

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 ?

January FIDE Rating List

There is only one player over 2800 : # 1 : Garry Kasparov (Russia), 13th FIDE World Champion – 2831.

There are now 17 players in the 2700's. # 2 is still Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), 2000 BrainGamesNetwork World Champion (in the April/03 list he dropped out of the 2800's for the first time in almost 2 years) – 2777; # 3 spot is still held by Viswanathan Anand (India), 2000 FIDE World Champion – 2766 (only 11 pts. behind Kramnik); new in the # 4 spot is Peter Svidler (Russia) – 2747 (up from # 9 previously, with a 24 pt. jump); # 5 – Alexei Shirov (Spain) – 2736; at # 8 (up from # 11) is the strongest women's player in the world, Judit Polgar (Hungary), who is playing very strong chess recently – 2728; # 9 is Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine), 2002 FIDE World Champion – 2722; staying at # 10 is Peter Leko (Hungary), the challenger of Kramnik in their semi-final Prague Unity match which is now supposed to take place Sept./Oct. this year – 2722;

12th FIDE World Champion, Anatoly Karpov (Russia) is # 21 – 2682; 1999 FIDE World Champion, Alexander Khalifman (Russia) is # 28 – 2674.

Here are a number of the younger players we've been watching : Alexander Grischuk (Russia) is # 12 (down from # 7) – 2719; Etienne Bacrot (France) is # 32 – 2664; Francisco Vallejo Pons (Spain) is # 33 – 2662; Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan) is # 35 (up from # 45) – 2656.

The two highest Canadians with FIDE ratings are : GM Kevin Spraggett, former Canadian Champion, at 2536; GM Alexandre Le Siege, 2001 Canadian Champion, at 2513.

Prague Unity Agreement Moves Forward

The Kramnik – Leko Classical World Championship match has now found a sponsor, the Swiss tobacco company, Dannemann. The match will be held from Sept. 25 to October 18. Location is still to be announced.

On the FIDE side of the draw, there will be two simultaneous knock out matches in two different locations. The two winners will play off for the FIDE championship. That winner then plays Garry Kasparov, the number one rated player.

The winner of that match will play the Kramnik – Leko match winner for the unified World Championship title.

Anand Wins Corus Wijk Aan Zee Tournament

This tournament is always one of the strongest of the year. This year it boasted having 6 of the top 10 players in the world : Vladimir Kramnik (Russia)- # 2; Viswanathan Anand (India) - # 3; Peter Svidler (Russia) - # 4; Alexey Shirov (Spain) - # 5; Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) - # 6; Peter Leko (Hungary) - # 10. Fourteen players participated in all.

Anand won with 8.5/13 pts., losing only one game. Peter Leko was undefeated, and came tied for second/third with 8 pts..Michael Adams (England) also scored 8 pts, losing only one game, to tie for second /third. Kramnik tied for 6th – 9th .

Canadian Chess History

(submitted by David Cohen)

The Ontario Chess Association was founded in 1879! The first meeting was held in Guelph on Dec. 12. 9 players entered the first Ontario Championship, won in 1880 by Mr. W.M. Stark.

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

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