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“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

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Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

GTA Juniors : Part of Canada’s Present & Future (Part 2)
“ Spotlight “ on Hazel Smith !

Introduction

SCTCN&V has started this new year on a positive note. We have decided to do a series on top GTA juniors. We intend not only to look at the most prominent GTA juniors, but also some of the most active ones who may not yet be as recognized as up-and-comers (though many will in fact have international Canadian representation already under their belt). And, 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 intend, not so much to give a personal resume of the junior’s accomplishments, but to let their games speak for them. We have asked the participating juniors to provide us with a sample of their best games, in their opinions, over the last 1-2 years. We’ve tried to choose an interesting collection of 4 games, that show their style, their positional ability, their tactical ability, etc.. We have limited the annotations, because of the nature of the newsletter, to about 5 - 10 key points in the game. We make no pretense to GM analysis. We have some volunteers of mid-strength, computer-enhanced (including yours truly), providing “ guest annotations “ – we are merely using the annotations to make the games a bit more interesting reading, and more to highlight something about the junior’s style, rather than to be the last word on theoretical analysis of the position. If you have improvements on any of the limited analysis given, send it to us, and we’ll see if we can publish it in the next Issue. But that means you’ll have to “ save “ these games, in order to follow the analysis in the subsequent Issue. Sometimes the junior him/herself has done some analysis as well. This will further bring out their

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(easy access – Victoria Park Stn./Pharmacy Bus; Lawrence E. Stn./Lawrence W. Bus)

current approach to the game.

We hope you enjoy our line-up of junior games. We will more or less start with the youngest juniors, and work our way up from month to month. We hope our series contributes to GTA juniors' enjoyment of chess, and provides some encouragement for them to continue to improve their chess.

Hazel's Progress and Successes

Hazel first obtained a rating about 2 ½ years ago. She started in June 1999. She was 8 years old at the time. Her first rating was 1265. By the start of 2000, she was up to the bottom of the C class, at 1438. She continued to improve in 2000 : by Sept., she had entered the B class, at 1640; by Dec. she was above the middle of the B class, at 1733 – she was then 9 years old. Hazel's rating then plateaued in 2001, until her excellent performance in the 2001 Canadian Women's Closed Championship in August last year, when, with a 2.5 / 6 pts., she climbed to her peak rating of 1766. In that tournament she defeated Canadian Women's International Master, Vesma Baltgailis, and drew Doina Brestoiu, then rated 2100. Her current rating is 1716.

Hazel has distinguished herself in girls' chess. She played in the Under 10 years old section of the CFC's Girls' CYCC in both 2000 and 2001, and took first place both years. So both years she went to the World Youth Chess Festival as Canada's 1st position team representative to the Girls' Under 10 section. And in 2001, she achieved the wonderful result of coming 9th – 17th in her group of 70 players – a truly remarkable accomplishment.

After removing players from the lower age group, she is now ranked # 4 in the list of top Under 12 years old Canadians. She is # 1 on the Canadian Girls Under 12 list.

Her father, Duncan Smith, has given notice that Hazel is considering playing in the CYCC Under 12 in 2002, rather than the Girls' CYCC Under 12 (interestingly, the top Under 10 years old girl, Alina Sviridovitch, has also given notice that she is considering playing in the CYCC Under 10). To some extent, this may depend on a motion currently before the CFC Governors, to abolish the Girls' CYCC. And if that motion fails to pass (which we think it should), then the problem faced is that these two girls, if they choose to play in the 2002 CYCC, become **ineligible** to join the Canadian team going to the 2002 Girls' World Youth Chess Festival championships !! This is currently the case, even though all might agree that either girl is stronger than the top-finishing girl in the 2002 Girls' CYCC. A difficult problem for these, and perhaps other, strong Canadian girl players, who wish to face the stronger opposition in the CYCC.... and for the CFC Governors !

On With the Games !

We think it is safe to say that Hazel has a well-developed sense of positional play for her age. You will see in her games that follow, that she seldom gives away much to the opposition. Her positions tend to remain quite solid in the main. In two of the games presented, Hazel also shows a tactical flourish that gives her a winning advantage. We think this collection of games, from the 2001 Canadian Women's Closed Championship,

and the 2001 Girls' World Youth Chess Festival championship (Under 10 years old), shows a strong, developing young junior !

Smith, Hazel (1677) – Baltgailis, Vesma (1968)

(Notes by Steve Karpik)

Hazel won against a seasoned veteran in this game, played August 5, 2001, in the 2001 Canadian Women's Closed Championship. Vesma is a FIDE Women's International Master, and has played on a number of Canadian Women's Olympiad teams. We feel Hazel plays pretty well even with Vesma for most of this game.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.a3 Nf6 6.Bd2 cxd4 7.Nxd4 (last book move in Fritz 7) **Nc6 8.Nb3 Qd8 9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 d6 11.Kh1 a6 12.f4 b5 13.Be3 Bb7 14.Qd2 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5 17.Rab1 Rad8 18.Qf2 e5 19.Be2 exf4 20.Bxf4 Qf5 21.Bd3 Qd5 22.Rfd1 Nd4 23.Be2 -/+**

[23.Bf1 Qe4 24.Nc5 Qe7 25.Nxb7 Qxb7 26.c3 Ne6 27.Be3 f5 28.Be2 f4 29.Rxd8 Nxd8 30.Bc5 +/-]

23....Qe4 =

[23....Qxg2+ 24.Qxg2 Bxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Nxe2 26.Bd6 Rfe8 27.c3 Re6 28.Bc7 Rxd1 29.Rxd1 f5 -/+]

24.Bd3 Qd5 25.Bf1 Qe4 26.Nc5 Qc6 27.Nxb7 Qxb7 28.Be3 Nf5 29.Bc5 Rfe8 30.c3 Rxd1 31.Rxd1 Bh6 32.Bd4 a5 33.Bc5 Qc6 34.Bd3 Rd8 35.Bb6 Rd5 36.Be2 Rxd1+ 37.Bxd1 Qd6 38.Bf3 b4 +/-

[38....Qd3 =]

39.Bxa5 =

[39.cxb4 axb4 40.Bc5 Qd3 41.Bxb4 Nd4 42.Bc3 Bg7 43.Kg1 Qb1+ 44.Qf1 Nxf3+ 45.gxf3 Qc2 +/-]

39..... Black's flag fell 1 – 0

Hazel played this game quite well, and it showed in the fact that Vesma became pressed to make the move 40 time control, and didn't make it !

Smith, Hazel (1677) – Brestoiu, Doina (2100)

(Notes by Bob Armstrong)

This is also a game from the 2001 Canadian Women's Closed Championship, played August 6, 2001. Again Hazel played an experienced player, whose peak rating has been over 2200, and who, in 1996, played in the Romanian National Women's Championship. It again shows Hazel's strong positional play.

B53 : Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Bg5 Nd7 (last book move in Fritz 6) **9.0-0-0 Qb6 10.Qxb6 Nxb6 11.Rhe1 h6 12.Be3 Nc4 13.Kb1 Nxe3 14.Rxe3 0-0-0 15.Red3 f6 ? +/-**
[15.....g6 16.Ne5 Rh7 17.Nd5 Re8 =]

16.Nh4 ? =
[Nd4 Kd7 +/-]

16.... g5 17.Nf5 Kb8 18.f3 Rc8 19.Nd4 Bd7 20.Nd5 Rh7 21.Rc3 Rxc3 22.Nxc3
[worse is 22.bxc3 Rf7 =/+]

22....Rf7 23.Nf5
[23.a3 g4 24.fxc4 Bxc4 25.Rd2 Bc8 =]

23....Bc6 ? +/-
[23....Kc7 24.Nd5+ Kd8 25.Nde3 Kc7 26.Nd4 e6 =]

24.Ne2 ? =
[24.a4 Kc7 +/-]

24....Kc7 25.Ned4 Kd7 ? +/-
[25....Bd7 26.Ne3 =]

26. Nxc6 ? =
[26.c4 Ba4 27.b3 Bc6 28.b4 Ba4 +/-]

26.....bxc6 27.c4 c5 28.Rd3 e6 29.Ne3 Kc6 30.Kc2 Rb7 31.Rb3 Rb6 32.Ra3 Kb7 ? +/-
[32...Rb7 =] **33.Rb3 ? =**
[33.g3 Rb4 +/- ; after 33.Rb3, Hazel plays dead equal with Doina in the ending]

33....Bg7 34.Rxb6+ axb6 35.h3 h5 36.Kb3 Kc6 37.a4 Bh6 38.g4 hxg4 39.hxg4 Bf8 40.Kc2 Bg7 41.b3 Bf8 42.Kd3 Bg7 43.Ng2 Bh6 44.Ne3 Bg7 45.Nc2 Bf8 46.Na3 Be7 47.Nb5 Bf8 48.Nc3 Bg7 49.Ne2 Bh6 50.Ng3 Bf8 51.Nb5 Be7 52.Ng7 Kd7 53.Ke3 Bf8 54.Nh5 Ke7 55.Ng3 Kd7 56.Ne2 Bh6 57.Nc3 Kc6 58.Kd3 Bg7 59.Na2 Bf8 60.Kc3 Kb7 61.Nc1 Kc6 62.Nd3 d5 63.cxd5+ exd5 64.exd5+ Kxd5 65.Ne1 Bd6 66.Kd3 Be5 67.Ng2 Bd4 68.Ne1 Ke5 69.Ng2 Kd5 70.Ne1 Ke5 71.Ng2 Kd5 Draw Agreed 1/2 - 1/2

Smith, Hazel – Dudas, E.
(Notes by Bob Armstrong)

This game was played Oct. 29, 2001 in Oropesa, Spain, in the 2001 Girls' World Youth Chess Festival (U 10) championship. It shows a nice tactical sequence in the later middle game.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Be7 7.c4 Nc6 8.0-0 Bg4 9.Be3 0-0 10.Nc3 Nf6 11.c5 a6 ? +/-

[an interesting tactical move, maintaining equality, is : 11...Bxc5 12.dxc5 d4 13.Ne4 (13.Bxd4 Nxd4 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 =) 13....dxe3 14.fxe3 Re8 =]

12.h3 Bh5 13.Re1 Re8 14.Be2 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Rb8 16.Bf4 b6 17.cxb6 Rxb6 18.Na4 Rb4 19.Be3 Qd7 20.a3 Rbb8 21.Rc1 Na5 22.b4 ? =

[this time Hazel had the tactical line to maintain her “ slight “ advantage : 22.Bf4 Nc4 23.b3 Bxa3 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.bxc4 Bxc1 26.Bxc1 dxc4 – W ends up with the 2 B’s vs R & 2 passed P’s; Fritz 6 evaluates it as a “ slight “ advantage to W ! It’s certainly too unclear to this annotator to try an evaluation]

22...Nc4 23.Rc3 Bf8 24.Nc5 Bxc5 25.dxc5 Ne5 ?? +/-

[25...Qf5 26.Bd4 Rxe1+ 27.Qxe1 Re8 28.Qd1 Qe6 29.Rd3 c6 30.Kh2 =]

26.Bd4 Nxf3+ 27.Rxf3 Ne4

[Hazel’s “ clear “ advantage remains if Bl. tries 27....Rxe1+ 28.Qxe1 Ne4 29.Re3 a5 30.f3 Ng5 31.Re7 Qd8 32.Qe5 +/-]

28.Rfe3 Rbd8 29.Qd3 Qb5 ? +/-

[this is not the position for Bl. to offer an exchange of Q’s; maintaining the status quo is 29...Re6 30.Bb2 a5 31.Qd4 f6 +/-]

30.Qd1 ? +/-

[Hazel’s desire to keep her Q, leads her to pass up a winning Q exchange : 30.Qxb5 axb5 31.f3 Nf6 32.Bxf6 Rxe3 33.Rxe3 gxf6 34.Re7 c6 35.Rc7 d4 36.Kf2 d3 37.Ke1 Re8+ 38.Kd2 Re6 39.Kxd3 +-]

30....Qd7 31.Qe2 Re6 ? +/-

[this leads to a winning tactical sequence of moves by Hazel; best is 31...f5 32.Qxa6 f4 33.c6 Qf5 34.Rd3 Ra8 35.Ba7 Nd6 36.Rxe8+ Nxe8 37.Rd1 Nd6 38.Qa5 Qf7 +/-]

32.Qg4 g6 33.f3 Nf6 34.Qg5 Ne8 35.Rxe6 fxe6 36.Rxe6!

[even better is 36.c6 ! Qc8 37.Qe5 Kf7 38.Qh8 h5 39.Qh7+ Kf8 40.Bc5+ Nd6 41.Qxg6 +-]

36....Qxe6 37.Qxd8 Kf7 38.Qg5 Ng7 39.Qf4+ Ke8 ??

[we checked with Hazel, and apparently this was not a blunder in time pressure, even though they were coming up to the 40 move time control. But Hazel clearly already has a won game, without Bl.’s blunder, if played correctly : 39....Kg8 40.Bxg7 Kxg7 41.Qxc7+ Kf8 42.Kf2 d4 43.Qf4+ +-]

40.Bxg7 1 - 0

Smith, Hazel – Hrisha, T.

(Notes by Rick Garel, former SCC member)

This game was played Oct. 30, 2001, also in the 2001 Girls' WYCF (U 10). It has an interesting tactical sequence as well.

B 18 : Classical Caro-Kann

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.h5 Bh7 8.f4 e6 9.Nf3 Nd7 10.Bd3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Qc7 12.Bd2 Bd6 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.fxe5 Be7 ?!

[the first new move of the game, and not a great one, because Black will now have to waste time to develop her King-side pieces. Interesting is..... 14.....Bf8 15.0-0 0-0-0 16.b4 c5 17.bxc5 Rxd4 18.Rxf7 Rxd3 ½ - ½ Le Quang, K – Ruxton, K / Sas van Gent 1988/EXT 99 (18)]

15.0-0-0 ?!

[a good alternative is ... 15.0-0 ! c5 16.Qf3 Bf8 17.c3 cxd4 18.cxd4 Qd7 19.Ne2 Rd8 20.Rac1 +/-when it looks like Black is all tied up]

15.....0-0-0 16.Kb1 c5 17.c3 cxd4 18.cxd4 Qxe5 ?! 19.Bxh6 !

[Hazel does not panic when Black uncorks 18...Qxe5]

19....Qf6 20.Be3 Kb8 ??

[the losing move. Not much better is 20....Bd6 21.Ne4 Qe7 22.d5 exd5 23.Nxd6+ Qxd6 24.Qc3+ Kb8 25.Qd4 Qa6 26.Qxg7 Qf6 27.Qxf6 Nxf6 28.Bg5 Rd6 29.Bf4 +-]

21.Rdf1 +-

[it's rare to see a Queen “ mated “ in a fairly wide open board !]

21....Rxd4 22.Bxd4 Qg5 23.Rxf7 Bf6 24.Rf8+ Bd8 25.Bxg7 1 - 0

[it's difficult to be critical of a move that makes the opponent resign ! However... 25.Be5+ Kc8 26.Rd1 Qe7 (26...Nh6 27.Qc3#) 27.Rxd8+ Qxd8 28.Qxd8#]

We hope you have enjoyed the games of this second junior in our 2002 series. Congratulations Hazel, on your continuing improvement !

Next Issue, another young GTA up-and-comer !

FIDE January 2002 Rating List

Once again there are only 2 players over 2800 – Garry (the kasparovchess spelling) Kasparov (Russia), 13th FIDE World Champion (#1 at 2838), and Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), 2000 BrainGamesNetwork World Champion (# 2 at 2809).

Then there are 11 players in the 2700's – the top 3 are : Viswanathan Anand (India), 2000 FIDE World Champion (# 3 at 2757); Michael Adams (England - # 4 at 2742); Alexander Morozevich (Russia - # 5 at 2742). Ruslan Ponomoriov (Ukraine), 2001-2 FIDE WCC Finalist, and one of our 3 “ terrible ‘83'ers “ (only 18 years old on

Jan. 1, 2002, and on their way up), is # 7 at 2727. The other 2001-2 WCC Finalist, Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), is # 8 at 2717.

12th FIDE World Champion, Anatoly Karpov (Russia) is # 16 at 2693. 1999 FIDE World Champion, Alexander Khalifman (Russia) is # 18 at 2688. Judit Polgar, the world's strongest female player, is just below the top 20, being # 22 at 2677.

The other 2 “ terrible ‘83’ers ” we’re watching are : Alexander Grischuk (Russia), 2000 FIDE WCC semi-finalist, up from # 27 to # 25, at 2671; Etienne Bacrot (France), who has dropped from # 36 to # 41, at 2649. The # 100 player is rated 2596.

The highest FIDE-rated Canadian is 2001 Canadian Closed Champion, Alexandre Le Siege, at 2572, down from his previous 2588.

2002 Canadian Junior CC

This tournament was held Jan. 2 – 6 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Congratulations to the winner, Stephen Glinert (a former SCC junior) ! He will now represent Canada in this year's World Junior Championship. Congratulations also to David Raheb (also a former SCC junior, and junior rep. on the SCC Executive), who finished near the top.

2002 U.S. Closed Chess Championship (and U.S. Women's Championship)

This year's championship was held in Seattle, Washington, and included both the top men and top women. This is the first year the U.S. has not had a separate women-only championship. Instead, the top women play in a Swiss, with the top men, and the highest finishing woman is the U.S. Champion.

This year's U.S. Champion is GM Larry Christiansen(2664). He had tied with Nick de Firmian (2653), with 6.5/9 pts., but won in the second play-off. The U.S. Women's Champion is WIM Jennifer Shahade (2352). She achieved her International Master title with her result of 5/9 pts., as well as her WGM title !

SCC Winter (Tues.) Swiss '01

The SCC 2002 Tuesday night tournaments begin again tonight at Wexford Collegiate cafeteria (renovations at the Wexford Seniors' Centre are still going on). Due to the financial necessity of shortening the school permit hours on Tuesdays, the time control for this swiss will be Game in 1 Hour. This is a “ regular “ rated time format for CFC rating purposes, and will be rated the same as our normal swisses, with longer time controls. Registration starts at 6:45 P.M., with the tournament beginning at 7:00 P.M., and ending by 9:00 P.M.. So if you like the faster time controls, and playing for regular rating points, just show up tonight and register !

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.

C – The opinions expressed here are those of the editor, and not necessarily those of the Scarborough CC.