

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

Newsletter of / Le Journal de
Scarborough Chess Club

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

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS
ISSUE # 13 – March 1, 2001

DO YOU KNOW ? / SAVEZ-VOUS ?

Spotlight on the GTCL (Part 2)

Controversy Swirls at GTCL

Life is not kind !! While GTCL was reeling from former President Peter Boross-Harmer's resignation, and the boycotting of GTCL Board meetings by Dutton Chess Club, it got hit with more tumultuous events. [so the “ Scholarship-gate ” investigation begun in Part 1 of this series in Issue # 10, of Jan. 15, on the internal GTCL dispute over the organization's “ Scholarship Policy “ is again deferred]

Dutton Chess Challenges GTCL at Feb. 12 Board Meeting !!

- Dutton Chess (through Mark Dutton) gave notice to the GTCL that it would no longer honour the GTCL Constitution, nor bid on GTCL-sanctioned tournaments in Toronto. It will run instead its own “ independent “ tournaments !!
- It was unclear whether DC was “ disaffiliating “ itself from GTCL (as it had with the OCA recently). DC continued to participate fully in the meeting ! Mark Dutton, as a member of the GTCL Executive (Communications Officer) and of the Board, did not resign ! Despite DC refusing to honour the GTCL Constitution, its continuing membership in the GTCL was not questioned by any board member at the meeting !
- DC had already contracted through prior bidding processes at the GTCL to organize FOR THE GTCL, 4 GTCL-sanctioned tournaments coming up : Toronto Class '01 (March); Toronto Open '01 (April); Canada Day Open '01 (July); and Simcoe Day Open '01 (August). It advised GTCL that it would no longer be legally bound to do these tournaments, and was returning the bids to the GTCL to put out again, if it

saw fit. Obviously, though, DC gave GTCL its considered opinion that that would not be in the best interest of Toronto chess – because DC was indeed going to hold its own “ independent “ tournaments on the exact GTCL dates, and using the exact GTCL names in the Constitution, only they were NOT going to be GTCL-sanctioned. The issue was raised of DC breaking its “ contract “ with GTCL (DC denied there was a “ contract “). But then the Board adjourned the meeting right before it reached the agenda item dealing with whether there was a contract breach by DC, harming GTCL (now too late for GTCL to get other organizers for March and April, at least, and GTCL will lose revenue expected from the 4 tournaments).

- At the meeting, there were no new bids presented for any of these four tournaments (nor for the 3 also now out for bids in Oct., Nov. and Dec.)

The Background – DC’s Challenge to the Ontario Chess Association

Dutton Chess’ GTCL attack is a follow-up on its recent challenge to the OCA (for details see Issues # 11 & 12). DC has advised OCA that DC is running an unsanctioned “ Toronto Victoria Day Open ’01 “ in direct conflict with the Ontario Open ’01 in Kitchener-Waterloo , on the May Victoria Day weekend.

What’s the Beef ?

GTCL has had excellent relations with D.C.; D.C. has had almost a monopoly on GTCL-sanctioned tournaments. There were no pressing issues between GTCL and D.C. concerning tournaments. So why the throwing down of the gauntlet there too ?

The answer may lie in the new dynamics in the Toronto chess world, introduced by “ for profit “ chess organizing. D.C. is a “ for profit “ company. To make good profits, it has to be able to run as many successful tournaments as the market can bear. But there has been, in effect, regulation of a sort in Ontario, and Toronto, through the OCA and GTCL respectively. D.C.’s actions on both fronts, are a direct challenge to the management structure of Ontario/Toronto chess, and to regulation generally. It is the advocating of a totally unfettered free market in chess tournament organizing. Let the market decide the winners and losers. And D.C. may not want to have to adhere to any conditions in running its tournaments, such as the GTCL imposes re its sanctioned tournaments (eg. the remittance of \$1 / player to the GTCL Scholarship Fund).

The Future ?

Will GTCL be able to entice volunteer non-profit organizers (or a new “ for profit ” one) into running the GTCL-sanctioned tournaments ? Will we end up with “ conflicting ” GTA tournaments running on the same weekends here in Toronto ?

Why conflict and confrontation? Can there be a negotiated solution ? Stay tuned !

NOTE :

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