

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 # 10 - 9 – January 1 , 2008

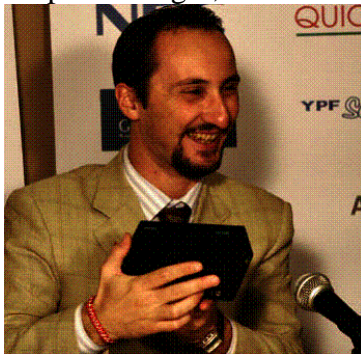
Happy New Year to All !!

January 1, 2009 FIDE Rating List

There is once again no player over 2800. [Garry Kasparov (Russia), 13th World Champion, now retired, was the first player to break 2800 (highest rating ever in July 1999 – 2851); Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), 14th World Champion, was the second player; Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), the 2005 FIDE World Champion, was the third; Viswanathan Anand, current world champion, was the fourth player in history to break the 2800 barrier].

There are 31 players in the 2700's. Some of the top players are (birth date of younger players in brackets, after country) :

1 : Veselin **Topalov** (Bulgaria), 2005 FIDE World Champion, 2006 World Championship Challenger, and 2009 Challengers' Match participant, at 2796;



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2 : Viswanathan **Anand** (India), 15th and current World Champion, rated 2791 (up from # 6);



#3 : Vassily **Ivanchuk** (Ukraine), rated 2779;



4 : Magnus **Carlsen** (Norway - 1990), rated 2776;



5 : Alexander **Morozevich** (Russia), rated 2771 (down 16 pts.);



6 : Teimour **Radjabov** (Azerbaijan – 1987), rated 2761 (up from # 8);

7 : Dmitry **Jakovenko** (Russia), rated 2760 (up from # 10);

8 : Vladimir **Kramnik** (Russia), 14th World Champion, rated 2759 (down 13 pts.);



9 : Peter Leko (Hungary), 2004 World Championship Challenger, at 2751;

10 : Sergei Movsesian (Slovakia) – 2751 (first time in the top ten);

36 : Judit Polgar (Hungary), the strongest women’s player in the world, with 2693 (down from # 27).

Some other past World Champions/FIDE World Champions and their current ratings are :

16 : 2002 FIDE World Champion, Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine) at 2726;

42 : 2004 FIDE World Champion, Rustam Kasimdzhanov (Uzbekistan) at 2687;

89 : 12th World Champion, Anatoly Karpov (Russia) – 2644 ;

Here are a number of the younger (22 yrs. or younger) players, not in the top ten, we're watching (birth date in brackets after country)[note: juniors = U 20 yrs.]

13 : Yue Wang (China – 1987) – 2739;

27 : Sergey Karjakin (Ukraine – 1990) – 2706 (down from # 15 – 24 pts.);

32 : Hikaru Nakamura (USA – 1987) – 2699;

33 : Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France – 1990) – 2696;

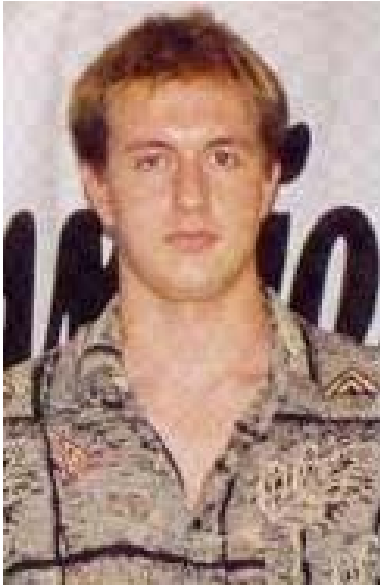
38 : Hao Wang (China – 1989) – 2691;

The 5 highest FIDE rated Canadians (active in the last 24 months, internationally or in Canada) are:

1 : GM Kevin **Spraggett**, 5 times Canadian Champion (last in 1996), at 2586 (down 11 pts) – now playing out of Portugal;



2 : GM Mark **Bluvshtein** (1988) at 2558;



(from David Cohen's Canadian Chess website)

3 : GM Pascal **Charbonneau**, 2002 & 2004 Canadian Champion, at 2500 – now working in USA;



(from CFC Website)

4 : IM Thomas **Roussel-Roozman** (1988) at 2479.

5 : IM Igor **Zugic**, 2006 Canadian Champion, at 2462.

The current 2007 Canadian Champion, 17 year old IM Nikolay **Noritsyn** (1991), is rated 2381 (up 9 pts.) .

Canada has 3 inactive GM's : Alexander **Le Siege**; Duncan **Suttles**; Dimitri **Tyomkin**.

The top 5 women in the world are :

1 : GM Judit **Polgar** (Hungary) – 2693 (first woman player in history to break 2700);



2 : GM Humpy Koneru (India – 1987) – 2621 (second woman over 2600);



3 : WGM Yifan Hou (China – 1994) – 2571 (14 years old !).



4 : GM Antoaneta Stefanova (Bulgaria) – 2557;

5 : GM Pia Cramling (Sweden) – 2548

The current Women's World Champion, GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (Russia)



is # 10 at 2516.

The top 5 FIDE rated Canadian women players are (active in the last 24 months, internationally or in Canada) :

.# 1 : WFM Yuanling **Yuan** (1994 - SCC member !) at 2205 (up 48 pts. !).



2 : WIM Nava **Starr**, 8 time Canadian Women's Champion (last in 2001), at 2173.



(from David Cohen's Canadian Chess website)

3 : WIM Natalia **Khoudgarian**, 2006 & 2007 Canadian Women's Champion, at 2137
(down 12 pts.).



(from CFC Website)

4 : WFM Dina **Kagramanov** (1986), 2006 & 2007 Canadian Women's Championship
Runner-Up, at 2121.

5 : Irina **Barron**, at 2063.

2008 Year-End Canadian Chess Rankings

(Written and copyright 2008 by David Cohen)

GM Kevin **Spraggett**, originally from Montreal, Quebec [Ed. – now playing out of Portugal], is the top ranked Canadian chess player at year-end of 2008, for the 7th year in a row (2002-8) and for a record 26th time since 1980. [Ed. – rated 2586]

WFM Yuanling **Yuan**, of Toronto, Ontario [Ed. – SCC member !], is the top ranked Canadian female chess player at year-end of 2008. The Grade 9 student topped Canadian Women's Champion WIM Natalia Khoudgarian, of Toronto, Ontario, who held the top rating for 12 years in a row (1996-2007). [Ed. – rated 2205]

WFM Valeria Gansvind, of Sidney, British Columbia, was higher ranked (top ranked female resident 2002-5), but represents Estonia internationally. WGM/IM Sophia Polgar,

of Toronto, Ontario, was even higher ranked (top ranked female resident 2006-8), but was not active; she represents Hungary internationally.

Top-ranked Canadian players at year-end 1954-2008:

<http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/~bw998/Champions.html#TOPRANK>

Pearl Spring Tournament, Nanjing, China

This is a new tournament added to the international calendar, and it immediately joins the ranks of the strongest tournaments in the world – Corus, Morelia/Linares, Sofia, Dortmund, and the Grand Slam. It started December 11, and ran to December 21. It was a 6-player double round robin. Playing were :







#	Rnk	Player	Nat	Rtng	born
1	1	Topalov, Veselin	BUL	2791	1975
2	3	Ivanchuk, Vassily	UKR	2786	1969
3	7	Aronian, Levon	ARM	2757	1982
4	13	Movsesian, Sergei	SVK	2732	1978
5	17	Svidler, Peter	RUS	2727	1976
6	26	Bu, Xiangzhi	CHN	2714	1985

This makes it the third strongest tournament of the year. Its average rating is 2751. The strongest chess tournament this year was the Grand Slam, averaging 2776. Morelia/Linares had an average rating of 2756. Slightly weaker were the Tal Memorial, which averaged 2745 Elo points, the January Corus Wijk aan Zee tournament with an average rating of 2742, the FIDE Grand Prix # 2 (Sochi), which had 2730, and the first FIDE Grand Prix # 1 (Baku), and the Aerosvit, Ukraine, tournaments, which were both 2717.

The winner was Veselin Topalov, by 1 ½ pts.!

The final standings were:

Pearl Spring 2008

				1	2	3	4	5	6		
1		Topalov, V	2791	+99	**	%1	%%	11	%:	%%	7.0/10
2		Aronian, L	2757	+27	%0	**	%%	%%	1:	%%	5.5/10
3		Bu Xiangzhi	2714	+44	%%	%%	**	%0	%0	11	5.0/10
4		Svidler, P	2727	-5	10	%%	%1	**	%%	01	4.5/10
5		Ivanchuk, V	2786	-112	%0	00	%1	%%	**	%%	4.0/10
6		Movsesian, S	2732	-47	%%	%%	00	10	%%	**	4.0/10

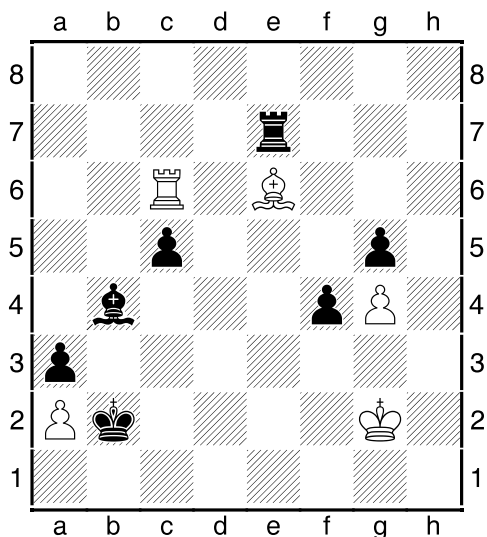
In Rd. 1, the hometown hero, Bu, took the lead with a nice ending sacrifice to win against Movsesian. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Movsesian, S (2732) – Bu Xiangzhi (2714) [C24]

Pearl Spring Nanjing CHN (1), 11.12.2008

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...e5 2.Bc4= [2.Nf3±] 2...Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bd6 6.Nc3 dxe4?!± [6...0-0 7.0-0 d4 8.Ne2 Nbd7=] 7.Ng5 0-0 8.Ncxe4 Nxe4 9.Nxe4 Bf5 10.Qf3 Bxe4 11.dxe4 Nd7 12.c3 a5 13.0-0 a4 14.Bc2 Qe7 15.Rd1 Rfd8 16.h4?!= [16.Qf5 Qf6 17.Qxf6 Nxf6 18.Be3 b5±] 16...h6 17.g3 [17.Qg3 Qe6 18.Be3 b5=] 17...b5 18.Bd2 Nf8 19.Qg4 Qe6 20.Qxe6 Nxe6 21.Kf1 Kf8 22.Be1 [22.Ke2 g5 23.h5 Ke7=] 22...Ke7 [22...Ra7 23.b3 Ke7=] 23.Rd2?!± for the first time in the game, Bu gets the advantage [23.Bd2 Rd7 24.Be3 Rad8=] 23...g5 24.hxg5 hxg5 25.Bd1 b4?!= [25...c5?! 26.a3 c4=; 25...Nc5 26.f3 g4±] 26.Bg4 [26.Be2?! bxc3 27.bxc3 a3±] 26...bxc3 27.bxc3 Rab8 28.Rad1 Nc5 29.f3 [29.Re2?! a3 30.Bd2 Rb2 31.Bf5 Na4±] 29...a3 30.Bf2 Na4 31.Be3 f6 32.c4 Nb2 33.Rc1 Bb4 34.Rh2 Rh8 35.Rxh8?± Bu gets a "clear" advantage [35.Rcc2 Nxc4 36.Bg1 Rxh2 37.Rxh2 Rb5=] 35...Rxh8 36.Kg2 Rd8 37.Rh1?!-+ Movsesian wrongly gives up his cP; Bu gets a "winning" advantage [37.Rc2 c5 38.Bh5 Rd3 39.Bc1 Rc3±] 37...Nxc4 Bu goes up a P 38.Rh7+ Kd6 39.Ba7 c5 40.Bh5 Ba5?!± [40...Kc6 41.Kh3 Ne3 42.Re7 Kb5-+ - 3.99] 41.Rf7 Kc6 42.Rxf6+ material equality 42...Kb5 43.Kh3?!-+ [43.Re6 Rd2+ 44.Kh3 Rxa2±] 43...Rh8?!± [43...Ne3 44.g4 Bc3-+] 44.g4 Ra8 45.Rf7 Nd6 46.Rd7 Kc6 47.Rh7 Bb4 48.f4?!-+ sacking the fP is unsound [48.Rg7 Bd2 49.Kg3 Be3±] 48...exf4 Bu goes up a P again 49.e5 Nc8 50.e6 Kd6 51.Rh8?+- - 2.47 [51.Bb6 Nxb6 52.e7 c4 53.e8Q Rxe8 54.Bxe8 Nd5-+ - 1.60] 51...Kxe6 Bu goes up 2 P's 52.Bg6 Kd5 53.Rd8+ Kc4 54.Bf5?+- - 2.98 [54.Bxc5 Bxc5 55.Be4 Rb8 56.Bf5 Rb2 57.Rxc8 Kd4-+ - 2.07] 54...Rxa7 55.Rxc8 - 3.52 [55.Bxc8 Kc3 56.Re8 Rc7 57.Bf5 c4-+ - 3.29] 55...Kc3 56.Rc6?+- - 5.23 [56.Re8 c4 57.Re2 Re7-+ - 3.59] 56...Kb2 57.Be6 Re7?+- - 4.14 [57...Rh7+ 58.Kg2 Rh6 59.Kf3 Rxe6! 60.Rxe6 Kxa2-+ - 9.73] 58.Kg2?+- - 7.65 [58.Bd5 Rd7 59.Bc4 Rd2-+ - 4.31]

Position after 58.Kg2?



58...Rxe6!+- - 9.52 Bu ends with a winning exchange sac. The game could have continued 59.Rxe6 Kxa2 60.Rg6 c4 61.Rxg5 c3 62.Rh5 c2 63.Rh1 Kb2-+ - 10.43 0-1

In Rd. 2, Aronian was in control the whole game against Ivanchuk, and went up 1, 2 and then 3 pawns (Ivanchuk never got the advantage the whole game). The win lifted Aronian into a tie for first with Bu. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Aronian, L (2757) – Ivanchuk, V (2786) [B36]

Pearl Spring Nanjing CHN (2), 12.12.2008

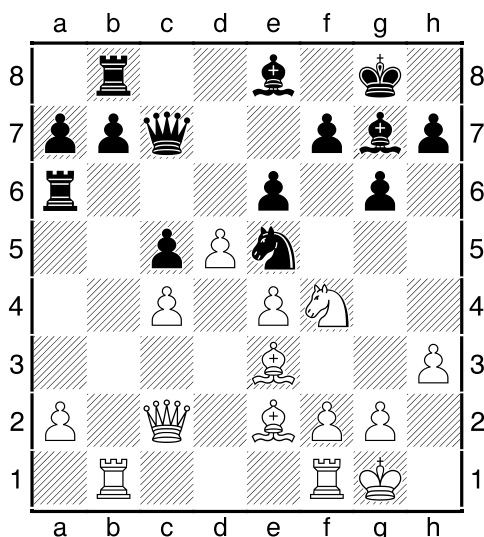
1.Nf3 c5± [1...Nf6=] 2.c4= [2.e4±] 2...Nc6 [2...Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nc3 Nc6=] 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6?!± [4...Qb6 5.e3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6=] 5.e4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nc2?!= [7.Be2 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7±] 7...Bg7 8.Be2 Nd7 9.Bd2 a5?!± [9...0-0 10.0-0 Nc5=] 10.0-0 Nc5 [10...0-0 11.Qc1 Nb4±] 11.Qc1 h5 12.Rd1 Bd7 13.Ne1?!= [13.Be3 a4 14.Rb1 0-0±] 13...Nd4 14.Bf1 0-0?!± [14...h4 15.Be3 Nde6=] 15.Bg5?!= [15.Be3 Nc6 16.Bh6 f5 17.exf5 Bxf5±] 15...Bc6 16.Nd5 Re8 17.f3 b5?± Aronian gets a " clear " advantage [17...Ba4 18.Rd2 Bd7=] 18.Be3 Nce6 19.Qd2?!± [19.cxb5] 19...bxc4 20.Bxc4 Rb8 21.Kh1 Nb5?!± [21...Qd7?! 22.Rac1 Qb7±; 21...Bb5 22.Bxb5 Nxb5±] 22.Rac1 Nc5 23.b4 axb4?!+- Aronian gets a " winning " advantage [23...Bxd5 24.Bxb5 Rxb5 25.Qxd5 e6 26.Qxd6 Qxd6 27.Rxd6 Na4±] 24.Nxb4 Qb6 25.Ned3 Na3 26.Bb3 Ba8 27.Nxc5 dxc5?+- 3.29 this loses a P [27...Qxb4 28.Qxb4 Rxb4 29.Na6 Rxb3 30.axb3 Bb2 31.Nc7 Rd8 32.Nxa8 Rxa8 33.Rc7 Kf8+- 2.29 material equality] 28.Bxc5 Aronian goes up a P 28...Qa5?+- 4.59 [28...Qb5 29.e5 e6 (29...Bxe5?! 30.Nd3 Bf6 31.Bxa3+- 3.87) 30.Nd3 Qa6+- 3.20] 29.Qf4 e6?+- 10.36 [29...Rf8 30.Bxe7 Rbe8 31.Nd5 Bxd5 32.Rxd5 Qxd5 33.Bxd5 Rxe7+- 6.88] 30.Rd7 Rf8 31.Rxf7 Rxf7 32.Qxb8+ Aronian is up 2 P's 32...Kh7 33.Bxe6+- 11.46 Aronian is up 3 P's. Ivanchuk resigned. The game could have continued 33...Bxe4 [33...Rf6? 34.Bg8+ Kh6 35.h4 Qxc5 36.Rxc5+- 24.63] 34.Bxf7 Qa8 35.Qb6 Bf5+- 13.99 1-0

In Rd. 5, Topalov executed one of his exchange sacrifices that he is so noted for, and proceeded to get 3 P's compensation, whereupon Svidler resigned. This put Topalov into a tie for first with Bu at the half-way point of the tournament. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, V (2791) – Svidler, P (2727) [D86]

Pearl Spring Nanjing CHN (5), 15.12.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± [2...e6=] 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 [7.Nf3 c5 8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.0-0 cxd4 10.cxd4 0-0±] 7...c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Bd7 11.Rb1 Qc7 12.Bd3 Rfd8 13.h3 Be8 14.d5?!= [14.Qc1 Rac8 15.Qb2 Qd6±] 14...Ne5 15.c4 e6?!± [15...h6 16.f4 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 a6=] 16.Nf4?!= [16.f4 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 b6±] 16...Rab8 17.Be2 Rd6?!± [17...Nc6 18.Qe1 Nd4=] 18.Qc2?!= [18.Qd2?! Bd7 19.Rfc1 Ra6 20.Nd3 Nxd3 21.Bxd3 Re8=; 18.Qc1 Ra6 19.a3 Bd7 20.Rd1 Re8±] 18...Ra6



19.Rb5! Topalov offers one of his trademark exchange sacs [19.Nd3 Ba4 20.Qc1 Nxd3 21.Bxd3 Bd7=] **19...Bf8** Svidler declines the sac [19...Bxb5? 20.cxb5 Rd6 21.Qxc5 Qxc5 22.Bxc5 Rdd8±] **20.a4 Bxb5?±** Svidler wrongly now accepts the exchange sac; Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [20...Rc8 21.Qb3 Bxb5 22.cxb5 Rd6 23.dxe6 c4 24.exf7+ Qxf7=] **21.cxb5** Svidler is up the exchange **21...Rd6 22.Qc3?!±** [22.Qxc5 Qxc5 23.Bxc5 Rdd8 24.Be3 g5 25.Nh5 Be7±] **22...Bg7 23.Qxc5** Topalov is down the exchange, but now has a P compensation **23...Rc8?!±** [23...Qd8 24.Qxa7 b6 25.dxe6 fxe6 26.Rc1 Ra8 27.Qb7 Rb8 28.Qc7 Qxc7 29.Rxc7 Ra8±] **24.Qxa7** Topalov now has 2 P compensation for being down the exchange **24...b6 25.Qxc7 Rxc7 26.Rd1 Bf6?+ 3.86** Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [26...g5 27.Nh5 h6±] **27.dxe6 Rxd1+ 28.Bxd1 fxe6 29.Bb3+- 3.39** Topalov is poised to get a 3rd P compensation. Svidler resigns. The game could have continued **29...Bg5 30.Bxe6+ Kh8 31.Bd5 Rg7+- 4.41** Topalov would have 3 P compensation for being down the exchange, and have a " winning " advantage **1-0**

In Rd. 7 , Aronian went up 2 P's against Ivanchuk. Ivanchuk then got the 2 P's back, but by then Aronian was on his way to queening one of his passed pawns. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ivanchuk, V (2786) – Aronian, L (2757) [A20]

Pearl Spring Nanjing CHN (7), 18.12.2008

1.c4 e5 2.g3 f5 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3 Bb4+ 5.Nbd2 Nf6 6.Bg2 Nc6 [6...0-0=] 7.0-0 Bc5 8.Nb3 d6 9.Nfxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 0-0 11.Nc2 Qe8 12.b4 Bb6 13.Be3 [13.Qd3 Ne4=] 13...Bxe3 14.Nxe3 f4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Qxd5+ Kh8 the game has been dead equal to here **17.Rfe1?!±** Aronian gets the advantage [17.Qe4 Qxe4 18.Bxe4 Bg4=] **17...Rf6?!=** [17...fxg3 18.hxg3 Rb8±] **18.Rad1 c6 19.Qe4?!±** [19.Qa5 b6 20.Qa3 fxg3 21.hxg3 Rh6=] **19...Qf7 20.Rd4 [20.b5 Bd7 21.Qd4 a6±] 20...Bg4 21.Qd3 Rf8 22.Qd2 h5?!=** [22...Qg6?! 23.Qd3 Bf5 24.Qf3 fxg3 25.Qxg3 c5 26.bxc5 dxc5 27.Qxg6 Rxg6 28.Rf4 Kg8=; 22...fxg3?! 23.hxg3 Bc8 24.Bf3 Kg8=; 22...Kg8 23.gxf4 Rxf4 24.Qxf4 Qxf4 25.Rxf4 Rxf4±] **23.Bf3?!±** right square / wrong piece. This loses a P. [23.f3 Be6 24.Rxd6 fxg3 25.hxg3 Qg6=] **23...fxg3 24.hxg3 Bxf3 25.exf3 Rxf3** Aronian goes up a P **26.Re2 c5 [26...a6 27.Rxd6 h4±] 27.bxc5 dxc5 28.Rd8?!±** Ivanchuk should not give up his cP. Aronian gets a " clear " advantage [28.Rd7 Qf6 29.Qb2 Rc3 30.Rxb7 h4± material equality] **28...Qxc4** Aronian goes up 2 P's **29.Rxf8+ Rxf8 30.Re5 b6 31.Rxh5+ Aronian is up a P 31...Kg8 32.Rh4 Qe6 33.a4 a6 34.Rh5 c4 35.Qd4 Qf7 [35...Rf6 36.Qd8+ Kf7 37.Qd4 Qc6±] 36.Rd5 [36.g4 Re8 37.Rd5 Qf3±] 36...c3?!± [36...Qf6 37.Re5 Qc6±] 37.Rd6?!± [37.Rd8 c2 38.Rxf8+ Kxf8 39.Qd8+ Qe8±] 37...b5 38.Rxa6?!+ material equality [38.axb5 axb5 39.f4 Qb3±] 38...Rc8?+ – 3.05 [38...b4 39.a5 Rc8+- – 5.17] 39.Qg4?+ – 7.09 [39.Ra7 c2 40.Rxf7 c1Q+ 41.Kh2 Qh6+ 42.Kg2 Qc6+ 43.Rf3 Rf8+- – 3.57] 39...Qc4+- – 7.10 0-1**

In Rd. 9, Topalov won his third game in a row, against Svidler, to stay in first by 1 pt.. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Svidler, P (2727) – Topalov, V (2791) [B12]

Pearl Spring Nanjing CHN (9), 20.12.2008

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **1...c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 c5 6.Be3 Nd7 7.Nbd2 c4?!±** Svidler gets a " clear " advantage [7...Qb6 8.Qc1 Nh6 9.0-0 Ng4±] **8.a4?!±** [8.0-0 Ne7 9.Nh4 Bg6 10.Nxg6 Nxg6±] **8...h6 [8...Rc8 9.c3 Ne7±] 9.b3?!=** [9.0-0 Rc8 10.c3 Ne7±; 9.a5 Ne7 10.Nf1 Qc7±] **9...cxb3 10.Nxb3 Rc8 11.Ra2?!±** Topalov gets the advantage [11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.cxd3 Ne7=] **11...Qc7?!=** [11...Ne7 12.0-0 Nc6 13.c3 Be7±] **12.Bd3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 [13.cxd3 Qc3+ 14.Ke2 Qc7=] 13...Ne7 14.0-0 Qc4 15.Rb1 b6 16.Qf1?!±** [16.a5 b5 17.a6 b4=] **16...Nc6 [16...Qxf1+ 17.Kxf1 Nc6±] 17.c3 [17.Qxc4 dxc4 18.Nbd2 Nb4 19.Ra3 a6±] 17...Qxc3** Topalov goes up a P **18.a5 Be7 19.axb6 axb6 20.Qd1 Qc4?±** [20...Nb4 21.Bd2 Qd3 22.Ne1

Qe4] 21.Nc1? [21.Rc1 Qb4 22.Qd3 Bd8] 21...Nb4 22.Ra7?! Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [22.Rab2 Nc2 23.Nd3 0-0 24.Nfe1 Nxe3 25.fxe3 Qa6] 22...Qc2 23.Qxc2 Nxc2 24.Bd2 Na3 [24...Nb4 25.Raa1 Nc6] 25.Ra1 Nc4 26.Rb7 Nb8 27.Ra8 a complicated situation has been set up 27...0-0 28.Raxb8 Nxd2 29.Rxc8 Nxf3+ 30.gxf3 Rxc8 31.Ne2?!+ Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [31.Nd3 Rc3 32.Ne1 Bg5+] 31...Bd8 32.f4 [32.Kg2 Kf8+] 32...g6 33.Kg2 Kf8 34.Kf3 – 1.48 [34.Ng1 Rc4 35.Nf3 Bc7+ – 1.87] 34...Ra8 35.Ke3?+ – 2.32 [35.Ng3 Ra3+ 36.Kg2 Ra2 37.Kf3 Rb2+ – 1.55] 35...Ra3+ 36.Kd2 Bh4+ – 1.93 0-1

FIDE Grand Prix # 3 , Elista, Russia

The Third FIDE Grand Prix tournament took place in Elista from December 13 to 29, 2008. Despite the recent withdrawals of Magnus Carlsen, and Michael Adams, among others, and the absence of players like Anand, Kramnik and Topalov, the tournament is very strong (category 19). The venue, originally Doha, Qatar, became "City Chess" in Elista, Kalmykia, Russia. There are 14 players from nine countries (Average Rating: 2713):

Sd	Surname	Name	Nation	Rating
1	Radjabov	Teimour	AZE	2751
2	Leko	Peter	HUN	2747
3	Jakovenko	Dmitry	RUS	2737
4	Wang	Yue	CHN	2736
5	Mamedyarov	Shakhriyar	AZE	2731
6	Eljanov	Pavel	UKR	2720
7	Grischuk	Alexander	RUS	2719
8	Alekseev	Evgeny	RUS	2715
9	Bacrot	Etienne	FRA	2705
10	Gashimov	Vugar	AZE	2703
11	Cheparinov	Ivan	BUL	2696
12	Akopian	Vladimir	ARM	2679
13	Kasimdzhanov	Rustam	UZB	2672
14	Inarkiev	Ernesto	RUS	2669

The winners with 8/13 pts. were Radjabov, Jakovenko and Grischuk.

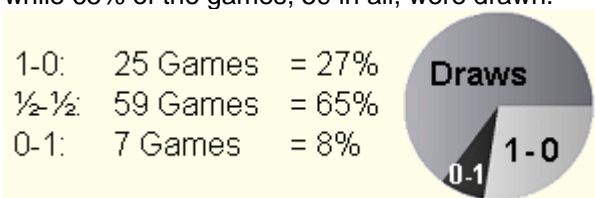
The final standings were (from ChessBase):

Final standings (after thirteen rounds)

FIDE Grand Prix 2008

				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	
1		Radjabov, T	2731	+48	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	8.0/13
2		Jakovenko, D	2737	+55	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	8.0/13
3		Gebekov, A	2719	+75	½	½	*	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	8.0/13
4		Gashimov, V	2703	+64	½	½	½	*	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7.5/13
5		Leko, P	2747	-36	½	½	0	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	6.5/13
6		Wang Yue	2736	-24	½	0	0	½	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	6.5/13
7		Mamedyarov, S	2731	-19	½	½	½	0	½	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	6.5/13
8		Becrot, E	2705	+8	½	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	6.5/13
9		Karimkhansov, R	2672	+44	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	0	½	½	6.5/13
10		Chapachov, I	2696	-3	½	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	*	0	½	½	6.0/13
11		Djaparidze, P	2720	-61	½	½	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	5.5/13
12		Alkhov, Evgeny	2715	-56	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	*	½	5.5/13
13		Almouzni, W	2679	-45	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	½	0	*	5.0/13
14		Inachkin, E	2669	-34	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	0	½	½	5.0/13

Statistics: White has won 27% of the games (25 out of a total of 91), Black 8% (seven games), while 65% of the games, 59 in all, were drawn.



The most notable result of round one was Jakovenko vs Wang Yue. The Russian GM ended his Chinese colleague's incredible streak of 82 successive games without defeat – a record surpassed only by Mikhail Tal's 93 games in 1973/74 and, more recently, Sergey Tiviakov's 110 games without loss, played from 28.10.2004 until 28.09.2005. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Jakovenko, D (2737) – Wang Yue (2736) [C67]

FIDE Grand Prix Elista RUS (1), 14.12.2008

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 Wang goes up a P 5.d4 [5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bf1 Nxe5 8.Rxe5 0-0±] 5...Nd6 [5...exd4 6.Re1 f5 7.Nxd4 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 c6 9.f3 Qb6±] 6.Bxc6 dxc6 [6...bxc6 7.Nxe5 Be7 8.Re1 0-0±] 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nc3 Ke8 10.h3 [10.Rd1 Be7 11.Bg5 Bxg5 12.Nxg5 Ne7±] 10...Be7 11.g4?!= [11.Rd1 Be6 12.Bg5 Bb4±] 11...Nh4 12.Nxh4 Bxh4 13.Rd1 Be7 14.Kg2 h5 15.f3 Be6 16.Ne2 Rd8 17.Be3 a6?!± [17...Rd5 18.Rxd5 cxd5=] 18.Nf4 g6?!± Jakovenko gets a " clear " advantage [18...Rxd1 19.Rxd1 hxg4 20.hxg4 Bc8±] 19.Rxd8+ Kxd8 20.Rd1+ Kc8 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.f4 b5 23.b3 Rh7 24.Bf2?!± [24.a4 Bb4 25.c4 hxg4 26.hxg4 Bc3±] 24...hxg4?!± [24...Rf7 25.Bg3 h4 26.Bh2 g5±] 25.hxg4 Rh8 26.Rh1 Rxh1 27.Kxh1 Kd7 28.Kg2 Bb4 29.Kf3 Ke8 30.Ke4 Ke7 31.Bh4+ Ke8 32.f5 gxf5+ 33.gxf5 exf5+ 34.Kxf5 Bc3 35.Bf2 Ke7 36.e6 Ke8 37.Bg3 Ba5 38.Be5 Bb6 39.c3 c5?!+- Jakovenko gets a " winning " advantage [39...Kf8 40.Bd4 c5 41.Bg1 Ke8±] 40.c4 Ba5 41.Kf6 c6 42.e7 Be1 43.Ke6 Bh4 44.Kd6 Bxe7+ 45.Kxc6 material equality 45...bxc4 46.bxc4 Kd8 47.Bd6 Bh4 48.Bxc5 Jakovenko goes up a P 48...Kc8 49.Kb6 a5 50.Kxa5 Jakovenko goes up 2 P's 50...Kb7 51.Kb5 Bg3 52.a4 Ka8 53.Be3 Bd6 54.Bd2 Kb7+- 3.95 1-0

In Rd. 3, Radjabov sacked 2 pawns to open lines to Kasimdzhanov's K, and came up with a win, which put him alone in first place. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

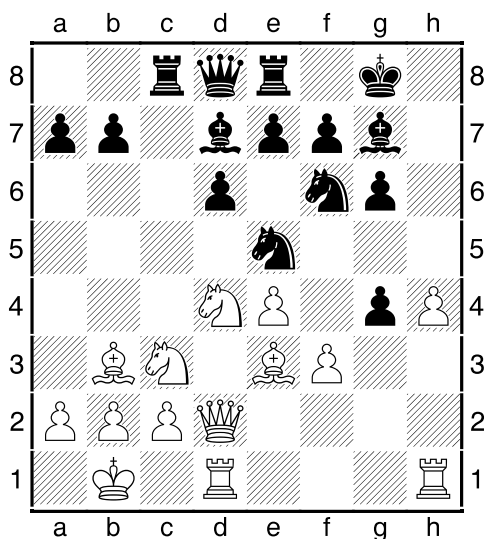
Radjabov, T (2751) – Kasimdzhanov, R (2672) [B78]

FIDE Grand Prix Elista RUS (3), 16.12.2008

[Armstrong, Robert]

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0?!= [10.Rd1?! Na5 11.Be2 Rc8=; 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.0-0 Qc7±] 10...Rc8 11.Bb3 [11.Be2 a6 12.g4 b5=] 11...Ne5 [11...Na5 12.Rhe1 Ne8 13.Bh6 Nxb3+ 14.Nxb3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Ng7=] 12.h4 h5 13.Kb1 Re8?!± [13...Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4=] 14.g4! Radjabov sags a P to open lines [14.Rhe1?! a6 15.Bh6 Bh8=] 14...hxg4 the sac should be accepted; Kasimdzhanov goes up a P

Position after 14...hxg4



15.h5! Radjabov sags a second P Nxh5 Kasimdzhanov goes up 2 P's 16.Bh6 Kh7?!± Radjabov gets a " clear " advantage [16...Bf6 17.Qg2 Qa5 18.Nd5 Qc5±] 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.fxg4 Kasimdzhanov is now up 1 P [18.f4? Nc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.f5 Rh8=] 18...Bxg4 Kasimdzhanov goes up 2 P's again 19.Nf5+ Bxf5 20.exf5 Rh8 21.fxg6 Nxg6 22.Ne4 Nf6 23.Rdf1 Rxh1 24.Rxh1 d5 25.Nxf6 Kxf6 26.Qf2+?!± Radjabov should grab the P [26.Bxd5 e6 27.Qf2+ Kg7 28.Be4 Qc7±] 26...Kg7 27.Rf1 f6 28.Qf5 [28.Qxa7 b6 29.Qa4 e5±] 28...Rc6?!± right piece, but wrong square; Kasimdzhanov gives Radjabov back a " clear " advantage [28...Rc5 29.c3 Qc8 30.Qd3 Qg4±] 29.Rg1 Qe8 30.Bxd5 Kasimdzhanov is up 1 P 30...Rc5 [30...e6?! 31.Bxc6 bxc6 32.Qh3 f5+–] 31.Qe6 Rb5?!+– Radjabov gets a " winning " advantage [31...b5 32.Rh1 Nf4 33.Qe3 Rxd5 34.Qxf4 Qg6±] 32.c4 Rb6 33.Qh3 e6 34.Bf3 Qd8?!+– 2.60 [34...f5 35.c5 Rc6+– 2.05] 35.Qg2+– 2.53 Kasimdzhanov resigned. He must lose material. The game could have continued 35...Qd3+ 36.Ka1 Kf8 37.Qxg6 Qxg6 [37...Qxf3?? 38.c5 Qf1+ 39.Rxf1 e5 40.cxb6 e4 41.Qxf6+ Ke8 42.Qe6+ Kd8 43.Rd1#] 38.Rxg6 f5+– 2.48 1-0

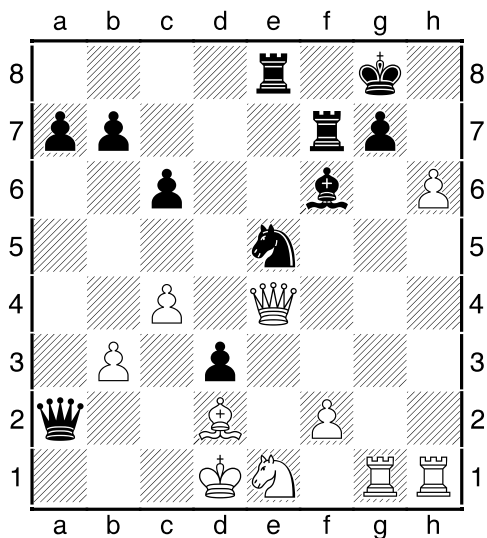
In Rd. 4, Bacrot came up with a great Q-sac mate. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Bacrot, E (2705) – Leko, P (2747) [B19]

FIDE Grand Prix Elista RUS (4), 17.12.2008

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4?!= [6.f4 Nf6 7.Nf3 e6±] 6...h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 [8.Bd3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Ngf6=] 8...Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bf4 Qa5+ 12.Bd2 Bb4?!± [12...Qc7 13.0-0-0 Ngf6 14.Nf1 Be7=] 13.c3?!= [13.Ne4 Ngf6 14.Nd6+ Kf8±] 13...Be7 14.c4 Qc7 15.0-0-0 Ngf6 16.Ne4?!± Leko gets the advantage [16.Rde1 0-0 17.Ne4 c5=] 16...0-0 17.g4 [17.Nxf6+ Nxf6 18.Ne5 c5±; 17.Rde1 c5 18.d5 exd5 19.cxd5 c4 20.d6 cxd3+ 21.dxc7 Rac8±] 17...Nxc4 Leko goes up a P 18.Qe2 [18.Rdg1 f5 19.Qe2 Rae8±; 18.Rhg1 f5 19.Qe2 Kh8±] 18...f5?!= [18...Kh8 19.Rhg1 f5±] 19.Rdg1?± Leko gets a " clear " advantage [19.Ng3 Kh8 20.Rhf1 Bf6 21.Qxe6 Nxf2 22.Rxf2 Qxg3±; 19.Nh4 Bxh4 20.Rxh4 c5 21.dxc5 Rad8=] 19...Rae8 20.Ne1 [20.Kb1?! e5 21.Nxe5 Ndx5 22.Bf4 Kh8±] 20...e5 [20...b5? 21.f3 e5 22.Nc5 Bg5 23.Bxg5 exd4 24.Ne6 hxg5 25.h6 Nxh6 26.Rxg5 Nc5=] 21.Ng3 exd4?= Leko goes up 2 P's, but has lost his advantage [21...Bg5 22.Nxf5 Rxf5 23.Bxg5 Ndf6 24.Bxf6 Nxf6 25.Qc2 Rxh5 26.dxe5 Rxh1 27.Rxh1 Qxe5±] 22.Nxf5 Leko is up a P 22...Rxf5 [22...Bg5 23.Qxg4 Ne5 24.Nxh6+ Bxh6 25.Qd1 Qd6=] 23.Qxg4 Rf7?± Bacrot gets a " clear " advantage [23...Rg5 24.Bxg5 Bxg5+=] 24.Bxh6! material equality 24...Bf6 25.Bd2 Ne5 26.Qe2 [26.Qe4 Rfe7 27.Qc2 d3 28.Qb3 Qb6±] 26...d3 27.Qe4 Qb6 [27...Qd8?! 28.h6 Nf3 29.Qxf3 Rxe1+ 30.Bxe1 d2+ 31.Kd1 dxe1Q+ 32.Kxe1 Bg5+-] 28.b3 Qc5?!+- Bacrot gets a " winning " advantage [28...Qxf2 29.h6 c5 30.Rg4 g5±] 29.h6 Qa3+ 30.Kd1 Qxa2??+- a blunder; Leko misses a fine Q-sac mate for Bacrot [30...Qe7 31.c5 (31.Qh7+?? Kxh7 32.hxg7+ Bh4+) 31...Ng6 32.Qxe7 (32.Qxg6?? Qe2+ 33.Kc1 Bb2+ 34.Kxb2 Qxd2+ 35.Nc2 Qxc2+ 36.Ka1 Qc3+ 37.Kb1 Qc2+=) 32...Nxe7+-]

Position after 30...Qxa2??



31.Qh7+!! Leko resigned. It is mate 31...Kf8 32.Bb4+ c5 33.Bxc5+ Rfe7 34.hxg7+ Bxg7 35.Qxg7# 1-0

In Rd. 5, Gashimov took a point from eventual co-winner, Grischuk – this put him into a tie for 1st/2nd. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Gashimov, V (2703) – Grischuk, A (2719) [B97]

FIDE Grand Prix Elista RUS (5), 18.12.2008

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 [5...g6 6.Be2 Bg7±] 6.Bg5 [6.Be2 g6 7.0-0 Bg7±] 6...e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd3?!= Gashimov should not sac the bP [8.Nb3 h6 9.Bxf6 gxf6±] 8...Qxb2 Grischuk goes up a P 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 Be7 11.fxe6?!± Grischuk gets the advantage [11.Be2 Qc5 12.Be3 Qc7=] 11...fxe6 12.Be2 Qa5 13.Bd2 Qc7 14.0-0 0-0 15.Qc4 Qd7 16.Qb3 Kh8 17.Bc4 d5 18.exd5 b5 19.Be2?!± Grischuk gets a " clear " advantage [19.Nxe6 Qa7+ 20.Kh1 bxc4 21.Qxc4 Bxe6 22.dxe6 Qc5±] 19...Bc5 [19...exd5 20.Bf3 Bc5 21.Be3 Bb7±] 20.Kh1 exd5 21.Be3?!+- 1.84 Grischuk gets a " winning " advantage [21.Bd3 Nc6 22.Nxc6 Qxc6±] 21...Nc6?!± [21...Re8 22.Ncx5 Qd8 23.Bg1 axb5 24.Bxb5 Bd7-+] 22.Ne6 Qxe6 23.Bxc5 Re8 24.Bf3 Bb7 25.a4 Na5 26.Qb4 Nc4 27.Rbd1 Ne4?!± [27...Rac8 28.Bd4 Ne3 29.Bxe3 Qxe3 30.Nxd5 Bxd5 31.Bxd5 Qg5±] 28.Nxe4 dxe4 29.Be2 e3 30.axb5 axb5 31.Qxb5 material equality 31...Ba6 32.Qb4 Rab8 33.Qa4 Ra8 [33...Bb5 34.Qa7 Nd2 35.Bd4 Qe7±] 34.Qb4 Nd2 35.Rfe1 Ne4 36.Kg1?+ [36.Bxa6 Nf2+ 37.Kg1 Nxd1 38.Bd3 Nf2 39.Bb5 Reb8 40.Bxe3 Qf5±] 36...Rab8 37.Qd4 Nf2?= Grischuk has lost his advantage [37...Bxe2 38.Rxe2 Qc6 39.Ba7 Nc3 40.Ree1 Nb5 41.Qd7 Nxa7 42.Qxa7 Qxc2-+] 38.Ra1 Bxe2 39.Rxe2 Ng4?!± for the first time since the opening, Gashimov has the advantage, a " clear " advantage [39...Qc6 40.Rae1 Qg6 41.Rxe3 Nh3+ 42.Kh1 Nf2+ 43.Kg1 Nh3+=] 40.h3 Ne5?!+- Gashimov gets a " winning " advantage [40...Rbd8 41.Qc3 Nf6±] 41.Rxe3 Gashimov goes up a P 41...Rbd8 42.Qc3 Qc4 43.Qxc4 Nxc4 44.Rxe8+ Rxe8 45.Ra7 h6 46.Bd4 Ne5 47.c4 Kh7 48.c5 h5 49.Ra6 Nd3 50.Ra3 Nf4 51.Be3 [51.Re3 Rd8 52.Be5 Rd1+ 53.Kf2 Nd5+-] 51...Nd5 52.Kf2 Re4 53.Rd3 Nxe3 54.Rxe3 Rc4 55.Re5 Rc2+ 56.Kf3 h4 1.50 [56...Kh6? 57.Ke4 g5+- 2.36] 57.Ke4 Kg6 58.Kd5 Rd2+ 3.65 [58...Rxc7 59.Re4 Kf6 60.c6 Rd2+ 61.Kc5 Rc2+ 62.Kb6 Rb2+ 63.Ka6 Ra2+ 64.Kb7 Rb2+ 65.Kc8 Kf5 66.Rc4 Ke6+- 4.14] 59.Ke6 Rxc7 material equality 60.c6 Rc2 61.Kd6 Kf6 62.Rd5 g5 63.c7 g4 7.87 [63...Rxc7 64.Kxc7 Ke6 65.Rxc7 Kf6 66.Rd5 Ke6+- and it is mate in 12 moves] 64.Rc5+- 8.12 1-0

In Rd. 7, Grischuk went up a P against Alekseev and won. This lifted him into a tie for 1st/2nd. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Alekseev, Evgeny (2715) – Grischuk, A (2719) [E60]

FIDE Grand Prix Elista RUS (7), 21.12.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± [2...e6=] 3.g3= [3.Nc3±] 3...c5 4.d5 b5?!± [4...d6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Na6=] 5.cxb5 Alekseev goes up the gambitted P 5...a6 6.bxa6 d6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Nh3?!= [9.a7 Rxa7 10.Nf3 Na6±] 9...Bxa6?!± [9...Nxa6 10.0-0 Bd7=] 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Bd2?!= [11.Qc2 Qb6 12.b3 Rfb8±] 11...Qb6 12.Qc2 Rfb8 13.Rab1 Ne5 14.b3 Bc8 15.Ng5 Bf5?!± [15...h6 16.Nge4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bh3 18.Rfe1 Rc8=] 16.e4 Bd7 17.Nf3 Nfg4 18.Ne1?!= [18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.h3 Qa6±] 18...f5 19.Nd3 Nxd3 20.Qxd3 fxe4 21.Qe2?!± for the first time in the game, Grischuk gets the advantage [21.Qxe4 Bf5 22.Qe2 Bxb1 23.Rxb1 Ne5=] 21...Qa6 [21...Rf8?! 22.a4 e3 23.fxe3 Rxf1+ 24.Qxf1 Nxe3 25.Bxe3 Bxc3=] 22.Qxa6 [22.Rbe1 Qxe2 23.Rxe2 e3 24.fxe3 Bxc3 25.Bxc3 Bb5 26.Rfe1 Bxe2 27.Rxe2 Ra3±] 22...Rxa6 23.Bxe4 [23.a4 e3 24.fxe3 Nxe3 25.Bxe3 Bxc3±] 23...Bxc3 24.Bxc3 Rxa2 material equality 25.f3 Nf6 26.Rf2 Ra3 27.Bxf6 exf6 28.Rfb2 Ra7 29.Kf2 Kf7 30.Bd3 Rab7 31.Ke3 Rb4 32.Kd2?+ Grischuk gets a " winning " advantage [32.Bc4 Bb5 33.Bxb5 R8xb5±] 32...Bb5?= [32...Rd4 33.Kc2 Re8 34.Ra2 Re3-+] 33.Bxb5 R8xb5 [33...R4xb5 34.Kc3 f5=] 34.Kc3 Rb7 35.Rd1?!± [35.Ra2 Re7 36.Ra6 Re3+ 37.Kc2 Rxf3 38.Ra7+ Kf8 39.Re1 h6=] 35...g5 36.Rdd2 Re7?!= [36...h5 37.Re2 g4 38.f4 Kg6±] 37.Re2?± [37.Rd3 f5 38.Ra2 Reb7=] 37...Re5 38.Rbd2 h5 39.Rxe5?!+- [39.Kc2 Kg6 40.h3 Rxe2 41.Rxe2 Rd4±] 39...fxe5 40.Ra2 - 1.52 [40.h3 Kf6 41.g4 Rf4 42.Rd3 hxg4 43.hxg4 e4 44.fxe4 Ke5 45.Kc4 Rxe4+ 46.Kb5 Rb4+ 47.Kc6 c4 48.bxc4 Rxc4+ 49.Kd7 Rxc4+- - 1.99] 40...Rd4 41.Ra7+ Kf6 42.Rh7 Kg6 43.Re7 Rxd5 Grischuk goes up a P 44.Re6+ Kg7 45.b4 cxb4+ 46.Kxb4 g4 47.fxc4 hxg4 48.Kc4 Rd4+ 49.Kc3 Kf7 50.Rh6 Ke7+- - 1.95 0-1

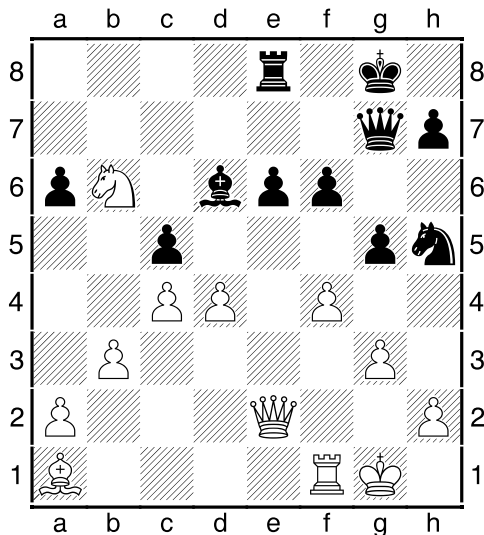
In Rd. 10, Radjabov went up a P against Alekseev. Then Alekseev sacked his N for some pawns, and ended up with 2 connected, passed P's vs N. But he could not make progress to queening, and Radjabov won. This lifted Radjabov into a 3-way tie for first, which continued to the end of the tournament (it was 13 rounds). Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Radjabov, T (2751) – Alekseev, Evgeny (2715) [A13]

FIDE Grand Prix Elista RUS (10), 25.12.2008

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 b6?!± [3...d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ c6 6.Qxc4 Nbd7=] 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 Be7 6.b3?!= [6.d4 0-0 7.Nc3 d5±] 6...0-0 7.Bb2 d5 8.e3 Nbd7 9.Nc3 a6 10.Qe2 Bd6 11.d3 Qe7 12.Nh4 g6?!± [12...Rfe8 13.f4 Rad8=] 13.f4 c6 14.e4?!= [14.Rad1 Rad8 15.Nf3 h6±] 14...dxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Nf6?!± [16...f5?! 17.Bg2 e5±; 16...Rfe8 17.d4 Nf6 18.Bf3 c5=] 17.Bg2 Rad8 18.Rad1 Rfe8 19.Ba1 Rd7?!± Radjabov gets a " clear " advantage [19...Nh5 20.Nf3 f6±] 20.Kh1 Nh5 21.Qb2?!± [21.Nf3 Rdd8 22.Ne5 Rc8±] 21...f6 22.d4 Qf8 23.Nf3 Qh6?!± [23...Rdd8?! 24.Nd2 Qh6±; 23...Ba3 24.Qc2 c5 25.Qe2 cxd4 26.Nxd4 Bxg2+ 27.Kxg2 Ng7±] 24.Kg1?!± [24.Qf2 Be7 25.c5 bxc5 26.dxc5 Rd5±] 24...c5?!± [24...Red8?! 25.Qe2 Ng7 26.Nd2 Be7±; 24...Be7 25.Qe2 Ng7 26.Nd2 Qh5±] 25.Ne5 Bxg2 26.Nxd7 Bxf1 27.Rxf1 material equality 27...Qg7 28.Nxb6 Radjabov goes up a P 28...g5?!+- [28...cxd4 29.Qxd4 Qc7 30.Na4 Qc6±] 29.Qe2

Position after 29.Qe2



Nxg3! Alekseev decides to sac his N for some P's (Fritz' choice too) 30.hxg3 gxf4 Radjabov is up N vs P; despite being up a piece, it takes time for Radjabov to convert the advantage to a win. 31.Qh5 Rb8 32.Na4 cxd4 33.Bxd4 e5 34.Bf2 fxg3 Radjabov is up N vs 2 P's 35.Be3 Qf7 36.Qxf7+?+- 1.88 better not to exchange Q's [36.Qf5 Rf8 37.Nb6 Kh8+- 4.00] 36...Kxf7 37.Kg2 Rg8 38.Nc3 Ke6 39.Ne4 Be7 40.Bc5 Bd8 41.Nxg3 Radjabov is up N vs P 41...f5 42.Kh3 f4 Alekseev tries to shepherd home his 2 connected, passed P's 43.Ne4 Kf5 44.Re1 h5 45.b4 Radjabov starts his queening march 45...Rg4 46.Bf2 Be7 47.c5 f3 48.c6 Bd8?+- 3.70 [48...Bxb4 49.c7 Rg8 50.Rb1 a5 51.a3 Kxe4 52.axb4 Rc8 53.bxa5 Rxc7 54.a6 Rc2 55.Ra1 Rc8 56.a7 Ra8+- 4.89] 49.Rd1 Bc7 50.Ng3+ Ke6 51.Rd7 Bd6?+- 5.58 [51...Bb8 52.Bc5 f2 53.Bxf2 Rxb4 54.Nxh5 Rb2+- 4.09] 52.Nxh5 Radjabov is up an N 52...Rc4 53.Ng7+ Kd5 54.Bc5+- 5.61 Alekseev resigned. He must lose material. The game could have continued 54...Rxc5 55.bxc5

Kxc5 56.c7 Bxc7 57.Rxc7+ Kb4+- 6.66 Radjabov would be up R + N vs 2 connected, passed P's 1-0

FIDE Grand Prix Standings

After 3 tournaments:

Grand Prix # 1 – Baku – 2717

Grand Prix # 2 – Sochi – 2730

Grand Prix # 3 – Elista – 2713

(from ChessBase)

Grand Prix Standings after three events

Player	Baku	Sochi	Elista	Total	Played
Teimour Radjabov (AZE)	60	150	153.33	363.33	3
Wang Yue (CHN)	153.33	120	80	353.33	3
Vugar Gashimov (AZE)	153.33	65	110	328.33	3
Alexander Grischuk (RUS)	105	45	153.33	303.33	3
Dmitry Jakovenko (RUS)		90	153.33	243.33	2
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (AZE)	105		80	185.00	2
Levon Aronian (ARM)		180		180.00	1
Gata Kamsky (USA)	60	120		180.00	2
Peter Svidler (RUS)	85	90		175.00	2
Sergey Karjakin (UKR)	60	90		150.00	2
Ivan Cheparinov (BUL)	35	45	50	130.00	3
Etienne Bacrot (FRA)	15		80	95.00	2
Peter Leko (HUN)			80	80.00	1
Rustam Kasimdzhanov (UZB)			80	80.00	1
Vassily Ivanchuk (UKR)		65		65.00	1
David Navara (CZE)	35	15		50.00	2
Pavel Eljanov (UKR)			35	35.00	1
Evgeny Alekseev (RUS)			35	35.00	1
Boris Gelfand (ISR)		30		30.00	1
Ernesto Inarkiev (RUS)	15		15	30.00	2
Vladimir Akopian (ARM)			15	15.00	1
Magnus Carlsen (NOR)	153.33				withdrew
Michael Adams (ENG)	85				withdrew
Mohamad Al-Modiahki (QAT)		15			removed
Yannick Pelletier (SUI)					removed

FIDE Criticized for Floundering Around on Current 2008 – 10 World Championship Cycle

The next World Chess Championship Cycle for 2008-10 was fixed some time ago. It basically was the 2008-9 FIDE Grand Prix Series winner (now in progress), and the 2009 FIDE World Cup winner, would meet in a WC Challengers' Match in 2010,

That winner would then play a World Championship Match in 2010. The world seemed satisfied that FIDE, after years of floundering, had finally come up with an acceptable cycle to the World Championship.

Then in November, the FIDE General Assembly changed the cycle so that the two winners would not play a match, but would go into an 8-player double round robin Challengers' Tournament, along with a number of other qualifiers, in 2010. And that winner would not play a WC Championship Match until 2011.

As a result, to object, Norwegian GM Magnus Carlsen and English GM Michael Adams, both withdrew from the Grand Prix Series in which they had been playing. Then on Dec. 15, FIDE President, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, announced that the decision of the FIDE GA was not final, and had to be confirmed in March 2009 at the FIDE Presidential Board meeting.

All of this was too much for the top players union, the Association of Chess Professionals. They weighed in on December 16 as follows:

Press Release:

The ACP [Association of Chess Professionals] objects to the modifications imposed by FIDE in the World Chess Championship cycle. The system of the World Championship cannot be changed once the cycle has started. This statement relies on an opinion study made by the ACP among chess players rated above 2700.

Changing the Regulations of the World Championship in progress negatively affected top players who were already involved in the cycle, and eventually led to several withdrawals. The ACP therefore suggests that FIDE regularly consults with top players on all essential questions such as the World Championship.

At the end of November in Dresden, FIDE put forward a new format for the World Championship cycle started earlier this year. The General Assembly approved this proposal. The ACP Board subsequently contacted all players rated above 2700. Many of them eventually sent their answers, while some others expressed their views directly in the press. The whole procedure took a couple of weeks but enabled the Board to determine how the ACP had to react in order to represent top players' opinions in the most objective way.

The ACP draws the following conclusions:

1. The essence of the World Championship is to let all greatest chess players fight to obtain the precious title of World Champion. Changing the regulations once the cycle has started means changing the qualification process which participants have agreed to go through. Thus, players' rights have been neglected.
2. Considering its pure content, the new system proposed by FIDE has the right to exist. It actually bears a certain resemblance to what has been tried in the past few

years. However, the problematic point, which has been contested by numerous players, concerns the selection to the candidates tournament (or matches). The ACP believes that the qualification system has not been worked out in the most adequate way. It is crucial to select players according to the most objective criteria, so that the World Championship can be held at the highest possible level.

Taking into account the aforementioned points, the ACP recommends FIDE to build a sustainable dialog with chess players, where the ACP could play a role of mediator. Consultation and discussion are the key words to lay the foundations for a fair World Chess Championship cycle.

ACP Board,
December 16th 2008

Then on Saturday, December 27, FIDE President, Ilyumzhinov, held a telephone conference call with some top GM's on the World Championship Cycle. The FIDE press release stated:

“ FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov held an online conference with the top World Chess Grand Masters in Elista, Russia. He thanked them and their representatives for their contribution to a fruitful online discussion regarding the World Chess Championship Cycle. The World Champion Anand Viswanathan, Grand Masters Veselin Topalov, Vassily Ivanchuk, Magnus Carlsen (represented by his father Henrik) and Levon Aronian explained their views to the FIDE Officials present which included FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, Deputy President George Makropoulos, Vice President Zurab Azmaiparashvili, FIDE Commercial Director & Global Chess CEO Geoffrey Borg and PA to FIDE President Berik Balgabaev.

The meeting lasted more than an hour and different opinions, suggestions, recommendations and constructive criticism was made by the players. FIDE President said that he would take the views of the players to the Presidential Board to be held in mid-March 2009 in Budapest where they will be reviewed closely. “

So, for now, it looks like the issue goes into the freezer until March of this year. We'll let you know if there are other developments before then.

Canada's Most Active Tournament Player for 2008 – Ferreira !

Throughout the year, the CFC website, under “ Ratings “, keeps track of the no. of tournament games played (at chess clubs, weekend or longer tournaments, matches) for the 25 most active Canadian players.

For 2008, there is a most worthy successor to the 2007 most active player (me ! your intrepid editor, Bob Armstrong). It is Alex Ferreira of Toronto. Alex is an active member of the Hart House CC at University of Toronto, and has now been the organizer of the 2 most recent major tournaments in Toronto, held in Hart House – the

Thanksgiving Day Open, and the HH Holidays Open. He is also a member at Scarborough CC. He has sported an expert rating in the past, slipped down into the “ A “ class for a while, and now is back up in the expert category again (2044). This year Alex played 139 games (includes 1 played and not yet rated game from the Hart House Holidays Open), a little better on average than a rated tournament game every 3 days ! Congratulations Alex !

(Note that your intrepid editor predecessor could only manage 117 games this year (includes 5 played and not yet rated games from the Hart House Holidays Open) and came in 4th – would have tied for 2nd/4th if I had not taken a bye in one round in the last SCC tournament!).

Toronto Junior Championship – Hambleton Wins

This 6 player round robin finished December 9, 2008 and was played at the Willowdale CC. The new Toronto Junior Champion is Aman Hambleton (former SCC junior !). Congratulations Aman !

Final Standings:

#Name	Old	Perf	New	High	Results										Tot
1 Hambleton, Aman	2060	2437	2140	2140	W	4	W	3	D	2	W	5	W	64.5	
2 Calugar, Arthur	2230	2243	2238	2238	D	5	W	4	D	1	W	6	D	33.5	
3 Sapozhnikov, Roman	2264	2236	2264	2274	W	6	L	1	W	5	W	4	D	23.5	
4 Gusev, Nikita	2048	2039	2051	2145	L	1	L	2	W	6	L	3	W	52.0	
5 Kleinman, Michael	2007	1887	1988	2038	D	2	D	6	L	3	L	1	L	41.0	
6 Orlova, Yelizaveta	2035	1802	1993	2035	L	3	D	5	L	4	L	2	L	10.5	

Hart House Holidays Open

(Report by Organizer, Alex Ferreira, SCC member, on ChessTalk)

The second Hart House Open tournament this year was a success, all things considered. We thank all the players and parents for coming out in such a busy time of the year! In all honesty we were concerned at first that being the weekend before Christmas, not many people would play. Then we got hit by a snow storm. We had a total of 86 participants, 75 of them played on Friday, the night of the storm. Looking at the field of players, this tournament was yet another reminder that the future of Canadian chess is secure. More than half of the total players were juniors under the age of 18 !

Open Section:

There was a 4-way tie for first place:
GM Bator Sambuev, IM Leonid Gerzhoy, IM Lawrence Day and FM Igor Divljan all finished with 4.0/5

There were some interesting top board games. Gerzhoy vs Sapozhnikov at some point had an interesting endgame puzzle position (rook vs 3 connected pawns) - Gerzhoy had to sac a rook to get a perp and survive mate against Sambuev - Noritsyn vs Sambuev was a tactical feast near the end.

We collected some score sheets and will try to post them in the near future.

The U2200 1-2 prizes were split between Felix Barrios (USA) and Aaron Wu. Aaron Wu (1837) finished with an impressive 3.0/4 (plus a half point bye) score, with a performance of 2388 !

Dalia Kagramanov and Pavel Rakov split 3rd place U2200.

Final Standings:

Name rtng rd 1 rd 2 rd 3 rd 4 rd 5 TOT

1 Sambuev, Bator GM.....	2572	W 22	W 21	W 7	D 2	D 6	4.0
2 Gerzhoy, Leonid IM.....	2493	W 8	W 13	W 11	D 1	D 7	4.0
3 Divljan, Igor.....	2367	D 27	W 28	D 4	W 23	W 11	4.0
4 Day, Lawrence IM.....	2313	D 14	W 9	D 3	W 15	W 10	4.0

U2000 Section:

Tyler Longo and Leon Perelman split 1st, with Zhiyuan Zhang taking clear 1st U1800 with the same score of 4.0. Victor Itkin & Ben Olden-Cooligan shared the remainder U1800 prize with 3.5.

Final Standings:

Name rtng rd 1 rd 2 rd 3 rd 4 rd 5 TOT

1 Longo, Tyler.....	1935	W 10	D 9	W 6	H---	W 4	4.0
2 Perelman, Leon.....	1876	L 15	W 26	W 7	W 11	W 9	4.0
3 Zhang, Zhiyuan.....	1738	B---	W 29	L 15	W 18	W 8	4.0
4 Bzikot, Robert.....	1936	D 19	W 20	W 14	W 8	L 1	3.5
5 Itkin, Victor.....	1764	W 26	L 17	H---	W 21	W 15	3.5
6 Olden-Cooligan, Ben.....	1516	D 12	W 19	L 1	W 14	W 13	3.5
7 Dickson, Jason.....	unr.	W 27	D 18	L 2	W 19	W 12	3.5

U1600 Section:

This section saw Travis Li take 1st place U1600 and Tian Lan taking 1st U1400. Kevin Chen won the Unrated prize without losing a game! All 3 players ended with 4.0/5. Completing the top standings were Michael Song, Tony Lin and Yutong Luo, all winning prizes.

Final Standings:

Name rtng rd 1 rd 2 rd 3 rd 4 rd 5 TOT

1 Li, Travis.....	1548	W 18	L 3	W 21	W 11	W 9	4.0
2 Lan, Tian.....	1317	W 23	D 15	W 4	W 14	D 3	4.0
3 Chen, Kevin.....	unr.	W 7	W 1	D 14	W 5	D 2	4.0
4 Song, Michael.....	1548	D 12	W 17	L 2	W 19	W 8	3.5

5 Lin, Tony (Juntao).....1342 D 17 W 10 W 19 L 3 W 13 3.5
6 Luo, Yutong.....1254 H--- W 18 D 9 D 13 W 14 3.5

There was a major upset in Rd. 1 where new Toronto Junior Champion, Aman Hambleton (2140) upset IM Artiom Samsonkin (2540) – an almost 400 point difference. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Hambleton, Aman (2140) – Samsonkin, Artiom (2532) [E84]

Hart House Holidays Open (2000+) Toronto (1), 19.12.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± [2...e6=] **3.Nc3 Bg7** [3...c5 4.d5 Qa5±] **4.e4 d6 5.f3?!=** Fritz does not favour the Samisch line of the King's Indian [5.Nf3±] **5...Nc6 6.Be3 0-0 7.Nge2 a6** [7...Nd7 8.h4 Nb6 9.b3 h5=] **8.Qd2 Rb8?!±** [8...Na5 9.Nc1 Nd7 10.Be2 c5=] **9.Nc1 e5 10.d5 Nd4 11.Nb3?!=** [11.N1e2 Nxe2 12.Bxe2 Nh5±] **11...Nxb3 12.axb3 c5 13.b4 b6?±** Aman gets a " clear " advantage [13...cxb4 14.Na4 Nd7 15.Qxb4 f5± (15...Bh6 16.Bxh6 Qh4+ 17.g3 Qxh6±)] **14.Na2?=-** [14.b5 a5 15.g4 Ra8 16.Na4 Qc7±] **14...Nd7 15.Be2 f5 16.0-0 a5?!±** [16...f4?! 17.Bf2 Bf6± (17...h6 18.Rfb1 Bf6±) ; 16...Rf7 17.b5 f4 18.Bf2 a5=] **17.bxa5 bxa5 18.Nc3 Rb4?!±** the R can be trapped here [18...f4?! 19.Bf2 Nb6 20.b3 h5±; 18...fxe4 19.fxe4 Nf6 20.Nb5 Nxe4 21.Qxa5 Rxf1+ 22.Bxf1 Bf5±] **19.Nb5 Nb6 20.Qc2 Bf6?!+-** 1.75 [20...fxe4?! 21.fxe4 Rxf1+ 22.Bxf1 h6+- 1.93; 20...a4 21.Bd2 Rb3 22.Rxa4 Rxb5 23.cxb5 Nxa4 24.Qxa4 Qh4±] **21.Bd2 Be7 22.Bxb4 axb4** Aman is up the exchange **23.exf5 Bxf5 24.Bd3 Bd7 25.Bxg6!** Aman sacs his B to open up Artem's K-side **25...Bxb5 26.Bxh7+ Kh8 27.cxb5 Nxd5** Aman is up the exchange + P **28.Be4 Nb6 29.f4 d5 30.Bg6 e4?+-** 5.67 [30...Qd6 31.fxe5 Qxe5+- 3.56] **31.Qe2 Qd6?+-** 18.85 [31...Kg7? 32.Qg4 Rh8 33.Ra7 Rh6 34.Qg5 Nd7 35.Qxd5 Rxd6 36.Rxd7 Qe8+- - 17.64; 31...Qc7 32.Qh5+ Kg7 33.Qh7+ Kf6 34.Ra7 Qxa7 35.Bf5 Bd6 36.Qxa7 Kxf5 37.Qxb6 Ke6+- 13.64] **32.Qh5+ Kg7 33.Qh7+ Kf6 34.Qh6?+-** 18.77 [34.Bh5 Ke6 35.Bg4+ Kf6 36.Ra7 Nc8 37.Bh5 Qxf4 38.Rxf4+ Ke5 39.Rxe7+ Nxe7+- and it is mate in 10 moves] **34...Ke6** [34...Rh8 35.Qxh8+ Kxg6 36.f5+ Kf7 37.f6 Qxf6 38.Ra6 and it is mate in 13 moves] **35.Be8+?+-** 9.20 [35.Ra7 Rxf4 36.Be8+ Rf6 37.Rxf6+ Bxf6 38.Qh3+ Ke5 39.Qg3+ Kd4 40.Qxd6+- 19.46] **35...Bf6 36.Ra7 Qd8??+-** and it is mate in 9 moves [36...Qe7 37.f5+ Kd6 38.Rxe7 Kxe7 39.Bc6 Rh8 15.56] **37.Qxf8-+** Aman is up 2 R's + P vs N, and it is mate in 8 moves **1-0**

SCC Fall Swiss

This 8 Rd. swiss started Thursday, October 30 and ran to the Thursday before Christmas. It was held in 2 sections: Open Section; U 1700 section. 38 players registered for the Open section. As with our first tournament this year, it was very strong at the top, with 4 masters and 6 experts . 29 players registered for the U 1700 section. The total of 67 players continued the highest numbers we have had out since early in the millennium. The highest we've had out this 2008-9 year is 68 players for the Howard Ridout Swiss in the early Fall, 2008.

The winners were:

Open Section:

1st – 6.5 pts. – master Erwin Casareno (2007-8 Club Champion)

2nd/ 3rd – 6 pts. - expert Bryan Lamb
Master Kyle Morrison

U 1700 Section:

1st / 2nd – 6 pts. – Dean Ward
Jim Roe

3rd / 7th – 5 pts. – Maurice Smith
Andrew Philip
Arvin Farhang
Mario Umana
Abdi Radpey

In Rd. 7 on board 1 in the Open section, expert Bryan Lamb, leading, took the advantage early against the 2007-8 Club Champion, master Erwin Casareno, then tied for 2nd/4th. He kept it, and got a winning advantage. But then about ¾ way through the game, the advantage shifted and Erwin got the winning advantage, and went up the exchange plus 2 pawns. Erwin went on to win. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Lamb, Bryan (2183) – Casareno, Erwin (2214) [B40]

Scarb. CC Fall Swiss (1700 & Over) Toronto (7), 11.12.2008

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted. **1...c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nge2 Nc6 4.g3?!=** [4.d4 d5 5.Be3 Nf6±] **4...g6?±** Bryan gets an early " clear " advantage [4...Nf6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bb4=] **5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 a6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.Be3 Nge7 9.Qd2?!±** [9.Nxc6 Nxc6 10.Qd6 Qa5±] **9...Qa5?!±** [9...Ne5 10.0-0-0 Nc4±] **10.Nb3 Qc7 11.Bh6 Bf6** [11...Bxh6 12.Qxh6 b6±] **12.Bg5** [12.f4 Ng8 13.Bg5 Bxg5 14.fxg5 h6±] **12...Bg7** [12...Bxg5 13.Qxg5 f5±] **13.0-0-0 Ne5 14.Rhe1 Nc4 15.Qd3?!±** [15.Qf4 Be5 16.Qf3 d6 17.Bf6 b5 18.Bxe5 (18.Bxh8 Bxh8 19.Nd4 Bb7±) 18...dxe5±] **15...f6 16.Bf4 Ne5?!±** [16...e5 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 d6±] **17.Qd2 g5** [17...b6 18.Kb1 h6 19.Na4 Rb8±] **18.Bxe5 Qxe5 19.f4** [19.Na4 Rb8 20.Nac5 Qc7±] **19...gxf4 20.gxf4 Qc7 21.Bf3 Bh6 22.Bh5+ Kf8?!+-** Bryan gets a " winning " advantage [22...Ng6 23.Rf1 b5±] **23.Rf1 Ng6 24.e5?=** Bryan misses the pin on the fP; Bryan has lost his advantage [24.Bxg6 hxg6 25.Kb1 Ke7 26.Qg2 Bxf4 27.Qxg6 Rf8+-] **24...Nxe5?+-** Erwin captures with the wrong piece; Erwin goes up a P, but Bryan gets back the " winning " advantage [24...fxe5 25.fxe5+ Kg7 26.Rf7+! Kxf7 27.Qxh6 Qxe5=] **25.Qd4** [25.Kb1 Ng6 26.Ne4 f5+-] **25...Ke7** [25...Qd8 26.Kb1 Nc6 27.Qf2 Rg8+-] **26.Qb4+** [26.Kb1 Ng6 27.Rde1 Qd8+-] **26...d6 27.Kb1 Nc6** [27...Nc4 28.Rfe1 Kf8+-] **28.Qe4 Kf8 29.Rg1?!±** [29.f5 Qe7 30.fxe6 Bxe6+-] **29...Qe7 30.Nd4** [30.f5 exf5 31.Qh4 Bg5 32.Qh3 Rg8±] **30...d5?!+-** [30...f5 31.Qd3 Nb4 32.Qf3 Bg7±] **31.Nxc6?±** for the first time in the game, Erwin gets the advantage [31.Nxd5 exd5 32.Qxd5 Bxf4 33.Nxc6 Be6 34.Nxe7 Bxd5 35.Nxd5 Bxh2+-] **31...bxc6 32.Qd3 Bxf4?!=** Erwin goes up 2 P's [32...Rb8 33.Ne2 Rg8 34.Nd4 Rxc1 35.Rxc1 Qb4±; 32...Ra7 33.Qg3 Rb7 34.b3 Qc7±] **33.Ne4?+-** Erwin gets a " winning " advantage [33.Ne2 Be5 34.Qe3 Rg8=; 33.Rdf1 Be5 34.Na4 Rb8+-] **33...Rb8 34.Rg4?+-** – 3.79 [34.Nf2 e5 35.Qf3 Bf5+- – 2.71] **34...e5 35.Rxf4!** Bryan resorts to an exchange sac to try to regain ground **35...exf4** Erwin is up the exchange + 2 P's **36.Nc3 Qe5 37.Bf3 Rb6?!+-** – 3.86 [37...Qe3 38.b3 Kg7 39.Kb2 Rg8+- – 4.17] **38.b3 Bf5 39.Qd2 Qe3+-** – 4.38 **0-1**

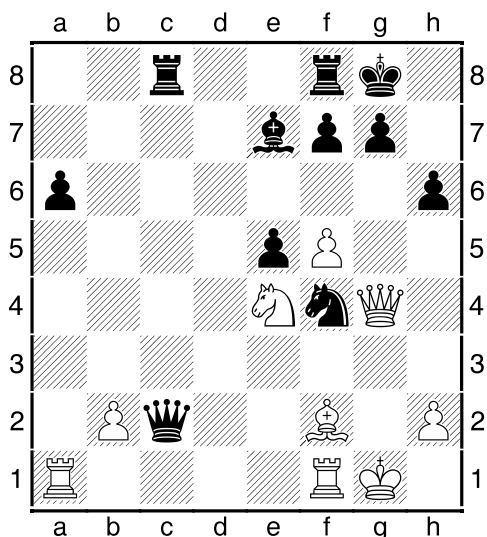
In Rd. 8, the final round, on top board in the Open section, leader Erwin Casareno played Kyle Morrison, then tied for 2nd/3rd. Kyle went up a number of pawns, but then had to sac a B to stop a mate. So Erwin had a B vs 3 P's. Erwin got one of the P's back, but Kyle ended up getting a perpetual, and a draw resulted. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Casareno, Erwin (2214) – Morrison, Kyle (2244) [B92]

Scarb. CC Fall Swiss (1700 & Over) Toronto (8), 18.12.2008

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 [5...g6±] 6.Be2 [6.Bc4 Qc7 7.Be2 e6±] 6...e5?!± a popular but weaker Sicilian line; Erwin gets a " clear " advantage [6...g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0±] 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a4?!± [9.Qd3 Nc6 10.Nd5 Be6±] 9...Be6 10.Be3 Nbd7 11.f4?!= [11.Qd3 Nc5 12.Nxc5 dxc5 13.Rad1 Qc7±] 11...Rc8 12.f5 [12.a5 exf4 13.Rxf4 Ne5=] 12...Bc4?!± [12...Bxb3 13.cxb3 Nc5=] 13.g4?± for the first time in the game, Kyle gets the advantage [13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.Nd2 Rc8±] 13...h6?!= [13...d5 14.exd5 Nb6±] 14.a5?!± [14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Nd2 Rb4=] 14...b5?!= [14...d5 15.exd5 Bb4±] 15.axb6 Nxb6 16.Nd2?!± [16.Bxc4 Nxc4 17.Bc1 d5=] 16...Bxe2 17.Qxe2 d5 18.exd5 Nbx d5 19.Bf2?+- Kyle gets a " winning " advantage [19.g5 hxg5 20.Bxg5 Nxc3 21.bxc3 Bc5+ 22.Kh1 Qd5+ 23.Qf3 e4 24.Qg2 e3±] 19...Nf4 20.Qd1 Nxc3?!± Kyle goes up a P [20...Bb4 21.Nde4 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Rc4+-] 21.Qxg4 Qxd2 22.Ne4?!+- [22.f6 Bxf6 23.Ne4 Qd8 24.Rfd1 h5 25.Qf5 Qc7±] 22...Qxc2?± Kyle goes up 2 P, but misses Erwin's mate threat. Erwin gets back the advantage [22...Qe2 23.Qxe2 Nxe2+ 24.Kg2 Rxc2 25.Rxa6 Rb8+-]

Position after 22...Qxc2?



23.f6! Erwin threatens mate, and forces Kyle to sac a B 23...Bxf6 Kyle goes up 3 P 24.Nxf6+ Erwin has B vs 3 P 24...Kh8 25.Nh5 Nxf6 26.Qxh5 Qxb2 27.Rxa6 Rc2 28.Rb6 Qc3 29.Qf5 Rc1 30.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 31.Kg2 Qg5+ 32.Qxg5 hxg5 33.Be3?!= [33.Kh3 Rc8 34.Kg4 f6±] 33...f6 34.Kf3 Kh7 35.Kg4 Kg6?!± [35...Rc8 36.Rd6 Kg6 37.h3 Rc2=] 36.Bxg5 Erwin is up B vs 2 P's 36...Ra8 37.Bd2 Ra4+ [37...Ra2 38.Rd6 Kf7 39.h3 Ra4+ 40.Kg3 Ra3+ 41.Kg2 g5=] 38.Bb4 Ra1 39.Bc5 [39.Bd6 Ra4+ 40.Kg3 Kf5±] 39...Rc1 40.Bf8?!= [40.Be3 Rc2 41.Kg3 Kf5±] 40...Rc7?!± [40...Rc4+ 41.Kf3 Rc3+ 42.Ke4 Kf7 43.Rb8 Ke6 44.Re8+ Kf7 45.Ra8 g5=] 41.Bd6?!= [41.Bb4 Rc4+ 42.Kf3 Rc2±] 41...Rc4+ 42.Kf3 Rc3+ 43.Kf2 Rc2+ 44.Kg3 Rc3+ 45.Kf2 Rc2+ 46.Kg3 Rc3+ 47.Kf2 ½-½

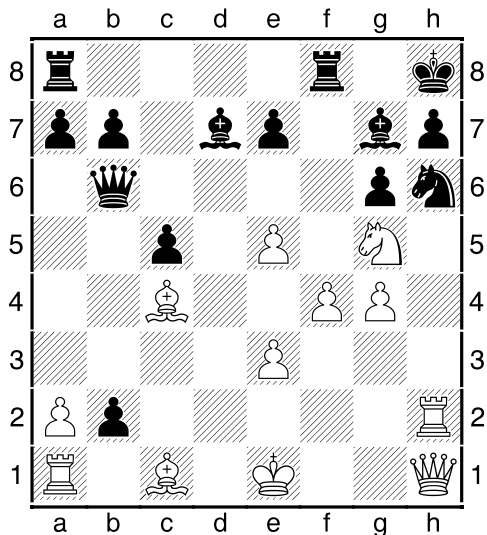
Also in the Open section in Rd. 8, there was almost an upset as Oscar Villalobos attacked John Hall out of the gate, and was all over him. But he missed the mate, and then in time pressure let his advantage slip away, and then he flagged – a good tactical battle. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Villalobos, Oscar (2044) – Hall, John (2208) [D02]

Scarb. CC Fall Swiss (1700 & Over) Toronto (8), 18.12.2008

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 g6 [3...e6=] 4.Be2?!= [4.c4 Bg7 5.cxd5 0-0±] 4...Bg7 5.Nbd2 [5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 dxc4 7.Bxc4 Ne4=] 5...0-0 6.Ne5 c5 7.h4 Nc6 8.h5?!≠ John gets the advantage [8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.h5 Qd6=] 8...Nxe5 9.dxe5 Ne4 10.f4 Ng3 11.Rh2 d4?± Oscar gets back the advantage [11...Nxe2 12.Qxe2 Qb6≠] 12.hxg6 fxg6?!± Oscar gets a " clear " advantage [12...hxg6 13.Nb3 Nxe2 14.Qxe2 Qd5±] 13.Bc4+ Kh8 14.Qf3 Nf5 15.Ne4 [15.Nb3?! Qb6 16.exd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 cxd4±] 15...Nh6 [15...Qb6 16.b3 Qa5+ 17.Bd2 Qa3±] 16.Ng5 Qb6 17.c3 Bd7?!+- Oscar gets a " winning " advantage [17...dxc3 18.bxc3 Qa5±] 18.g4 dxc3 John goes up a P 19.Qh1 cxb2?+- 23.09 John goes up 2 P's [19...Be6 20.Bxe6 Qc6 21.e4 Qxe6+- 15.23]

Position after 19...cxb2?



20.Rxh6! Oscar is up N vs 2 P's, and it is mate in 16 moves 20...Qb4+?+- and it is mate in 11 moves [20...bxc1Q+ 21.Rxc1 Qb4+ 22.Kf1 Qxc4+ 23.Rxc4 and it is mate in 14 moves] 21.Kf2 Rxf4+ 22.exf4 Qxc4 John is up 3 P's 23.Rxh7+ John is up 2 P's, but is going to be mated 23...Kg8 24.Rxg7+ Kxg7 John is up the exchange + 2 P's, but is still being mated 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.Bxb2?!+- a blunder; Oscar misses the mate [26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.Qxg6+ Kf8 28.Nh7#] 26...Qxf4+ 27.Nf3 Qf7?!+- 5.55 Oscar gets a " winning " advantage again [27...Bxg4 28.Rf1 Ke8 (28...Qxf3+? 29.Kg1 Qxf1+ 30.Kxf1 Rc8+- 4.71) 29.Qg8+ Kd7 30.Qd5+ Ke8 31.Rh1 Bh5+- 2.01] 28.Qh8+ Qg8 29.Qh6+?+- 2.17 [29.Rh1 Bxg4 30.Rh6 Be6 31.Ng5 Ke8 32.Nxe6 Kd7+- 5.88] 29...Ke8 30.Rd1?!± [30.e6 Bxe6 31.Rh1 g5+-] 30...Bxg4 Oscar is up N vs 3 P's 31.e6 Bxe6 John is up 4 P's vs N, but Oscar still has a " clear " advantage 32.Ng5?!± in the severe time pressure, Oscar is losing his advantage [32.Qe3 Bg4 33.Rh1 Bh5 34.Qxc5 Rd8 35.Qb5+ Kf8±] 32...Bc4?!± [32...Rd8 33.Re1 Bc4±] 33.Qh2 Oscar flagged before this last move was completed 0-1

In Rd. 8, in the U 1700 section, Dinesh Dattani went up 1 and then 2 pawns against newcomer Samir Hossain. Then he exchanged his 2 rooks for Q + P. In the end, his Q & N swarmed around Samir's K, and eventually he was poised to win Samir's knight, so Samir resigned. Here is their game (Annotations by Dinesh, using Fritz):

Dattani, Dinesh (1315) – Hossain, Samir (1315) [E94]

SCC Fall Swiss (U 1700) Toronto (8), 18.12.2008

78MB, Fritz11.ctg, D6KVNN91 E94: King's Indian: Classical: 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0: Various Black 7th moves **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3** [10.dxe5 Nh5 11.Nd4 Nf4 12.Bg3 dxe5 13.Nf5 Nc5 14.Bg4 Bxf5 15.Bxf5 Qxd1 16.Rfxd1 Rfd8 1/2-1/2 Uhlmann,W (2530)–Gligoric,S (2575)/Lugano 1968/MCD] **10...Nh5 11.dxe5 Nxc3 12.fxc3** [12.hxc3 dxe5 (12...Nxe5 13.Nd4 Ng6 14.Qd2 Re8 15.Rad1 a6 16.Rfe1 Bd7 17.b3 Rc8 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.exf5 Ne5 20.g4 Bf8 21.Ne4 Nc6 22.Ng3 Re5 23.Bf3 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 d5 25.Qxd5 Qf6 26.Qd7 Rd8 27.Qxc7 Sevenyuk, A (1836)–Pagnutti,L (2014)/Lignano Sabbiadoro 2005/CBM 108 ext/1-0 (36)) 13.b4 (13.Qc2 c6 14.Rfd1 (14.b4 Qc7 15.c5 Re8 16.Nd2 Nf8 17.Nc4 Ne6 18.Nd6 Rd8 19.Bc4 b5 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.a4 Bf8 22.Nf5 a6 23.Ne3 Rab8 24.axb5 axb5 25.Ne2 Rd7 26.f4 Rbd8 27.Rad1 Rxd1 28.Nxd1 exf4 Sahetchian,A (2145)–Mah,K (2200)/Hastings 1995/CBM 048 ext/0-1 (43)) 14...Qe7 15.a3 Nc5 16.b4 Ne6 17.Qd3 Rd8 18.Qe3 Nd4 19.Nxd4 exd4 20.Qd3 Re8 21.Na4 Qxe4 22.Re1 Bf5 23.Nc5 Qxe2 24.Qxf5 Qxc4 25.Qd7 b6 26.Rxe8+ Rxe8 27.Qxe8+ Kh7 Krishna,C–Pileckis, E (2189)/Heraklio 2002/CBM 091 ext/0-1 (41)) 13...Re8 14.Qb3 c6 15.Rad1 Qc7 16.c5 Nf8 17.Bc4 Be6 18.Rd6 Rad8 19.Rfd1 Bxc4 20.Qxc4 Ne6 21.Ne2 Rxd6 22.cxd6 Qb6 23.a4 Rd8 24.a5 Qb5 25.Qxb5 cxb5 26.Rd5 a6 Beckmann,K (2255) – Sandkamp,R (2215)/Germany 1991/TD/1/2-1/2; 12.hxc3 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Bxe5=] **12...Nxe5** Black has the pair of bishops **13.Qc2** [13.Nd4 Nc6 14.Nc2 Qe8=] **13...Be6** Black threatens to win material: Be6xc4 [13...c6 14.Na4#] **14.b3** White has an active position [14.Nd4 Bxc4 15.Rad1 c6#] **14...Ng4** [14...c6 15.h3#] **15.Qd3** [Δ15.Qd2=] **15...f5** [Δ15...c6!? is interesting 16.Nd4 Qb6=] **16.Nd4± Bxd4+** [16...fxe4 17.Qxe4 Bxd4+ 18.Qxd4±] **17.Qxd4 Ne5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Qd5+ Kh8 20.Qxb7 Qd7** [20...c6 21.g4! Deflection: g4 21...Rf7 22.Qb4±] **21.Nd5** [21.Rad1 Bc2 22.Rd2 Bg6+–] **21...Rfc8** [21...c6 22.Qxd7 Bxd7 23.Nf6±] **22.Nf6** [22.Rae1 Bg6+–] **22...Qe6± 23.Nd5** White threatens to win material: Nd5xc7 **23...Be4??** gives the opponent counter play [23...Qd7 24.Rae1 Be4+–] **24.Rf6??** not a good decision, because now the opponent is right back in the game [Δ24.Rad1 Qg6 25.Qb4 Bxd5 26.cxd5+– (≤26.Rxd5 Rf8±)] **24...Qd7??** throws away the game [Δ24...Bxd5 would have given Black the upper hand 25.Rxe6 Bxb7+] **25.Rxh6+– Kg7 26.Rh5 Qd8** [26...c6 cannot undo what has already been done 27.Rxg5+ Kh6 28.Rh5+ Kg7 29.Qxd7+ Nxd7 30.Nf4+–] **27.Rf1** [Δ27.h4 and White can already relax 27...gxh4 28.gxh4+–] **27...Bd3** [27...Bg6+–] **28.Bxd3 Nxd3 29.Rf5** [29.Ne3 Qd7 30.Qe4 Nf4 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qxd7 Kg8 33.Rxg5+ Ng6 34.Rxg6+ Kh8 35.Qg7#] **29...Kg6 30.Rhxg5+** [30.Ne3 Nf2 31.Qd5 Nh3+ 32.gxh3 Qe8 33.Rhxg5+ Kh6 34.Ng4+ Kh7 35.Rf7+ Qxf7 36.Qxf7+ Kh8 37.Rh5#] **30...Qxg5+– 31.Rxg5+ Kxg5 32.Nxc7 Rab8 33.Qd5+ Ne5 34.Qxd6 Ng6 35.Ne6+ Kh6 36.Nf4** [36.Qd2+ Nf4 37.Qxf4+ Kg6 38.g4 Rc5 39.Qxb8 Rc6 40.Qe8+ Kf6 41.g5+ Kf5 42.Qxc6 a5 43.Qd5+ Kg6 44.g4 Kf7 45.Qd7+ Kg6 46.Qg7#] **36...Rb6** [36...Rg8 is not much help 37.g4 Rb6 38.Qd5+–] **37.Qd7** [Δ37.Qd2 keeps an even firmer grip 37...Nf8 38.Nd5+ Kg7 39.Qd4+ Kf7 40.Qf2+ Ke8 41.Nxb6 axb6 42.Qxb6 Rd8+–] **37...Rbc6** [37...Rcc6 doesn't change the outcome of the game 38.Nd5 Rd6 39.Qf7+–] **38.Qh3+** [Δ38.Ne6 and White takes home the point 38...Rxe6 39.Qxe6 Rc7+–] **38...Kg5** DDD: My opponent resigns.[38...Kg5 39.Qh5+ Kf6 40.Qxg6+ Ke7 41.Nd5+ Kf8 42.Qf5+ Ke8 43.Qe4+ Kf8 44.Qe7+ Kg8+–] **1-0**

SCC Starts New Swiss Tournament !

On this coming Thursday, January 8, the SCC will start its “ Jack Frost Swiss “ in two sections: Open (Over 1700), and Under 1700. It will be 8 rounds. We have been getting registration in the high 60’s for our two tournaments so far this 2008-9 season. Come out and start the new year off with competitive, and friendly, over-the-board chess, where you can see the whites of their eyes !

Note that the SCC club championship, which had traditionally been held at this time, has been moved back a tournament, and will start March 5 this year.

Time for a Deadline Extension?

The end of the year is a time for taking stock.....and looking forward. You may remember that in the last Issue of 2007, I noted that I had made a resolution for 2008 – going over 1900 !

Let's review: I started 2008 with a modest A rating of 1821. Then things started to look good on my achieving my goal, as, by January 20, I was at 1873 ! But then, as usual, I faded – February 17 saw me drop back into the B Class – 1796 ...but I had all year still to make a comeback. I climbed back up into the A Class on March 18 – 1834. But it happened again ! I slowly slid – May 15 was back into the B Class – 1752 (Oh boy). By July 27 though, I had come back up to 1839. I still had 5 months to try and make good on my resolution. Alas, the end of 2008 saw me only at 1857, a bit higher than when I started the year (I'll likely be 1850 when the yet unrated Hart House Holidays Open is rated).

So now the big question – do I quit ? Am I a quitter? Knocked out by a slight bit of adversity? NO WAY !

All that is required here is a modest time extension to Dec. 31, 2009 ! So I now have a new 2009 New Year's Resolution (a repeat) – to go over 1900 ! [note that 1900 itself will not do – must be OVER 1900].

Wish me luck ! Good luck on all your great 2009 Resolutions too !

Got a Bee in YOUR Bonnet??

Do you have a chess issue that really bugs you? Have you got a chess interest that you've always wanted to write briefly about?

SCTCN&V is always open to receiving articles from subscribers on chess topics of interest. Send them in and let us look at them – we try to publish anything of interest our subscribers write about. Take a risk in the New Year !!

Toronto Closed Chess Championship

WILLOWDALE CHESS CLUB PRESENTS (A GTCL event):

The TORONTO CLOSED CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2009

January 27 to March 10 This will be an eight player round-robin tournament comprising of the eight highest rated players who apply. The deadline for entries will be 9 pm Tuesday, January 20 at the Willowdale Chess Club (4169 Bathurst St., inside Earl Bales Park), where the draw for position will take place. In addition there will be up to 5 reserve sections according to the CFC rating. Schedule: Games will be played on consecutive Tuesdays at 7 pm at the Willowdale Chess Club (Earl Bales Community Centre at the Earl Bales Park near Bathurst and Sheppard intersection) All sections will be CFC rated, and the rating fees will be paid by the GTCL. CFC membership is required.

TIME CONTROL: Championship: 60 minutes for the game with 30 seconds increment from the first move. **Reserve sections:** 90 minutes for the game.

ENTRY FEE: \$80 payable by 9 pm, January 20, 2009.

PRIZES:

Championship (100% of EFs) 1st - \$320 & Trophy 2nd - \$200 3rd - \$120

Reserve sections – 75% of entry fees (\$20 admin costs could be paid by Chess Clubs for their representatives).

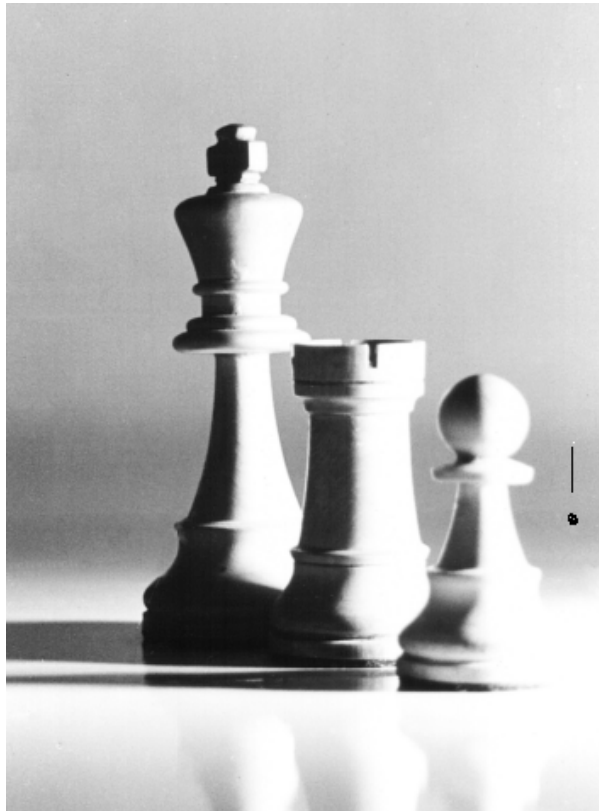
Entries & Info: Fred Kormendi (416) 223-0126

NAME.....RATING - .CFC..... FIDE.....

PHONE - days evgs

ENTRY FEE \$80 enclosed.

An Impressive Trio !



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

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