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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 ?

2006/7 World Championship Candidates' Matches

These matches are the second phase of the 2005-7 World Championship Cycle. The first phase was the 2005 FIDE World Cup played last December, 2005. The Candidates' Matches involves 16 players, playing in a series of knockout matches to determine the final four participants. These are 6 game matches, with tie-breaks. These four players then go into the 2007 FIDE World Championship tournament with the top 4 players from the 2005 FIDE World Championship (including the current 2005 FIDE World Champion, Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria)).

There are 3 avenues for qualifying for the Candidates Matches. One is by rating invitation (5 places). The second is by being one of the top 10 finishers in the 2005 FIDE World Cup. The third is the inclusion of the former 2004 FIDE World Champion, Rustam Kasimdzhanov (Uzbekistan).

In order to determine the invitation rating list, FIDE has averaged the ratings of the top players from the lists of July 2004 and January 2005 (a player must have been active during at least one of these lists). According to this method, the top 11 players by rating are :

1. Kasparov, Garry (Russia) – 2810.5
2. Anand, Viswanathan (India) - 2784
3. Kramnik, Vladimir (Russia) – 2762
4. Topalov, Veselin (Bulgaria) – 2747
5. Leko, Peter (Hungary) – 2745
6. Morozevich, Alexander (Russia) – 2742

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7. Adams, Michael (England) – 2739.5
8. Svidler, Peter (Russia) – 2731
9. Polgar, Judit (Hungary) – 2728
10. Shirov, Alexei (Spain) – 2719
11. Bacrot, Etienne (France) – 2713.5

Four of these players are eliminated, because they already have qualified for the 2007 FIDE World Championship by being a top 4 finisher in the 2005 FIDE World Championship : Topalov, Anand, Svidler and Morozevich. Thus the five initial invitees by rating were : Kasparov, Kramnik, Leko, Adams, and Polgar.

Kasparov declined to play because he retired in 2005. Kramnik declined to play because he considers himself the Classical World Champion, having defeated Classical World Champion Kasparov in a match in 2000, and having successfully defended his title in a challenge match with Leko in 2004. He does not recognize FIDE's World Championship tournament as determining the World Champion.

This meant that FIDE thus invited the replacement rating invitees, Shirov and Bacrot, who accepted. Thus the 5 invitees by rating in the Candidates Matches are : Leko, Adams, Polgar, Shirov and Bacrot.

The top 10 finishers in the 2005 FIDE World Cup, who come into the Candidates Matches, were :

1. Aronian, Levon (Armenia)
2. Ponomariov, Ruslan (Ukraine)
3. Bacrot, Etienne (France)
4. Grischuk, Alexander (Russia)
5. Bareev, Evgeny (Russia)
6. Gelfand, Boris (Israel)
7. Rublevsky, Sergei (Russia)
8. Gurevich, Mikhail (Turkey)
9. Kamsky, Gata (USA)
10. Carlsen, Magnus (Norway)

But the # 3 finisher, Bacrot, has already qualified by rating invitation. Thus the # 11 finisher, Vladimir Malakhov (Russia), is invited to fill the vacancy.

FIDE has now announced the actual pairings for the first round of candidates' matches. They are (using current ratings):

1. Levon Aronian (2752) vs Magnus Carlsen (2625)
2. Peter Leko (2740) vs Mikhail Gurevich (2633)
3. Ruslan Ponomariov (2723) vs Sergei Rublevsky (2665)
4. Boris Gelfand (2723) vs Rustam Kasimdzhanov (2670)
5. Etienne Bacrot (2717) vs Gata Kamsky (2686)
6. Alexander Grischuk (2717) vs Vladimir Malakhov (2694)
7. Judit Polgar (2711) vs Evgeny Bareev (2698)
8. Alexei Shirov (2709) vs Michael Adams (2707)

In the second round, the winner of match # 1 will play the winner of match # 8; the winner of match # 2 will play the winner of match # 7; etc.. Thus the final four from the candidates' matches will be determined, and they will join the top four from the 2005 FIDE World Championship in the 2007 FIDE World Championship.

FIDE will hold these matches in 2006/7, although the dates have not yet been set. FIDE reserves the right to hold the Candidates Matches either together or in different dates and separate locations.

It looks like FIDE has finally come up with a World Championship system that has integrity and has eliminated the lottery type risk that was inherent in the previous FIDE World Championship knockout system. Topalov was certainly a worthy winner of the 2005 World Championship, and we can look forward to a recognized 2007 World Champion in the future.

If there are two shortcomings in this transition to a new World Championship system, one is that the rating lists used to determine the 5 invitees by rating are out of date. It would have been better to use the rating lists of July and October 2005. The second shortcoming, and it is debatable, may be that there never was a title unification match between " Classical " World Champion Kramnik, and " FIDE " World Champion, Topalov. This matter remains unresolved, and casts a slight shadow on an otherwise new, strong World Championship Cycle.

FIDE January 1, 2006 Rating List

There are now two players over 2800 :

1 : Garry Kasparov (Russia), 13th FIDE World Champion – 2812. Although he is now retired, he will be shown on the active rating list for one year after his last game, and then be removed for inactivity.

2 : Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), the new 2005 FIDE World Champion, rated 2801. He is the third player to break the 2800 mark.

(Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), 2000 Classical World Champion, was the second player.)

There are now 17 players in the 2700's. Some of the top players are :

3 : Viswanathan Anand (India), 2000 FIDE World Champion, and runner-up in the 2005 FIDE World Championship, with a rating of 2792;

4 : Peter Svidler (Russia), with a rating of 2765 (up 25 pts. from the October, 2005 rating list);

5 : Levon Aronian (Armenia) rated 2752 (up 28 pts. from # 10);

6 : Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), current 2000 Classical World Champion, rated 2741;

7 : Peter Leko (Hungary), the challenger to Kramnik in the 2004 Classical World Championship match, with 2740;

10 : Ruslan Ponomarev (Ukraine), 2002 FIDE World Champion, at 2723 (up 19 pts. from # 19);

14 : Judit Polgar (Hungary), the strongest women's player in the world, with 2711 (down 24 pts. from the # 8 spot).

Some other past World Champions and their current ratings are :

29 : 12th FIDE World Champion, Anatoly Karpov (Russia) – 2672;

32 : 2004 FIDE World Champion, Rustan Kasimdzhanov (Uzbekistan) at 2670;

42 : 1999 FIDE World Champion, Alexander Khalifman (Russia) – 2660;

Here are a number of the younger players we're watching (birthdate in brackets):

- # 12 : Alexander Grischuk (Russia - 1983) – 2717 ;
- # 13 : Etienne Bacrot (France - 1983) – 2717 (down from # 9);
- # 15 : Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan – 1985) – 2709;
- # 19 : Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan - 1987)– 2700 (up from # 23);
- # 42 : Sergey Karjakin (Ukraine – 1990) – 2660.

The five highest FIDE rated Canadians are :

- # 1 : GM Kevin Spraggett, 7 times former Canadian Champion, at 2581;
- # 2 : GM Mark Bluvshtein at 2537;
- # 3 : GM Alexandre Le Siege, 2001 Canadian Champion, at 2528;
- # 4 : IM Pascal Charbonneau, 2005 Canadian Champion, at 2496;
- # 5 : GM Dimitri Tyomkin at 2490.

Canada Gets New Grandmaster – Pascal Charbonneau !

2005 Canadian Champion, IM Pascal Charbonneau, recently won the Winter Chicago FIDE International, a 10 player round robin, including 3 GM's, 1 WGM, and 6 IM's. It was held Jan. 9-13, and Pascal scored 6/9 pts.. This gives him his third FIDE GM norm, and he now becomes Canada's 5th GM. Congratulations Pascal !!

2006 Canadian Women's Closed - Report

This was a 10 player round robin played in early January in Richmond Hill. Natalia Khoudgarian, the top-ranked Canadian woman, became women's champion after winning on tie-break. Both she and Dina Kagramanov finished with 4.5 pts.. The first tie-break was a 2 game match at Game/30min.. They split this tie-break, so they then went to a 2 game match of Game/15 min.. Natalia won both these games. She now goes on to represent Canada in the 2006 FIDE Women's World Chess Championship in Ekaterinburg, Russia on March 20-27, 2006.

Here is the crosstable :

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	Natalia [WM] Khoudgarian		2265	2265	D2	W9	W4	W6	D7	D3	4.5
2	Dina [WF] Kagramanov		2056	2124	D1	W3	L6	W5	W4	W7	4.5
3	Irina Barron		2133	2129	D6	L2	D5	W10	W9	D1	3.5
4	Nava [WM] Starr		2121	2126	W8	W5	L1	D7	L2	W10	3.5
5	Amanda [WF] Benggawan		2055	2074	W7	L4	D3	L2	W10	W8	3.5
6	Daniela [WF] Belc		2041	2053	D3	W10	W2	L1	L8	W9	3.5

7	Hazel [WF] Smith		2178	2143	L5	W8	W9	D4	D1	L2	3.0
8	Angel Xia		1824	1896	L4	L7	W10	W9	W6	L5	3.0
9	Cornelia Dinca		1788	1785	W10	L1	L7	L8	L3	L6	1.0
10	Glenda Baylon		2068	1955	L9	L6	L8	L3	L5	L4	0.0

Toronto Holidays Open – Report

This one section 6-round swiss was played at the Bayview Games Club from Dec. 26 – 30, 2005, and attracted 31 players. The winners were :

Open Section : 1st/2nd - IM Leonid Gerzhoy; Liam Henry (former SCC junior) – 5 pts.

A Section : 1st/2nd – Vladimir Semeyonov; Dave Southam – 3 ½ pts.

B Section : 1st/2nd – Neal Pan; Henry Arandia – 4 pts.

C Section : 1st – Omar Shah – 4pts.

D Section : 1st – Fred Henderson – 3 ½ pts.

2005/6 SCC Club Championship

This tournament started on Thursday, January 5, 2006. The Championship Section is a 10 player round robin (8 highest rated players registering, plus the first and second place finishers in the 2004/5 club championship Reserve Section). Playing in the Championship Section this year are (ratings as of Jan. 5) : Bryan Lamb (2161), John Hall (2141), Donal Deiseach (1972), Jim Paterson (1921), Sascha Rapoport (1822), Pepin Manalo (1774), Rick Garel (1752), Pino Verde (1724), your intrepid editor, Bob Armstrong (1694 – Reserve Qualifier), and Maurice Smith (1581 – Reserve Qualifier). This year, all players in this section are at least ½ year members.

Here is a wild game from Round 1, between your editor, Bob Armstrong, and Donal Deiseach (notes by Armstrong, using Fritz) :

Armstrong, R (1694) – Deiseach, D (1972) [E14]

SCC Club Championship – Top Section SCC, Toronto (1), 05.01.2006]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.e3 Bb7 5.Bd3 d5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.b3 0-0 9.Bb2 Rc8?±
[9...dxc4 10.Bxc4 a6 11.d5 exd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 c6 14.Be4 Nf6 15.Qc2 Nxe4 16.Qxe4
Re8=] **10.cxd5 exd5 11.Rc1** [11.Bf5±] **11...Ne4** [11...Re8±] **12.Qe2 c5 13.Ba6?±** [13.Rfd1±]
13...Qc7 14.Rfd1 [14.Bxb7=] **14...Rfd8?±** [14...Bf6=] **15.dxc5 Ndx5 16.Bxb7 Qxb7 17.b4?±**
[17.Nd4±] **17...Ne6** [17...Nxc3 18.Rxc3 Ne4 19.Rxc8 Qxc8 20.Rc1 Qg4 21.b5 Bh4 22.g3 Be7±]
18.a3 [18.b5 Rc5 19.Nd4 Nxd4 20.exd4 Nxc3 21.Bxc3 Rc7=] **18...Bf6??±** [18...a5=] **19.Nb5??±** = I
miss the nice tactical shot [19.Nxd5! Rxc1 20.Nxf6+ Nxf6 21.Rxc1 Ne4] **19...Rxc1 20.Rxc1 Bxb2**
21.Qxb2 a6 22.Nbd4 Rc8?± [22...Nd6=] **23.h3?±** [23.Nf5 Rxc1+ 24.Qxc1 Kh8±] **23...Nxd4**
24.Nxd4 Rc4??± [24...Qd7=] **25.Nf5?±** = again I miss the win of a P [25.Rxc4 dxc4 26.Nf5 Nf6
27.Qe5 b5 28.Nxg7 Kxg7 29.Qg5+ Kf8 30.Qxf6 Kg8±] **25...Rxc1+ 26.Qxc1 g6?±** [26...Qd7=]
27.Nd4 Nd6 28.a4 Nc4 29.b5 axb5 30.axb5 f5?± [30...Qe7±] **31.Qc3?±** [31.Nc6±] **31...Qe7**
32.Nc6 Qe6 33.Qd4 g5 34.Nb4 f4??+– after having the advantage most of the game, I finally get
a winning advantage [34...Qe4 35.Nxd5 Qxd4 36.exd4 Kf7 37.Kf1 Ke6 38.Nc3 Na3 39.Ke2 Nc2
40.d5+ Ke5±] **35.Qxd5??±** = but I miss the win [35.Nxd5 fxe3 36.fxe3 Nd6 37.Nc7 Qe7 38.Qxb6
Nc4 39.Nd5 Nxb6 40.Nxe7+ Kf7 41.Nf5 Ke6 42.g4 Kd5+–] **35...Qxd5 36.Nxd5 fxe3 37.fxe3 Kf7**
38.Kf2 Ke6 39.e4 [39.Nc3 h6 40.Ke2 Ke5 41.g3 h5 42.g4 hxg4 43.hxg4 Ke6 44.Ne4 Ne5

45.Nxg5+ Kd5 46.e4+ Kc5 47.Ne6+ Kd6 48.Nf4 Nxg4 49.Nd3 Ke6 50.Kf3 Nf6 51.Ke3 Ne8=] **39...Ke5 40.Kf3** [40.Kg3 h6 41.h4 Kxe4 42.Nxb6 gxh4+ 43.Kxh4 Nd6 44.Kh5 Nxb5 45.Kxh6 Kf4 46.Nd5+ Kg3=] **40...h6??+-** again Donal gives me a winning advantage [40...h5=] **41.g4??=** again I miss it – it's looking like I don't want to win this game, even though overall I'm playing well [41.Ne3 Nd2+ (41...Nxe3 42.Kxe3 h5 43.g3 Kd6 44.Kd4 Ke6 45.e5 g4 46.hxg4 hxg4 47.Ke4 Ke7 48.Kf5 Kf7 49.Kxg4 Ke6 50.Kf4+-) 42.Kg4 Nxe4 43.Nc4+ Kd5 44.Nxb6+ Kc5 45.Nd7+ Kxb5 46.Kh5 Kc6 47.Ne5+ Kd6 48.Nf7+ Ke7 49.Kg6 g4 50.hxg4 Ke6 51.g5 h5+-] **41...Kd4 42.Nf6** I now had only 5 min. left on my clock; Donal had 6 min.. **42...Nd2+ 43.Ke2??** for the first time in the game, Donal gets a slight advantage [43.Kg2=] **43...Nxe4 44.Ng8** [44.Nd7?? Nc3+ 45.Kf3 Nd5 46.Kg3 Kc4 47.Ne5+ Kxb5 48.Nf7 Kc4 49.Nxh6 b5-+] **44...Nc3+ 45.Kd2 Nxb5 46.Nxh6 Nd6 47.Ng8??** I now had 2 min. left, and Donal had 4 min.. [47.Kc2 Kc4 48.Kd2 b5 49.Kc2 b4 50.Kb2 Kb5] **47...b5??=** [47...Ne4+?] **48.Kc2 Ne4 49.Kb3 Kc5 50.Nh6 Nf2 51.h4??-** time trouble desperation [51.Nf7 Nxh3 52.Kc3 b4+ 53.Kb3=] **51...gxh4 52.g5 Ne4??=** and now Donal blunders in time pressure [52...h3 53.Nf5 Ne4 54.g6 h2 55.Ng3 Nxg3 56.g7 h1Q 57.g8Q Qb1+ 58.Ka3 b4+ 59.Ka4 Qd1+ 60.Qb3 Qd7+ 61.Ka5 Qb5#] **53.g6 h3** [53...Nf6 54.g7 h3 55.Ng4 Ng8 56.Nh2 Ne7 57.Nf3 b4 58.Nh2 Kd4 59.Kxb4 Ke4 60.Kc3 Kf4 61.Kd2 Kf5 62.Ke3 Kf6=] **54.Ng4 Nf6??+-** and then he wrongly sacs his N, giving me a winning advantage, if I can beat the clock [54...h2 55.Nxh2 Kd6 56.g7 Nf6 57.Ng4 Ng8 58.Kb4 Ke6=] **55.Nxf6 h2 56.g7??=** I blunder in the time pressure [56.Ne4+ Kd5 57.g7 h1Q 58.g8Q+ Kd4 59.Qg7+ Ke3 60.Qc3+ Kf4 61.Qf6+ Ke3 62.Nc3+-] **56...h1Q 57.g8Q??** again I blunder – I don't deserve to win this, I've missed so many chances [57.Nd7+ Kd6 58.g8Q Qb1+ 59.Ka3 Qa1+ 60.Qa2 Qc3+ 61.Qb3 Qa5+ 62.Kb2 Qd2+ 63.Ka3 Kxd7=] **57...Qf3+ 58.Kc2 Qxf6 59.Qc8+ Qc6??=** a bad blunder by Donal at the last minute, which will give me a draw if I exchange Q's, and then claim a draw before my flag falls (which is hanging at 5:59 !!). We both stopped recording at this point, and I don't know what my move 60 was, but I blundered and moved my Q to give check, missing my last chance for a draw. We played a few more moves checking each other with our Q's, and then my flag fell.[59...Kb4] **0-1**

The Reserve Section will be two one section swisses (both 5 rounds, and results totalled) for all other members. It has attracted 16 players. You can still get into this section if you'd like to play – you'll be given a bye in the first 2 rounds. A \$ 30 tournament membership is available for those wanting to play in the Reserve Section.

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

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