

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

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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 ?

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2002 !!

Well, we've put another year of chess behind us, and now we start out, with new vigor, into the uncertain new year ahead. Have you made your New Year's resolution to "improve your chess" ?? Have you ever made this one in previous years ? We all hope, individually, to improve our chess, even minimally.... even those of us who seem to have been plateaued for what seems most of our chess life !! Hope springs eternal!

And as a country, Canada also hopes to improve its international presence on the chess scene. We look to individual Canadian chess players to get victories on the international stage; we look to Canadian teams (eg. Canadian university teams playing in the recent Pan-American Intercollegiate Championships; the Olympiad team; etc.) to place well among their country peers. As a nation, hope springs eternal !

But, on what do we base these hopes. What is the evidence that individual Canadians and Canada, as a country, can improve ?

To look forward, we must look back. And isn't that part of New Year's too – taking stock of the past year, 2001. If we see a trend in the past year, then maybe we can legitimately hope that it will continue on into 2002.

We here at SCTCN&V propose to spend the next number of Issues in the New Year looking at that very question – What does the GTA chess past indicate about the Canadian chess future ? We are going to do this, by looking at the quality of our junior players in the GTA. Juniors tend to "improve" on a very rapid curve. And juniors are not only Canada's future, but also their present. Witness the participation of juniors in the last Olympiad team (Igor Zugic and Pascal Charbonneau). What about Mark Bluvshstein 's 8th – 11th place finish in the 2001 WYCC Under 14 year olds (and the fact that he received his IM as a result of his performance in the 2001 Canadian Closed)? What about Hazel Smith's 9th – 17th place finish in the 2001 WYCC Girl's Under 10 years old ? Or Amanda Benggawan 's recent 7th place finish in the recent 2001 Amateur

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World Chess Championship in Brazil ? So juniors are critical to Canada's performance in 2002, both with respect to those who are already highly skilled, and with respect to those currently on a steep learning curve.

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 four of their games they like the best, over the last 1-2 years. And we have looked at some of their other games they've provided, or from other sources. Then we've tried to choose an interesting collection of 4 games, that show their style, their positional ability, their tactical ability, etc.. We have tried to limit the annotations, because of the nature of the newsletter, to about 5- 10 key points in the game (but this is a hopeless and thankless task). And 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. And 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 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 !

And a " Happy New Year " to all from SCTCN&V !

GTA Juniors : Part of Canada's Present & Future (Part 1)

" Spotlight " on Alina Sviridovitch !

Alina, as a result of her amazing performance at the recently concluded Toronto Christmas Open '01, has now taken top spot in Canadian juniors under 10 years old (mixed). She is also, therefore, # 1 in the Canadian Girls U 10. In the tournament , rated 1815, she played in the middle section, Under 2100 (with U 1900). After 4 rounds, she was leading the tournament, with 4 consecutive wins ! She had already dispatched the top-rated player in the section in Rd. 2, and the 3rd highest in Rd. 4. And in Rd. 5, she faced the 4th highest rated player in the section. She only needed a draw to get clear first, But it was not to be – she lost, and co-shared first with 3 other players, at 4/5 points. A truly great performance for her ! Congratulations Alina !

Alina started showing her chess ability early – in 1998, at 6 years old, she won the U 8 years old section in a Belarus International Chess Tournament; the same year she

played in the U 10 years old Belarus National Championships; at 8 years old, she came 1st in the 2000 Toronto Summer International Open – Under 1400 section, having moved to Canada recently . And in 2001, she participated in the 2001 Canadian Women’s Closed Championship.

She has shown remarkable improvement in 2001. At Jan. 1, 2001, she was a mid-C Class player, rated 1493. By Feb., she had pushed her rating up to the middle of the B Class, at 1699. In October she entered the A Class with an 1819 rating. And her rating, as a result of this last tournament, will likely jump to just below 1900.

Here is one of her games early on in 2001, played on Feb. 18/01 in a Dutton CC club tournament, against one of the clubs active experts (also a junior). It shows her ability to play positionally against a strong player :

Dutton, Warren (2027) – Sviridovitch, Alina (1565)

(Notes by Bob Armstrong)

1.e4 g6 2.f4 Bg7 3.Nf3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.h3 d6 6.a4 Nf6

Alina seems to like to play Pirc/KI/Modern types of defences

7.d3 Qc7 8.Be2 c4

an exchange of P’s offer, which if accepted would give her a “ slight “ advantage : 9.dxc4 Nxe4 10.0-0 Ng3 11.Re1 Qb6+ 12.Kh2 Qf2 13.Nbd2 0-0 =/+ . Even when W refuses the exchange, the position remains = .

9.0-0 0-0 10.g4 cxd3 11.Qxd3 e5 12.f5 d5 13.Nbd2 dxe4 14.Nxe4 Rd8 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Qe3 ?-/+ (16.Qe4 =/+) Re8 ?? =

Alina wrongly chooses the “ overprotection “ strategy – she has the eP four-fold protected, which is only double attacked; the correct, more dynamic, and risky-looking move is 16.....gxf5 17.gxf5 Ne7 18.Bd3 e4 19.Bxe4 Qg3+ -/+.

17.fxc6 fxc6 18.Bc4+ ?? =/+ (18.Ng5 +/-) Be6 19.Bxe6+ Rxe6 20.Ng5 Bxc6 21.Qxc6 Rf8 ?= (better is 21....Rd8 =/+) 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23.Be3 Qe7 ? +/-

Alina has the passed P, but it is isolated; given the rating disparity, one can understand her willingness to trade off Q’s, simplify, and hope for at least a drawn ending. Better is 23....e4 24.Rf1+ Kg8 25.Qh6 Re8 = .

24.Rf1+ Kg8 25.Qxe7 Rxe7 26.Rd1 Kg7 27.Rd5 Kf7 28.Bc5 Rc7 29.Ba3 b6 30.Kf2 Na5 31.Ke2 Nc4 32.Kd3 ? =/- (32.a5 =) Ke6 33.Rd8 ? -/+

with these last 2 moves, Warren has given Alina a “ clear “ advantage in the ending. Better was 33.Rb5 a6 34.Rb4 Kd5 35.h4 e4+ 36.Ke2 h6 =/- .

33.....Nxa3 34.bxa3 Rd7+ 35.Rxd7 Kxd7 36.Ke4 Ke6 37.g5 a6 -/+

here a draw was agreed to – well deserved by Alina. One can understand her not relishing the idea of trying to see if she could convert her “ clear “ advantage to a win in an ending against an expert 462 points higher than her !

A game played on June 24, 2001 in another Dutton CC club tournament shows her ability to play a tactical attacking game as well :

Nadeau, Richard (1797) – Sviridovitch, Alina (1756)

(Notes by Bob Armstrong)

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Ne8 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 Nf6 12.Nd3 ? = (12. c5 +/-) f4 13.Bf2 b6 14.b4 g5 15.c5 h5

Alina loves throwing up those P's at the opponent's K

16.h3 Qe8 17.cxd6 cxd6 18.Ne1 Qg6 19.Qd3 g4 ?! +/-

Alina picks the slightly inferior attacking move, rather than the somewhat better alternatives of 19....Bb7 20. Nb5 = or 19....Bd7 20.Nb5 Nfxd5 21.Qb3 Rfc8 22.exd5 e4 =.

20.hxg4 hxg4 21.fxg4 Bxg4 22.Bh4 ?? -/+
maintaining = is 22.Bxg4 Nxg4 23.Rc1 = .

22....Kf7 23.Bxf6 Bxf6 ?? =

Alina goes for the wrong B. Maintaining her " clear " advantage is 23....Bxe2
A) 24.Nxe2 Bxf6 25.Rc1 Rh8 26.Rc7 Qh7 27.Nf3 Qh1+ 28.Kf2 Bh4+ -/+; B) 24.Qxe2 Bxf6 25.Nb5 Bg7 26.Rc1 Rh8 27.Qf3 Rh7 -/+ .

24.Nb5 Rad8 ?! +/-

Alina chooses the aR, sacrificing the aP, since she wants the fR to go to h8 ! Maintaining her slight advantage and holding the P is 24....Rfd8 25.Bxg4 Qxg4 26.a4 Bh4 27.Qf3 Qg6 =/+ .

25.Nxa7 Rh8 26.Bxg4 Qxg4 27.Qf3 Qh4 ?! =

Alina gives up the opportunity to get the P back, in favour of trying to attack.
Maintaining her " slight " advantage is 27....Qd7 28.Nc6 Nxc6 29.dxc6 Qxc6 30.Rd1 Rdg8 =/+ .

28.Nc6 ?? -/+

Richard is now starting to get himself into deep water ! To keep the position equal requires 28.Rc1 Qh2+ 29.Kf2 Bh4+ 30.Ke2 Rdg8 31.Nb5 Rg3 32.Qf2 Kg7 33.Nf3 Rxc2 34.Nxh2 = .

28....Rdg8 29.a4 ? -+ Rg3 30.Qe2 ?

this makes the drowning worse, since the Q is now occupying the e2 square which the K will need to escape in tatters .

30.....Re3

somewhat quicker (though at this point, does it really matter how death occurs ?) is 30....Qh2+ 31.Kf2 Bh4 -+ .

31.Nf3 Qh1 + 32.Kf2 Bh4+ 33.Nxh4 Qxh4+ -+

and W resigned since mate follows on the loss of W's Q. A good attacking game !

In the third round of the Toronto Christmas Open '01, on Dec. 28, she played white against a Dutch Defence. With the opening errors on both sides, the analysis turns out to be quite complicated; but just playing the game over is exciting, and Alina shows poise under pressure and finally triumphs :

Sviridovitch, Alina (1815) – Dubeau, Jason (1914)

(Notes : moves 1 – 17 by Bob Armstrong; moves 18 – 45 by Steve Karpik)

**1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 Be7 5.Be2 b6 6.Nbd2 Bb7 7.c4 0-0 8.Qc2 Ne4
9. Nb3 ?? -/+**

Alina doesn't sense the storm that's about to break. Maintaining equality is 9.h3 = .

9....g5 10.Bg3 f4 ?? +/-

Although this looks good, it removes one of the supports of the N on e4.

11.Bd3 !

this is a move that Alina found, that the ChessBase computer program passed over, when it wrongly analyzed the position after 10....f4 as a “ clear “ advantage to Bl. ? It wrongly suggested the inferior 11.a3 -/+ .

11....d5 ?? +-

this gives Alina a “ winning “ advantage on move 11 ! Maintaining the status quo of a “ slight “ advantage to her is 11....fxg3 12.Bxe4 gxf2+ 13.Kxf2 Bxe4 14.Qxe4 +/- .

12.Ne5 ? -+

Alina misjudges the position, and suddenly Jason has a “ winning “ advantage at move 12 ! Keeping her winning advantage is 12.exf4 dxc4 13.Qxc4 Qd5 14.fxg5 Nc6 15.Qxd5 exd5 16.Bxc7 +- .

12.....Bb4+ 13.Ke2 fxg3 14.f3 Qe8 ? +/-

Jason has a lapse, and lets Alina off the hook . What a rollercoaster ride ! Correct was 14....Qe7 -+ .

15.hxg3

Alina captures the hP, looking at the attacking possibilities on the half-opened h-file. An alternate is 15.cxd5 exd5 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Qc4+ Kh8 18.Qxb4 Nd7 =/+

15.....Nxg3+ 16.Kf2 Ne4+ !

A good judgment call by Jason. Amazingly, taking the W R loses ! : 16....Nxh1 17.Rxh1 A) 17.....h5 +-; B) 17.....Rf6 B1) 18.Ng4 Nd7 19.Rxh7 Be7 20.Qb1 +-; B2)18.Rxh7+/- .

17.Kg1 Nd7 ?? =

Best is 17....Nc6 18.cxd5 Nxe5 19.Bxe4 Ng6 20.dxe6 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Qe7 22.d5 Rae8-/+.

18.fxe4 Nxe5 19.dxe5 dxe4 20.Bxe4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Qf7 22.Nd4 Rad8
[22....Rae8 23.Rh6 +/-]

23.Nxe6 ! Qf2+
[23....Qxe6 24.Qxh7#]

24.Kh2 Rf6 25.Nxg5 Rh6+ 26.Nh3 Rdd6 ??
[26....Qxb2 27.Rab1 Qa3 +/-]

27.Raf1 +- Rxh3+ 28.Kxh3 Rh6+ 29.Kg4 Qe2+ 30.Kg5
[30.Kf5 c6 31.Rxh6 Qxf1+ 32.Kg4 Qd1+ 33.Kg3 +-]

30....Rg6+ 31.Kf5 Kg7 ?
[31....Rg7 32.e6 Qxb2 33.Qa8+ Bf8 34.Rf4 +/-]

32.Qd4
[32.Rf4 Be7 33.Rg4 Qxg4+ 34.Qxg4 Rxg4 35.Kxg4 +-]

32....Be7 33.Rf3 ?? [33.g4 +-] Qxg2
[33....Qc2+ 34.Qe4 Rg5+ 35.Kf4 Rg4+ 36.Kxg4 Qxe4+ 37.Kg3 Qxe5+ 38.Kf2 Qxb2+
39.Kg3 Bd6+ 40.Kh3 Qxa2 -+]

34.Rfh3 Qg5+ ??
[34....Kf8 35.Qd1 Rg7 -+]

35.Ke4 +- h6 36.e6+
[36.Qd7 !? a6 +-]

36.....Kh7 37.Qd7 Qf6 38.Rf3 Rg4+ ?
[38....Qxe6+ 39.Qxe6 Rxe6+ 40.Kd5 Rd6+ 41.Ke5 Kg6 +-]

39.Kd3
[39.Rf4 Rxf4+ 40.exf4 +-]

40.Kc3 +- Qg7+ 41.Kb3 Rg2 42.Qd4
[42.Rf7 Rxb2+ 43.Ka4 b5+ 44.Ka5 Rxa2+ 45.Kxb5 c5 46.Rxg7+ Kxg7 47.Qxe7+ Kg6
48.Qf7+ Kg5 49.Rg1+ Rg2 50.Rxg2+ Kh4 51.Qf4+ Kh5 52.Qg4 #]

42.....Qg5
[42....Qxd4 43.exd4 Rg7 +-]

43.Qe4+ Kg8 44.Qa8+ Bd8 45.Rhf1
[45.Rd1 Qxe3+ 46.Rxe3 Rg7 47.Rxd8+ Kh7 48.Qe4+ Rg6 49.Rg3 Kg7 50.Qxg6 #]

45....Rxb2+ 1-0

The final game of Alina's we will review is her win against the third-highest rated player in her section, in round 4 of the Toronto Christmas Open '01, played Dec. 29. Rick Garel, past SCC member, ran the game through the Fritz 6 auto-analysis for us, but due to space considerations, and the fact that we've done notations for the first three games, we have decided just to present the game for your own enjoyment, and analysis.

Mitro, David (1987) – Sviridovitch, Alina (1815)

1.e4 d5 2.Nf3 dxe4 3.Ng5 Nf6 4.Bc4 e6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Ngxe4 Nd5 8.Qg4 0-0
9.Qe2 Nd4 10.Qd3 Nb4 11.Qg3 Nf5 12.Qe5 Nc6 13.Qb5 a6 14.Qa4 Bd7 15.d3 Ne5
16.Qa5 Ng6 17.b4 b6 18.Qa3 Nd4 19.Qb2 b5 20.Bb3 Bxb4 21.Bd2 a5 22.a3 Be7
23.Rfe1 f5 24.Ng3 Bf6 25.Qa2 a4 26.Bxe6+ Bxe6 27.Rxe6 Nxe6 28.Qxe6+ Kh8
29.Rb1 c6 30.Nxf5 Bd4 31.Ne4 Qd5 32.Qxd5 cxd5 33.Nxd4 dxe4 34.dxe4 Rfd8
35.Be3 Rac8 36.f3 Rc3 37.Kf2 Rxa3 38.Rxb5 Ra8 39.Rb7 Rc3 40.Nf5 Rxc2+ 41.Kg3
Nf8 42.Nxg7 a3 43.Bd4 Kg8 44.Be5 a2 45.Nf5 Ne6 46.Nh6+ Kf8 47.Bd6+ Ke8
48.Re7+ Kd8 49.Nf7+ Kc8 50.Be5 Rc5 51.f4 a1Q 52.Bxa1 Rxa1 53.Ne5 Rc3+ 54.Kg4
Nc5 55.Rxh7 Nxe4 56.Kf5 Nd6+ 57.Ke6 Nb5 58.g4 Re3 59.g5 Ra6+ 60.Ke7 Ra7+
61.Kf8 Rxh7 62.g6 Rxh2 63.g7 Rg3 64.f5 Rf2 65.Ng6 Rxg6 66.Kg8 Rxg7+ 0-1

Conclusion

These games demonstrate fine play by Alina. We will have many years of entertaining chess to play over as the years pass, and she continues to improve. The next challenge for her is to make the jump to expert ! We wish her all the best of luck, and skill, in 2002 !

And we also wish her a big Happy Birthday Alina ! (today is her 10th birthday !)

January 2002 Tournament Chess

1. Jan. 2 – 6 : 2002 Canadian Junior – 8 round swiss in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
2. Jan. 5 – 13 : US Closed Chess Championship (with US Women's Championship)
3. Jan. 9 – Feb. 6 : 2002 Toronto Closed Championship (at Dutton CC)
4. Jan. 11 – 27 : Corus Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands –
Garry Kasparov (Russia), Michael Adams (England), Peter Leko (Hungary), Evgeny Breev (Russia), Loek Van Wely (Netherlands), Alexander Khalifman (Russia), Boris Gelfand (Israel), Rustam Kasimdzhanov (Uzbekistan), Alexey Dreev (Russia), Alexander Grischuk (Russia), Joel Lautier (France), Mikhail Gurevich (Belgium), Jeroen Piket (Netherlands), Jan Timman (Netherlands).
5. Jan. 16 – 26 : FIDE WCC – Ruslan Ponomoriov (Ukraine) vs Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine)

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.

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