

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 # 18 – May 15, 2002

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

GTA Juniors : Part of Canada’s Present & Future (Part 9)
“ Spotlight “ on Christian Stevens !

Introduction

This is the ninthth article in the series highlighting GTA Juniors. Today we review the chess career of 15 year old Christian Stevens, and 4 of his games.

Christian’s Progress and Successes

Christian first started playing rated tournament chess at the Scarborough Chess Club in October 1996. He faired badly in his first tournament, and only started with a rating of 1009. But in the Scarborough Autumn (Sun.) tournament that Fall, his result jumped him an amazing 242 pts., to 1251. His next SCC tournament in Jan. 1997 saw him jump another 188 pts., to 1439, the bottom of the C class. But by October that year, he moved up into the B class, with a 1606 rating. In the April 1998 Toronto Open (U 1900), he again moved up a class, into the A class with an 1813 rating. From April 1998 to July 2000, Christian climbed steadily up through the A class.

At the 2000 Toronto Summer International (U 2200), playing up a section, he achieved his expert rating of 2063. A year later, in the 2001 Toronto Macedonian Labour Day Open, he moved up to 2122. In the March 2002 Toronto Class Open, Christian made the exceptional advance of moving into the Master class, with a resulting rating of 2210. His current peak rating is 2211.

As a result, when juniors from younger age groups are eliminated, Christian is the # 3 junior in Canada in the Under 16 years old list.

e – mail : scarboro@idirect.ca

Website : <http://webhome.idirect.com/~blamb/>

Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Ave.

(one block east of Woodbine Ave./Cosburn Ave. intersection, in old East York)

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

There is no doubt that Christian deserves the rating he's achieved. We include his win against IM Lawrence Day, and his draw against IM Yan Teplitsky, major accomplishments.

Congratulations Christian, and we look forward to your progressing up through the Master Class !

On With the Games !

[**Note** :

SCTCN&V, as a service to its readers, attaches to the cover e-mail accompanying this newsletter:

1. a database in .pgn format (this Issue, ChristianAnn.pgn) : It contains the annotated games in the text of this newsletter ! (There may be minor variations between this database and the newsletter, due to newsletter text amendments, after the databases were created.) You need only open the attachment, and spend a few minutes clicking through these interesting junior games, and the full annotations ! We make your life easier. Enjoy !

2. a second database (Christian.pgn) : It contains Christian's games, but unannotated.

The main purpose of this is that some readers prefer to first play the games over unannotated, and to annotate them themselves. Then they look at the database annotations (human & computer). The second reason we do this is to make the games easily available to those who may not have a chess program that uses a .pgn database, but do have a " chess game reader " (many are free off the internet).

P.S. : SCTCN&V Junior Database - we have the database of all junior games that have appeared in our series, since Jan. 1, 2002, annotated, in .pgn format. Simply contact the editor by e-mail, and request it if you would like it sent to you.]

Christian Stevens - IM Lawrence Day

[Notes by Christian Stevens (CS), Bob Armstrong (BA), Fritz 6 (Fr.6)]

[A88]

1.c4 g6

[BA : Unusually, Fritz 6 does not approve of defences based on " modern " principles, such as a K-side fianchetto of the B; it evaluates this position as +/- .]

2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 f5 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 c6 8.Bf4

[CS : not theory, but I have seen Le Siege play this against the Leningrad.]

8...Nh5!

[BA : Interestingly, this is the move chosen by Fr.6 as well.]

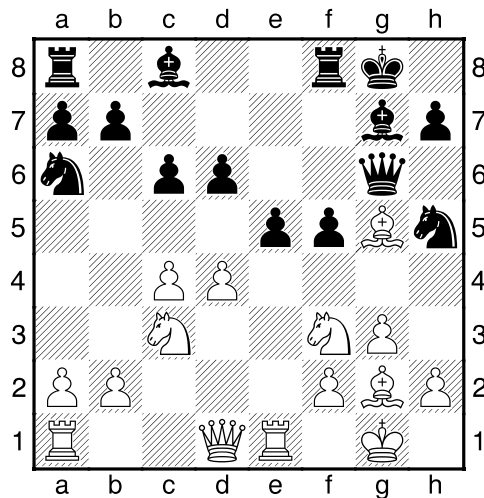
9.Bc1 Na6 [Fr.6 9...Nf6±] **10.e4?**= [Fr.6 10.Qb3±] **10...e5**

[CS : probably preferable was 10...f4 Fr.6 continuation is 11.Ne2 e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.gxf4 exf4 15.Nxf4 Nxf4 16.Bxf4 Nc5 17.Rad1 Be6 18.b4 Nxe4=; Fr.6 prefers 10...fxe4 11.Nxe4 Nc7=]

11.exf5 gxf5 [Fr.6 11...Bxf5=] **12.Bg5 Qe8 13.Re1** [Fr.6 13.d5=] **13...Qg6??+-**

Position after 13...Qg6.

What move should Christian make here to get a winning advantage ?



14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Be7

[CS : picks up a P. Bl. has no compensation.]

15...Re8 16.Nxe5 Qh6 17.Qd6 Qxd6 18.Bxd6 Be6 19.b3 Rad8 20.Rad1 Nf6 21.f4 Bc8 22.Bf3 Re6 23.Ba3 Rde8 24.Kf2 Ng4+ 25.Bxg4 ffg4 26.Ne4 Rh6

[BA : not much better is 26...Bxe5 27.fxe5 Rxe5 28.Nf6+ Kf7 29.Nxe8 Rxe8 30.Rxe8 Kxe8+- and Bl. is down the exchange]

27.Nd6

[CS : picks up a second P]

27...Rf8

[BA : initially, Fr.6 prefers going down the exchange, while picking up a P 27...Bxe5 28.Nxe8 Rxf2+ 29.Kg1 Rxa2 30.Rxe5 Rxa3 but it is more costly than that 31.Rd8 Rxb3 32.Nd6+ Kg7 33.Nxc8 Rxf3+ 34.Kh2 Rh3+ 35.Kg2+-]

28.Nxc8 Rxc8 29.Nxg4 Rg6 30.Kf3 b5

[CS : an ingenious swindle attempt]

31.f5

[BA : 31.cxb5 cxb5 32.Ne5 Re6+-]

31...Rg5 32.Kf4 Rh5 33.f6 Bh6+ 34.Nxh6+?

[CS : complicates the issue ; Fr. 6 : 34.Kf3 b4 35.Rd7 Rf5+ 36.Ke4 Rh5 37.f7+ Kf8 38.Bxb4+ Nxb4 39.Nf6 Bd2 40.Nxh5 Bxe1 41.Kf5 Nc2 42.Nf6 Ne3+ 43.Ke6 Bc3 44.Nxh7+ Kg7 45.f8Q+ Kg6 46.Qf7+ Kh6 47.Qf4+ Kg6 48.Qg5#]

**34...Rxb6 35.Kg5 Rxh2 36.Rd7 b4 37.f7+ Kf8 38.Rde7! Nc7 39.Bxb4 c5 40.Bxc5 Ne6+!
41.R1xe6 Rxc5+ 42.Kg4 h5+ 43.Kf4 Rxa2 44.Rb7 Rf2+ 45.Ke3 Rxf7 46.Rxf7+ Kxf7 47.Ra6
Rc7 48.Rh6 Rb7??**

[CS : just a blunder ; but after 48...Kg7 49.Rxh5 Bl. is dead lost in any case]

**49.Rh7+
1-0**

Christian Stevens - David Raheb

[Notes by Christian Stevens (CS), Bob Armstrong (BA), Fritz 6 (Fr.6)]

[A22]

CS : This is a rather positional struggle which I believe is rather instructive.

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3

[BA : Fritz 6 is not enamored of openings involving " modern " principles like K-side fianchettoing of the B; it evaluates this position now as =/+.]

3...Bb4?=[Fr.6 3...Nc6#] 4.Bg2 c6 5.e4?# [Fr.6 5.a3=] 5...0-0?=[

[CS : Most likely Bl. should first take on c3, then castle; now W achieves a huge bind on the position; BA : 5...Bxc3?=[6.dxc3 0-0 7.Bg5 d6=; Fr.6 5...d6#]

6.Nge2 d6 7.0-0 Bg4 [Fr.6 7...Be6=] 8.h3 Be6 9.d3 Qd7

[CS : probably Qc8 is better, giving the B air to breathe. BA : 9...Qc8 10.Kh2 Re8=]

10.Kh2 Ne8?± [Fr.6 10...Qe7=] 11.f4 Bxc3

[BA : Fr.6 prefers the aggressive counter on the f-file : 11...f5 12.exf5 Rxf5 13.Ne4 Na6±]

12.Nxc3 f6

[BA : Again Fr.6 prefers Bl. to fully engage on the f-file : 12...f5 13.Be3 Na6 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.exf5 Rxf5 16.Rxf5 Bxf5±]

13.b3!

[CS : not an easy move to find; W prepares d4.]

13...Na6 14.d4 exd4 15.Qxd4 Nb4?± [Fr.6 15...Bf7±] 16.Rf2 f5

[CS : opening the diagonal for the dark-squared B is not advisable.]

17.Bb2 Nf6 18.Rd1 Rad8

[BA : 18...fxe4 19.Nxe4 Nxe4 20.Bxe4 Bxh3 21.Qxd6 Qxd6 22.Rxd6 Bg4±]

19.Rfd2 fxe4 20.Qxd6?±

[BA : Christian goes for the wrong P – Fr.6 20.Nxe4 Nxe4 21.Bxe4 Bxh3 22.Qc3 Nxa2 23.Qa5 Rde8 24.Re1 Bg4 25.Qxa2 Bf3±]

20...e3?±

[CS : a move I underestimated; 20.Ne4 was perhaps better. Fr.6 20...Qxd6 21.Rxd6 Rxd6 22.Rxd6 Re8±]

21.Qxf8+ Rxf8 22.Rxd7 Bxd7 23.g4!

[CS : the most difficult move of the game threatening g5, cramping my opponent even more, as well as giving the space for the K via g3 at some moments. Fr. 6 ? +/- .]

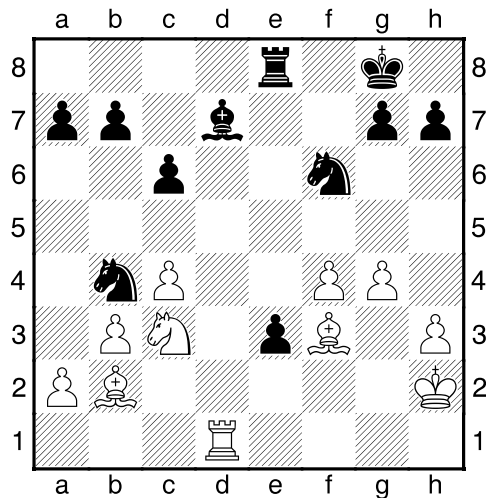
23...Re8

[Fr.6 23...Nxc4+ 24.hxc4 Bxc4 25.Rg1 h5±]

24.Bf3

[CS : 24.g5 was probably better, but I was rather lazy to evaluate the consequences after 24...e2 . BA : It is a good thing that Christian did not play the g5 he had planned : 24.g5 Bf5 25.gxf6 Nd3 26.Bc1 e2 27.Nxe2 Rxe2 28.Kg3 Rxa2#]

What move should David make to maintain the status quo ?



24...e2??+-

[BA : David's losing move. Best was 24...Re7±]

25.Nxe2 Re3 26.Bxf6 gxf6 27.Rxd7 Rxf3 28.Kg2 Re3 29.Ng3 Nd3

[BA : perhaps a better try was Fr.6's 29...Nxa2 30.Nh5 Kf8 31.Nxf6 h6 32.Rxb7 Nc1 33.Nd7+ Ke8 34.Nc5 Nd3 35.Nxd3 Rxd3+-]

30.Nh5 f5 31.Rxb7 Re2+ 32.Kf3 Rxa2 33.Nf6+ Kf8 34.Nxh7+ Ke8 35.g5

[Fr.6 35.gxf5 Nc5 36.Rb8+ Kf7 37.b4 Rb2 38.Rc8 Nd7 39.Rxc6 Kg7+-]

35...Ne1+ 36.Kg3 Rg2+ 37.Kh4 Rf2 38.Nf6+

[BA : Christian could also have just pushed the gP now to win 38.g6 Ng2+ 39.Kg3 Nxf4 40.Nf6+ Kd8 41.g7 Rg2+ 42.Kxf4 Kc8 43.Rxa7 Kb8 44.Re7 Rg6 45.Kxf5 Rxc7 46.Rxc7 Kc8 47.h4 Kd8 48.h5 Kc8 49.h6 Kd8 50.h7 Kc8 51.h8Q#]

38...Kd8 39.g6 Rg2 40.g7 Nf3+ 41.Kh5

[CS : an amusing finish.]

1-0

Christian Stevens – Alina Sviridovitch

[Notes by Christian Stevens (CS), Bob Armstrong (BA), Fritz 6 (Fr.6)]

[A32]

[BA : here Christian takes on the talented top under 10 years old Canadian]

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6?± 6.a3!? (Fr.6 ? =) [Fr.6 6.Bg5±]
6...Be7?± [Fr.6 6...d5=] **7.e4 d6 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 b6 10.Be3** [Fr.6 10.Qd3±] **10...Bb7 11.f3 Nbd7**
12.Rc1 Rc8 13.b4 Ne5 14.Qb3 Ba8?± [Fr.6 14...Re8=] **15.Rfd1 Qc7 16.Na4**

[CS : so far my opponent has handled the opening extremely well, and it will be difficult to crack the solid hedgehog formation; however, I am patient.]

16...Rfd8?±

[BA : Alina plays the R to the wrong file : 16...Rfe8±]

17.Rc2??=

[BA : but then Christian comes up with a wrong plan. CS : here Fritz really liked 17.Nxb6 Qxb6 18.Nxe6; however, the silicone monster is extremely optimistic and from a practical point of view, I did not want to define the position too early.]

17...Ned7 18.Rdc1

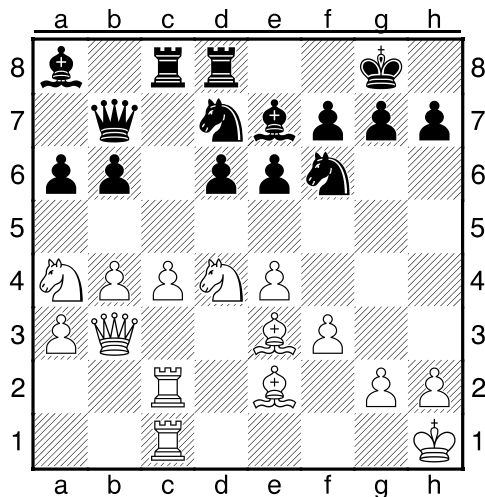
[CS : this anticipatedd5 in the future.]

18...Qb7?± [18...Bb7=] **19.Kh1?=-**

[CS : a waiting move; also, in some variations, it is important sometimes that the B go to g1, to defend the weak h2P. Fr.6 19.Nxb6! Nxb6 20.c5 dxc5 21.bxc5 Nbd5 22.Qxb7 Bxb7 23.exd5 Nxd5 24.Bf2 Nf4±]

Position after 19.Kh1

What moves allow Alina to maintain equality ?



19...d5??+-

[CS : a definite mistake after which all W's preparations are justified. 19...Bf8 was a constructive waiting move, as it is not at all clear how W can improve his position. Fritz evaluatesBf8 as +0.19 =. BA : 19...Bf8 20.Rb2 Qc7 21.Kg1 Be7= and Bl. continues to wait for W to make the first move.; Fr.6 19...Qc7=]

20.exd5?±

[Fr.6 20.cxd5 exd5 21.Nc6 Rxc6 22.Rxc6 Nc5 23.bxc5 Qxc6 24.cxb6 Qe8 25.b7 Bxb7 26.Qxb7 Bxa3 27.Rc6 dxe4 28.Rxa6 Rb8 29.Qc6 Qxc6 30.Rxc6 Rb1+ 31.Bg1 h6 32.fxe4 Nxe4+-]

20...exd5 21.c5!

[CS : the point !]

21...bxc5 22.bxc5?± [Fr.6 22.Nxc5±] 22...Qxb3 23.Nxb3 Bc6 24.Nb6 Rb8?+-

[Fr.6 24...Nxb6 25.cxb6 Bxa3 26.Rxc6 Bxc1 27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.Nxc1 Nd7 29.b7 Rc7 30.Bxa6 Nb8 31.Bf4 Re7 32.Be2 Rxb7 33.Kg1 Rb2 34.Kf2 Nc6±]

25.Na5

[CS : W has a decisive advantage]

25...Ba8 26.Nxd7 Rxd7 27.c6 Rc7 28.Bf4

[CS : picking up an exchange]

28...Ne8 29.Bxc7 [Fr.6 29.Bxa6+-] 29...Nxc7 30.Rc3! 30...Bg5 31.Rd1 Rb2 32.Bxa6! Nxa6

[CS : an interesting try was 32....Bf6; however, 33.Re3 Bg5 was winning in any case.]

33.c7 Nxc7 34.Rxc7 Rb8 35.Nc6 Re8 36.Na7 [Fr.6 36.g3+-] 36...Kf8 37.Rc8 Rxc8 38.Nxc8 Bd8 39.Na7?± [Fr.6 39.Rc1+-] 39...Ke7 40.a4 Kd6?+- [Fr.6 40...Kd7±] 41.Rc1?±

[CS : it was very important to cut the K off. Fr.6 41.Rb1+-]

41...Bb7?+- [Fr.6 41...Kd7±] 42.Nb5+ Kd7 43.Kg1 Bb6+ 44.Kf1 Ba6 45.Ke2 h6 46.Kd3 h5 47.Kc3 Bxb5

[CS : makes matters much easier, but anyways Bl. was lost]

48.axb5 g6 49.Kd3 g5 50.Rc6 Ba7 51.Rf6 Ke7 52.Ra6 Bc5 53.b6 Kd6 54.b7+ Kc7 55.Rc6+ 1-0

Christian Stevens – IM Yan Teplitsky

[Notes by Christian Stevens (CS), Bob Armstrong (BA), Fritz 6 (Fr.6)

[A14]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Be7 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 a5 7.Nc3 b6 8.Bb2 Bb7 9.e3 Nbd7 10.d4 dxc4 11.bxc4 Bb4 12.Na4 Bd6 13.Rc1 Qe7 14.Qb3 Rab8 15.Rfd1 Ba8

[BA : Fr.6 determines that now is the time for Bl. to take some action in the centre : 15...e5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Bxe5 18.Bxe5 Qxe5 19.Qb5 Rfe8=]

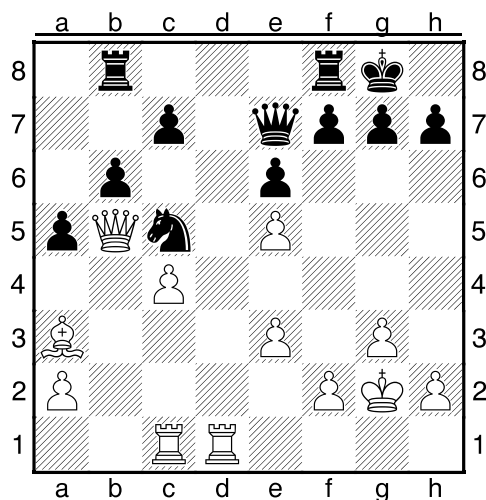
16.Ne5 [Fr.6 16.Nc3=] 16...Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Bxe5 18.dxe5

[Amazingly, to here both sides have played the opening and early middle game dead equal]

18...Ne4?± [Fr.6 18...Ng4=] 19.Ba3 Ndc5 20.Nxc5 Nxc5 21.Qb5

Position after 21.Qb5.

What move should Christian now make to maintain the status quo ?



21...Rfc8?±

[Fr.6 21...f6 22.exf6 Qxf6 23.f4 Qf5 24.Bxc5 bxc5 25.Qxa5 BA : Bl. goes down a P 25...Qe4+ 26.Kf2 Rb4±]

22.Rb1 c6 23.Bxc5 Qxc5 24.Qxc5 bxc5 25.Rxb8 Rxb8 26.Rd6 Kf8

[CS : the ending is drawn]

27.Rxc6 Rb2 28.Rxc5 Rxa2 29.Rc8+ Ke7 30.Rc7+ Ke8 31.c5 Rc2 32.c6 a4 33.Ra7 Rxc6 34.Rxa4 Rc2 35.e4

½-½

Backgrounder

This is an SCTCN&V series on the top GTA juniors, such as Christian (We have previously featured Alina Sviridovitch, Hazel Smith, David Hier, Shiyam Thavandiran, Irakli Vadachkoriya, Nikolay Noritsyn, IM Mark Bluvshstein and Evgeni Miller).

Unfortunately, we can only “ spotlight “ so many juniors in our series – some other deserving ones may not be reached. But we hope the highlighting of our GTA junior talent will encourage all juniors in the GTA to love the game, and continue to improve. We hope they all, and our adult readers, enjoy the series.

We are giving only a very short personal resume of the junior’s accomplishments. We prefer to let their games speak for them ! We’ve tried to choose an interesting collection of 4 games, that show their style, positional ability, tactical ability, etc..

And it shows the maturity of our juniors that they consent on occasion to have us use a game they LOST, when they had good wins to offer. They understand that a “ lost “ game is not necessarily by any means one of their

“ bad “ games. And they agree in order to give the readers entertaining games to play over.

We have done annotations, but we make no pretense to GM analysis. Yours truly (computer-enhanced), the odd volunteer, some juniors, some juniors’ victims, are merely annotating to make the games a bit more interesting reading. It is more to highlight something about the junior’s style, rather than to be the last word on theoretical analysis of the position . However, the annotations are of good quality ; we think you will notice this if you play the annotation lines over in the games database accompanying this newsletter; you might even pair off our human/computer annotations against you and your computer’s best efforts . We especially thank Christian for annotating each of his four games for this Issue.

We hope you are enjoying our line-up of junior games. We hope our series contributes to GTA juniors’ enjoyment of chess, and provides some encouragement for them to continue to improve their chess.

Scarborough CC Sponsors the “ Love of the Game “ June Weekend Tournament

N-P Chess Organizing is holding a weekend tournament at the SCC site on the first weekend of June : Fri. May 31 – Sun. June 2 . SCC is pleased to be a sponsor of this tournament, which features the very low regular registration fee of \$ 30 !! It makes a weekend tournament affordable for most players, and it is expected to draw a number of first time weekend tournament players. It is hoped they will then “ graduate “ to other weekend tournaments, and playing rated tournaments “ over-the-board “ as new members at local chess clubs.

The details are in the flyer/registration form set out below :

The 2002 “ Love of the Game ” Chess Championship

Fri. May 31, Sat. June 1, Sun. June 2

Sponsored by **Scarborough Chess Club**

Prizes : Open Section First Prize \$ 400 **Guaranteed** (if at least 10 players) ;

Other 1st and 2nd place/unrated prizes based on number of entries; estimated total prize fund of \$ 1000 (based on 75 entries)

Entry Fee : **very low \$ 30** Regular ; \$ 5 **Discount** to Junior/Senior (18 - / 65 +); women; 2nd and subsequent family members. One discount per person. **Free** entry to Titled Players (GM, IM, FM, WGM, WIM, WFM). Late fee at the door \$ 5 (part of general revenue)

Type : 5 Round Swiss System – CFC–rated

Sections : Open (any rating or unrated) ; Intermediate (2099 – 1800) ; Up & Comers / Unrated (U 1800) [Note : Unrated players only eligible to win unrated prize, or either prize in the Open Section (not eligible for class prizes)]

Round Times : Friday - Round 1 : 7:00 PM; Sat. & Sun. – Rounds 2 & 4 : 11:30 AM; Rounds 3 & 5 : 6:00 PM

Byes : ½ pt. Byes available in Rounds 1-4 **IF** TD notified before start of Round 1.

Time Controls : 40 moves/ 2 hrs.; Sudden Death/ 1 hr.

Place : Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse (site of Scarborough Chess Club), 373 Cedarvale Avenue, Toronto (East York) (one block east of Woodbine Ave./ Cosburn Ave. Intersection) ; **free** parking ; TTC : buses out of both Woodbine and Main Street Subway Stations (5 min.).

Registration : A) ADVANCE ENTRIES

- 4) By mail – send cheque payable to “ N-P Chess Organizing “ to N-P Chess Organizing, c/o 221 Milverton Blvd., Toronto, Ontario. M4J 1V6. Mail entries must be postmarked by May 23, 2002;
- 5) In person – at Scarborough Chess Club, Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse, Tues. or Thurs. evenings after 7:00 PM (but not the third Thurs. of April or May), or Sunday afternoon (1:00 PM - 6:00 PM);
- 6) By e-mail (for cash on site) – to bobarm@ sympatico.ca ; entries accepted until 9:00 PM Thurs. night, May 30, 2002.

B) ON SITE – CASH ONLY AT SITE; registration from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM; \$ 5 late fee ; anyone wanting to register after 11:00AM will be paired with other late registrants in their section or will receive a ½ pt. bye if odd number of players.

Organizer : N-P Chess Organizing : Andrew Philip, Ismail Ibrahim, Bob Armstrong (SCC members)

Sponsor / Guarantor : Ted Termeer (SCC V-P), Ismail Ibrahim (SCC Treas.), Andrew Philip, Bob Armstrong

Tournament Director : Bryan Lamb (SCC President)

Miscellaneous : 1. bring sets and clocks; 2. no computers; 3. no smoking; 4. \$ 1/player goes to GTCL Junior Scholarship Fund; 5. \$2/player goes to CFC for rating

Enquiries : e-mail N-P Chess Organizing at bobarm@sympatico.ca

02/04/22

The “ Love of the Game ” Chess Championship

Advance Registration Form

Send to : N-P Chess Organizing, c/o 221 Milverton Blvd., Toronto, Ontario. M4J 1V6

Cheques Payable to : N-P Chess Organizing

NAME : _____ CFC NO. : _____ EXPIRY : _____

ADDRESS : _____

CITY : _____ PROV. : _____ P.C. : _____

TELEPHONE : (h) _____ (w) _____ (c) _____

BrainGamesNetwork World Champion, Viswanathan Anand (India) – 2000 FIDE World Champion, Michael Adams (U.K.), Alexander Morozevich (Russia), Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine) – 2001/2 FIDE WCC Runner-Up, Alexei Shirov (Spain) – 2000 FIDE WCC Runner-Up, Peter Leko (Hungary), and Boris Gelfand (Israel). Also playing were Anatoly Karpov (Russia) - 12th WCC, Alexander Khalifman (Russia), 1999 FIDE WCC, and Judit Polgar (Hungary), the strongest female player. Only Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine), 2001/2 FIDE WCC was missing (apparently he wanted more money to play than was offered).

There were some surprises in the early rounds. In round 2, Karpov eliminated Kramnik. And then, in Round 3, in the final tie-breaking shoot-out game, Ivanchuk defeated Kasparov, to go on and meet Anand in the one semi-final. And Karpov, showing good form, defeated a number of strong players to qualify for the semi-finals, against Shirov. Anand and Karpov won their matches, and this set up the classical final 2 games.

Anand, who has returned to form as the third-rated player in the world, won the first game, and the second was drawn. A very good win for Anand, and one of the better recent showings by Karpov !

Prague Unity Agreement re the World Chess Championship Reunification

May 6 will become a historic day in chess history. FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, Einstein Group, who holds now the original BrainGames contract for the WCC with Kramnik , Bessel Kok, a well-known European chess promoter, and top chess players Kasparov, Kramnik and others, and American GM Yasser Sierawan, who began the process with his “ Fresh Start “ proposal, met to resolve the 10 year schism in the WCC system (since 1993, when Kasparov took his title and left FIDE, to set up his own WCC challenge match system).

What came out of the meeting, was a reunification of the WCC title cycle, with a match of no more than 12 games (not finalized). On one side is Kramnik, and the qualifier tournament to find him a challenger in Dortmund this July. He is then to play his challenger to complete that side of the cycle. On the other side is Ruslan Ponomariov, current FIDE champion, and a direct match with Kasparov for the FIDE title. Then in Oct./ Nov. 2003, there will be the title reunification match of the winners on the two sides.

Another development was the agreement of all that a new organization would be formed called the Professional Chess Management Organization (PCMO). FIDE will issue it a special “ license “ to manage the WCC. It will be headed by Bessel Kok, and will be assisted by a “ Committee of Grandmasters “. The negotiators are now hard at work drafting the concrete agreement documents, and it is hoped they will be ready within 90 days, for approval by the FIDE Presidential Board.

Finally, Kasparov and Kramnik agreed to again start participating in FIDE events, such as the Rapid Grand Prix, and the Olympiads.

Some have argued that Anand and Ivanchuk should have somehow been included in this reunification cycle. But they turned down the opportunity to play in the Kramnik Dortmund qualifier, remaining true to FIDE. And now Dortmund is closed. And on the Ponomariov side, Kasparov would not hear of having to play in a qualification match to play Ponomariov, and without Kasparov, the top-rated player, who has won 10

consecutive super-tournaments over the last few years, nothing was going to fly. So Anand and Ivanchuk are not in. And this is recognized in the Unity Plan, where it states up front, that “ the unity plan is far from perfect “. But reunification was the primary goal, not trying to make everyone happy. It is likely the best that could be achieved. And it will bring order back into the chess world, which is necessary for sponsorships, and entry into the Olympics.

The SCTCN&V “ Know Your Chess Players “ Contest

Do you recognize this world famous chess player ? (Answer in next Issue !)



[Answer to the identity of our famous chess celebrity in our last Issue # 17, of May 1 – GM Boris Spassky, former World Chess Champion, who lost the title to USA’s Bobby Fischer in 1972.]

Ontario Chess Association 2002 Annual General Meeting

The OCA restructured itself somewhat at this meeting. It created the Golden Horseshoe Chess League as a new league, and recognized that a new league is trying to form in what is called the “ grey “ area (Ajax to Peterborough).

A new executive was elected : President – David Gebhardt (also acting Secretary); Vice-President – Caesar Posylek (also acting Treasurer); Junior Co-ordinator – Bryan Lamb.

Directors of the OCA (and CFC Governor nominees) from some of the Leagues were submitted and approved :

1. GTCL – David Cohen, Peter Boross-Harmer, Anthony Cheron, Mike Dougherty, Mark Dutton, Wolfgang Ferner, Martin Jaeger, Bryan Lamb, Caesar Posylek (all are CFC Governor nominees, except Martin Jaeger, who is a lifetime Governor; added as nominee was Ari Mendrinos).
2. GHCL – Kerry Liles, John Erikson, Keith Wright (not as CFC Governor).
3. NOCL – John Rutherford, Ed Rohanchuk (not as CFC Governor).

4. Grey Area – David Gebhardt, Matthew Cooke, Bob Kiviaho

Message from David Gebhardt, Ontario Chess Association President

At the Ontario Chess Association (OCA) Annual Meeting on Sunday May 12, I was elected as President of the organization. I look forward to making the switch from Secretary to President for the coming year. In addition to my duties with the OCA, I am also a CFC Governor and Club Competition Coordinator for the Greater Toronto Chess League.

There are several objectives that I am aiming to achieve during my term. These include getting the Directors more involved in the decision-making process and getting the members more involved and interested in the organization.

In order to help everyone get more involved, a number of committees are being set up to examine various aspects of chess in Ontario. In order to serve on a committee, you simply need to be a member of the OCA. Anyone interested in serving on a committee should e-mail me at ocaprez@fide.org. Details of the committees can be found on the OCA webpage at <http://oca.fide.org>.

In order to avoid being inundated with e-mails, I would ask that anyone who has any suggestions for improving chess in Ontario should e-mail one of their local OCA Directors. A list of the Directors can be found on the website.

The OCA Executive is currently missing a Secretary and a Treasurer. Anyone interested in fulfilling these roles should please contact me at ocaprez@fide.org. You do not have to be a Director to take on one of these positions, although preference is given to anyone who is a Director.

I know that with the support of the rest of the OCA Executive, the OCA Directors and the members in Ontario, we can initiate some great programs for both present and future chess players.

SCC Spring (Tues.) Swiss '02

The last Tuesday tournament ended last night. So we start this new tournament on Tuesday, April 21 ! The advantage of the Tuesday tournament is that we don't have to skip every third week like on Thursdays. Contact Bryan if you want to play, or just come out Tuesday night and register on site. See you all there.

[note : there is no SCC meeting on Thursday, April 16 – third Thursday of the month]

SCTCN&V Holidays

Your intrepid publisher/reporter is going to take some well-deserved holidays this month, and so there will be no Issue for June 1, 2002. Unless I decide I like holidays so much I want to extend them, I expect our next Issue to be June 15.

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

2. 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.