

# **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 # 11 – February 15, 2005**

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

## **Toronto Closed – Partial Report**

This tournament is being played at the Bayview Games Club in January and February. It is in three 8-player sections – Championship; A Reserves; B Reserves. Although the full 7 rounds have been played, there are a number of uncompleted postponed games still outstanding.

But the winners have already been decided in the two reserve sections. The winner of the A Reserves, with 6/7 points, is Yevgeni Nahutin. The winner of the B Reserves, with 6/7 points, is Alex Ferreira.

In the Championship section, Sami Ademi has completed his 7 games and is at least a co-winner, with 5/7 points. The only player with a chance to catch him is Liam Henry ( a former SCC junior ), who has 3/5 points so far, with 2 more games to play. We'll bring you the final result in our next newsletter.

## **2004-2005 SCC Club Championship – Partial Report**

The SCC Club Championship is in full swing. The top section is a 12 player round robin. The Reserves championship is divided into two 6-round swiss tournaments. The player with the highest combined total from the two tournaments will be the winner. The first swiss concluded on Thursday, February 10, and the winner was new member, Donal Deiseach, with 5/6 points. Tied for second, with 4/6 points were 4 players : Steve Karpik, Maurice Smith, newcomer Jamieson Pryor, and your intrepid editor, Bob Armstrong. The second leg of the Reserves starts on Thursday, February 17,

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Jack Goodlad Community Ctre, 929 Kennedy Road  
( ½ way between Eglinton Ave. and Lawrence Ave. )

and new players are welcome to come and join in this new Swiss – hope to see you there.

### **David Cohen's Chess Movie Reviews**

I recently visited the offices of the National Film Board at 150 John St., Toronto, to attend a free screening of an environmental film, 'Being Caribou'. While there, I discovered the NFB Mediatheque. This is a free service where you can watch - any time they are open, and in your own personal chair/viewing screen - any of hundreds of NFB films. Hours are Monday, Tuesday 1-7; Wednesday 10-7; Thursday – Saturday 10-10; and Sunday 12-5. The view screens are even set up for singles, couples and families. Movies are played digitally, so you can pause, fast forward, rewind, etc.

I used the search feature to type in the word 'chess'. Two films popped up for possible viewing: 'A Mind of Your Own' and 'Game Over: Kasparov and the Machine'.

#### *A Mind of Your Own*

'A Mind of Your Own', 1999, 38 minutes, produced by the NFB, directed by Gail Sweeney, follows 4 kids who have learning disabilities. The first, Henry Skinner, has trouble reading at the same level as his classmates. He drops out of the regular class, and works hard at his weakness. Meanwhile, he develops other skills in areas where he does not have any learning disabilities, like math and chess. When playing chess, he forms two plans of action; and he thinks four moves ahead. He says that he knew he was good when he finally beat his father. Henry, like the other kids in the film, gains confidence from his success. He knows that he is not stupid, just learning disabled. Moving back into the regular classroom, the kids are looking for acceptance. They are helped in this effort because they can show the other kids that they are good at something. (If you just want to see the one chess scene, skip to the 5 minute mark; however, you'd be cheating yourself out of seeing a very good film.)

#### *Game Over: Kasparov and the Machine*

'Game Over: Kasparov and the Machine', 2003, 85 minutes, directed by Vikram Jayanti, co-produced by National Film Board of Canada and British Broadcasting Corporation, distributed by Alliance Atlantis. The film features two Canadians: Montreal doctor and FIDE Master Marc Ghannoum; and Murray Campbell. Ghannoum does the conspiratorial voice over. Campbell is a former top junior; his loss to Kevin Spraggett in the 1974 Canadian Junior Championship was the latter's first appearance in the Informant collection of each year's best chess games. Campbell was a member of the programming team for IBM's Deep Blue computer, which defeated World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov in a game (1996) and in a match 3.5/6 (1997), the first time these feats have ever been accomplished against a reigning World Chess Champion. The film is a chronicle of this match.

The film presents a debate as to whether or not IBM cheated by using a human operator to intervene. In practice, it has been estimated that a correspondence player using help from a much stronger computer will raise his rating to the average rating of the

two. If this holds true for the case where the player is stronger, then a human overseeing the computer's moves could intervene and force it to play a better move.

To tell the story artistically, the film draws a parallel with the 'automaton' Turk. Unknown to its challengers, Turk was actually operated by a human hiding inside the machine. Excerpts are also presented from the 1927 film 'The Chess Player', where a similar story unfolds. Finally, this film concludes with Murray Campbell showing us the remains of Deep Blue at the IBM facility in upstate New York. As the camera pulls back, we see Campbell standing beside the big box - exactly the right size to fit inside it.

To tell the actual story, interviews are conducted with Kasparov and members of his team; and with members of the Deep Blue team. In particular, we meet Grandmaster Joel Benjamin, who contributed his chess knowledge to the project. Benjamin's job was to force the computer to make a plan in blocked positions (holding a small advantage but with no clear attacking line of play), where they had typically played planlessly. He did his job well, resulting in a huge blow-up after game two. Kasparov accused the IBM team of having a computer operator intervene to make a critical move in a blocked position. Benjamin responded with pride in the computer's play, and referring to the move 37. Be4, claimed that this was the first game in which a computer showed that it could play Grandmaster level chess.

The film recaps Kasparov's career, then follows Kasparov to the scene of the events, six years afterwards. The match unfolds through walk-about in 2003; flashbacks to 1997; and interviews with the participants. Kasparov demanded printouts; Benjamin countered that you would not ask a human opponent to reveal all the variations he had considered. Afterwards, Kasparov is adrift, unable to obtain a rematch, losing his World Championship title, losing even to his old nemesis Karpov. Kasparov provides some insights. He knew before the match that his biggest trouble would be that he had no information about his opponent, as IBM would not release any of its private games. Afterwards, Kasparov says that the public trusted corporations back then, but now corporations must be responsible.

I'm happy the film was made. It is fascinating for chess players, as we watch the behind-the-scenes action of our favourite game. Non-chess players can watch it also, as it is an interesting documentary on three types of minds: human, computer - and corporate.

The film will be released by Alliance Atlantis in theatres March 4.

[Event "Canadian Junior Championship"]

[Site "Toronto, Ontario"]

[Date "1974"]

[Round "6"]

[Result "1-0"]

[White "Spraggett, Kevin"]

[Black "Campbell, Murray"]

1. g3 Nf6 2. c4 d5 3. cxd5 Nxd5 4. Bg2 g6 5. Nc3 Nb6 6. Nf3 Bg7 7. d3 O-O 8. Be3 Nc6  
9. Qc1 Bg4 10. h3 Bxf3 11. Bxf3 Rb8 12. Bxc6 bxc6 13. Bh6 Bxh6 14. Qxh6 Nd5  
15. Qd2 Nxc3 16. Qxc3 Qd5 17. f3 Rb6 18. b3 Rfb8 19. Rc1 a5 20. Qc4 Qd6 21. Kf2  
Ra8 22. h4 Raa6 23. h5 Qb4 24. hxg6 hxg6 25. Rh8+ Kxh8 26. Qxf7 Qd4+ 27. Kg2 Rb5  
28. Qxg6 Qg7 29. Qe8+ Qg8 30. Rh1+ Kg7 31. Qxe7+ Kg6 32. Rh4 1-0

[Event "IBM Man-Machine"]  
[Site "New York, NY, USA"]  
[Date "1997.05.04"]  
[Round "2"]  
[Result "1-0"]  
[White "Deep Blue (computer)"]  
[Black "Kasparov, Gary"]  
[ECO "C93"]  
[WhiteType "program"]  
[BlackTitle "GM"]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c3 O-O 9. h3 h6 10. d4 Re8 11. Nbd2 Bf8 12. Nf1 Bd7 13. Ng3 Na5 14. Bc2 c5 15. b3 Nc6 16. d5 Ne7 17. Be3 Ng6 18. Qd2 Nh7 19. a4 Nh4 20. Nxh4 Qxh4 21. Qe2 Qd8 22. b4 Qc7 23. Rec1 c4 24. Ra3 Rec8 25. Rca1 Qd8 26. f4 Nf6 27. fxe5 dxe5 28. Qf1 Ne8 29. Qf2 Nd6 30. Bb6 Qe8 31. R3a2 Be7 32. Bc5 Bf8 33. Nf5 Bxf5 34. exf5 f6 35. Bxd6 Bxd6 36. axb5 axb5 37. Be4 Rxa2 38. Qxa2 Qd7 39. Qa7 Rc7 40. Qb6 Rb7 41. Ra8+ Kf7 42. Qa6 Qc7 43. Qc6 Qb6+ 44. Kf1 Rb8 45. Ra6 1-0

### *Battle Chess*

'Battle Chess', 2004, 7 minutes, written, directed and produced by John Dunstan, was funded by an award from Bravo!Fact - a foundation to assist Canadian film talent. The short was shown on Bravo!Fact Presents on Bravo!, Rogers Channel 40 in Toronto, on Wed., Feb. 9 at 7:30pm. We see two well-dressed chess players across the chessboard from each other. We hear Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, first movement, during the entire film. As the music goes quiet, the chess players make their moves. They stare defiantly at each other. As the music grows louder, the players stand up - and start taking pokes at each other! The fist-fighting reflects the moves on the board. If one player loses a piece, then in the fight he will be hit hard. The music quietens, the game resumes on the board. A capture, the music grows louder, the players stand up and the real life battle resumes. This is a wonderful, if violent, fantasy, else Canadian chess expert and former World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Lennox Lewis might also win the World Chess Championship! Fortunately for us tournament players, chess is a good substitute for real life war, and if there is fist-fighting, then it is only in the mindsof the chess players.

Thanks to Susan Dunstan for notice of 'Battle Chess'; and Christian Parlee of Alliance Atlantis for details on the release of 'Game Over: Kasparov and the Machine'.

**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](mailto: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.

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

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