

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

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Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 6 – November 15, 2001

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

Should the Girls' Canadian Youth Chess Championships Be Abolished ?? (Pt. 4)

Recap

The lead articles in the last three Issues have dealt with this question of whether the Girls' CYCC serves any valid purpose. Do girls-only tournaments help or hinder girl players. Currently, the CFC holds a mixed gender CYCC (“ Youth “ refers to 5 age categories : Under 18, 16, 14, 12 & 10 years of age); girls are entitled to enter this section, and if they win, to represent Canada at the FIDE World Youth CC. Alternatively they can enter the girls-only Girls' CYCC, and if they win, represent Canada at the FIDE Girls' WYCC. Both FIDE 2001 tournaments concluded earlier this month in Oropesa del Mar, Spain (See report below).

To help us debate this matter, we proposed a fictitious CFC motion to the CFC Governors that next years' CFC Girls' CYCC be abolished, and that the Girls' WYCC representative be chosen from the CYCC, in which both boys and girls would play. The issue of funding does not arise, since we have assumed CFC will continue to pay the airfare for both the WYCC rep. and the Girls' WYCC rep..

We have so far examined the five leading arguments against the Girls' CYCC. It is now time to give the other side a chance to strut its stuff, and try to convince you that girls-only tournaments are a good thing, and that the CFC must continue to run the Girls' CYCC, in tandem with the mixed gender CYCC.

Guest Contributors Speak Up Against the Motion (“ For “ the Girls' CYCC)

Our series of articles to date has elicited a response. Some have complained that the series has been one-sided. We've explained that this matter posed a problem in that it was somewhat complex, and there were numbers of arguments both pro and con. So we

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had to make a decision how to present it over a number of Issues of the newsletter. We decided to deal with it like a courtroom presentation. We first gave the side in favour of the motion the floor by themselves – they could, uninterrupted, present all their arguments in a row, to convince you to abolish the Girls' CYCC.

And so it has been one-sided – 'til now. The judge is now giving the courtroom floor over to the side arguing against the motion. We will now hear why the CFC should keep the Girls' CYCC. We're going to start by hearing from three " guest contributors ". Then we will proceed to take a more in depth look at the arguments they've raised, one at a time, and some others that have been raised elsewhere.

Guest Contributor # 1

It so happens that our first contributor was one of the one's who initially approached us to suggest that we weren't giving the arguments in favour of the Girls' CYCC. We gave our long-winded explanation, and then pounced – " So, would you like to write a " submission against the motion " for our SCTCN&V readers ? Huh ? Would you ? ". Well, after such an eloquent plea, what could he say ? So, for the record, here is his take on this issue :

" In the current debate over whether there should be separate national tournaments for female players, it seems that some people are not seeing the whole picture. It was about six years ago that this subject was being debated in the Governors Letters. At the CFC Annual Meeting in Calgary that year, the Canadian Women's Champion, [Nava Starr, also 2001 Canadian Women's Champion], made a presentation to the Assembly. It was a scientific study by a renowned doctor that concluded the thought processes in women were different than those in men. The presentation had a lot more detail, but that was the main conclusion. In other words there are differences between the genders other than the obvious physical ones.

The differences mean that each gender has different aptitudes for all kinds of physical and mental activities. The Canadian Champion was emphatic that because of this there should be separate national events for men and women.

I agree, and seemingly so does most of the rest of the world. Most Countries have separate events. FIDE recognizes the differences with separate world titles as well as separate Olympic events. History seems to bear out these concepts. Since rating lists began, I cannot recall other than the Polgar sisters { true exceptions } many, if any, women in the top twenty of the world's ranking.

Even more striking are the most current rating lists in our own Country. In the top 60 Canadians, not one is a female! Even in the youth ratings where there are six categories under 10 to under 20 and the top ten are listed, there are still only two females in all those groups.

Therefore is it fair that there be no national tournaments for our young girls? Is it fair to have no national tournaments for our women? Would it be fair to have no Women's World Championships? Would it be fair to have no female Olympic teams? I don't think so. There would be nothing for the aspiring young female chess player to aim for. Many would just give up the sport.

Until females start invading the top of the rating lists in large numbers { which I

don't see happening} there must be events where they can play in their own groups and achieve success and fame in their own right. Anything else is mean and unfair to all female chess players. “

Maurice Smith, Past President of CFC, and SCC member.

Guest Contributor # 2

As a result of reading the first three articles in the series, our next guest felt moved to write spontaneously to us with his comments to try to balance our aberrant presentation on this topic, and he subsequently agreed to our using them in this article. So, for the record, here is why he favours keeping the Girls' CYCC :

“ My final comment :

- the brains are different.
- some girls do not like playing against boys.
- those that like open tournaments have many opportunities to play “ non-girls “ in the many open tournaments available.
- so long as FIDE runs separate events, so should we. ”

Martin Jaeger, President of OCA, and Willowdale CC member.

“ Guest Contributor “ # 3

Our last “ contributor “ is not really a direct contributor to the newsletter. SCC published an edited version of the first three articles on ChessTalk recently, to see what discussion it might generate there. One post in response, in support of the Girls' CYCC, was quite good, we thought. So we felt it was legitimate to copy it at this point in our article, since it fit in so well :

“ I have long been a supporter of women's chess. It seems ironic to have this debate at a time when our Canadian chess women have never, ever been stronger.

The strength arguments that are used against women's categories can be applied to the whole Junior program, let alone the CYCC. Kids will get better competition from a weekend swiss than the CYCC. We do the program because the parents will support it. I don't think women's chess is driven by playing strength alone.

There are also social issues. I believe chess needs more women (females of all ages) because chess needs to be more inclusive. I also believe that most women do want women's events. Not exclusively, but sometimes. When I ran the women's zonal championship in the late 80's I cited some pressure against the women's program in their invitations, and most of the participants expressed concern over it. Julia Sarwer came out of the wood work to play because of this concern. ”

Hal Bond, tournament organizer in the City of Guelph, posted on ChessTalk on Nov. 6 / 01.

The “ Girls’ CYCC “ Argument # 1 – “ Current Tradition ”

Both Maurice and Martin referred to this argument, which is based on the current FIDE tradition of having separate women-only/ girl-only tournaments. FIDE runs in addition to its mixed gender championships, a whole parallel system of female-only tournaments : Women’s WCC, Americas’ Women’s Continental Championship, the Women’s Olympics, the Girls’ World Junior Championship and the Girls’ WYCC. As well, most federations of FIDE follow this tradition and have their own “ national “ championship (our Canadian Closed, open to both male and female), and their own Women’s Championship (our Canadian Women’s Closed Chess Championship). It is argued that this tradition is based on sound historical, sociological and psychological principles, and therefore has legitimacy. Thus, CFC should continue to run the separate girls-only Girls’ CYCC.

It must be noted though, that FIDE itself does NOT dictate this model to its federations. It does not demand that a federation’s women’s/girls’ representative come to the FIDE women’s/girls’ tournament out of a separate women/girls-only tournament in the federation. The federations are free to determine the method by which they determine their female representatives. Britain has determined its Women’s Champion within the national British Championship (mixed) since 1989. Last year USA eliminated its USA Women’s Championship, and the USA 2002 Women’s Champion will be decided in the mixed U.S. Championships. And just this month, Spain, starting in 2002, eliminated all women-only tournaments.

So, although this argument for the Girls’ CYCC is still a strong one, it is by no means unanimously seen as absolutely determinative of the issue.

Further “ Girls’ CYCC “ Arguments

Our three guest contributors have also mentioned a number of other strong arguments for girls-only tournaments, and some arguments directly opposing the arguments we heard previously “ against “ the Girls’ CYCC. In the next two Issues, we will look at these arguments in more depth and greater detail, in evaluating the position taken by our guest contributors to date.

FIDE 2001 World Youth CC

This 11 round swiss, held in Oropesa del Mar, Spain, ended Nov. 2, and saw 14 Canadian representatives entered in 9 of the 10 “ youth “ sections. And Canada achieved one of its best results ever, with 2 of our youth finishing in the top 10 of their section. Two of the youth, David Hier and Shiyam Thavandiran, are SCC junior members ! Thanks to all our youth who represented Canada so well. Here are the results :

Mixed : U 10 – David Hier – tied 41st-46th /87 players; Shiyam Thavandiran – tied 61st-68th /87

U 12 – Irakli Vadachkoriya – tied 51st-64th /117; Justin Deveau – tied 113th-116th /117

U 14 – IM Mark Bluvshstein – tied 8th-11th /106 !!

U 16 – Evgeni Miller – tied 48th-58th /102; Haoyuan Wang – tied 59th-74th /102

U 18 – FM Pascal Charbonneau – tied 27th-37th /83

Girls : U 10 – Hazel Smith – tied 9th-17th /70 !!

U 12 – Valentina Goutor – tied 33rd-47th /78; Megan Chi – tied 64th-71st /78

U 14 – Anastesia Kazakevic – tied 64th-68th /79; Inara Aliev – tied 73rd-74th /79

U 16 – Anne-Mari Charbonneau – tied 35th-44th /76.

We Think the CFC Has Problems !

The United States Chess Federation Executive Board just met at the end of last month, and the following disturbing facts were trotted out :

- in September, they lost \$ 11,000;
- on the fiscal year TO DATE they have a deficit of \$ 160,000;
- they have \$ 500,000 in accounts payable, and only \$ 72,000 cash on hand with which to pay them;
- the USCF has, since 1995, been losing about 100 adult members PER MONTH.

We guess it's all relative, when you're looking at problems !

FIDE 2001 World Chess Championship Knockout Tournament

Round 1 begins Tuesday, Nov. 27 in Moscow, Russia. There are 128 players in Round 1, and they will play until the two finalists are determined in Round 6 – the semi-finalists play a four game match between Dec. 8 – 14. Then the final is an 8 game match, from Jan. 17 – 26, 2002. They will be using the new time control of a game in 1 hour 30 min., with 30 sec. increments per move from move 1.

Our 2001 Canadian Champion, GM Alexandre Lesiege (2588), will play Sergei Shipov of Russia (2625). Those who visit the kasparovchess site will recognize him as a regular grandmaster contributor in analyzing various major tournament-in-progress games. Good luck, Alex !

FIDE 2001 Women's World Chess Championship Knockout Tournament

This championship is held in the same place as the WCC, starts at the same time, and uses the same time control. There are 64 women playing in Round 1. The final will be a 4 game match, and played between Dec. 8 – 14, at the same time as the WCC semi-finals matches.

Our 2001 Canadian Women's Champion, WIM Nava Starr (2200), plays Romanian WGM Corina Peptan (2465), the # 9 ranked player. Good luck, Nava !

British GM Anthony (Tony) Miles – Deceased

Tony Miles, Britain's first over-the-board GM, died Nov. 12, at his family home in England, at the age of 46, of natural causes (likely associated with his diabetes). He had recently played in Canada in the 2001 Canadian Open in Sackville, N.B., and had

tied for first/second with American GM Larry Christiansen, scoring 9/10 pts., 1 ½ pts. ahead of the third place finishers.

SCC Autumn (Thurs.) Swiss '01

This 7 round start-of-the-year tournament drew 28 players, and ended Oct. 28. First Prize was won by Allan CAI (5 ½ pts.), and 2nd by Andrew PICANA (5 pts.). The “ A “ Class winner was Tom BOZINOSKI (5 pts.); “ B “ Class – Shiyam THAVANDIRAN (5 pts.); “ C & Under Classes “ – Ari MENDRINOS (3 pts.).

SCC Club Championship – They're Off and Running !

The club championship started Thurs., Nov. 1, and is 9 rounds. It is divided into 2 sections. The top 10 rated players play in a round robin for the championship. The section section is a swiss, and determines the club “ class “ champions.

A total of 33 players registered. Playing for the Championship are : Bryan LAMB; Allan CAI; Randy MOYSOSKI; Jim PATERSON; Angel CADAMOV; Tom BOZINOSKI; Ismail IBRAHIM; Gaja SRINIVASAN; Andre ROLAVS; Bob ARMSTRONG.

23 players are duking it out for the class championships : B – 14; C – 4; D & Under – 5.

SCC Winter (Tues.) Swiss '01

As everyone is likely now aware, SCC has had to relocate temporarily from the Wexford Seniors' Residence due to renovations in their community centre space, including our meeting room. We are temporarily at Wexford Collegiate Institute, 1176 Pharmacy Ave. (just north of Lawrence Ave. East). This necessitated closing our Sunday meetings, and moving the Sunday tournaments to Tues. evening.

So on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 11 players registered to play in this new swiss. The breakdown is : Master – 1; A – 2; B – 5; C & Under – 3.

NOTE :

- A – Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, or through SCC e-mail, to :
- 4. 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.