

Scarborough Community of Toronto
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“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 11 – February 1, 2002

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

GTA Juniors : Part of Canada’s Present & Future (Part 3)
“ Spotlight “ on David Hier !

Introduction

This is the third article in the series highlighting GTA Juniors. Today we review the chess career of David Hier, now 10 ½ years old, and 4 of his games.

David’s Progress and Successes

David first obtained a rating in 1999; when he was only 7 years old, he was in the middle of the C class, at 1512. When he was 8 years old, he joined Scarborough CC, and played in his first club tournament. In May, 2001, at the Toronto Victoria Day Open '01, at 9 years old, he came clear first in the Under 1800 section, and boosted his rating into the B class, at 1649. Just before his 10th birthday, he tied for second in the Under 1900 section, in the August Toronto Simcoe Day Open '01, and his rating went up to 1768. He stayed in the 1700's until the end of last year. He again tied for second in the Under 1900 section of the Toronto Christmas Open '01; his rating entered the A class, at 1837, his current and peak rating !

David also already has some international experience under his belt. In 2001, he represented Canada as one of the Under 10 team members who went to Oropesa, Spain, to play in the FIDE World Youth Chess Festival championships. He finished right in the middle of the pack, in his group of 87 players.

With players from the Under 10 group removed, David is # 3 on the list of top Canadian juniors under 12.

Congratulations David, and we look forward to seeing you progress up into the high A class rating in future !

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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)

On With the Games !

David Hier (1635) – Justin McDonald (1552)

(Notes by David Hier [DH] and Rick Garel [RG])

David played in the CYCC Under 10 last summer, to qualify to go to the WYCF. Here is his game played July 4, 2001.

C54 : Giuoco Piano

[RG : David mentions in his notes to this game, that he had prepared for this opponent. The game certainly shows that.]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Kf1

[DH : I prepared for Justin at the CYCC, so that I could make it to Spain [the WYCF u10]. The usual moves here are 7.Nc3 or 7.Bd2. The move 7.Kf1 is an unusual move, but it is safe. It sacrifices the e4P for a good attacking game.]

7...Nxe4

[DH : I think 7....d5 is the best move, but I knew that Justin could not resist 7...Nxe4.]

8.d5 Ne7 9.Qd4 Nf6 10.Bg5 Ng6 11.Nc3(N)

[RG : 11.Nbd2 h6 12.Re1+ Kf8 13.Bd3 Be7 14.Bxg6 hxg5 15.Ne5 fxg6 16.Nxg6+ Kf7 17.Rxe7+ Kxg6 18.Qd3+ Kh6 19.h4 g4 20.h5 Nxh5 21.Qf5 1-0 Marshall, F. – Burn, A. / Ostende 1905/HCL (21)]

11...0-0 12.h4 d6

[RG : consolidates e5]

13.Ne4 Ne5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Qxe5 Re8 ?

[RG : best is 15....Ng4!/? and Bl. is still in the game 16.Qd4 Qe8 =]

16.Nxf6+ +/-

[RG : from this point on, David maintains and strengthens his advantage; worse for W would be 16.Bxf6?! Rxe5 17.Bxd8 Rxe4 =]

16...gxf6 17.Qxf6 Qxf6 18.Bxf6 Bc5 19.Rc1 Bb6 20.Rc3 Re4 21.Rg3+ Kf8 +/- 22.Bd3 Rf4 23.Rf3 Rxf3 24.gxf3 Kg8 ??

[RG : shortens the misery for Bl.. Best is 24....h5 25.Bh7 Ke8 26.Rg1 Bh3+ 27.Ke1 Kd7 28.Rg3 Re8+ 29.Kd2 Bf1 30.Be4 Bxf2 31.Rg7 Kd6 32.Rxf7 Bc4 33.Rh7 Bxd5 34.Bxd5 Kxd5 35.Rxh5+ Kd6 +- but, with two outside passed P's, one of them being an extra P, W should win]

25.Rg1+ Kf8 26.Bxh7 Bh3+ 27.Ke2 Re8+

[RG : 27....Ke8 what else ? 28.Rg8+ Kd7 29.Rxa8 c6 +-]

28.Kd1 1-0

[RG : 28....Re1+ 29.Kxe1 Ba5+ 30.Kd1 Bg2 31.Rxg2 Ke8 32.Rg8+ Kd7 33.Rd8#]

David Hier (1640) – Hugh Siddley (1904)

(Notes by David Hier [DH] and Bob Armstrong [BA])

This game was played on August 4, 2001, in the Toronto Simcoe Day Open '01. David makes short work of a solid A class player, when he goes wrong in the opening.

Sveshnikov Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 Nf6 8.Bg5

[DH : the regular move order is : 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 Nf6 8.Bg5]

8....d5 ?! +/-

[DH : this is a novelty, and likely the reason Bl. lost; BA : normal would be 8....Be6 9.Nc4 b5 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Ne3 Bh6 +/-]

9.Nxd5

[DH : after the game, my opponent told me that he had seen 8....d5 on WCN. He was expecting 9.exd5, not 9.Nxd5]

9....Nd4 ? +/-

[BA : the losing move; maintaining the status quo is 9....Bxa3 10.bxa3 Qa5+ 11.Qd2 Qxd2+ 12.Bxd2 Nd4 +/-]

10.c3 Bxa3 11.bxa3 Qa5 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Qd2

[DH : now W is threatening the N]

13....Nc6 14.Nxf6+ Kf8

[DH : if 14....Ke7, the N will retreat to d5, with a P extra. BA : for example – 14....Ke7 15.Nd5+ Ke8 16.Rb1 Ra7 17.Nb6 Be6 18.Bc4 Bxc4 19.Nxc4 Qc5 +-]

15.Qh6+ Ke7 16.Nd5+ Ke8 ?

[DH : Bl. has many moves here. If 16....Kd8, 17.Qf6+ wins the R. If 16....Kd7, then 17.Rd1 threatening 18.Nb6+, winning the R. BA : for example – 16....Kd7 17.Rd1 Rd8 18.Qxh7 (preferable to David's 18.Nb6+ Kc7 19.Nxa8+ Kb8 20.Rxd8 Qxd8 21.Bc4 Kxa8 22.0-0 Qc7 +-) Kd6 19.Qxf7 Kc5 20.Qf3 Rb8 +-]

17.Qd6

[BA : Bl. is finished. DH : W has many threats. If 17....f5, 18.Nc7+ (BA : better is 18.Nf6+ Kf7 19.Bc4+ Qd5 20.Bxd5+ Be6 21.Qxe6+ Kg6 22.Ng8+ Kh5 23.Qxf5+ Kh4 24.g3#) Kf7 19.Nd5 (BA : 19.Bc4+ Kg7 20.Qd2 f4 21.Nxa8 +-) Rf8 20.0-0-0 winning (BA : I believe W would have only a “ clear “ advantage here – 20....Be6 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Bc4 Kg7 +/-)]

1 - 0

Robert Love (1623) – David Hier (1753)

(Notes by David Hier [DH] and Bob Armstrong [BA])

This is a game played Nov. 10, 2001, in the Toronto Remembrance Day Open '01. This is a good example of David's tactical ability.

E00 : Catalan Bogo-Indian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7

[DH : there are three moves for Bl. on the fourth move that I know of : (1) Qe7; (2) a5; (3) Be7. The best is probably 4....Qe7. 4....a5 gives a bad pawn structure, but opens the rook right away, attacking the a2 pawn. 4....Be7 retreats the B to a “ passive “ square, but it is still possible to play.]

5.Bg2 0-0 6.a3

[DH : now I must take, for if 6....Bd6, 7.c5 traps the B]

6....Bxd2+ 7.Nxd2 c5

[DH : trying to take control of the centre]

8.d5 e5 9.Nb3 ?!

[DH : W puts his N on a passive square and loses a tempo]

9....d6

[DH : Bl. is now secure because the g2 B is blocked]

10.e4 b6

[DH : this move is unnecessary and loses a tempo. Better would have been 10....h6, followed by Nh7 and f5 – a K-side break. BA : another alternate is 10....a5 11.Qd3 a4 12.Nd2 Re8 =]

11.h3 Rd8

[DH : here I wanted to play 12....Nbd7, followed by Nf8 and Ng6]

12.Ne2 Nbd7 13.Nc3 a6 14.Qe2 Nf8 15.Nd2 Bd7

[DH : this move is to help with ...b5]

16.Nf3 Rab8 17.a4 Qe8 18.Nh4 g6 19.Nf3 b5 20.axb5 axb5 21.b3 bxc4 ? +/-

[BA : 21....b4 22.Nb1 Ra8 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 =]

22.bxc4 Rb3 23.Qc2 Rdb8 !? (DH) 24.Nb5 ?? -/+

[BA : maintaining W's “ slight “ advantage is 24.0-0 +/-]

24....Rb4 25.Nxd6 Qe7 26.Nb5 Bxb5 27.cxb5 R8xb5 ?? =

[BA : maintaining Bl. 's “ clear “ advantage is 27....Rxe4+ 28.Kf1 Rxb5 29.Kg1 -/+]

28.0-0 ?? -/+

[BA : 28.Nd2 = keeps W right in the game]

28....Nxe4 29.Nh4 ? -+

[BA : 29.Ra6 Qb7 30.Rc6 Nd7 -/+]

29....Nd6 30.Ra2 c4 31.Rfa1 e4 32.Ra6 g5 33.Rxd6 ?

[BA : better, though still lost, is 33.Nf5 Nxf5 34.Qxe4 Qxe4 35.Bxe4 -+]

33....Qxd6 34.Nf5

[BA : W is trying to set up Qc3]

34....Qf6

[BA : David skewers that idea, forking the R & N in the process; Bl.'s earlier sac of the exchange didn't save the N after all]

35.Ra8 Qxf5

[DH : I have not looked for any annotations after this move]

36.Bxe4 Qxh3 37.Qc1 Qg4 38.Re8 c3 39.Re5 f6 40.Bf5

[BA : this leads to a tactically interesting temporary Q-sac & ending !]

40....fxe5 ! 41.Bxg4 Rb1 42.Qxb1 Rxb1+ 43.Kg2 c2 44.d6 c1=Q 45. Resigns

[BA : mate follows – 45.Kf3 Qd1+ 46.Ke4 Rb4+ 47.Ke3 Qd4+ 48.Ke2 Rb2+ 49.Ke1 Qxf2+ 50.Kd1 Qd2#]

0 - 1

Nicely done David !

David Hier (1743) – Pino Verde (1835)

(Notes by David Hier [DH] and Bob Armstrong [BA])

The fourth game we present was played Dec. 29, 2001, in the Toronto Christmas Open '01. David plays nice methodical chess, picking up 2 P's, and then going for a Queen.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4

[DH : the usual move here is 3.d4, but Bc4 is also a line. It will transpose into a line with d4, but the reason I play it is because it screws up my opponent]

3....Be7 4.Nc3 c6 5.d4 Nd7

[DH : if 5....exd4 6.Nxd4, then W plays against the weak d6 P]

6.0-0 b5 7.Bb3 h6 +/-

[DH : a waste of a tempo]

8.Ne2

[DH : I will transpose the last position into a Ruy Lopez, with Ng3, c3, Bc2, etc.]

8....Ngf6 9.Ng3 g6

[DH : Bl. tries to prevent Nf5, but weakens his K instead]

10.c3 Qc7 11.h3

[DH : no play for Bl.. 11....c5 is probably forced in this position. It is the only thing that will give him play.]

11....Bb7 12.Bc2 Rc8 13.Be3 Nb6 14.b3 a5 ?

[BA : this does not necessarily lose material – see 15....c5]

15.Qd2 Bf8 ?

[BA : 15....c5 16.d5 g5 17.Bd3 c4 18.Bxb6 Qxb6 19.bxc4 bxc4 +/- holding everything]

16.dxe5 dxe5 17.Bxb6 Qxb6 18.Nxe5

[DH : W now has many threats. He will place his R on d1 and attack the weak and exposed K with Qf4, etc.]

18....Rd8 19.Qf4 c5 20.Rad1 Rxd1 ? +- 21.Rxd1 g5 ? 22.Qf5 Be7 23.Nh5

[DH : the threat eventually is Ng6 and Qd7]

23....0-0

[DH : this is Bl.'s only move]

24.Nd7

[DH : even better is 24.Ng6 fxc6 (if 24....Re8 25.Nxe7+ Rxe7 26.Nxf6+ Kf8 +- and Bl. will lose because he is down a piece and being hunted; BA : another losing try for Bl. is 24....Nxh5 25.Nxe7+ Kg7 26.e5 Rd8 27.Rxd8 Qxd8 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Nf5 Nf6 30.Qg7+ Ke8 31.Nd6+ Kd7 32.Qxf7+ Kc6 33.Qxb7#) 25.Qxg6+ Kh8 26.Qg7#]

24....Nxd7 25.e5 Qg6 26.Qxg6+ fxc6 27.Rxd7 gxh5 28.Rxe7

[BA : it is preferable to grab the other B – 28.Rxb7 Kf7 29.Rxb5 Ke6 30.Rxa5 Kxe5 31.b4 Rd8 +- when W has a Q-side P majority, and will Queen]

28....Rf7

[DH : if W trades, he will have a hard time winning B vs B, even though he is a P up]

29.Re6 ! g4 30.hxg4 hxg4 31.Rxh6 Rg7 32.Rg6

[BA : David, with now a K-side majority, is quite happy to trade off]

32....Bc8 33.Rxg7+ Kxg7 34.Kh2 Kh6 35.Kg3 Kg5 36.f4+ gxf3 e.p. 37.gxf3

[DH : Bl. can resign, but doesn't]

37....Be6 38.f4+ Kh5 39.f5 Bd5 40.Kf4 Kh6 41.e6 Kg7 ? 42.Be4 1-0

Backgrounder

SCTCN&V has started this new year on a positive note. The series is on top GTA juniors, such as David. 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 are giving only a very short personal resume of the junior’s accomplishments. We prefer to let their games speak for them ! We’ve tried to choose an interesting collection of 4 games, that show their style, positional ability, tactical ability, etc..

We have tried to limit the annotations, because of the nature of the newsletter, not too successfully, to about 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. Sometimes the junior him/herself has done some analysis as well, as David did for this article. This further brings out their current approach to the game.

We hope you are enjoying our line-up of junior games. We hope our series contributes to GTA juniors’ enjoyment of chess, and provides some encouragement for them to continue to improve their chess.

Ruslan Ponomariov – Youngest World Champion !

The final match of the FIDE knock-out World Championship took place in Moscow last month. With a draw in the 7th of the 8 game match, Ponomariov (Ukraine) defeated Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine) 4.5 : 2.5, and became FIDE’s 16th World Champion. Previously, Ponomariov was # 7 on the FIDE Rating List (2727).

He won the first and fifth games, and the rest were drawn. But Ivanchuk had chances to win : in the second game, he won a piece, but failed to find a winning continuation, when, at move 32, both were down to about 1 minute, with 30 sec. increments (time control was the new FIDE one : game in 90 min., with 30 sec. increments from move 1); in the 5th game, he had a clearly winning position, but blundered in time trouble.

Though Ponomariov defeated top players in the K.O. system to win the crown, only days later, Garry Kasparov (Russia), the # 1 ranked player in the world, circumscribed his performance. The reason ? : the new shorter FIDE time controls. Kasparov gave Ponomariov credit for being the best of the lot (neither Kasparov nor 2000 BrainGamesNetwork World Champion, Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) played) at the faster time control, but doubted that he would do so well against his compatriots under the “ classical “ time control (approx. 7 hours for a game, and 2 time controls). His argument is that the faster time has greatly diminished the quality of top chess games – there is insufficient time to do the deep analysis required for competition at this level, and

time control problems start too early. He is not alone by any means in his criticism of the time control. The English Daily Telegraph wrote after the 5th game : “ Ivanchuk played beautifully to secure a winning position...But fell apart when his ninety minutes ran out, missing win after win before the final blunder cost the game... The competition...is too quick to get the high quality of play one customarily sees in title matches played at Classical Chess time of 3 minutes a move. “ Nevertheless, there is at this time, no sign of any coalition building within FIDE to reverse this move to faster time control.

We also think Kasparov may be a bit premature. Ponomoriov is a very solid player, with nerves of steel. And he is still improving – he is only 18 years old, and became a GM only in 1998, at 14 years old (he at that time became the youngest GM in the world). In 1995, he won the WYCF Under 12, and in 1997, the WYCF Under 18. He just missed out, to our Canadian GM Kevin Spraggett, on the silver medal for 2nd board at the 2000 Chess Olympiad.

He will not stay at # 7 in the rating list. Opinion is that he will soon join Kasparov, Kramnik, and Anand at the top of the list. As someone said of Kasparov : he’d better be right; criticism makes one work harder to become # 1 !!

2002 Corus Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands, Tournament (Av. Rating : 2688)

This is traditionally the first super-GM tournament of the year. It has been won a number of times recently by Garry Kasparov (he had to pass on playing this year due to illness). This year’s winner is Evgeny Bareev (Russia), ranked # 11 on the FIDE rating list (2707). He scored 9/13, to win by ½ pt., and is his best performance to date.

Second, at 8.5, was Alexander Grischuk (Russia). He is currently ranked # 25 (2671). But he is one of SCTCN&V’s three “ terrible ‘83’ers “ (currently only 18 years old, and on the way up; Ponomoriov is another of them we’ve been touting for a while). The field included the players ranked #4 (Michael Adams – England), and # 5 (Alexander Morozevich - Russia), who tied for third with 8/13.

Bermuda 2002 GM International Tournaments

Group A – This 10 player round robin, FIDE Category 10 (Av. Rating : 2500), ended Jan. 30. Our 2001 Can. Champion, Alexander Le Siege, was 4th/5th, with 5 pts.

Group B – This similar tournament is a FIDE Category 8 tournament (Av. Rating:2450). Former Canadian Junior Champion, Pascal Charbonneau, finished 3rd/4th, with 5.5 pts. He also achieved his second FIDE International Master norm !! Congratulations Pascal !

2002 Toronto Blitz Championship

Congratulations to FM Ian Findlay, who topped a strong field of 12 on Friday, Jan. 25, 2002, to win the 2002 Toronto Blitz Championship, run by Dutton Chess .

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