

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

Newsletter of / Le Journal de
Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 7 – December 1, 2001

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

Should the Girls' Canadian Youth Chess Championships Be Abolished ?? (Pt. 5)

Recap

The lead articles in the last four 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.

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..

Initially we examined the five leading arguments against the Girls' CYCC. In the last Issue, we reviewed the contributions of three guest contributors who support the Girls' CYCC. We looked at the first argument used in favour girls-only tournaments. Argument # 1 was “Current Tradition “ – FIDE uses the model of a mixed gender tournament, with a parallel women/girls-only tournament, so Canada should continue to do so. Here are two more common arguments supporting girls-only tournaments.

Girls' CYCC Argument # 2 – “ Clear Champions / Representatives ”

The CYCC / Girls' CYCC are run on the swiss system of pairings. This system is reliable for determining a clear winner, but becomes less accurate the further down you

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)

go. It is generally fairly reliable for determining 2nd and 3rd place finishers. Beyond this it becomes like a lottery. But in the concept of only a mixed CYCC, the girls' representatives would be the ones placing 4th or lower (assuming no girl came in the top three, who chose to go to the Girls' WYCC, instead of the WYCC). F.M. Dennis Allan, on Sept. 12, 2001, posted on ChessTalk on this problem :

“ The Swiss System is pretty good at picking a winner, but problematic after that. If you [have only a mixed group], so that you are trying to qualify six players from one event, it is hopeless ... And in most sections the girls striving for the qualifying places will be in the upper middle of the pack, an area where accurate results are virtually impossible....

It is almost inevitable that some places will be decided by the luck of the draw in the last round. And when you have different players playing for different objectives, others can be affected. For example, two girls are tied going into the last round. One plays a boy who has a chance to qualify with a win. So he plays and wins. The other girl plays a boy who is out of contention and just wants to draw and go home [and so she draws and places ahead of the other girl – ed.]... ...And...pairing the girls together in the last round or two....cannot be relied on, and could also unfairly affect the boys...

....the Dubov pairing system [which seeks to average opponent playing strength, is not an answer as it – ed.] seems to rely heavily on the accuracy of the ratings, which are largely unreliable for juniors, except at the top of each group...”

So the only way to determine clear winners for the three girl representatives to the Girls' WYCC would seem to be in the Girl's CYCC. There is also the advantage that the girl champion will be more accepted if she has beaten the other girl contenders, rather than a number of boy competitors, and the leading girls had never met.

“ Girls' CYCC “ Argument # 3 – “ Girls' Chess Promotion “

Because girls are still under-represented significantly in the CYCC / Girls' CYCC tournaments, the separate girl-only tournaments provide the superior chance at chess promotion to girls. It advertises the game as as much a girls' game, as a boys' game - the picture is of a roomful of girls' playing chess ! It is presented as nothing unusual, the same way girls' tennis is not anything unusual. This gives chess, for girls, a certain acceptance factor, since it corresponds in some way to other sports (but chess is divided into mixed and girls, whereas some other sports are divided into boys and girls).

It is also more acceptable perhaps, since it offers an alternative to the sometimes intimidating situation of having to play in a roomful of boys.

There is also a certain attraction / incentive in trying for the “ Girls' CYCC Championship “ title. It may be true that the equivalent age group CYCC is stronger, but this does not mean girls are being challenged to obtain only mediocre performance, or that they are being given a message that they can't compete with boys. The girls' title offers a “ milestone “ step in their chess life, and hopefully will be a stepping stone to

future achievements, such as winning eventually a CYCC title ! It is no different than section winners in weekend tournaments, where winning the B-Class section can be a spur to going on soon to winning the A-Class section, and beyond.

So, from a media promotion point of view, and in relation to promotion in the schools (to have girls move from, say CMA tournaments, into CFC tournaments), at this time the separate girls only tournament is more easily and effectively sellable to girls than the mixed CYCC. Again, from an attractive image view, the girl Champion is the “ top “ girl, not a girl finishing well down after the final round of the CYCC, and being designated the champion.

“ Girls’ CYCC “ Arguments # 4 & 5

In the next Issue, we will look at the two final arguments from those supporting the Girls’ CYCC.

FIDE 2001 World Chess Championship Knockout Tournament

Round 1 began Tuesday, Nov. 27 in Moscow, Russia. The first phase runs until the two finalists are determined in a four game match between Dec. 8 – 14. There is a break, and then the final is an 8 game match, from Jan. 17 – 26, 2002. They are using the new time control of a game in 1 hour 30 min., with 30 sec. increments per move from move 1.

Round 1 was a 2-game match, with a diminishing time control play-off system. Our 2001 Canadian Champion, GM Alexandre Le Siege (2588), played Sergei Shipov of Russia (2625) – Jeff Sonas, the world’s foremost chess statistician, had given Alex a 39 % chance of beating Shipov, which is not bad given the rating differential. Game 1 was a draw (due to a transportation mix-up, Alex arrived 20 min. late). However, Shipov won Game 2, and Alex is eliminated from the tournament. Congratulations to Alex for making it to the Championship, and giving Canada a good representative !

There were some upsets in Round 1 : Anatoly Karpov, 12th FIDE World Champion (Russia), by Zhang Pengxiang (China) – playoff; Nigel Short (England) by Daniel Campora (Argentina – an Americas qualifier); 70 year old Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland) by Lev Psakhis (Israel) – playoff. Though Jaan Ehlevest (Estonia) won, he was taken to the second playoff (2 5-min. games, with 10 sec. increments from move 1) by 14 year old GM, Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan). A problem arose in it, when Radjabov ran out of time, a piece up. But then it was discovered that his clock had not been set to add the increments to his time ! Nevertheless the game was allowed to stand.

More upsets occurred in Round 2 : Peter Leko (Hungary) by Ashot Anastasian (Armenia) – playoff; Judit Polgar, the world’s strongest woman player (Hungary) by Vadim Milov (Switzerland) - playoff. Also, Shipov lost to Joel Lautier (France). And one of the two “ terrible ‘83’ers “ playing (18 year olds to watch), Alexander Grischuk (Russia), one of last year’s semi-finalists, lost to the new Russian Champion, Alexander Motylev. The other “ 83’er, Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine) won and goes into round 3.

Round 3, Game 1, was played today and the upsets were : Loek Van Wely (Netherlands) by Ye Jiangchuan (China); Evgeny Bareev (Russia) by Konstantin Sakaev (Russia). Ponomariov won his first game against his higher rated opponent, Kiril Georgiev (Bulgaria).

FIDE 2001 Women's World Chess Championship Knockout Tournament

This championship is held in the same place and time as the WCC, starts at the same time, and uses the same time control. However, since there are only 64 women playing in Round 1(the WCC involves 128 players in Round 1), the final will be a 4 game match, and at the same time as the WCC semi-finals matches.

As in the WCC, Round 1 was a 2-game match, with the same play-off system. Our 2001 Canadian Women's Champion, WIM Nava Starr (2200), played Romanian WGM Corina Peptan (2465), the # 9 ranked player. She was defeated and knocked out of the competition, 2:0. Our congratulations to Nava for having achieved the goal of playing in the Championship – thanks for representing Canada !

In Round 2, the only upset in the top five was Wang Pin (China), # 4, losing to Elisabeth Paetz (Germany).

SCC Fall (Sun.) 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.

But one Sunday tournament was completed before we had to close on Sunday, which has not yet been reported. It was a 6 round, 15 player event, and concluded Oct. 21. The winner was Jim PATERSON with 5/6 pts.. His only loss was to second-place finisher, Bryan LAMB, who had 4 pts. (had taken 2 byes, and withdrew in round 6).

NOTE :

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

5. 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.