

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 ?

Prague Unity Agreement Crashes – Kasparov Withdraws

Moscow - January 18, 2005



In 2002 I joined with FIDE in Prague to try and unify the world championship. Over the past two and a half years, unification matches have been

SCTCN&V Website : <http://scarboroughchess.webhop.net>
SCC e – mail : scarboro@idirect.ca SCC Website : <http://www.ScarboroughChessClub.ca>
Jack Goodlad Community Ctre, 929 Kennedy Road
(½ way between Eglinton Ave. and Lawrence Ave.)

scheduled four times and each time the deadlines have come and gone while the financial guarantees were ignored.

Four times I have put my life on hold to schedule three months for preparation, play, and recuperation. The loss of earnings is easy to understand, but the hidden damage is psychological. These postponed and cancelled events have been deeply unsettling to me both professionally and personally. Our global chess federation has rarely thought enough to even keep me informed, let alone compensate me financially or even apologize for these repeated frustrations.

I called a halt to negotiations last night, but resentment at my treatment by FIDE has been building for the past three months. My life has been totally disrupted for two and a half years thanks to this on-again, off-again match and I must go on without this constant interference.

Perhaps the last straw was watching the Corus tournament in Wijk aan Zee currently underway in the Netherlands. I was forced to give up my invitation to play in this event when FIDE insisted that the match would take place in Dubai on conflicting dates. It breaks my heart to watch such a great event from the sidelines. It hurts me, and I believe chess is poorly served as well.

Some details might help clarify how I reached this state of exhaustion and disillusionment. In September 2004, FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov publicly announced that he had the funds for my match with Rustam Kasimdzhanov to take place in Dubai in January 2005. It turned out that this was completely untrue.

At a press conference at the Russian Championship in Moscow two months later I told the media that there were no contracts, no financial guarantees, and that FIDE was giving disinformation. A FIDE official present loudly “whispered” that I was lying, a remark that made its way to ChessBase.com and the chess world. Needless to say, it turned out that the lies were solely on the FIDE side of the story and it speaks volumes about the organization that no apology to me was forthcoming and that this official is still working for FIDE.

I was concerned enough about the lack of tangible progress in organizing the match to write an open letter to the FIDE Congress in October 2004. The FIDE Presidential Board refused to read or circulate this letter at the Congress, apparently believing that no news was good news.

At that time the Turkish Chess Federation was ready to take over the championship organization. President Ali Nihat Yazici had considerable momentum and was ready to proceed with procuring sponsorship guarantees. But FIDE insisted on giving Dubai even more time, even though it had been independently verified that supposed sponsor, HH Sh. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, was not going to fund the event and had never intended to.

Far too late, FIDE appointed the Turkish Chess Federation and work began in early December with deadlines looming. The first deadline passed on December 29th and more have passed since. As of today I have no contract with FIDE signed by either player, I have no financial guarantee, and I know from experience that drafting these documents can take considerable time.

I feel great sympathy for Mr. Nihat Yazici, an honorable man who has worked very hard on behalf of chess and on behalf of this match. I believe he may well have eventually come up with an acceptable form of guarantee, but I cannot wait any longer to reclaim control of my life. I will apologize to Ali and those in the Turkish government

and business community assisting him and will do my best to lend a hand to Turkish chess in the future.

It's not about money or winning the title; it's about my disillusionment with the process and the others on which it depends. In 2002 I dreamed of a legitimate chance to revive – and reclaim – the real world championship title. That no longer seems to be possible. Even if by some miracle the match is held and I win, I would bear a great deal of responsibility and still have no opportunity to unify the title. FIDE has proven itself incapable of the task while others are unwilling.

As for unification, I cannot see an avenue to contribute further. For those who saw me as an obstacle, I will be one no longer. I am not giving up on chess. I will compete as well and as long as I am able to play my brand of chess. I will continue to serve chess and those who love our game. I have now held the #1 ranking for 20 years and I will defend my position against any opponent. My only retreat is from the battlefield of chess championship politics.















Garry Kasparov
Moscow – January 18, 2005

Within a few days of Kasparov's letter, FIDE made it known that the financial guarantees for the match would have been in place by January 25, if Kasparov had only waited. But who can blame Kasparov for finally getting exasperated. So chess continues to stumble along, and unification fades again into the mists.

Leko Wins Corus Tournament

This is one of the strongest tournaments of the year, with an average rating of 2721, including the current Classical World Champion, Kramnik (Russia), the Vice Champion, Leko (Hungary), the 2000 FIDE World Champion, Anand (India), the 2002 FIDE World Champion, Ponomarev (Ukraine), the 3rd ranked player in the world, Topalov (Bulgaria), the 6th ranked player, Morozevich (Russia), the 7th ranked player, Adams (England), the 8th ranked, Svidler (Russia) and the 9th ranked, Polgar (Hungary). It was played January 15-30 at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands. Here are the results:

Final standings

				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1		Leko, P	2749	+80	*	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	½	½	85
2		Anand, V	2736	+11	0	*	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	80
3		Topalov, V	2757	+14	½	½	*	0	½	0	1	½	1	1	½	1	½	75
4		Polgar, J	2728	+9	½	½	1	*	½	½	½	½	0	½	1	0	1	70
5		Gebekadze, A	2710	+38	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	½	0	½	1	70
6		Adams, M	2741	+5	½	0	1	½	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	70
7		Kramnik, V	2754	-8	½	½	0	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	½	½	70
8		Van Wely, J	2679	+45	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	0	1	½	65
9		Ponomarev, R	2780	+23	½	0	0	1	0	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	65
10		Brunson, L	2652	+74	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	1	1	65
11		Svidler, P	2733	-42	0	½	½	0	1	½	0	1	½	½	*	½	½	60
12		Short, N	2674	-3	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	*	1	55
13		Morozovitch, A	2741	-132	½	0	½	1	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	0	*	45
14		Scholar, J	2685	-134	½	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	0	0	½	0	0	35

Canadian Post-Secondary Chess Championship

(Report by Morgon Mills on ChessTalk)

We had 23 teams from 9 schools across Ontario and Quebec (and a total of 92 players). The addition of UQAM made the race for first even tighter than usual, and in the end four teams were within half point of first.

UQAM's team of Simon Gravel, Hugues Masse, Olivier Tessier, and Anne-Marie Charbonneau took the trophy east of the Ontario border for the first time; incidentally Andrei Moskvitch and McGill will be taking the event to Montreal next year as well!

Waterloo's team of Stephen Glinert, Artem Gurevich, Dave Raheb, and Sheng Jun-Xu took second on tiebreak over U of T's Vlad Pechenkin, Allan Cai, Kit Ng, and Bojana Mitrovic.

Waterloo B also tied for second, and McGill was just a half-point back.

2005 Ontario Youth Chess Championships

This tournament was held in Kitchener from Jan. 15 – 16. The winners in the various age categories were :

U 10 – Nikita Gusev
U 12 – Richard Yam
U 14 – Kevin Chung and Alan Ang
U 16 – Raja Panjwani and David Wang
U 18 – Ron Leblanc

Montreal World Chess Tournament

This was a 10 player round-robin played Jan. 15 – 22. Here are the results :

Name	Title	Country	Rating	Points	Place
Jakovenko Dmitry	GM	 Russian Federation	2596	8	0
Mikhalevski Victor	GM	 Israel	2553	6	0
Nataf Igor-Alexandre	GM	 France	2557	5.5	0
Perelshteyn Eugene	M	 United States	2505	5	0
Hauchard Arnaud	GM	 France	2487	5	0
Fedorowicz John	GM	 United States	2507	4.5	0
Roussel-Roozmon Thomas	M	 Canada	2425	4.5	0
Antonio Rogelio	GM	 Philippines	2539	2.5	0
Lawson Eric	M	 Canada	2373	2.5	0
Hebert Jean	M	 Canada	2410	1.5	0

Gary Ruben - 2004 Canadian Correspondence Player of the Year

(Submitted by David Cohen)

(Adapted from "CHECK!" #551, December, 2004. Thanks to Gary Ruben for info and game selection.)

I conducted the 2nd Canadian Chess Player of the Year poll of Canadian chess journalists. In 2003, there wasn't much interest from the Canadian Correspondence Chess Association (CCCA) in participating. However, in 2004, I was the Guest Editor of their magazine, "CHECK!", and insisted that they cast a vote!

To determine their nominees, I thought they should have a 2004 Canadian Correspondence Player of the Year. I polled their Executive, and they responded enthusiastically (100% participation) by voting as follows:

Gary Ruben - 4; Alexander Ugge - 2.

I cast "CHECK!"_'s 1st and 2nd place votes accordingly.

Gary scored his first Correspondence IM (IMC) Norm, also a Correspondence Senior IM (SIMC) Norm, over 10 games by e-mail in the Champions League, on Board 1 for 'The Gambiteers' Guild', finishing second in the section. He then scored his final IM Norm in the 4th North America/Pacific Zone Championship. So, Gary should receive his IMC title at the next International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) Congress in 2005. Additionally, he scored a solid +2 (6/10) on Board 4 for Canada's team in the 15th Correspondence Chess Olympiad Preliminaries.

Here are excerpts from a recent e-mail from Gary, where he explained his IMC Norms, and expressed his hopes for achieving a SIMC title (the title between IMC and GMC), while mainly desiring to avoid losses:

"I got my final IMC Norm in NAPZ Ch 4. The 14 games in the event started under the old rules but I already had a 10 game SIMC Norm to go with it for a total of 24 games. I played it postal... I'll try to make the SIMC Norm in the Jordan Memorial which is 14 games. So far 6 draws no losses...

My play has been consistent the past few years and several events have been close to the IMC Norm. As an example, in both CCCA 80 and the Olympiad games I just finished I missed the Norm by only half a point. In the Pan Am Teams I expect I'll probably meet or exceed the IMC Norm again even though I don't need another Norm. In the Pan Am teams I have only 2 of the 14 games still in play and haven't yet lost a game...

Many of the players from the 1970's and 80's are still CCCA members and recall when I did the membership secretary and tournament directing jobs. In 2001, I received the Correspondence International Arbiter (IAC) title from the ICCF, which probably more closely defines my contribution over the years than does my playing abilities."

[Event "4th North America/Pacific Zone Championship"]

[Site "International Correspondence Chess Federation"]

[Date "2002.06.26"]

[Round "?"]

[White "Sheynberg, Yuliy"]

[Black "Ruben, Gary"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Bb4 6. Nxc6 bxc6 7. Bd3 d5 8. e5 Ng4 9. O-O O-O 10. Bf4 f6 11. exf6 Qxf6 12. Bg3 Bd6 13. Be2 Ne5 14. a3 Ng6 15. Qd2 Nf4 16. Rfe1 Rb8 17. Na4 Kh8 18. b4 Nxg2 19. Kxg2 Bxg3 20. fxg3 Qf2+ 21. Kh1 Bh3 22. Rg1 Rbe8 23. Nc3 d4 0-1

Feb. 18-20, Tournament Complex, Tartu College, Toronto

(submitted by Organizer Martin Jaeger)

The following complex of tournaments will be staged at Tartu College (one block east of Bloor and Spadina) over the Feb 18-20 weekend in conjunction with the Ontario Women's Championship and the Ontario Senior Championship which are being staged by organiser/director Martin Jaeger on behalf of the Ontario Chess Association. The intention of staging a complex of tournaments is to make good use of rented space. The aggregate prize funds for the 5 tourneys are aggregate EF – (out of pocket expenses plus \$1/player). A copy of this form is available at the GTCL, CFC and OCA website or by email from Jaeger at M_Jaeger@look.ca. Info from Jaeger @416 4459293. Mail cheques payable to Jaeger at #1201-755 York Mills Rd., Toronto M3B 1X5. The entry fees stated are for on time entries. On time entries also accepted Feb.13, 1pm-3pm at City Chess Club, 530 Yonge St. Late entries pay \$10 higher EF. Moderately price parking available Friday night, Saturday and Sunday near the tournament site and the site is within one minute's walk from the Spadina and Bloor subway station. Bring boards, sets and clocks.

Ontario Women's Championship—Rounds at 6:30 pm, 10am, 4pm, 10am, 4pm. 50/2, 50/.5. PF- Total EF minus \$4/player. The OCA will in addition provide a \$250 bursary available only for travel to the Ontario Closed. Entry fee \$40. On time entries are postmarked by Feb. 11 or received at site by 4 pm Feb.18. Half point byes are available in round 1 only.

Ontario Seniors' Championship (born before Feb .1,1954). EF general \$50, rated<2000-\$30. Other conditions (including bursary) are identical to the Women's Championship.

Premier- Rounds, time control bye availability and on time entry deadlines as for Women's. EF \$45. Prizfund –Total EF minus \$5/player.

Reserves -limited to<2000 and unrated, 5 rounds-Feb19 9am, 2pm, 7pm, Feb.20 10 am, 3pm. Time control 40/90min., game/30. Entry fee \$30 Players born after Feb.18, 1988 may enter for EF \$15 and will compete for trophy only. Prize fund-entry fees minus (hall rental (a maximum of \$400 thanks to an OCA subsidy) +\$4/player.) On time entries are postmarked by Feb.11 or received at site by 8pm Feb.18. Last round pairings by prize class. Spectating of a family member's game is strictly prohibited.

Active, Feb 18. 5 rounds. Round 1 at 10 am. Enter at site, \$20. PF-EF minus \$5/player.

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

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