e5 Kg8±) 19...Kh7 20.Nd2 a4 21.Nc4 a3 22.b3 c5±] **19.b3** [19.Nf3 a4 20.Qd6 c5 21.Ne5 Qa2 22.Rd3 a3±; 19.Qd6 c5 20.Nf3 a4±] **19...Qb5 20.Nf3 a4** a strong move **21.Bf1 Qb7?!=** I thought I needed the b6 square for my N [21...Qb6 22.bxa4 Rxa4 23.Bc4 Ba6 24.Bb3 Ra5±] **22.Ne5?+ a blunder** – this should lose a piece, at best. I get a " winning " advantage [22.bxa4?! Rxa4 23.Bc4 Qa7 24.Bb3 Ra1±; 22.Bc4 Qb6 (22...axb3?!±) 23.Rhf1 Ba6 24.Bxa6 Rxa6=] **22...a3 23.Nd2?+ – 10.69** this should be a totally losing move [23.Nxa3 Rxa3 24.Bh3 Qa7 25.Nxd7 Bxd7 26.Kd2 Bxh3 27.Rxh3 Qxd4+ 28.Ke2 Qc5+ – 3.87 I would be up an N] **23...Nb6??± blunder** – I misanalyzed a clear win and so rejected pushing the P. I give Erwin a " clear " advantage [23...a2! 24.Nec4 (24.Kb2?? Qa7 25.c3 (25.Ka1?? Qxd4+ 26.c3 Qxc3#) 25...a1Q+ 26.Rxa1 Qxa1+ 27.Kc2 Ra2+ 28.Kd3 Qxc3+

29.Ke2 Nxe5+) 24...a1Q+ 25.Nb1 Qba7 26.Kd2 Q1xd4+ 27.Ke1 Qdc5+- 11.40 I would be up Q vs P] **24.Ndc4?!±** [24.Qf6+ Kg8 25.Bc4 Nxc4 26.Ndxc4 Ra7 27.Kb1 Qe7 28.Qxe7 Rxe7±] **24...N8d7** Here I thought I was setting a trap for Erwin. I thought he could not bring his N to d6 because I would get to his K – wrong [24...Kg8 25.Kb1 a2+ 26.Ka1 Be6±] **25.Nd6 Qa7** I had misanalyzed this line, and thought Erwin was now in trouble. [25...a2 26.Kb2 Qa7 27.Ka1 Nxe5 28.Qxe5+ Kh7±] **26.Be2?+-** Erwin spent 15 min. on this move, and came up with a lemon. I get a " winning " advantage [the following move was the one I was afraid Erwin would make – then I have nothing 26.Kb1 Nxe5 27.Qxe5+ Kh7±] **26...a2 27.Kb2??+-** this leads to mate in 5 moves [27.Kd2 Nxe5 28.Qxe5+ Kh7 29.Qc5 Be6+- 2.02]



27...Nxe5?± this time I miss a mate and give Erwin back a " slight " advantage – I really don't seem to want to win this game. [27...a1Q+!! 28.Rxa1 Nc4+ 29.bxc4 Qxd4+ 30.c3 Qxc3+ 31.Kb1 Rxa1#] **28.Qxe5+ Kg8** [28...Kh7? 29.Ka1 Be6 (29...Rd8 30.Bxh5! gxh5 31.Rhf1 Rxd6 32.Qxd6 Qd7 33.Qf8 and it is mate in 9 moves; 29...Qd7 30.Rhf1 Ba6 31.Bxa6 Rxa6+-) 30.Bxh5! gxh5 31.Qf6 Kg8+- 2.50(31...Rad8 32.Qh6+ Kg8 33.Nf5 f6 34.gxf6 Bxf5 35.Rhg1+ Bg4 36.Qxh5 Qh7 37.Qxg4+ Kh8 38.Qg7+ Qxg7 39.fxg7+ Kh7 40.gxf8Q Rxf8+-)] **29.Ne8 Rxe8 30.Qxe8+** Erwin goes up the exchange **30...Kg7?+-** wrong square – Erwin gets a " winning " advantage again – quite a see-saw battle [30...Kh7 31.Qxc6 Be6 32.Ka1 Rc8 33.Qb5 Rxc2 34.Bd3 Qa3! 35.Bxc2 Nc4 36.Qxc4 Bxc4 37.Rd2 Be6±] **31.Qe5+ Kg8 32.Ka1 Be6 33.Qc5 Rb8 34.Qxb4** Erwin goes up the exchange + P **34...Nd5 35.Qd2 Nb4 36.c3 Bxb3 37.Rc1?!±** [Erwin said he rejected the following move because he thought I had some chances with the open a & b – files. 37.cxb4 Bxd1 38.Rxd1 Qa4 39.b5 cxb5 40.Qxa2 Qb4+- 3.34] **37...Na6 38.Rhf1?!±** [38.Rc2! Bxc2 39.Qxc2 c5 40.d5 Qb7±] **38...Rd8?+-** I felt I was lost, and the only chance was to get my N to b3 – so I needed some tactical shots, and Erwin now had less than 10 min. left, and I had 21 min.. Maybe he might go wrong, playing faster to make up time [38...Nc7 39.Rce1 Nb5 40.Bxb5 Rxb5±] **39.Rf6 Be6 40.Qd3??+-** trying to play quickly, Erwin blunders, and misses my N to c5 tactic. I get a " winning " advantage [40.Rxe6! fxe6 41.Qxa2 Kg7 42.Bxa6 Ra8 43.Kb2 Qxa6 44.Qxa6 Rxa6+- 2.50 Erwin would be up a P] **40...Nc5** the threat of N to b3 with check is too strong. Erwin must sac his Q **41.dxc5 Rxd3 42.Bxd3 Qxc5** – 3.91 I am up Q + P vs 2 R **43.Rf3 Qa3?+-** – 2.31 [43...Qe5 44.Re3 Qh2 45.Rce1 Qxh4+- 4.92] **44.Rff1 Qb3?!+-** – 2.61 [44...Qd6 45.Ba6 Qe5 46.Rfe1 Qf4 47.Bb7 Qxh4 48.Bxc6 Qxg5+- -3.09] **45.Rfe1 Qb6 46.Re2 Qc7 47.e5 Qa5 48.Ree1 Qa4 49.Re4** 1st time for position **49...Qa3 50.Ree1 Qa4 51.Re4** 2nd time for position **51...Qa7** I considered going for a repeat position draw, given the difference in

our ratings. But I saw a chance to win a piece, and Erwin had only 3 min. left, I had about 10 min., and I was winning. So I decided to go for the win. **52.Re2 Bg4?+-** - 1.96 [52...Qc5 53.Ree1 Qf2 54.Rh1 Qe3 55.Ba6 Qxe5+- - 4.92] **53.Rxa2??+-** this pawn is untakeable; the e-file cannot be left unprotected. Erwin has 2 R vs Q [53.Re4 Kg7 54.Ree1 Qf2 55.Rh1 Be6+- - 3.34] **53...Qe3 54.Kb2** - 6.28 All I need to do now is take the B, and Erwin can resign, down 2 R vs Q + B, and having only 2 min. left on his clock, and I have 8 min.. [54.Ra8+ Kg7 55.Rb1 Qxd3 56.Rbb8 Qxc3+ 57.Kb1 Qxe5 58.Rg8+ Kh7 59.Rh8+ Qxh8 60.Rxh8+ Kxh8+- - 9.42] **54...Qd2+??+-** - 1.46 eegad ?? Trying to play blitz against Erwin, to press him on time, I miss that the B can interpose and save itself (I was thinking he had to play Rc2 ??). Bad error to blitz, given my time advantage, material advantage, and that I am a terrible blitz player. [54...Qxd3 55.Ra3 Qb5+ 56.Rb3 Qxe5 57.Rh1 Be6 58.Ra3 Bd5 59.Rc1 Qh2+ 60.Rc2 Qxh4+- - 10.18] **55.Bc2 Be6?=-** Unsettled at my previous blunder, I now come up with this bad move. Now Erwin had 2 min., and I had 7 min.. [55...Qh2 56.Rf1 Bf5 (56...Qxh4?? 57.Bb3 Bf5 58.Ra7 Kf8 59.Rxf5 gxf5 60.Rxf7+ Ke8 61.g6 Qh2+ 62.Ka3 Qxe5 63.g7 Qc5+ 64.Kb2 Qf2+=) 57.Rc1 Bxc2 58.Rxc2 Qxh4 59.Ra8+ Kg7 60.e6 Qxg5 61.Ra7 Qb5+ 62.Kc1 Qe5 63.Rxf7+ Kg8 64.Rb7 Qxe6+- - 1.65] **56.Ra4?+-** I get back a " winning " advantage. Maybe a win is not yet lost. [56.Ra8+ Kh7 57.Rd1 Qe2 58.Rdd8 Qb5+ 59.Ka1 Qxe5 60.Kb2 c5=] **56...Qe2??** [56...Qh2 57.Rb4 Kg7 58.Rf1 Bf5 59.Rc1 Qxe5 60.Rc4 Qe2 61.Rb4 c5 62.Rf4 Bd3+- - 3.09] **57.Rd1?+-** [57.Re4 Qb5+ 58.Rb4 Qxe5 59.Ra1 Kg7 60.Ra8 Qc7=] **57...Qb5+?=-** in the blitz, I start giving Erwin some leverage [57...Bf5 58.Rc1 Qxe5 59.Bxf5 gxf5 60.Rc2 f4 61.Rf2 f3 62.Ra8+ Kg7 63.Ra1 Qb5+ 64.Kc2 Kg6+-] **58.Rb4 Qxe5** I am up Q + P vs 2 R **59.Rd8+ Kg7 60.Rbb8 f5??+-** a terrible blunder in time pressure that loses me the game. We each had about 1 min. left by now. [60...Bc4? 61.Rh8 f6 62.Rhc8 fvg5 63.Rb7+ Kh6 64.Rxc6 Bf7±; 60...Bd5 61.Rg8+ Kh7 62.Rgf8 Kg7 (62...Be6 63.Rfd8 Bd5 64.Rf8=) 63.Rg8+ Kh7 64.Rgf8=] **61.Rb7+ Bf7 62.Bb3?+-** 4.74 though of little consequence at this point, Erwin misses the hard to see mate. [62.Rdd7 Qe8 63.Bb3 Qxd7 64.Rxd7 Kh7 65.Bxf7 Kg7 66.Be8+ Kf8 67.Bxg6 f4 68.Bf5 f3 69.g6 f2 70.g7+ Kg8 71.Be6+ Kh7 72.g8Q+ Kh6 73.Rh7#] **62...Qe2+ 63.Kc1 Qe1+ 64.Kc2 Qe2+** 11.46 [64...Qe4+ 65.Rd3 Kf8 66.Rxf7+ Ke8 67.Rf6 Ke7 68.Rxg6 f4 69.Re6+ Qxe6 70.Bxe6 Kxe6+- 12.16] **65.Rd2 Qe4+ 66.Kb2** and I flagged in a lost position. **1-0**

In Rd. 6 as well, in the top section, John Hall



held onto second place with a win over Randy Moysoski. He took the advantage early, and never gave it up, eventually forcing Randy to sac the exchange. He then also went up a pawn. The game went into time pressure, and John came out on top, given his existing advantage. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Hall, J (2115) – Moysoski, R (1845) [E65]

SCC Club Championship Toronto (6), 07.02.2008

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nbd7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d4 c5 8.d5 Ne8?! [8...h6 9.h3 Nb6 10.Qd3 Bd7=] 9.Bg5?! [9.h3 Qb6 10.Qc2 Nc7 11.Bd2 Ne5±] 9...h6 10.Bf4 Qb6 11.Qb3 g5 12.Bd2 e5?! [12...Qxb3 13.axb3 Nc7=] 13.e4?! [13.dxe6 fxe6 14.Qc2 Nb8 15.h3 Nc6±] 13...f5 14.exf5 Rxf5?± John gets a " clear " advantage [14...Qxb3 15.axb3 Ndf6=] 15.Qc2 Ndf6 [15...Rf7 16.Be3 Ndf6±; 15...Rf8 16.h4 g4 17.Nh2 Nef6±] 16.Be3?! [16.a3 e4 17.Ne1 Qa6 18.Qb3 Bd7±] 16...Bd7?! [16...Ng4 17.Bc1 Rf7 18.Qe2 Ngf6 19.Nd2 Bf5±] 17.Nd2?! [17.h3 Nh7 18.b4 Qxb4 19.Rfb1 Qa3 20.Rxb7 Rf7±] 17...a6?! [17...Ng4 18.Nde4 Nef6 19.Bd2 Rf8±] 18.b4 Rc8?!+- John gets a " winning " advantage [18...Ng4 19.bxc5 Nxe3 20.Qxf5 Qc7 21.cxd6 Nxd6 22.Qd3 Nxf1 23.Rxf1 b5±] 19.bxc5 dxc5 20.Rab1 Qc7 21.Nde4 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Bf8 23.Rb2?! [23.d6 Bxd6 24.Rfd1 Bf8 25.Nxc5 Bxc5 26.Rxb7 Bd4 27.Rxc7 Rxc7+-] 23...b5 24.Rd1 Bd6?!+- [24...Nd6 25.Bf1 Nxe4 26.Qxe4 b4±] 25.Qe2 [25.Bf1 b4 26.a3 bxa3 27.Ra2 Nf6+-] 25...Ng7?!+- 2.09 right piece; wrong square [25...Nf6 26.h4 gxh4 27.Bxh6 hxg3 28.Nxg3 b4 29.Nxf5 Bxf5+- 1.78] 26.Bh3 Rff8 27.Bxd7 Qxd7 28.cxb5 axb5 29.Qxb5 John goes up a P 29...Qe7 30.Rdb1 Nf5 31.Qa6 Ra8 32.Qc4 Nd4?+- 6.30 [32...Qf7 33.Bxc5 Bxc5 34.Qxc5 Rac8 35.Qb6 g4+- 2.39] 33.Rb7 Qd8 34.R7b6?+- 4.59 John misses a rather long mate [34.Nxd6 Qxd6 35.R1b6 Ra4 36.Qxa4 Qxd5 37.Rg6+ Kh8 38.Rxh6+ Kg8 39.Rg6+ Kh8 40.Bxd4 Qxd4 41.Rf6 Rd8 42.Qc6 Qa1+ 43.Kg2 Qg1+ 44.Kxg1 Rd1+ 45.Kg2 Rd8 46.Rh6+ Kg8 47.Qg6+ Kf8 48.Rh8#] 34...Rf6 sacking the exchange is preferable to losing a minor piece 35.Nxf6?+- 3.52 [35.Bxd4 cxd4 36.Rb7 Rf3+- 9.10] 35...Qxf6 John is up the exchange + P 36.Bxd4 exd4 37.Qe2?+- 2.89 [37.Re1 Rf8 38.Qf1 Qd8 39.Qb5 Qf6+- 5.69] 37...d3?+- 4.19 [37...Qf5 38.Qe6+ Qxe6 39.dxe6 Be7 40.Rb7 Re8+- 3.20] 38.Qe6?+- 2.69 [38.Qe4 Rf8 39.R1b2 Rc8+- 4.84] 38...Qxe6 39.dxe6 Be5 40.Rc6 Bd4 41.Rc7 d2 42.Kf1 Re8 43.Ke2 Rxe6+ 44.Kxd2 Re8 45.Rcb7?+- 3.43 [45.a4 Rd8 46.Kc2 Rf8 47.f3 Rxf3 48.Rb8+ Rf8 49.Rxf8+ Kxf8+- 5.10 John would be up the exchange, each having a passed P 4 moves from queening – but Bl's K is out of position] 45...Ra8 46.Kd3?+- 1.80 [46.Rb8+ Rxb8 47.Rxb8+ Kf7+- 4.31 John would be up the exchange + P] 46...Rd8?+- 4.61 [46...Ra3+ 47.Kc4 Rxa2 48.f3 Rxh2+- 1.76] 47.Kc4 Ra8?+- 9.24 [47...Be5 48.R1b6 Ra8 49.Rxh6 Bd4+- 5.05] 48.f4?+- 2.80 [48.Rb8+ Rxb8 49.Rxb8+ Kf7 50.a4 Bxf2 51.a5 Bg1 52.Rb2 Bd4 53.Rb7+ Ke6 54.a6 Kf5+- 13.44] 48...gxf4 4.30 [48...Rxa2? 49.R1b6 gxf4 50.Rg6+ Kf8 51.Rd6 Re2 52.gxf4 Re7 53.Rxe7 Kxe7+- 6.62] 49.gxf4?+- 2.52 [49.Rb8+ Rxb8 50.Rxb8+ Kf7+- 5.13 John would be up the exchange] 49...Rf8?+- 6.13 [49...Rxa2 50.R1b6 Rf2 51.Rg6+ Kh8 52.Rxh6+ Kg8 53.Rg6+ Kh8 54.Ra6 Bg7 55.Rf7 Kg8 56.Raa7 Bh6+- 3.03] 50.f5?+- 3.43 [50.Rb8 Be3 51.Rxf8+ Kxf8 52.a4 Bd2 53.Rb5 Kg7 54.a5 Bxa5 55.Rxa5 Kg6+- 8.59 John would be up a R] 50...Rd8?+- 9.19 John is still up the exchange + P. The players stopped scoring due to time pressure[50...Rxf5 51.Ra7 Be5 52.Rg1+ Kh8 53.Rg6 Rf4+ 54.Kd5 Rf6 55.Rxf6 Bxf6+- 4.65 John would be up the exchange] 1-0

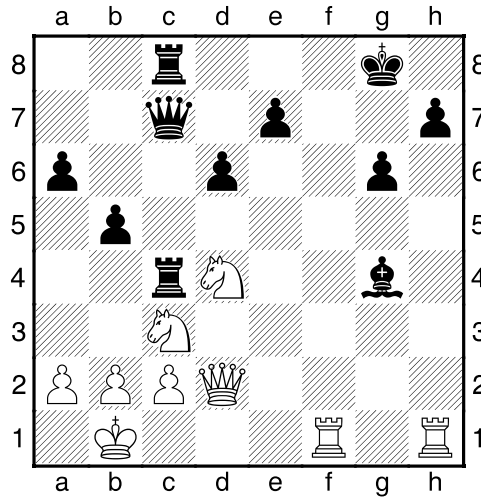
In the Reserves Section in Rd. 6, the first place player, junior Aaron Wu, faced off against junior Kevin Wu, who was in second. Aaron speculatively, in a losing position, sacked a minor piece for 2 pawns. Near the end, Kevin gave back a knight for an attack, and came up with mate. This left Kevin alone in first place, and dropped Aaron back into a tie for second. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Wu, K (1674) – Wu, A (1724) [B79]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (6), 07.02.2008

1.e4 c5± Sicilian Defence – Fritz evaluation not generally accepted 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3 d6 7.Bc4 Nf6 8.f3 0-0 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.0-0-0?! [10.0-0 Ne5 11.Bb3 Rc8±] 10...Ne5?! [10...Qc7 11.Bd5 Rac8=] 11.Bb3 Qa5 [11...Rc8?! 12.h4 h5 13.Bh6 Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7±] 12.Kb1?! [12.g4?! Rac8 13.Kb1 b5=; 12.h4 h5 13.Bg5 Rfc8 14.Nd5 Qxd2+ 15.Rxd2 Nxd5 16.Bxd5 Re8±] 12...Rfc8 13.h4 Nc4?± Kevin gets a " clear " advantage [13...h5 14.Bh6 Nc4 (14...Bh8? 15.Nd5 Qd8 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.g4 hxg4 18.h5 gxh5 19.Rxh5 Ng6

20.Bg5 e6+-) 15.Bxc4 Rxc4=] **14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Nb3 Qc7** [15...Qa6? 16.h5 Nxh5 17.Nd5 Re8+-] **16.g4 Rc8 17.h5?!±** [17.e5 Ne8 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.exd6 Nxd6±] **17...b5?+-** Kevin gets a " winning " advantage [17...gxh5? 18.gxh5 Kh8+-; 17...Bxg4 18.e5 Bxf3 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.hxg6 fxe6 (20...Bxh1?? 21.gxh7+ Kh8 22.Rxh1 Bxc3 23.bxc3 f6 24.Bh6 Rg4+-) 21.Bd4 Bxd4 22.Nxd4 Bxd1 23.Qxd1 Qb6 24.Nb3 Qe3±] **18.hxg6 fxe6 19.e5 Nxe4** Aaron decides to sac his N for 2 P's **20.fxe4 Bxe4** Kevin is up N vs 2 connected, passed P's **21.Rd1 Bxe5** Kevin is up N vs 3 P's **22.Bd4 Bxd4 23.Nxd4 a6?+-** 8.87 allows mate [23...Rxc3! 24.Nxb5 Rxc2 25.Qh6 Rxb2+ 26.Kxb2 Qc2+ 27.Ka1 g5 28.Qxg5+ Qg6 29.Qxe7 Re8 30.Qxa7 h5 31.Nxd6 Rd8 32.Nc4 Qe6+- 5.93]



24.Ne6!?-+ 10.43 Kevin sacs his N to divert the B from defence. Kevin misses a rather long computer-found mate [24.Qh6 e5 25.Nd5 exd4 26.Nf6+ Kf7 27.Qxh7+ Ke6 28.Re1+ Kxf6 29.Qh4+ Kg7 30.Re7+ Qxe7 31.Qxe7+ Kg8 32.Qh7+ Kf8 33.Qxg6 Bh3 34.Rxh3 R4c5 35.Rh8+ Ke7 36.Rh7+ Kd8 37.Qg8#] **24...Bxe6** Aaron is up 3 P's , but is lost **25.Qh6 Bf5?+-** allows mate in 5 moves [25...Bh3 26.Qxh3 e5 27.Qe6+ Kg7 28.Nd5 Rf4 29.Nxc7 Rxc7 30.Rfg1 and it is mate in 9 moves] **26.Qxh7+** Aaron is up 2 P's and is mated **26...Kf8 27.Qxg6** Aaron is up a P **27...e5 28.Rxf5+** Kevin is up N vs P. Aaron resigned. It is mate **28...Ke7 29.Rh7+ Kd8 30.Rf8# 1-0**

2008

Stephen Leacock

Grades 1 – 12 Challenge

Chess Tournament

Saturday, February 23rd, 2008

Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute

2450 Birchmount Rd Toronto, Ontario MIT 2M5

Advance Registration Only: \$15 per player.

Pay at site.

Sections:	Beginner	Intermediate	Championship
	Players rated < 1100 CFC or unrated, with less than 2 years of tournament experience	Players rated < 1500 or unrated, who have played on school teams or tournaments for 2+ years	Players rated 1500+ or unrated, who have tournament experience and compete with stronger

players

Prizes: For every 5 participants, 1 player will receive a fully paid entry to the **Ontario High School Chess Championship**, a thirty-five dollar value.

Automatic free ribbon / chess champion button prizes for all

participants.

Schedule:

Check In	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Round 3	1:35 pm – 3:05 pm
Round 1	9:30 am – 11:00 am	Round 4	3:10 pm – 4:40 pm
Round 2	11:05 am – 12:35 pm	Round 5	4:45 pm – 6:15 pm
	Lunch 12:35 pm – 1:35 pm	Closing	6:15 pm – 6:30 pm

Equipment: SETS, BOARDS, AND CLOCKS ARE PROVIDED! Many thanks to the **Ontario Chess Association!**

We'll be selling **chess sets** and **clocks**, and other **merchandise** at location.

There will also be **pizza** and **pop** on sale for lunch at 12:15 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Chris Field, Organiser

chris.field@tel.tdsb.on.ca

edward.w.phung@gmail.com

Edward Phung

Tournament Director

The **Ontario High School Chess Championship 2008** (Fri May 9 – Sun May 11) will be held at University of Toronto, Mississauga. A highway coach service will be available from Toronto.

Students in Grades 7 and 8 ("Junior High School") are most welcome.

Students in Grades 1 through 6, who can compete with older players, are also welcome.

Students may stay in the university residence; some students and parents stay in nearby hotels.

In addition to **Individual Prizes**, the tournament offers **Team Prizes** and **Combined Team**

Prizes:

A **team** consists of the top 3 players from a school in one section;

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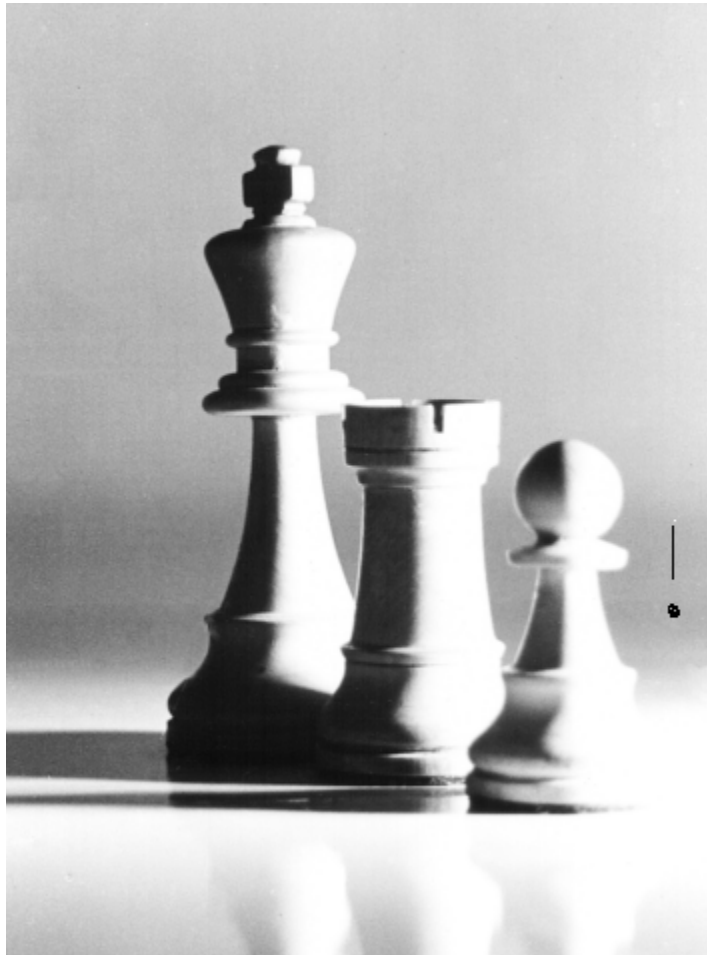
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