

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 # 23 – August 15, 2005

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

Cohen's Chess Books Reviews

(submitted by David Cohen)

Here's four books with connections to Canadian Chess. Three are available from the Toronto Public Library's circulating collection; the other you can get via their Inter-Library Loan (ILL) service.

1. **'Kicking Tomorrow'** by Daniel Richler, Canadian Edition, McClelland & Stewart, 1991

Unless you're interested in a story of a young man's coming of age, with explicit descriptions of sex, drugs, rock and roll, etc., then I can spare you the reading of the 376 pages of the Canadian edition of this book. Leaving aside the description of the stripper in the chess bishop outfit, appended below are the chess passages I could find in my skimming of the novel which relate to Toronto street blitz player Josef Smolij. According to Richler, his character, also called Joe Smolij, was a tribute to the real Josef Smolij. Unfortunately, the character was cut out of the American edition.

Josef Smolij

(From my Canadian Chess website:

<http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/~bw998/canchess.html#SMOLIJ>)

- Played Canadian Championship 1959

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.)

- Played speed chess every night, all night, in Toronto at the chess tables on Gould Street, corner Yonge Street, from about 1977 through 1985 for \$0.50/game (later \$1/game)

- Famous opening: Smash-Crash Gambit (Greco Counter-Gambit/Latvian Gambit); adopted by IM David Levy in his loss against Chess 4.7, match, Toronto, 1978 after Smolij and Levy played blitz chess the night before

- Famous claims: World's fastest chess player; 50,000 chess games played

- Famous quotes: "I'm poor in the pocketbook but rich in the mind."; "Kill as you go!"; "Show no mercy!"

If anyone remembers the 'Sports Illustrated' article or 'Guinness Book of Records' book which mention Smolij, I would like to hear about it. These have been mentioned elsewhere, e.g., in the Toronto Star, but I haven't been able to verify them. You can contact me at bw998 -at- freenet.carleton.ca.

'Kicking Tomorrow' passages with Joe Smolij (set in Montreal):

Chapter 4, p.54-55:

"He buys a can of beer and stops in Dominion Square to play chess with old Joe Smolij, the rubby with the brambled beard and the SMASH CRASH GAMBIT sweatshirt, as blackened with street-grime and oil as the undercarriage of a diesel truck, who keeps up a running commentary above the din of traffic throughout games he never loses. 'Make a moof make a moof,' Joe says, stamping a pawn onto his corrugated checkerboard and punching the stop-clock. 'Time is money. Money is freedom. Oh oh oh no no - never expose your king, boy without a brain. Some patriot, some colonial, ha! You looss, but don't feel bad. Nobody think fast in this heat.'

'Wow.' Robbie stares at his paralyzed pieces, barely out of the gate, his beer can still cool between his thighs. Fool's mate. Joe's lungs are obviously custom-finished to process carbon monoxide to his brain. '... [&@*!]'

Joe looks hard at Robbie, scratches a sunburnt potato of a nose. 'I don't make no boozy moofs. I don't get angry so quick.'

Robbie's taken aback by the answer. He's not angry with Joe. He <thought> he was enjoying himself. He forks out his dollar, smiling to prove it, says goodbye and strides on, ..."

Chapter 9, p.134:

"Finally Rosie found him in Dominion Square, arguing noisily over a game of chess with Joe Smolij, and took him home for a hot bath - even old Joe, who smelled like a bowl of mouldy polewka, had flared his thistly nostrils when Robbie first put his dollar down."

Chapter 20, p.345:

"And here was old Joe Smolij. Robbie brushed a pillow of snow off the challenger's seat. The chess pieces were spangled with frost.

'Moof, moof,' Joe told Robbie. 'Time is money. Money is freedom. Freedom's for the birds. This I tell Spassky when I beat him.' He offered him some Canadian sherry. Robbie accepted.

'You beat Spassky? So how come you're here, Joe? You could be rich.'

Joe looked at him. Such crazy people downtown. 'I got <health plan> in Quebec, boy without a brain. Boy without money. You want to talk or moof?'

Chapter 20, p.358:

(From a dream sequence)

"Here's Joe Smolij, naked but for his sprawling, brambled beard, his hands flopping in his wrinkled lap like old moths in a jar, the way they always did while he waited for you to move. Robbie goes nose to nose with him and looks into his face. Joe's eyes are white, like a baked trout's. There a tattoo on his left wrist, little numbers in blue ink: QP5-KP6xR=CHECK."

2. **'In quest of the North West Passage'** by Leslie Neatby, Longmans, Green and Company, Toronto, 1958

Leslie Neatby was Professor and Head of the Classics Department at Acadia University in Nova Scotia. He was also the Canadian Correspondence Chess Champion in 1936. I came across his name because this book was listed as a reference for one of the on-line Canadian Biography search results for 'chess': Peter Warren Dease (1788-1863). Dease was a Hudson's Bay Company officer (chief trader) and Arctic explorer of British and Mohawk ancestry. While in charge of HBC's British Columbia district (1831-5), he encouraged games such as chess at his command post at Fort St. James. Dease Strait is named after him, in the area of his mapping of the north-west passage across the Arctic Ocean. Neatby's book has a few pages on his explorations.

3. **'Money in the Bank'** by P.G. Wodehouse, 1946

(You'll need an ILL request to obtain this book)

"All the characters in this book are imaginary and have no relation whatsoever to any living person." Is the standard statement included at the front of this

book. Don't believe it. The main character, George, sixth Viscount Uffenham (Lord Uffenham) is based on 1925 and 1927 British Columbia Chess Champion Max Enke! According to B.C. chess historian Stephen Wright, Wodehouse used both Enke's large physical size and his mannerisms in creating his character. They met when both were held in France by the Germans during World War Two.

The story is an excellent romantic comedy. Lord Uffenham has hidden his fortune, in the form of jewels, on his estate, but can't remember where. Some crooks find out about the situation and think this is like having money in the bank...

A funny quote:

"She found its occupant seated at the table, playing chess with himself. From the contented expression on his face, he appeared to be winning." (p. 29)

4. **'Something Fishy'** by P.G. Wodehouse, 1957

A sequel to the first Uffenham story, and another excellent romantic comedy. The story is about a tontine to see who gets married last: the fathers each put money into the pot, but weren't allowed to tell their children. Now only two are left unmarried. But there's something fishy about the whole thing...

The 1992 Vintage edition has a cover illustration by Mark Entwisle showing Lord Uffenham.

Some quotes:

Bill Hollister on Mortimer Bayliss: "He used to come and play chess with my father, and curse me for peering over his shoulder." (p.52)

Mortimer Bayliss to Bill Hollister: "You used to breathe down the back of my neck when I came to play chess with your father." (p.58)

The August Open – Toronto - Upcoming Tournament

This 5 round swiss will be held at the Bayview Games Club, 1681 Bayview Avenue, on August 26 – 28. Time control will be Game/150 min.. Rounds are : Friday – 6:30 pm; Sat. & Sun. – 11:00 am & 5:30 pm. Entry Fee is \$55 (payable in cash by August 25). Late Fee - \$ 10. Non-members of BGC - \$ 15 extra. This is a CFC – rated tournament – membership required or \$ 10 tournament membership. There is also a draw for an early bird door prize, for those who register by August 19 – full entry fee rebate (\$ 55). For further information : Vlad Dobrich 416-722-9709.

Macedonian Labour Day Open – Upcoming Tournament

SEPTEMBER 3, 4, 5 2005 (Sat, Sun, Mon)
Macedonian Community Hall,
76 Overlea Blvd (near Don Mills Rd), Toronto

Style: 6 round Swiss, 5 sections (Open (FIDE
Rated), U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600(w/UNR))

Rounds: 11:00 am & 5:30 pm Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 am & 4:00 pm on Monday

Time Control: 40 moves in 2 hours, then 1 hour S/D

Registration: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (sharp) Saturday before the Tournament [only players registering before 10:30 a.m. are guaranteed to be paired for 11:00 a.m.], or in advance by mail. Make Cheques payable to "Macedonian Chess Club" and send to Randy Moysoski, 1580 Warden Ave., Scarborough, Ontario, M1R 2T2.

No Postdated Cheques and No Phone Registration.

Entry Fee: \$60 in advance, \$70 cash only on Saturday at the site. Amateur: \$20 (in U1800 & U1600 sections – not eligible for cash prizes). \$20 less for Jr (born after Sept 10, 1985, Sr (65 and older), Women and I.M.'s No discount for Amateur players and only one discount per player.

Byes: Maximum 2 – ½ point byes available in rounds 1-5 if requested in advance

Prizes: *** \$5,000 ***
(based on 130 Non-Amateur players or 75%)
1st place in OPEN section of \$1,000.00 GUARANTEED!

Open U2350 U2200 U2000 U1800 U1600 UNR

1st \$1,000 \$250 \$200 \$200 \$200 \$150 \$50

2nd \$500 \$150 \$150 \$150 \$150 \$100

3rd \$200 \$100 \$100 \$100 \$100 \$50

4th \$100

Open Prizes based on entire tournament, Unrated players eligible only for Unrated prizes in U1600 section or open prizes in Open section

Other Information: No Smoking in the Building. Bring Chess Sets and Clocks.

Website: <http://webhome.idirect.com/~blamb/MLD.htm>
or <http://www.torontochess.org/2005MacedonianToronto%20Labour%20Day.htm>

Organizer: Macedonian Chess Club, Randy Moysoski [416-449-1447 after 5pm]

**Tournament Director: Bryan Lamb blamb@idirect.com
(416) 446-5938 OR (416) 904-5938 Cellular**

Entry Form Macedonian Open 2005

Name _____ Rating _____
Section _____ CFC# _____

Address _____ Entry Fee _____

City _____ Postal Code _____ Email _____
CFC Fee _____

Phone _____ CFC exp. date _____ Jr. DOB _____
Total Fee _____

Byes Requested: Round 1 2 3 4 5 (circle round of bye request)

SCC Closed for the Summer

SCC is closed for July and August. It re-opens on Thursday, September 8, 2005.

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.
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