

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

Newsletter of / Le Journal de
Scarborough Chess Club

e – mail : scarboro@idirect.ca Website : <http://webhome.idirect.com/~blamb/>
Wexford Seniors' Apartments (Comm. Ctre.), 1860 Lawrence Ave E. (just east of Pharmacy Ave.)
(easy access – Victoria Park Stn./Pharmacy Bus; Lawrence E. Stn./Lawrence W. Bus)

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

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS
ISSUE # 4 – October 15, 2000

DO YOU KNOW ? / SAVEZ-VOUS ?

Toronto “ Monthly “ Regular-rated Tournaments

Before the Monthlies (Sept. '98-Feb. '99)

The 98/99 year commenced with the much-enjoyed tradition of the Macedonian Labour Day Open '98 (211 players). Two more tournaments were held in this 6 month period. A total of 427 players turned out (an average of 142 players/tournament).

The New Era - Monthlies

In March 1999, Toronto was fortunate to have the new, enterprising, for-profit Dutton Chess arrive on the scene. Until then, the six to eight traditional Toronto tournaments per year were run mainly by volunteers, usually on a non-profit basis. DC planned to bid on the existing GTCL-sanctioned tournaments, but also to supplement the existing schedule. There would then be “ monthly “ regular-rated tournaments. Its first tournament was the Toronto Class Open '99.

Thus began a fixed schedule of monthly tournaments; 6 tournaments (excluding Simcoe Day) drew a total of 659 players (an average of 110 players/tournament). With the advent of “ monthly “ tournaments, the average size of a tournament did decrease by 23 %. But, the total number of players in the 2nd half increased by 54 % !! This meant a substantial increase in potential prize money, over-all, from March to Aug. /99.

More Than Monthlies

One casualty of the new schedule was the August Simcoe Day Open, the volunteer non-profit organizer being the Scarborough Chess Club. This weekend

tournament had always been significantly smaller, due to the commencement, Wed. of the very next week, of the major 9 –round international tournament in North Bay. But now, with three tournaments in August 1999, given the Dutton Chess weekend Summer Open, two weeks after North Bay, the turnout dropped from 78 in 1998, to only 31 in 1999. Even in 2000, when the only other August tournament was the Toronto Summer International Open two weeks later, it drew only 58 players.

Evaluating 1999 (Sept. 1) – 2000 (Aug. 31) – The First Full Year of Monthlies

As players in the GTA and Surrounding-GTA warmed to the concept of monthly tournament playing, the overall turnout increased modestly : 13 % (this chess year drew 1,263 players to 13 tournaments (11 run by Dutton Chess), compared to 1,117 to 10 tournaments the prior year; the Toronto Summer International '00 is excluded from this survey, not being a normal weekend tournament). And 7 of the 13 tournaments saw a turnout of over 90 players. The average turnout per tournament was 97 players (down from 110 in the prior 6 mos.). But if we look at the last 6 months of this chess year, the average for the six tournaments from March to August is 99 players (and this includes the Simcoe Day Open '00, and excludes the large turnout in September of each year). And for Sept./Oct. this new chess year, the average turnout was 100 players/monthly.

More Than Monthlies – Smaller Turnouts Again

The two tournaments in September '99 (the Macedonian Labour Day, and the DC September Open) divided the September turnout, the former drawing only 155 players, and the latter only 61. In the prior 3 years ('96, '97 & '98), the Macedonian had drawn an average of 216 players. Note however that the total number of players in August was still 216. Then in 2000, the Macedonian tournament drew only 119 players (DC dropped its Sept. tournament). But, comparing this with the prior 4 years is deceptive, because the Macedonian had to deal with the fact that only 2 weeks earlier in Aug., in Toronto, there was the Toronto Summer International, a factor that it did not have to deal with previously. In light of this, the turnout to the Macedonian was still substantial, and carried on its tradition of being a premier start-of-year weekend tournament.

Toronto Chess

The conclusion to be drawn from the above is that chess is alive and well in Toronto. The pool of weekend tournament chess players is increasing, and the number of times these players play per year is also increasing. This gives rise to a reasonable expectation that monthly tournaments in Toronto will continue to see a modest increase in turnout, as monthly tournaments continue in 2000-2001. The future seems to be a bright one!

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.