

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

Newsletter of / Le Journal de

Scarborough Chess Club

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“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

ISSUE # 19 – June 1, 2001

DO YOU KNOW ? / SAVEZ-VOUS ?

Spotlight on the GTCL (Part 4) – GTCL Scholarship Policy

Recap

In Issue # 10, of Jan. 15, we began to investigate the GTCL “ Scholarship-gate ”. We found that internal warring between a faction wishing to amend the current GTCL Scholarship policy, and a faction supporting the status quo, had led to the resignation of the 2000/2001 then-President, Peter Boross-Harmer, the boycotting of board meetings by Dutton Chess Club and the threat of resignation by Mark Dutton, Communications Officer. This motion to amend the policy has been brought forward meeting to meeting, being amended along the way and will be brought before the current 2001/2002 Board. It is relevant to return to this item now, since the GTCL Scholarships are due to be distributed this month.

Innocuous GTCL Scholarship Policy Centre of Political Storm

Before entering into the quicksand that enveloped GTCL Scholarship Policy at the Board meetings in the Fall of 2000, let's look at the policy and its operation.

Each player in a GTCL – sanctioned tournament, contributes \$ 1 of their entry fee to the GTCL Scholarship Fund. This and other donated monies make up the total fund.

The concept of such a program comes under the GTCL 's general mandate “ to promote interest and participation in chess at all levels for the purpose of increasing the popularity of the game “ (Constitution, Article II, 1.). [SCTCT will in future examine the full “ constitutional “ mandate of the GTCL]. The importance of the scholarship program is seen in Peter's resignation letter : “ My objectives behind joining the organization were to : 1/ establish a scholarship with Roger Langen (Past GTCL

President) and Larry Bevand (for Chess 'N Math Association) that would encourage young players to participate in chess more actively without any specific strings attached to the money given to themI believe that with the aid of several individuals we have certainly come a long way in building solid foundations in these areas.....”.

To see how the policy has operated up until now, we spoke with Bryan Lamb, GTCL Secretary, and Larry Bevand. GTCL has now been giving out these scholarships for about 3 years. They are only given out to juniors in the GTA. The “ scholarships “ have been very modest, often on average about \$ 75. The GTCL gives out about 10-15 per year in June, at the time of the Father’s Day Tournament. Some cheques are publicly presented there; others are just mailed out. Last June’s total : approx. \$ 1000. This June’s total will be slightly less. And although the individual amounts may be slightly smaller, it is intended to increase a bit the number of recipients. Potential recipients are drawn to the attention of the Board’s Scholarship Committee, this year composed of Bryan Lamb, Chris Field and Mark Dutton, which then makes the final decision on recipients. They consult key people involved with GTA junior chess, such as Larry Bevand, Roman Pelts, etc., to get names beyond those they put forward themselves.

A key feature is that the scholarships are “ without any specific strings attached “. They do not even have to be spent on anything chess-related. Besides the \$ coming into the scholarship fund from players in GTCL – sanctioned tournaments, the other main source of funds has been a generous annual \$ 500 (approx.) donation by Chess 'N Math, specifically for the fund, but otherwise “ with no strings attached “. Scarborough Chess Club has also made a small donation from the proceeds of the “ Scarborough Youth Tournaments “ series it runs. For GTCL Boards, for the last three years, the current scholarship policy has been quite in line with the GTCL mandate. And it is on this basis that the scholarships will be given out this year. All seems pretty innocent, doesn’t it ?

No longer !! The policy is now being attacked as no policy. It is argued it is insufficiently in compliance with the GTCL mandate ! It is maintained that the policy needs amendment. What are the amendments desired ? What are the arguments that the current policy inadequately reflects, and has inadequately reflected since its inception, the GTCL mandate ?

We will examine this scholarship policy criticism in future articles in this series.

Kitchener Ontario Open '01 – A Success on All Fronts !

The Victoria Day long-weekend saw 134 players from across Ontario, and beyond, gather to do battle in the 4 tournament sections. This is a higher total than was drawn in the Toronto Ontario Open '00 last year ! The Kitchener City Hall is a beautiful building, and the playing conditions were quite good. It was efficiently run and had a “ feel-good “ character about it. Brian Clarke, Doug Hoch, Albert Den Otter, and their team, deserve a big round of applause.

A most enjoyable touch was the Sunday evening “ Party “ – we watched fireworks from the top story of the City Hall, had pizza and wings, heard an interesting and entertaining game presentation from IM Tom O’Donnell, and were amazed as he and blindfold expert Hans Jung played a game, “ blindfolded “, for our enjoyment. All in all, a most enjoyable weekend (I can even say I was quite happy about my own personal result !).

The Ontario Open Champion was this year's Ontario Junior Champion, Artem Gurevich. As a result of there not being an Ontario Closed '01, he now qualifies to go to the Canadian Closed this August in Montreal to represent Ontario ! The other winners were : Under 2200 – junior Mihnea Voloaca ; Under 1900 – Robert Beaubien (Mikhail Egorov and Joe T. Ellis also scored 5/6); Under 1600 – Neil McLeod (Albert Den Otter tied him at 5/6).

Ontario Chess Association Holds Annual General Meeting in Kitchener

The OCA generally tries to hold its AGM during the Ontario Open, so players can combine business and pleasure, though some just come for the one afternoon for the meeting. Those playing in the Open take a Round 2 “ bye “ in order to attend. So on Saturday, May 19, 8 - 12 OCA members, at various times, showed up to elect a new Exec. Cttee., and handle business appropriate to being decided by the membership, not just the Board of Directors or the Exec..

The Executive for 2001/2002 is : President – Martin Jaeger (V-P last year); Secretary – David Gebhardt; Treasurer – Wilf Ferner; Junior Co-ordinator – Bryan Lamb; V-P – to be filled by appointment.

Since SCTCT did not attend the meeting itself, it interviewed 3 GTCL OCA Directors, Bryan Lamb, David Cohen and Martin Jaeger, to see what items they would highlight to those in the GTA. The following items were mentioned :

1. “ Conflicting Tournaments “ – with respect to the awarding of the Ontario Open '01 to Kitchener-Waterloo, the AGM endorsed the actions of the OCA Executive as properly carried out; with respect to the OCA Constitutional section dealing with conflicting tournaments, constitutional amendments were passed clarifying when a tournament could be declared “ conflicting “, narrowing the current broad scope of the section; with respect to the CFC refusal not to rate the “ conflicting “ Toronto Victoria Day Open '01 tournament, run by Dutton Chess, it was decided to approach CFC for a formal written “ Provincial Affiliation Agreement “, a term of which, that may be sought, being protection of one or more OCA designated tournament dates.
2. “ OCA Directors “ – GTCL, as one of the 6 Ontario “ Leagues “, had the right to put forward a list of Directors for the coming year, for approval by OCA. All were approved except that of Mark Dutton. This was clearly the result of the difficult battles between OCA and Dutton Chess, Mark's company, this last year, and the company's disaffiliating from the OCA. GTCL will have the right to name someone else now in his place. [Mark was approved however as a GTCL CFC Governor].
3. Legal Use of OCA Website – it will now be deemed legal notice to all members if an item has been posted on the website for a 15-day period. So check the website on a regular basis to keep up with what the OCA may be up to.

Scarborough May Flowers Active '01

On Saturday, May 26, 22 players came out to enjoy a Saturday of Active chess in this 7th tournament in the Scarborough Active 00/01 Series. The co-winners were both

SCC members, Allan CAI and Andrew PICANA, each scoring 5/6 pts.. They prevailed over some other strong GTA players – Ochkoos, Bluvshstein, Brajkovic, etc.

The 8th and final tournament of this 2000/1 series will be the Scarborough June Bug Active '01, Saturday, June 23 – mark it in your calendar now !

GTCL Cup 00/01

Polonia A of Mississauga came out on top against Brampton CC in the recent finals, 3 : 1 – congratulations to their strong team members !

GTCL Club Team League Update

Only 1 match is still outstanding in regular league play : SCC A vs Brampton. This match is partly played – HENTSCHEL for SCC lost. The final 3 games are to be played at SCC on Tues. June 12. Should SCC A win the match, it will vault them ahead of Polonia B into clear second place. Should we lose, we will remain clear third.

SCC B played DCC B on May 14, and lost 2.5:1.5 (PICANA [L]; IBRAHIM [D]; ARMSTRONG [W]; SRINIVASAN [L- forfeit]), finishing in last place.

New SCC Tournament ! – The Summer (Tues.) Swiss '01

As explained below (see Exec. Cttee. Meeting), SCC is experimenting with a regular rated swiss on a Tuesday. It is 30 moves / 90 min. // S.D./30 min., and will be 5 rounds. So on Tues. May 29, 10 adventurous SCC members showed up to give the new idea a try. We'll look forward to the feedback on this experiment. The class breakdown of the players is : Expert – 2; A – 2; B – 3; C – 2; D & U/Unr. – 1.

Scarborough CC Spring (Sun.) Round Robin '01

This 3 group multi-week tournament involved 18 players, and ended April 29. The winners were : Group I – Bryan LAMB (4/5); Group II – Andre ROLAVS (4.5/5); Group III – Junior David HIER (3/3).

Scarborough CC Summer (Thurs.) Swiss '01

21 players registered on May 31 for this 7 round tournament, ending July 12. The class breakdown is : Expert – 4; A – 5; B – 7; C – 3; D & U/Unr. – 2.

SCC Executive Committee Meeting – May 8

1. August Summer Hours :

When we were located at Wexford Collegiate Institute, the school board did not issue permits for August. So we used to close at the end of July. We then started our new club year in mid-Sept., with the Annual General Meeting.

We do, however, at the Seniors' Community Centre, now have the option of staying open at all normal hours during August if we wish. However, your Exec. has decided to propose that the club close just for Sundays in the summer month of August.

Many times players would be taking tournament byes on weekends because of holidays, and other Sunday outside events. As well, we have a volunteer club manager, Bryan. The stipend paid is quite small, given that he takes care of the club 3 and often 4 days of the week. It seemed reasonable to give Bryan a bit of a break, as well (and the Actives and Club Team competition will be finished, which will also lighten the August load).

As stated, this is at this stage only a proposal for August, and we are looking for member input on this before we make a decision. We would be pleased to get any feedback you have on it.

2. Date to Start 2001/2002 Club Year :

The other timing item of some importance is the start of the 2001/2002 club year. We have traditionally had our Annual General Meeting, which starts the club year, and elects the Executive Committee for the year, on the second Tuesday after Labour Day in September. So, this year that would be Tues. Sept 11. But part of the reason for that was our prior location in the high school.

Again, because we are now at the Seniors' Centre, we have the option of advancing our opening by one week, and having the AGM on the FIRST Tuesday after Labour Day. This would be Tuesday, Sept. 4. Which alternative do you favour and why ? Let your exec. know so we can take it into account when we make the decision.

3. Tournament Program for Tuesday Nights

In the past, SCC has run an " open " 6 round, 15-min. speed tournament on Tuesday evenings. It was open to both members and non-members. We would usually get about 2/3 members and 1/3 non-members. There was a \$ 10 registration fee, with 70 % going back into that evening's prize fund. But attendance dropped off during this past year, and most recently it has had to be cancelled continuously for lack of player turnout. We have therefore terminated SCC offering this program. (Note : we still are running the 5-min. Blitz "open " tournaments on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. as usual -\$ 10 registration fee)

This year, also, we tried offering a 3 consecutive Tuesdays 1 Hr. tournament (2 rounds/evening). This proved of interest and we ran it a couple of times.

As already mentioned, we have now decided to expand the Tues. night options for members. We have started the first regular-rated 5-round swiss Tuesday tournament. Then, after that, we will hold a 2 consecutive Tuesdays Active tournament (3 games/evening), another new offering to members. There is no registration fee as usual, and they are open to members only. If members like these options, and the 1 Hr. tournament format, let your exec. know, so that we can decide on whether to offer these three different formats on a rotating basis next year. Or are only 1 or 2 of the Tues. formats of interest to you ? Let us know.

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.