

# **“ SCC CHESS TALK ”**

Newsletter of / Le Journal de SCARBOROUGH CHESS CLUB

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“ **LARGEST** Can. C. C.; C. d’ E. Can. **PLUS DE 100 Memb.** ”

*ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS*

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**DO YOU KNOW ? / SAVEZ-VOUS ?**

## **Presenting the Facts About Scarborough Chess Club**

New members have a number of initial questions about the club when they join. When asked, anyone of us can provide general information which is fairly reliable, though the extent to which we are off is not quite clear. An examination of the answers to a number of general common questions, may help us all to present our club more accurately to new members and “ prospective “ new members.

## **How Big is the SCC ?**

This is one of those questions where, in the past, the ordinary member felt quite inadequate. It was certainly known that we were the largest chess club in Canada. There was the historical memory that we were at one time around 200 members – our current website had used this figure. There was also an awareness that the membership had been declining, seeing who was not playing anymore, and feeling that the turnout for club tournaments seemed smaller sometimes. There was some truth to all of this, but because membership statistics were merely seen as executive records, it was never accurately discussed.

The fact is that SCC has not been at 200 members since sometime in the mid-nineties. On Sept. 1, 1998 ( start of our last club year - 98/99 ), we had 144 members. On Sept. 1, 1999 ( start of this club year ), we had 118 members. This information became available to all members, when we began posting the club member rating lists for both regular and active chess.

The decline in membership stopped with the start of October/99. For October through to March, our membership has held at an average of 103 members. From Sept. 1/99, SCC has had 8 lapsed members from previous years return, and 1 new member came with them. In addition we had 16 new memberships. ( Since Jan. 1, 1998, SCC has attracted an average of 3 new members per month ! ).

We are the **LARGEST** Canadian chess club; the **ONLY** Can. club over 100 members.

## **At What Level of Strength Do the Majority of Members Play ?**

60 % of our members fall into the rating range of 1500 to 1999 ( A class, B class, and the top ½ of the C class ). In our current Spring ( Thurs. ) Swiss multi-week tournament, 71 % of the players are from the A & B Classes. The club rating average is 1734, in the second quarter of the B class. This is likely somewhat stronger than the average club across Canada.

## **Does SCC Have Many Strong Players ?**

By comparison to other clubs, SCC has, on average, a strong top section to the club. We have 4 Masters, and 19 Experts. Their average rating is 2113 ( middle of the Expert range ).

**Other Common Questions ?** They will be reviewed in a subsequent Issue of SCC CT.

## **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.