

**“ SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY OF TORONTO
CHESS TALK ”**

Newsletter of / Le Journal de
Scarborough Chess Club

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“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960; Second LARGEST Can. C. C. ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS
ISSUE # 14 – March 15, 2001
Special 4-Page Edition

DO YOU KNOW ? / SAVEZ-VOUS ?

Spotlight on the GTCL (Part 3)

Agenda Magic at the GTCL – Now You See It. Now You Don't !

Do you ever wonder what your political chess representatives are doing at night when they are donating their volunteer hours to keep the system running, so we can all play chess in tournaments from time to time in the GTA? Well, the surprising answer is that they are practicing the black art. They are making things disappear!!

We will trace the checkered history of three items on the agenda of the last GTCL Board Meeting of Feb. 12. The hand is quicker than the eye.

1st Agenda Item - Ontario Open '01 (Ontario Chess Association /Dutton Chess)

- Feb. 8 - The “ Tentative “ Agenda : sent out and showed this agenda item as item # 7.
In Issue # 11 of SCTCT, the lead article had been critical of the GTCL on this very topic because the GTCL had not formally been involved in it.
- Feb. 8 – Letter from SCTCT to GTCL (Ari Mendrinis, now “ Acting President “) :
“ This is certainly an important question as to what, if anything, GTCL intends to do to support the Ontario Open '01, in the light of a “ conflicting “ tournament, in the opinion of the OCA at this point, in the GTA. “
This item has been a critical “ hot “ issue recently; it seemed most legitimate that GTCL was at least going to discuss it from the GTCL perspective.

- Feb. 12 - Meeting - what did the good reps say about this critical issue ?
NOTHING! NADA!

Why ? The answer lies in the power of the chairperson of the meeting, “ Acting President ” Ari, who controlled the agenda. When Item # 7 was reached, Ari unilaterally announced that item # 7 was being “ WITHDRAWN “ ! It wasn’t adjourned to the next meeting, it was WITHDRAWN !

Hmmmm – there are some interesting features here :

- 1 - no explanation was given by Ari;
- 2 – there was no request by Ari for comments or questions;
- 3 – what is more amazing, the Board members, who have the right to overrule the Chair in such a matter (if they wanted to deal with it) said nary a peep !!
- 4 - there was no advance warning of the withdrawal (at least not publicly once the meeting began; we have no information whether Ari may have privately conferred/conspired with anyone else about this before he spoke).

Hmmmm . Wonder why this happened ? Now you see it – now you don’t !

2 nd Agenda Item - Future Conflicting Tournaments in the GTA (GTCL/CFC)

- Jan. 17 - Letter to the CFC by Bryan Lamb : Bryan signed it expressly as “ GTCL Secretary “ (Bryan has advised us that although he used the title, he was not really writing as the voice of GTCL as a whole, but only inquiring in his own personal capacity on the issue):
“ I would request that the CFC Executive come to an advance decision on whether the CFC is prepared to actively support sanctioning protection at the GTCL level should the need arise at some point in the future. “
- Jan. 20 – SCTCT Letter to Ari : Had the CFC Executive yet replied ?
- Jan. 21 – Bryan’s Letter to SCTCT : CFC had not replied, and he was “ not expecting any immediate response or action ..”.
- Jan. 22 - SCTCT Letter to Ari : Is the GTCL going to bring a motion to the CFC Governors on Bryan’s question, since the CFC Executive had still not replied. No response.
- Jan. 26 – SCTCT Letter to Ari : Will the draft agenda for the Feb. 12 Board meeting have on it this agenda item and the discussion of the merits/drawbacks of a GTCL motion to the CFC Governors. No response.
- Jan. 31 - Ari personally to me : the item was on the agenda.
- Feb. 7 - Ari again personally to me : confirmed it was on the agenda.
- Feb. 8 – The Tentative Agenda : sent out and it was NOT there !
- Feb. 8 – SCTCT Letter to All Board Members – we noted that this agenda item was “ different ...than item # 7 (Ontario Open ’01). It involves whether the GTCL should go in advance to the CFC to see if it will provide sanctioning protection support to GTCL, in case of a “ conflicting “ tournament, with a GTCL-SANCTIONED tournament, in future...why is it not there now on the agenda ? Is this

merely an oversight ? Or is it deliberate – that you, and the Executive, have decided you are not prepared to deal with this issue at the moment ? ”

- Feb. 8 – First Response * Bryan’s Letter to SCTCT : “ If the acting President intended the item to appear, then it was left off the agenda unintentionally....it can be added to the agenda (assuming an OK from Ari) “.
- Feb. 9 - Second Response * Ari’s Letter to SCTCT : “ ...I just don’t want to open new wounds before the old ones heeled and besides I am asking the Board on Monday to express their opinion about the conflicting tournament and see what the majority has to say .” Our best read on this is that Ari DELIBERATELY did leave it off the agenda, but was still intending to raise it (we expected under item # 8 – Other Business).
- Feb. 12 – Meeting : The fateful and somewhat chaotic meeting had started late, close to 8:00 pm., instead of 7:30 pm. It had been normal up to agenda item # 4 (see below) Then emotions began running a bit high. The Secretary, Bryan, bolted from the meeting in frustration with the course of proceedings. Item # 7 had been withdrawn, as noted above. Ari announced Item # 8. The situation got worse. It was only about 9:30 pm. But the Treasurer and one club rep. announced they were leaving! Work (lots) remained to be done ! This critical agenda item, and the third very contentious agenda item dealt with below, were still to be dealt with under “ Other Business “.

Hmmm. More interesting features ! Suddenly :

1. Mark Dutton (!) moved a motion to adjourn ! Chaos. There was support; there were objections (there were still 9 members – including 3 Exec. Cttee members - left to continue once the two had left; still a good quorum).
2. A Board member seconded the motion to adjourn.
3. Ari called for the vote.
4. All present voted to adjourn (except 2 “ Against “) !!

Hmmmm. Wonder why this happened ? Now you see it – now you don’t !

3 rd Agenda Item - GTCL / DC Organizing “ Contracts “ – Possible DC Breach

Feb. 12 - Meeting : It had been a normal one up to agenda Item # 4 – Tournament Bids. This item was for the receipt of any bids for 3 GTCL-sanctioned tournaments in Oct., Nov. and Dec. There were none.

Then the fateful intervention ! Dutton Chess asked to raise a related matter under this agenda item. It was notice that :

- a) DC was returning 4 upcoming GTCL – sanctioned tournaments (March, April, July and August) to GTCL, upon which DC had earlier in the year won the bid, and “ contracted “ to run the tournaments under the bid terms and conditions; and
- b) DC was no longer honouring the GTCL Constitution, and intended to run in Toronto 4 conflicting “ independent “ tournaments (already being advertised) against those just returned, using the exact dates and tournament names.

Needless to say there was some consternation and hot discussion.

Hmmm. More interesting features :

1. Ari ruled that discussion of items ARISING out of this, and in particular any discussion on whether DC was breaking a “ contract “ with GTCL, and damaging GTCL, would be DISCUSSED ONLY UNDER Item # 8 – Other Business !
2. Well, we all know now what happened when the meeting finally got to Item # 8. Mark Dutton (!) moved adjournment, got support (subject to 2 votes to continue), and it wasn't dealt with.

Hmmmm. Wonder why this happened ? Now you see it – now you don't !

Next Meeting – Friday, March 23 at 7:30 pm.

Hmmmm. Wonder what items are on the draft agenda for this meeting? Will we see the disappearing rabbits reappear ?? They're 3 rather vicious little rabbits though; will Ari let them loose this time ? Will the Board want them loose this time ?

Do you know what your Board members are doing at night ? You can attend. The GTCL Constitution [Article I B. 2)] states, under “ Conduct of Board Meetings “ : “ Non Board members may address the meeting at the invitation of the chair but shall have no vote. ” Go and find out !! It's at the Estonian Community Centre, 958 Broadview (above Danforth).

Linares 2001, Spain (Tournament Average Rtg. - 2722) : Feb. 23 – March 7

After chalking up Corus 2001 in Jan., Gary Kasparov (Rus 2849) continued in top form, dominating this important tournament, which included Peter Leko (Hun 2745), Alexi Shirov (Sp 2718), Anatoli Karpov (Rus 2679), Judit Polgar (Hun 2676), the strongest woman player ever, and the young 17 year old who made it to the FIDE World Championship quarter-finals, Alexander Grishchuk (Rus 2663). Garry scored 7.5/10 points in this double round-robin format, finishing 3 full points ahead of all 5 at 4.5 pts.

SCC Spring # 1 (Thurs.) Round Robin '01 (Tournament Average Rating – 1719)

On March 8, a new 5-round Thurs. night multi-week tournament started, consisting of 5 groups of 6 similarly rated players (5 players in one). The class breakdown is : Master – 1; Expert – 4; A – 6; B – 7; C – 7; D & Under/Unr. – 4.

GTCL Club Team League Update

Polonia A has kept its stranglehold on 1st place with 14 pts. On Feb. 21, SCC A lost to Polonia B .5 : 3.5 (LAMB [L]; HENTSCHEL [L]; CAI [D]; PICANA [L]), to remain tied for 2nd /3rd place with 8 pts. SCC A plays Macedonian CC on March 20. SCC B is in 2nd last place with 5 pts.

NOTE :

A – Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, or through SCC e-mail, to :

1. be added to the e-mail list; 2. submit content (fact, opinion, criticism - recommendations help!).

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