

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

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“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 11 – February 1, 2003

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

Shabalov Wins 2003 USA Championship

From Jan. 9 –18, 58 of the USA’s top masters fought it out over a \$250,000 prize fund (first prize – \$ 25,000; women’s champion - \$ 12,500), the largest ever for a national title. This tournament integrates the top USA women players, and they are all paired in one swiss. The top women finisher wins the championship. It was played in Seattle.

Going into the final round there was a log jam of 8 players at 5.5/8 : Kaidanov, Shabalov, Akobian, Stripunsky, Gulko, Ivanov, Benjamin and Fedorowicz. Alexander Shabalov faced the 18 year old Varuzhan Akobian. All of the other leaders drew their games – a number of grandmaster draws (looking at the prize money). But Shabalov and Akobian were going for the top spot. First of all Shabalov sac’d a pawn for hoped for positional advantage. Then he lost a second pawn and looked to be in trouble. Fortunately for Shabalov, Akobian then had trouble re-organizing his pieces. Shabalov then sac’d his N temporarily to come up with one of his lost pawns, but more importantly, it left Akobian’s King caught in the center. This forced Akobian to sac his Queen for Rook and Knight to stop a mate. Then in the Queen vs Rook + Bishop ending, Shabalov sac’d his Queen for the Rook, in order to promote his passed pawn. A truly exciting championship game – here it is :

Shabalov,A (2613) – Akobian,V (2531) [C02]

ch-USA Seattle USA (9), 18.01.2003

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 Nh6 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Bb2 Be7 10.h4 h5

SCTCN&V Website : <http://scarboroughchess.webhop.net>

SCC e – mail : scarboro@idirect.ca

SCC Website : <http://webhome.idirect.com/~blamb/>

Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Ave.

(one block east of Woodbine Ave./Cosburn Ave. intersection, in former East York)

11.Bd3 g6 12.Bxf5 gxf5 13.Nc3 Rg8 14.g3 Bd7 15.Bc1 Rc8 16.Ne2 a5 17.b5 Qxb5 18.Bg5 a4 19.Rb1 Qa5+ 20.Kf1 Bxa3 21.Ra1 Qb4 22.Nf4 Rh8 23.Kg2 b5 24.Bf6 Rh6 25.Re1 Qf8 26.Qe2 Be7 27.Bg5 Rh8 28.Rec1 Rb8 29.Rab1 Bxg5 30.hxg5 Qa3 31.g6 fxg6 32.Nxe6 Bxe6 33.Rxc6 Qe7 34.Rxb5 Kf7 35.Ng5+ Qxg5 36.Rc7+ Qe7 37.Rxe7+ Kxe7 38.Rc5 Rhc8 39.Qa6 Rxc5 40.Qa7+ Ke8 41.dxc5 Rc8 42.Qxa4+ Bd7 43.Qd4 Be6 44.f4 Ke7 45.Qb4 Rc6 46.Kh3 Bd7 47.Kh4 Kf7 48.Kg5 Ke7 49.Qb3 Re6 50.Qxd5 Bc6 51.Qa2 Bd7 52.Kh6 Be8 53.Kg7 Bd7 54.Qh2 Rc6 55.Qh4+ Ke8 56.Qf6 Rxf6 57.exf6 Be6 58.c6 g5 59.fxg5 f4 60.g6 fxg3 61.f7+ 1-0

The Women's USA Championship saw a three way tie after the 9 rounds of regular play , between last year's champion, WIM Jennifer Shahade. WGM Irina Krush, and WIM Anna Hahn. Hahn won the fast time control 3 – way playoff, and won the championship. It is interesting to note that this championship showed why many people are opposed to the integrated system of determining a women's champion. The argument is that a swiss system is good for determining a winner and a runner – up, but becomes more of a lottery when trying to find the best female player down in the pack. Hahn in the main tournament had the easiest time of it , playing weaker opponents than did either of the other two. In fact Shahade's opponents averaged 219 points stronger than those of Hahn. Yet Hahn tied in points in the middle of the pack. Something to remember when some argue against Canada having a separate women's championship. So the championship got decided on three 15 min. games – not the best.

Anand Wins 2003 Corus Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands GM Tournament

This traditionally strong start of the year international tournament had a stellar line-up : Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), current World Champion; Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine), 2002 FIDE World Champion; Viswanathan Anand (India), 2000 FIDE World Champion; Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), 2002 FIDE World Champion Runner – Up; last year's Corus winner, Evgeny Bareev (Russia); Anatoly Karpov (Russia), 12th FIDE World Champion; Judit Polgar (Hungary), strongest women's player in the world; Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria); Alexei Shirov (Spain); Alexander Grischuk (Russia); Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan); Loek Van Wely (Netherlands); Michal Krasenkow (Poland); and Jan Timman (Netherlands).

Though he hadn't played any classical chess for about a year, Anand showed he fully deserves his ranking as the third-highest rated player in the world. This will only fuel the debate about his being excluded from the current title reunification matches. He was undefeated, scoring 8.5/13 pts., a ½ pt. ahead of the second place finisher. In second at 8 pts, was Judit Polgar, also undefeated. On the way she defeated and Karpov, and drew Anand, Kramnik and Ponomariov. This was one of her best ever showings in tournament play, and showed that she is still a player to be reckoned with. Third place went to Bareev, with 7.5 pts.

This tournament showed that Kramnik is certainly not invincible. He lost 3 games and finished tied 4th-8th. Ponomariov also fared poorly, losing 5 games, and finishing tied 11th-12th. Not an auspicious showing for one battling with FIDE to get better terms in his hoped for upcoming match with the top ranked Garry Kasparov, in the championship reunification cycle.

The FIDE “ Man vs Machine “ Championship Match

With the Kramnik vs Deep Fritz match still fresh in everyone’s mind (they drew), now along comes Garry Kasparov, 13th FIDE World Champion and highest rated player in the world, to play three-times computer world champion, Deep Junior. It is Garry’s first computer match since his match in 1997 with IBM’s Deep Blue. It is a six game match (Jan. 26, 28, 30, Feb. 2, 4 , 6), and is played at classical time control (40 moves in 2 hrs., additional 20 moves in 1 hr., and sudden death 30 min.). The prize fund is \$ 1 Million. If Garry wins the match, he gets \$ 800,000, \$ 750,000 for a draw, and \$ 700,000 for a loss. Not bad money for sitting opposite a silicon chip for a few days.

Kasparov won the first game on Jan. 26. He had an awesome Knight planted in the middle of DJ’s position, and the computer decided to give up the exchange to get rid of it, certainly a dubious decision. After a few more exchanges, down the exchange, DJ resigned. Here is the game :

Kasparov,G (2836) – Deep Junior (2800) [D45]

ChessBase GmbH ChessBase GmbH (1), 26.01.2003

[Bartels,Ben]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.g4 dxc4 8.Bxc4 b6 9.e4 e5 10.g5 Nh5 11.Be3 0-0 12.0-0-0 Qc7 13.d5 b5 14.dxc6 bxc4 15.Nb5 Qxc6 16.Nxd6 Bb7 17.Qc3 Rae8 18.Nxe8 Rxe8 19.Rhe1 Qb5 20.Nd2 Rc8 21.Kb1 Nf8 22.Ka1 Ng6 23.Rc1 Ba6 24.b3 cxb3 25.Qxb3 Ra8 26.Qxb5 Bxb5 27.Rc7 1-0

The second game on Jan. 28 was an exciting draw. Kasparov was black and played the Sicilian , but not his favourite Najdorf. A little into the game, Kaspy gave up the exchange on the Queen-side, and in return got a pawn on the 2nd, which however was short-lived. Being up material, with Kasparov pushing for a back-rank mate, DJ then sac’d his Queen for a Rook and Bishop. Kasparov initially offered a draw, which DJ declined, but shortly after they agreed to a draw. Here is the game :

DEEP JUNIOR – Kasparov,G (2847) [B42]

FIDE Man-Machine WC New York USA (2), 28.01.2003

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.c4 Nc6 8.Nc3 d6 9.0-0 Nge7 10.Re1 0-0 11.Be3 e5 12.Nd5 a5 13.Rc1 a4 14.Bxa7 Rxa7 15.Nd2 Nd4 16.Qh5 Ne6 17.Rc3 Nc5 18.Bc2 Nxd5 19.exd5 g6 20.Qh6 f5 21.Ra3 Qf6 22.b4 axb3 23.Rxa7 bxc2 24.Rc1 e4 25.Rxc2 Qa1+ 26.Nf1 f4 27.Ra8 e3 28.fxe3 fxe3 29.Qxf8+ Kxf8 30.Rxc8+ Kf7 ½-½

In the third game, D.J. made a comeback and won, tying the match 1.5 : 1.5. Kasparov started promisingly, sacking a pawn for a King-side attack, eventually winning the pawn back. But his attack petered out, and D.J. won a loose pawn on the K-side to go a pawn up. Thereafter, commentators said Kasparov had a draw, but misplayed it, losing a second pawn in the center, and he resigned. Here is the game :

Kasparov,G (2847) – DEEP JUNIOR [D45]

FIDE Man-Machine WC New York USA (3), 30.01.2003

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 Be7 9.Bd2 0-0 10.g4 Nxc4 11.Rg1 Ndf6 12.h3 Nh6 13.e4 dxe4 14.Bxh6 exd3 15.Rxc7+ Kh8 16.Qxd3 Rg8 17.Rxc8+

Nxg8 18.Bf4 f6 19.0-0-0 Bd6 20.Qe3 Bxf4 21.Qxf4 Bxh3 22.Rg1 Qb8 23.Qe3 Qd6 24.Nh4 Be6
25.Rh1 Rd8 26.Ng6+ Kg7 27.Nf4 Bf5 28.Nce2 Ne7 29.Ng3 Kh8 30.Nxf5 Nxf5 31.Qe4 Qd7
32.Rh5 Nxd4 33.Ng6+ Kg8 34.Ne7+ Kf8 35.Nd5 Qg7 36.Qxd4 Rxd5 0-1

Vladimir (Walter) Dobrich Starting Games Club @ 1681 Bayview Avenue

Walter will be opening this new club today, Feb. 1. He is seeking Tournament Directors to work with the club. **Anyone interested, please contact Vladimir Dobrich at (416) 722-9709.** The club is where the old Dutton Chess Club used to be (Directions: On Bayview, just south of Eglinton Ave E. Back of Top floor of building where Chess 'n' Math was formerly located – only two doors down from current Chess 'n' Math site. Sign out front for Dr. Dennis Bader, Optometrist. Parking on Bayview Ave after 6 PM or on side streets in the area. [Map it](#)). Currently Walter has announced a 7 double round chess Blitz tournament for 1:30 PM on Saturday, Feb. 1, for its opening. It will also provide backgammon as one of its other games. More details are to follow. Good luck Walter.

CAN. OLYMPIAN CHESS MASTER TO VISIT K-W CHESS CLUB

International Master Yan Teplitsky will give a talk at the Kitchener-Waterloo Chess Club on Saturday, February 22 at 8:30pm.

Teplitsky is appearing during the K-W Winter Open Chess Tournament, held over the weekend of February 21-23.

He will demonstrate some of his games from the Bled Chess Olympiad (Slovenia) where he had an outstanding result as a member of the Canadian team, achieving a second 'norm' towards an International Grandmaster title. After the lecture there will be time for a question and answer session with the audience. (Total time expected to be about two hours.)

It is expected that many participants in the weekend tournament will want be part of this lecture. Early registration is therefore suggested, as space may be limited.

To register:

Send cheque to Albert Den-Otter, 11 Hermie Place, Kitchener, ON. N2H 4X9
Information: (519) 744-5213 email: ardenotter@hotmail.com

Saturday, February 22, 2003 8:30pm

Kitchener City Hall – Conestoga Room (1st floor)
\$8 for tournament participants and KWCC members - \$12 for others

For further information about entering the K-W Winter Open Chess Tournament please see the club web site at www.kwchessclub.com or contact Albert Den Otter as shown above.

SCC Saturday Swiss – New Tournament

As we have advised in previous Issues, SCC has moved its weekend meetings to Saturday, from the prior slot of Sunday. Today, Saturday, Feb. 1, at 1:30 PM, we start Rd 1 of a brand new Swiss. So if you like Saturday play, and want to get into a CFC-rated tournament, come on out and sign up on site. See you there.

A - Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, at bobarm@sympatico.ca or through SCC e-mail, to :

1. Be added to the free e-mail list; 2. Submit content (fact, opinion, criticism, recommendations!).
- 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.
D- To review this newsletter after it has been deleted, or any of the archived newsletters back to Sept. 1, 2002, visit our own SCTCN&V official website at : <http://scarboroughchess.webhop.net>.