

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 # 21 – July 15, 2004

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

Rustam Kasimdzhanov is 2004 FIDE World Champion !

July 13 saw the end of the final match in the FIDE World Championship knockout tournament being played in Tripoli, Libya. It pitted the # 6 player in the world, Michael Adams of England, against the # 54 rated player, Rustam Kasimdzhanov of Uzbekistan. The first 6-game part of the match was an exciting affair. The first game was a draw. Then Kasimdzhanov took the lead with a win in the second game. But Adams won the third game and tied the match. In the fourth game, Kasimdzhanov again won and took the lead again. But Adams fought back in game 5 to again tie the match. The 6th game ended in a draw, but it was an amazing game. Near the end, Kasimdzhanov had a winning move and missed it. Then Adams had a forced mate and missed it. Drawing the match forced a playoff.

Kasimdzhanov won game one of the 2-game playoff, and then drew the 2nd game to win the championship.

Later this year, under the Prague Unity Agreement to unify the world title, Kasimdzhanov will play Garry Kasparov (Russia), the # 1 rated player in the world.

Lybia Was Not the Ideal World Championship Site

We set out below a letter to the CFC Governors from Phil Haley, former CFC President and FIDE Representative, about concerns that arose in choosing Libya as the site for the world championship :

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Dear Governors,

Relative to the various letters on this subject...I was at Arnold Denker's 90th birthday dinner in Boca Raton. Florencio Campomanes honorary FIDE president was there as was David Jarrett the FIDE treasurer from England and Laktar Mazouz , FIDE representative from Algeria and member of the Verification Commission. The question of Libya was raised at a press conference. Campomanes replied that Libya guaranteed that all players would be admitted. He said that stories to the contrary were untrue and that all players had to do was show up and they would be given visas in Libya. David Jarrett and Laktar Mazouz told me the same thing when I raised the question with them. They all stressed that Libya was meeting all the requirements of FIDE regulations. A major problem that is not covered by FIDE regulations is the fact that FIDE regulations do not cover accompanying persons such as wives, seconds etc of the players...and it is my understanding that these persons in the case of Jewish players would not have been allowed in. The FIDE people who were in Boca Raton realize that this is not a fair situation and recognize that the FIDE regulations must be changed. I personally believe also that FIDE should have communicated more positively that all qualified players would be given visas on arrival even to the point of guaranteeing to pay all expenses of anyone who might, on arrival, not be allowed into Libya...as I can understand how some players might have been reluctant to go to Libya with doubts as to whether on arrival they would be given a visa.

In general, I have never been satisfied with the way in which President Ilyumzhinov and his supporters manage the affairs of FIDE. I supported Bachar Kouatly of France in his bid for president but this failed. Some years ago Fan Adams of the US and myself from Canada were invited by the European federations to a meeting in Utrecht to discuss FIDE leadership problems...this resulted in GM Sunye-Neto being selected to run against Ilyumzhinov. I personally strongly supported Jaime Sunye-Neto. However, after much manoeuvring in which some of Sunye-Neto's team became instead members of Ilyumzhinov's team...Ilyumzhinov won the election. Some years later I went to Savannah, Georgia to meet with Donald Schultz and Jim McCrary of the USCF and Morten Sand of Norway to again find a candidate to run against Ilyumzhinov. We agreed that Morten Sand would be a good choice but he did very little and this venture was a failure. More recently the French Federation, Morten Sand and Ignatius Leong took action to support Leong running for president. Both the USCF representative and myself supported Leong but this fell through. The representatives of many countries in FIDE say little or nothing at FIDE meetings. Some representatives are highly critical of Ilyumzhinov and the way in which FIDE is run...but this leads to nothing if no highly qualified person is willing and able to run a successful campaign against Ilyumzhinov...and to the best of my knowledge there are still no such people. I believe that Pascal Charbonneau was an excellent representative of Canada in the world championship and that as our CFC president states information from him will be valuable in arriving at a decision as to any action the CFC should take. Although I am personally not happy with the present FIDE president, we should only take action or submit motions or criticism based on facts. It would seem to me that based on the way things now stand that the best we could do would be to submit a motion that would be aimed at changing FIDE regulations such as to cover all potential problems and protect

all eligible participants and their spouses, seconds and other eligible accompanying persons. Phil Haley

Results of the Canadian Youth Chess Championships

This tournament was recently concluded in Kapuskasing, Ontario, and many GTA juniors came away with first place finishes. The age/gender category results were :

Boys

Under 10 – Arthur Calugar
Under 12 – Harris Kaufman
Under 14 – Raja Panjwani
Under 16 – Jonathan Tayer
Under 18 – Liam Henry

Girls

Under 10 – Alexandra Botez
Under 12 – Sonja Xiong
Under 14 – Tiffany Tang
Under 16 – Cornelia Dinca
Under 18 – Angel Xia

Toronto Canada Day Chess Festival

(Report by Martin Jaeger, Organizer and TD)

Tartu College in Toronto from July 1-4 was the scene of 4 tournaments with a total participation of 69---a Premier (10), A Reserves (28), an Active (21) and a Youth Active (10). Ron Livshits won the Premier (5-0), Morgon Mills was the top finisher in the Reserves, Michael Barron won the Active and Gordon Hui won the Youth Active. An enjoyable laid back complex of events.

David Cohen Plays for a World Championship (Part 1/2)

(submitted by David Cohen)

In the fall of 2002, I entered the Internet Slow Time Control World Championship. Games were played at the rate of one hour/player, with a five second increment per move. The event was sponsored by the Internet Chess Club (ICC) and the Free Internet Chess Server (FICS). Players from anywhere in the world could enter the tournament. Thanks to FICS, which has no fees, it was free.

Each server ran one division, with the two division winners to meet in a Championship match. The top four from each server would meet in division playoffs. I immediately set to work gathering information on my opponents. On FICS, where I played, each player's 10 most recent games were preserved for all to see. I downloaded all of my prospective opponents' games, and reviewed them for choice of openings and style of play (open vs. closed, attacking vs. positional). At the same time, I engaged in disinformation - I filled

my game history with blitz games where I deliberately played openings that I would never play in regular tournament games.

My first game was the Black side of the Sicilian Grand Prix Attack, against a player of roughly my strength. The position became blocked, and although I dropped a pawn, it was eventually drawn by the 50 move rule. My second game was an easy romp with White over a much lower rated player. I won a pawn, then won a piece, then simply traded off my opponent's remaining pieces.

In the third round, I was White in a Sicilian Lasker-Pelikan. After winning a pawn from my opponent's king shelter, I let down my guard and allowed my opponent a strong initiative. He then went from a completely won rook and pawn endgame to a drawn one to a lost one. I played a tactic that promoted a pawn with the help of a rook sacrifice. In the position, I had P/d6 guarded by R/c6. Instead of covering his back rank with ... Rh8, Black played ... Rh6. After d6-d7, Black could no longer cover his back rank, because of Rc8, defending the pawn's promotion square. In the pawnless final position, his rook became separated from his king, and was lost to a double attack by my queen.

In the fourth round, I was on the Black side of a Closed Sicilian. Right out of the opening, I missed winning a pawn through the chance to take advantage of an overworked defender. With P/d3 guarding P/e4 and B/c4, I could win the pawn with ... Nxe4, and after dxe4 recover the piece by capturing the loose B/c4. After I missed this chance, White gained the initiative, only to drop a piece on a mouseslip (a pawn advanced instead of re-capturing a piece).

With two rounds to go, I faced the tournament leader, FM Ryan Harper, who had a perfect score. When playing on the internet, one uses a handle (nickname). So, no one knows the identity of their opponent. But game dates and times are established by e-mail between the players (there is a one week window). My opponent's e-mails revealed his name, so I looked him up in my database. I found some of his games from a master round robin. I noticed that he enjoyed an attacking style, and favoured the Sicilian Dragon. I wanted to quiet things down, so I chose the White side of the Sicilian Closed. Sure enough, Black fianchettoed his dark-squared bishop. To my chagrin, the position got very lively, very quickly. I won a centre pawn. My opponent counter-attacked with his queen, making a double attack on my loose pieces. He recovered his pawn, but it was my P/b2 which fell - the one a queen is never supposed to take. He avoided getting his queen trapped, then my pieces chased his queen back home. I knew I held a positional advantage that was due to my lead in development and my actively placed pieces. However, each of us was content to draw: Harper, because he qualified for the playoffs; me, because I was placed in a good position to qualify. My opponent offered me a draw, and, not wishing to blunder after the early struggle had worn me down, I accepted. However, I still needed to win my last round game to guarantee my qualification to the playoffs.

David Cohen - FM Ryan Harper
2002 Internet Slow Time Control World Championship (5)

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Nf3 g6 4. Bb5 Nd4 5. O-O Bg7 6. d3 e6 7. Bc4 Ne7 8. Bg5 O-O
9. Nxd4 cxd4 10. Nb5 h6 11. Bh4 d5 12. Bxe7 Qxe7 13. exd5 exd5 14. Bxd5 Qb4 15. a4
a6 16. Na3 Qxb2 17. Nc4 Qb4 18. Rb1 Qe7 1/2-1/2

My sixth and final round game was an anti-climactic 11 moves. Weakly playing the White side of a Sicilian Richter-Rauzer, my opponent forgot to play the safe Kg1-h1 prior to launching his attack with f2-f4. With the retreat of the B/g5 blocked, my ... Qb6 pinned and won N/d4 along the g1-b6 diagonal. So, I won the FICS division (=1st with FM Ryan Harper) with an undefeated 5/6 (+4 =2) and happily qualified for the playoffs. (to be continued next Issue).

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

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