

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

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Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 14 – March 15, 2006

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

Aronian Wins Morelia, Mexico / Linares, Spain Tournament

This is traditionally the year's strongest tournament, other than the World Championship (when held). It is a double round robin of 8 of the world's top players. This year the organizers decided to split the location of the tournament, with the first half being played in the “ new world “, in Morelia, Mexico. The second half was played in Linares, Spain. It was played from Feb. 18 to March 11. It's average rating was 2733, making it stronger than the Corus, Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands tournament held in January, which had a rating of 2716.

The players this year were;

Player	Nation	Rating	Rank
Veselin Topalov	BUL	2812	2
Peter Svidler	RUS	2765	4
Levon Aronian	ARM	2752	5
Peter Leko	HUN	2740	7
Vassily Ivanchuk	UKR	2729	8
Etienne Bacrot	FRA	2717	13
Teimour Radjabov	AZE	2700	19
Francisco Vallejo	ESP	2650	54

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.)



All the players lined up for a group portrait: Ivanchuk, Svidler, Leko, Vallejo, Topalov, Radjabov, Aronian and Bacrot.

An upset occurred immediately, in Rd. 1. Peter Svidler upset 2005 FIDE World Champion, Veselin Topalov. Here is their game:

Svidler, P (2765) – Topalov, V (2801) [C67]

Morelia/Linares Morelia, Mexico (1), 18.02.2006

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nc3 Ne7 10.h3 Ng6 11.Bg5+ Ke8 12.Rad1 Bd7 13.Nd4 h6 14.Be3 h5 15.f4 h4 16.f5! Nxe5 17.f6 Rh5 18.Ne4 g6 19.Bf4 c5 20.Nf3 Nxf3+ 21.Rxf3 Be6 22.Rfd3 c4 23.R3d2 c6 24.Ng5 Bc5+ 25.Kh2 Bd5 26.Re2+ Kf8 27.Rde1 b5 28.c3 a5 29.a3 Rc8 30.g4 hxg3+ 31.Kxg3 Be6 32.h4 Kg8 33.Re5 Bf8 34.Nxe6 fxe6 35.Rd1 Rh7 36.Rxe6 Rb7 37.Re4 Kf7 38.Bg5 Re8 39.Rxe8 Kxe8 40.Kg4 Rh7 41.Re1+ Kd7 42.a4 bxa4 43.Re5 c5 44.Bf4 Rh8 45.Bg3 Bh6 46.Re7+ Kc6 47.Bf4 Bxf4 48.Kxf4 Rh5 49.Re5 Rxh4+ 50.Kg5 Rh5+ 51.Kxg6! Rxe5 52.f7 Re6+ 53.Kg5 Re5+ 54.Kg4 Re4+ 55.Kg3 Re3+ 56.Kf2 a3! 57.f8Q axb2 58.Qc8+ Kb5 59.Qb7+ Ka4 60.Kxe3 Ka3 61.Qb5 a4 62.Qxc5+ Kb3 63.Qb4+ Kc2 64.Qxa4+ Kxc3 65.Qa5+ Kc2 66.Qf5+ Kc1 67.Qf1+ 1-0

But in Rd. 5, the World Champion came back with a nice win, his first of the tournament, over Vassily Ivanchuk. Here is their game:

Ivanchuk, V (2729) – Topalov, V (2801) [D15]

Morelia/Linares Morelia, Mexico (5), 23.02.2006

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 Nc6 7.Bg5 e6 8.e3 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Bd3 Bd6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rac1 b5 13.Bb1 Bd7 14.Qc2 g6 15.Qd2 Rac8 16.Rfd1 Rc7 17.Qe1 b4 18.Ne2 a5 19.Qd2 Rfc8 20.Ne1 a4 21.Nd3 Na5 22.Rxc7 Rxc7 23.Rc1 Nc4 24.Qe1 Qd8 25.g3 Bb5 26.h4 g5 27.hxg5 hxg5 28.Kg2 Qc8 29.Ng1 f6 30.Qd1 Be8 31.Nf3 Bh5 32.Rc2 Bg6 33.Re2 g4 34.Nh4 Be4+ 35.Kh2 f5 36.Ne1 Nxe3! 37.Rxe3 Rc1 38.Qd2 Rxb1 39.Rxe4 dxe4 40.Qg5+ Kf7 41.d5 Rxe1 42.Qg6+ Ke7 43.Qg5+ Kd7 44.dxe6+ Kc6 45.e7 e3 46.Qxf5 Qxf5 47.e8Q+ Qd7 48.Qe4+ Kc7 0-1

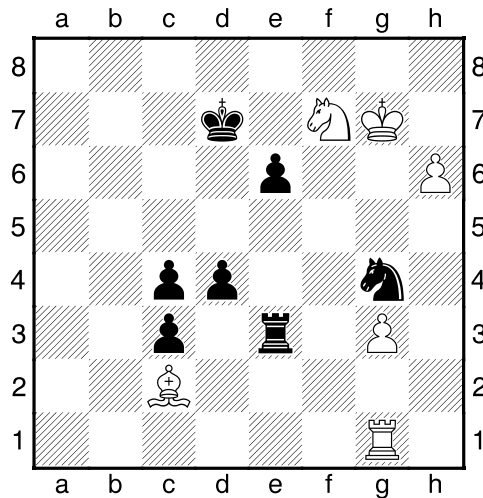
In round 7, Aronian got a nice win in a wild game against Etienne Bacrot, to pull into second place. Here is their game:

Bacrot, E (2717) – Aronian, L (2752) [E20]

Morelia/Linares Morelia, Mexico (7), 26.02.2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 c5 5.g3 Ne4 6.Qd3 Qa5 7.Qxe4 Bxc3+ 8.Bd2 Bxd2+ 9.Nxd2 Nc6 10.dxc5 b6 11.Bg2 Bb7 12.Qf4 bxc5 13.Qd6 Qb6 14.Ne4 Nd4 15.Qxb6 axb6 16.Nd6+ Ke7 17.Bxb7 Nc2+ 18.Kd2 Nxa1 19.Nxf7 Rxa2 20.Nxh8 Rxb2+ 21.Kd3 Rb3+ 22.Ke4 Nc2 23.e3 b5 24.Kf4 bxc4 25.Be4 Nb4 26.Bxh7 Nd3+ 27.Kg5 Nxf2 28.Rf1 Rb2 29.h4 d5 30.Ra1 Kd7 31.Nf7 c3 32.Kg6 Ng4 33.Rg1 Re2 34.Kxg7 Rxe3 35.h5 d4 36.h6 c4 37.Bc2

Position after 37. Bc2



Nxh6 38.Nxh6 d3 39.Ba4+ Kd6 40.g4 Kc5 41.g5 Kb4 42.Ng4 Re4 43.Nf6 Re5 44.Bd1 d2 45.g6 Re1 46.Kf7 Rxc1 47.g7 Ka3 48.Bg4 Rxc4 49.Nxc4 d1Q 50.g8Q Qd7+ 51.Kf6 Qd4+ 52.Kxe6 c2 53.Qa8+ Kb2 54.Qb8+ Kc1 55.Qg8 Kd1 0-1

After 7 rounds, the tournament moved to Linares, Spain. The leader at the end of the Mexican half of the tournament was Peter Leko, with 4.5 pts.. In second was Aronian. Amazingly, Topalov was second from last. Here were the standings:

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
1		Leko, P	2740	+140	*	½	½	L	L	L	½	½	5.0/7
2		Aronian, L	2752	+78	½	*	L	0	L	½	½	L	4.5/7
3		Svidler, P	2765	+11	½	0	*	0	½	L	L	L	4.0/7
4		Ivanchuk, V	2729	+3	0	L	L	*	½	½	0	½	3.5/7
5		Radjabov, T	2700	+36	0	0	½	½	*	½	L	L	3.5/7
6		Valljo Pons, F	2630	+43	0	½	0	½	½	*	L	½	3.0/7
7		Topalov, V	2811	-181	½	½	0	L	0	0	*	½	2.5/7
8		Bacrot, E	2717	-142	½	0	0	½	0	½	½	*	2.0/7

In Rd. 10, Levon Aronian was in second place, ½ pt. behind the leader, Peter Leko. Veselin Topalov, after a disastrous first half of the tournament, had 2 wins in a row, and was threatening to make a comeback. In a sharp and hard fought game, Topalov got his third straight win, to pull into a 3 - way tie for second. Here is their game:

Topalov, V (2801) – Aronian, L (2752) [E20]

Morelia/Linares Linares, Spain (10), 05.03.2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 c5 5.g3 cxd4 6.Nxd4 0-0 7.Bg2 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Qb3 Qb6 10.Bxd5 exd5 11.Be3 Bh3 12.Rc1 Nc6 13.Nxc6 Qxc6 14.f3 Qc4 15.Kf2 Be6 16.Qxc4 dxc4 17.Rhd1 Bxc3 18.bxc3 b6 19.Rd4 Rfd8 20.g4 Rd5 21.g5 Rad8 22.h4 Kf8 23.Rb1 Ke7 24.Rb2 R8d6 25.Rxd5 Rxd5 26.Bd4 f6 27.e4 Ra5 28.f4 Bd7 29.Ke3 Rb5 30.Rg2 Kf7 31.h5 fxg5 32.fxg5 g6 33.Rf2+ Ke8 34.hxg6 hxg6 35.Bf6 Rb1 36.Kd4 Rd1+ 37.Kxc4 Be6+ 38.Kb5 Ra1 39.Rh2 Rxa2 40.Rh7 Bd7+ 41.Kc4 Rd2 42.Bd4 Be6+ 43.Kb5 Bd7+ 44.Ka6 Bc6 45.Kxa7 Bxe4 46.Kxb6 Rb2+ 47.Kc5 Rb7 48.Rh4 Rc7+ 49.Kb4 Rb7+ 50.Kc4 Bf5 51.Kc5 Rc7+ 52.Kd6 Rd7+ 53.Kc6 Re7 54.Bf6 Re4 55.Rh8+ Kf7 56.Rh7+ Kg8 57.Rg7+ Kf8 58.Kb5 Re8 59.c4 Rb8+ 60.Ka5 Ra8+ 61.Kb4 Rb8+ 62.Kc3 Rc8 63.Ra7 Be6 64.Be7+ Kg8 65.c5 Bd5 66.Kd4 Bg2 67.Ke5 Ra8 68.Rc7 Ra1 69.Kf6 Be4 70.Rc8+ Kh7 71.Rd8 Ra6+ 72.Kf7 Bf5 73.Rd4 Be6+ 74.Kf8 Ra8+ 75.Bd8 Bg4 76.c6 1-0

In the Rd. 13, the tournament blew wide open. Topalov completed his resurrection from the grave with a win over the leader, Leko, tying him for first place with 7.5 pts.. It is becoming Topalov's trademark that he takes an equal late middle game, gains a slight advantage and then converts it into a win, as he did here. But Aronian drew against Bacrot, to also tie with 7.5 pts.. And as well, Radjabov won against Svidler, to also end up tied for first. A 4-way tie for first going into the last round ! Here is the Topalov/Leko game:









Topalov, V (2801) – Leko, P (2740) [E32]

Morelia/Linares Linares, Spain (13), 10.03.2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b6 7.Bg5 Bb7 8.Nf3 d6 9.Nd2 Nbd7 10.f3 d5 11.cxd5 exd5 12.e3 Re8 13.Be2 Rc8 14.0-0 Qe7 15.Bb5 c6 16.Ba4 h6 17.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.Rfe1 b5 19.Bc2 c5 20.Bf5 Rc7 21.dxc5 Rxc5 22.Qd4 a6 23.a4 bxa4 24.Rxa4 Rc6 25.b4 Qe5 26.Qxe5 Rxe5 27.Bd3 Rb6 28.Kf2 Bc8 29.Rb1 Bf5 30.Bxf5 Rxf5 31.Ra5 g6 32.Ke2 h5 33.g3 Kg7 34.h3 Nd7 35.g4 hxg4 36.hxg4 Re5 37.Kf2 Rc6 38.Rb3 Rb6 39.f4 Ree6 40.g5 Red6 41.e4 Rb5 42.Rxb5 axb5 43.Rd3 Nb6 44.Nb1 Rc6 45.exd5 Rc4 46.Kf3 Rxb4 47.Nd2 f6 48.Ne4 fxg5 49.Nxg5 Kf6 50.Kg4 Nc4 51.Ne4+ Ke7 52.d6+ Kd8 53.Kg5 Nb2 54.Re3 Rd4 55.Nf6 Rxd6 56.Re8+ Kc7 57.Re2 Rd1 58.Rxb2 Rg1+ 59.Kh6 Kc6 60.Ne4 Kd5 61.Rb4 Kc6 62.Rd4 Rg4 63.Nf2 Kc5 64.Rd1 Rg2 65.Nd3+ Kc4 66.Ne5+ Kc3 67.Rc1+ Kb2 68.Rc6 Kb3 69.Rxg6 Rf2 70.Rg3+ Kc2 71.Nd3 1-0

When the smoke finally cleared after 14 rounds, the winner was Aronian with 8.5 pts., defeating Leko in the last round. Topalov and Radjabov drew their games. The final standings were :

Final standings

				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1		Aronian, L	2752	+32	**	%0	1%	%1	0%	1%	1%	%1	8.5/14
2		Topalov, V	2801	-29	%1	**	C%	%1	1%	3%	%1	0%	8.0/14 55.75
3		Radjabov, T	2700	+06	0%	1%	**	0%	%1	%1	1%	%%	8.0/14 53.90
4		Lala, P	2740	+15	%0	%0	1%	**	1%	%%	%%	1%	7.5/14
5		Ivanchuk, V	2729	-21	1%	0%	%0	0%	**	1%	%0	%1	6.5/14 41.75
6		Svidler, P	2705	-42	0%	1%	%0	%%	0%	**	1%	1%	6.5/14 43.90
7		Bacrot, E	2717	-33	0%	%0	C%	%%	%1	3%	**	%1	6.0/14
8		Valljo Pena, F	2650	-8	%0	1%	%%	0%	%0	3%	%0	**	5.0/14

On tiebreak, Radjabov ended up second, and Topalov came third.



Tournament winner – Levon Aronian (Armenia)

Here is Aronian's Rd. 14 win over Leko:

Leko, P (2740) – Aronian, L (2752) [C88]

Morelia/Linares Linares, Spain (14), 11.03.2006

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a4 b4 9.d3 d6 10.a5 Be6 11.Nbd2 Qc8 12.Nc4 Rb8 13.Bg5 Kh8 14.h3 Ng8 15.c3 bxc3 16.bxc3 f5 17.Ba4 fxe4 18.Bxc6 exf3 19.Bxe7 Nxe7 20.Bxf3 Ng6 21.Bg4 Nf4 22.Ra2 Qb7 23.Bf3 Qb3 24.Rc2 Nxd3 25.Qxd3 Qxc4 26.Qxc4 Bxc4 27.Bc6 Rb3 28.g3 g5 29.Re3 Ra3 30.Be4 Rxa5 31.g4 Bd5 32.f3 Bxe4 33.fxe4 Ra1+ 34.Kg2 Rff1 35.Ree2 Rg1+ 36.Kh2 Rh1+ 37.Kg3 Rag1+ 38.Rg2 Re1 39.Rgf2 Re3+ 40.Kg2 Rexh3 0-1

2006 FIDE Women's World Chess Championship

This knockout championship is being played from March 10 – 27, in Ekaterinburg, Russia. It consists of 64 players. The 2004 Women's World Champion, GM Antoaneta Stefanova (Bulgaria), is back to defend her title.

In Rd. 1, the 2006 Canadian Women's Champion, WIM Natalia Khoudgharian, played the fourth ranked GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (Russia), a 2 game match. She lost 2-0, and is out of the tournament now. Here is her first game:

Kosteniuk, A (2514) – Khoudgharian, N (2106) [C10]

FIDE Women's World Chess Championship Ekaterinburg, Russia, 11.03.2006

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 h6 4.a3 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Nd7 6.Nf3 Ngf6 7.Nxf6+ Qxf6 8.Bd3 c5 9.Be3 Bd6 10.Qe2 0-0 11.0-0 Rd8 12.Rfe1 b6 13.Be4 Rb8 14.Rad1 Qe7 15.Bc6 Nf6 16.Ne5 Qc7 17.Qf3 Bxe5 18.dxe5 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Nd7 20.Be4 Bb7 21.Bxb7 Qxb7 22.Qg3 Kh8 23.Rd3 Nf8 24.h4 Qc7 25.h5 Rd8 26.Rc3 Rd5 27.Bf4 Qd7 28.Kh2 Qd8 29.Qg4 Nd7 30.Rg3 Qf8 31.Qe2 Qe7 32.Qe3 Qh4+ 33.Rh3 Qg4 34.Rg3 Qh4+ 35.Rh3 Qg4 36.c4 Rd4 37.Bxh6 Qe4 38.Rg3 Qxe3 39.Bxg7+ Kh7 40.fxe3 Rh4+ 41.Kg1 Rxh5 42.Bf6 Nxf6 43.exf6 Re5 44.Rg7+ Kh6 45.Rxf7 Kg6 46.Rxa7 Rxe3 47.f7 Kg7 48.Rb7 Rb3 49.a4 Rxb2 50.a5 Rb4 51.a6 Rxc4 52.a7 Ra4 53.Rb8 1-0

Here is their second game:

Khoudgharian, N (2106) – Kosteniuk, A (2514) [B50]

FIDE Women's World Chess Championship Ekaterinburg, Russia, 12.03.2006

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 Bg4 5.0-0 Nc6 6.Re1 e5 7.Na3 Be7 8.Nc4 d5 9.Ne3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 dxe4 11.Bxe4 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 0-0 13.Nf5 Bf6 14.Re3 g6 15.Nh6+ Kg7 16.Rh3 Bg5 17.d3 f5 18.Qc4 f4 19.Qxc5 Bxh6 20.b4 Qe7 21.Qd5 Nd8 22.Bb2 Nf7 23.Re1 Rad8 24.Qb5 Qd7 25.Qc5 b6 0-1

2006 US Chess Championships

This tournament took place in San Diego, California from March 2 – 12. The players were divided into 2 groups of 32 players. 7 women were in each group, since this championship also determined the US Women's Champion. The winners of each swiss met in a championship match on March 12. The Group A winner was Alexander Onischuk, who finished clear 1st by ½ pt. (defending Champion Hikaru Nakamura finished 4th). Yuri Shulman, in Group B, tied for first with Gata Kamsky and Larry Christiansen, but won on tiebreak. The top women in each group were Anna Zatonskih and Rusudan Goletiani, defending Women's Champion.

The championship match was 2 rapid games, with blitz tie breaks. In the national championship match, Onischuk won the match with a score of 1.5 - .5. In the Women's Championship match, Zatonskih was victorious, with a score of 1.5 - .5.

Another “ Man vs Machine “ Duel

Dubbed the “ World Chess Challenge 2006 “, a six-game match will take place in Bonn, Germany, between November 25 & December 5, between the German chess program Deep Fritz, and 2000 Classical World Champion, Vladimir Kramnik (Russia). He will be paid \$ 500,000 to play, and another \$ 500,000 if he wins. In 2002, Kramnik drew a match with Deep Fritz in Bahrain.

Gerzhoy Wins Toronto Closed

This tournament was played at the Bayview Games Club on 7 consecutive Sunday afternoons from Jan. 15 to Feb. 26. There was a Championship Section, and 5 Reserve Sections, a total of 48 players.

There was a tight race for first place in the Championship Section. In the last round, newcomer IM Leonid Gerzhoy was leading, and only needed a draw against GTA junior, Nikolay Noritsyn, to come clear first. Noritsyn had one game in hand, and so if he won, he had the potential to take first place clear, if he also won his outstanding game. Noritsyn managed the win. So he then stood in second place by ½ pt., but with a game in hand. His outstanding game was against 2005 Canadian junior Champion, Shiyam Thavandiran. With a win, Nikolay would come clear first. With a tie, he'd be co-champion with Gerzhoy. But it was not to be. Shiyam defeated Nikolay, and so IM Leonid Gerzhoy became Toronto Closed Champion, with a score of 5/7 pts., and Nikolay ended as runner-up, with 4 ½ pts...

The winners of the Reserve Sections were:

- # 1 – Raja Panjwani – 5.5 pts.
- # 2 – Yevgeni Nahutin – 5 pts.
- # 3 – Aman Hambleton – 6 pts.
- # 4 – Haonan Zhou – 5.5 pts.
- # 5 – Adrian Voicu – 6 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 were (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).

The tournament is now completed. 9 rounds have been played and all make-up games have now also been played. The outcome is now decided. Due to one withdrawal, the tournament is now calculated out of 8 rounds.

Jim Paterson ended in first as co-champion with 6/8 pts. (and was the leader in all rounds except one). But a number of players tied with him. Donal Deiseach won his last round game against Bryan Lamb (the highest rated player in the tournament, and last year's champion), who also needed a win to tie for first, ending with 6 points, tied with Jim. In his last game, Alex Rapoport defeated Rick Garel, to end up also with 6 points (Alex led in one of the earlier rounds). Thus there was a three-way tie for the championship.

Bryan Lamb, who was always in contention for first place throughout the tournament, ended up with 5 pts., 1 pt. off the pace, with his last round loss to Donal. Rick Garel, who also was in contention for first place throughout, was knocked out of the

race when he drew his outstanding make-up game with Pino Verde. His last round loss left him with 4 ½ pts.. The other 5 players ended with scores as follows: John Hall 4 pts.; Pino Verde 2.5 pts.; Bob Armstrong 1.5 pts.; Maurice Smith .5 pts.; Pepin Manalo – withdrawn.

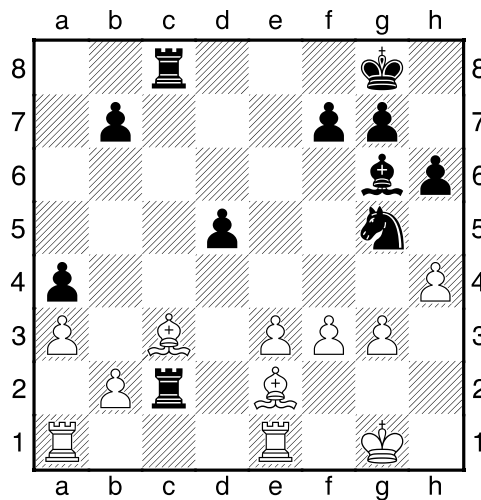
In the 9th round, Donal was potentially tied for the lead, but had to win this game and his outstanding game against Bryan, to tie. He played the second highest rated player in the tournament, John Hall. He played a good game, and got his first of the 2 wins needed. Here is their game (annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz) :

Deiseach, D (1874) – Hall, J (2145) [D34]

SCC Club Champ. – Top Section SCC, Toronto (9), 02.03.2006

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 exd5 4.d4 c5? [4...Nf6=] 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3?=[6.dxc5 d4 7.Na4 Bxc5 8.Nxc5 Qa5+ 9.Qd2 Qxc5±] 6...Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 cxd4 10.Nxd4 h6?± [10...Qb6 11.Nb3 Be6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Qxd5 Rfd8 15.Qf5 Bxb2=] 11.Bc1?=[11.Be3±] 11...Re8 12.e3 Bg4 13.f3 Bh5 14.Nce2?? [14.Nde2=] 14...Bc5 15.a3 a5 16.Qd3 Bg6 17.Qc3 Qb6 18.Rd1?? [18.Bd2?] 18...Rac8 19.Kh1 a4 20.Nxc6 Rxc6 21.Nd4 Bxd4 22.Qxd4 Qb3 [22...Qxd4 23.Rxd4 Rc2 24.Bd2 Rxb2 25.h4 Rc8?] 23.Bf1 Rc2 24.Re1?+- now Donal is really starting to get into trouble [24.Rd2 Rec8 25.Rxc2 Rxc2 26.Kg1 Nh7 27.h4 Nf8 28.g4 Bh7?] 24...Rec8??= But John lets him off the hook [24...Nd7 25.Be2 Ne5 26.Bd1 Rf2 27.Qxe5 (27.Bxb3 Nxf3 28.Qd2 Nxd2 29.Bxd5 Be4+ 30.Bxe4 Nxe4+) 27...Rxe5 28.Bxb3 Rh5+] 25.Be2 R2c6 26.Bd2 Qb6 27.Bc3 Qxd4?± [27...Qb3=] 28.Bxd4 Rc2?± [28...Ra8±] 29.Bc3 Nh7 [29...Nd7 30.Bd1 R2xc3 31.bxc3 Ne5 32.Bxa4 Rxc3 33.Kg2 Nc4 34.Kf2 Nb2 35.Bb5 Bd3 36.Ra2 Rb3±] 30.Kg1??=[30.Bd1 R2xc3 31.bxc3 b5 32.Rc1 Bd3 33.Be2 Bxe2 34.Rxe2 Nf6±] 30...Ng5 31.h4?? [31.Rad1=]

Position after 31. h4



31...Nh3+??± at this point, John was now in time trouble [31...Bd3 32.Kf2 Nh3+ 33.Kf1 Re8 34.Bd4 Bc4?] 32.Kg2??+- Donal errs, and he had 30 min. left on his clock [32.Kf1 Re8 33.Rac1 Rxc1 34.Rxc1 Rxe3 35.Bd4 Re7±] 32...Bd3 33.Kf1 Bxe2+??+- again time pressure takes its toll [33...Re8 34.Bd4 Bc4 35.Rad1 g5 36.hxg5 hxg5+] 34.Rxe2 Rxe2 35.Kxe2 g5 [35...b5 36.Kf1 Re8 37.Re1 f6 38.Kg2 Kf7 39.Kxh3 g6+-] 36.Rh1 d4 [36...g4 37.fxg4 Rc4 38.g5 hxg5 39.Rxh3

g4 40.Rxh4 Rxh4 41.g4 Kh7+-] **37.exd4 Re8+ 38.Kf1 Re3 39.Rxh3?+-** [39.Kg2 f5 40.Rxh3 g4 41.fxg4 fxg4 42.Rh1 Re2+ 43.Kf1 Rc2+-] **39...Rxf3+ 40.Kg2 g4 41.Rh1 Re3** here John resigned with his flag hanging at 5:59, but he is now lost anyway. **1-0**

Another critical Rd. 9 game involved Bryan Lamb and Rick Garel. Bryan had dropped 2 pts., and so had to win this game to keep his hopes alive of tying for first. Garel had dropped only 1 pt. so far, and so a win would leave him on track to win the tournament outright if he won his 2 outstanding games as well. Bryan managed the win. Here is their game (annotations by Garel):

(66) Lamb, B (2159) – Garel, R (1762) [A18]

Club Championship SCC, 02.03.2006

A18: English Opening: Flohr–Mikenas System (1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e6 3 e4) **1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.e5 d4 6.exf6 dxc3 7.Qe2+ Be6 8.Qb5+** [8.dxc3 Nd7 9.fxg7 Bxg7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.Qc2 Re8 12.Be2 Bc4 13.Be3 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Nf6 15.0-0 Ng4 16.h3 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Re6 18.Qf2 Qf6 19.Rae1 Rae8 20.Nh4 Qxf2+ 21.Kxf2 b5 22.Nf5 a5 Kortschnoj, V–Partos, C/ Montreux 1977/EXT 2001/½-½ (56)] **8...Qd7??N** Is it premature to say that black is now in a losing game? [No one was more surprised than me when chessbase cited the following game... 8...Nd7 9.dxc3 Qxf6 10.Qxb7 Qe5+ 11.Ne2 Bd5 12.Qb5 Rb8 13.Qa4 Bc5 14.b3 0-0 15.Qxd7 Rfe8 16.Qh3 Bxg2 17.Bf4 Qxf4 18.Qxg2 Rbd8 19.Rd1 Bxf2+ 0-1 Lamb, B–Harkes, L/Toronto 1995/EXT 97 (19)] **9.dxc3 a6 10.Qxd7+ Nxd7 11.fxg7 Bxg7** I placed my hopes in blacks lead in development. Yes the pawn sac was by design, but obviously a poor design. **12.Nf3 0-0** Castling queenside is no better or worse. [12...0-0 13.Bg5 Rde8 14.Be3 Ne5 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.g3 Re7 17.Bd3±] **13.Bf4 Rfe8 14.0-0 Nc5 15.Be3 Ne4 16.Kb1 Rad8 17.Bd3 Rxd3??** I seem to have this tendency to self-destruct when I play Bryan. This is another example. Had I been playing just about anyone else, I would have resolved to defend the position a pawn down in the hopes of drawing the endgame. [Bryan suggested 17..Bf5. Black is still fighting for his life but it's better than what happened in the game. 17...Bf5 18.Bc2 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Nxc3+ 21.Kb2 Nxd1+ 22.Bxd1 Be4] **18.Rxd3 Nxf2 19.Bxf2 Bf5 20.Rhd1 Re2 21.Bg3 c5 22.Ka1 1-0**

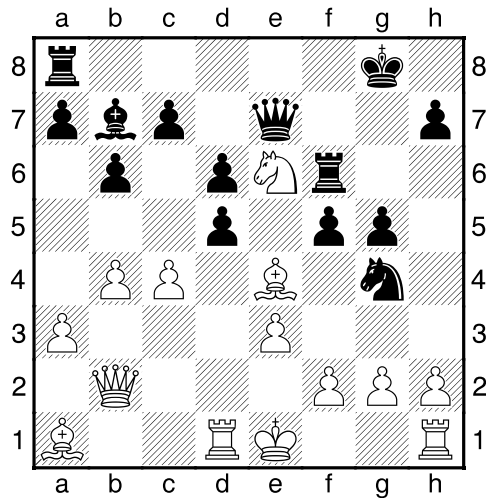
In their make-up game, Bryan Lamb and Donal Deiseach were each 1 pt. off the lead, and so each needed a win to tie for first. Donal came through with the win, knocking Bryan out of contention. Here is their game (annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz) :

Deiseach, D (1874) – Lamb, B (2159) [E21]

SCC Club Champ. – Top Section SCC, Toronto (9), 09.03.2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 b6 5.Bd2 Bb7 6.a3 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 0-0 8.e3 d6 9.Bd3 Ne4 10.Qc2 f5 11.Rd1 this is a novelty according to the chessdatabase of ChessBase. The moves previously tried were : 0-0; 0-0-0; b4; a4; h4; Rg1; Bxe4. **11...Nd7 12.b4 Ndf6 13.Ba1 g5??+-** Bryan decides to launch a K-side attack, but it is a fatal error. [13...c5=] **14.d5! exd5 15.Nd4?±** But Donal fails to find the winning line and plays an inferior, though good, move. [the winning line is very interesting 15.cxd5 Bxd5 16.Nd4 Qc8 17.f3 c5 18.Ne2 Qe6 19.fxe4 fxe4 20.Ba6 Bb3 21.Rxd6 Qxd6 22.Qxb3+ Kg7+- W has 2 B's vs R+P] **15...Ng4** [15...Qc8? 16.cxd5 Bxd5 17.f3 c5+- and as in the previous alternate winning line] **16.Ne6 Qe7 17.Qb2??±** Donal blunders, trying to develop a K-side attack. [17.Bxe4 fxe4 18.Nxf8 Rxf8 19.0-0 dxc4 20.Qxc4+ Qf7 21.Qc2 Qd7±] **17...Rf6??=** But this time it's Bryan who fails to find the line giving him a clear advantage. [17...Nexf2 18.0-0 Nxd1 19.Qh8+ Kf7 20.Qxh7+ (20.Nxf8?? Qxe3+ 21.Kh1 Ngf2+ 22.Kg1 Nh3+ 23.Kh1 Qg1+ 24.Rxg1 Nhf2#) 20...Ke8 21.Qg6+ Qf7 22.Ng7+ Kd8 23.Qxg5+ Qe7 24.Ne6+ Kd7 25.Nxf8+ Rxf8 26.Qxe7+ Kxe7 27.Rxd1 dxc4 28.Bxc4 Bxg2±] **18.Bxe4**

Position after 18. Bxe4



Qxe6??± Bryan takes the wrong minor piece, and is in trouble for the rest of the game [18...dxe4 19.Nxg5 Ne5=] **19.Bxd5 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Qe7 21.0-0** [21.h3? Ne5 22.0-0 g4±] **21...Raf8 22.Qd2 Rg6 23.Rfe1 h5?+-** [23...Ne5±] **24.f3?±** [24.Rc1 Qf7 25.b5 Ne5 26.Qd1 g4 27.Qa4 Qxd5 28.Rxc7 h4 29.Rd1 Qe6 30.Rxa7 h3+-] **24...Nf6?+-** [24...Ne5±] **25.Qd3 Nd7 26.Qc3 Ne5 27.Rc1?±** [27.f4 Nf7 28.e4 Qd7 29.e5 dxe5 30.fxe5 Qe7 31.e6 Kh7 32.exf7 Qxf7+-] **27...g4?+-** [27...Qf7 28.Qxc7 Qxd5 29.e4 fxe4 30.fxe4 Qf7 31.Bxe5 Qxc7 32.Rxc7 dxe5 33.Re7 Rd8±] **28.f4 Nf3?+-** Bryan makes a desperation move, hoping to shake something loose on the K-side, but it is unsound. [28...Nf7 29.Qc2 g3 30.Qxf5 gxh2+ 31.Kh1 Rh6 32.Qh3 Nd8 33.e4 Rxf4 34.e5 Qf8 35.Re3 dxe5 36.Rg3+ Rg4 37.Rxg4+ hxg4 38.Qxg4+ Qg7 39.Qxg7+ Kxg7 40.Bxe5+ Kf8 41.Rxc7 Nf7 42.Bg3 Rh5 43.d6 a5 44.d7 Nd8 45.bxa5 bxa5+-] **29.gxf3 gxf3+ 30.Kh1 Rff6 31.Rg1 Qe4?+-** [31...Kf8+-] **32.Rxg6+ Kh7** [32...Rxg6? 33.Qh8+ Kf7 34.Rxc7+ Qe7 35.Qh7+ Kf8 36.Qxe7+ Kg8 37.Qe8#] **33.Qxf6** [33.Qxc7+ Qe7 34.Qxe7+ Kxg6 35.Qxf6+ Kh7 36.Qg7#] **33...f2+ 34.Rg2** and mate will follow **1-0**

Going into his outstanding game, Alex Rapoport had 5 pts., and needed a win to tie for first. He played Garel, and won. Here is their game (annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Rapoport, A (1926) – Garel, R (1762) [A45]

SCC Club Champ. – Top Section SCC, Toronto (9), 09.03.2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nd2 d5 3.f4?± [3.Ng3=] **3...Bf5 4.Ng3 e6 5.e3 Bd6 6.Bd3 Ne4??±** [6...0-0 7.0-0 Bxd3 8.cxd3 Nbd7=] **7.0-0??=** for some reason, Alex wrongly declines to win the P [7.Bxe4 dxe4 8.Ng5 Bb4 (8...Bxf4? 9.exf4 Qxd4 10.c3 Qd3+-) 9.c3 Be7 10.Ngxe4 Qd5 11.Qf3 Nd7±] **7...0-0?±** But Rick gives him a second chance, which he takes ! [7...Qf6 8.Ne5 (8.Bxe4 dxe4 9.Ne5= (9.Ng5? Qg6 10.h4 h5±)) 8...Nxd2 9.Bxd2 0-0=] **8.Bxe4 dxe4 9.Ng5 Bxf4** according to the chess database of ChessBase, this is a novelty. The prior game played ...Be7. **10.exf4 Qxd4+ 11.Kh1 e3?±** [11...f6 12.Nh3 Bxh3 13.gxh3 f5±] **12.Ndf3 Qxf4 13.Qe2 Qb4?+-** Rick should now be lost, but he gamely fights on, in hope of shepherding one of his P's home, or at least drawing. He is somewhat rewarded, since by move 42, Alex has only a slight advantage ! [13...h6 14.Bxe3 Qb4 15.c3 Qd6 16.Rad1 Qa6 17.Qxa6 Nxa6 18.Nh3 Bxh3 19.gxh3 b6±] **14.c3 Qa5 15.Bxe3?±** [15.Nd4 Bg6 16.Bxe3 Qa6 17.c4 Nc6 18.Nb5 Rac8+-] **15...h6 16.Nh3 Nc6?+-** [16...Bxh3

17.gxh3 Nc6±] 17.Nd4?± [17.Nf4+–] 17...Nxd4 18.Bxd4 Bxh3 19.gxh3 Qd5+ 20.Qg2?± [20.Kg1±] 20...Qxg2+ 21.Kxg2 f6 22.Rad1 b6 23.Rd2 Rfd8 24.Rfd1 Rd5 [24...Rd6±] 25.Be3 [25.c4 Rd6 26.c5 Rd5 27.Bf2 c6 28.Rxd5 exd5±] 25...Rad8 26.Rxd5 Rxd5 27.Rxd5 exd5 28.Bf4 c6 29.Bb8 a6 30.Kf3 Kf7 31.Bc7 b5 32.Bd6 Ke6 33.Bf8 Kf7 34.Bb4 Ke6?± [34...g6±] 35.Kf4 h5 36.h4 Kf7 37.Ke3 Ke6 38.Kf4?± [38.Kd4±] 38...Kf7 39.Bc5 Ke6??+– [39...a5±] 40.b4 Kf7 [40...g6 41.h3 Kf7 42.Bg1 Ke6 43.Ke3 Kd7 44.Kd4 Kd6 45.Bh2+ Kd7 46.Kc5 f5 47.Kb6+–] 41.Bd6??± [41.Ke3 Ke8 42.Bd6 Kd7 43.Bf8 g6 44.Bg7 Ke6 45.Kd4 f5 46.Kc5 Kd7 47.Be5 Ke6 48.Bf4 Kd7 49.Kd4 Ke6 50.a3 Kd7 51.Ke5 Ke7 52.Bg5+ Kd7 53.Kf6+–] 41...Ke6 42.Bc7 Kf7??+– Rick is now in trouble [42...Kd7±] 43.h3 [43.Ke3?±] 43...Ke6 44.Ke3 Kd7 45.Bg3 Ke6 46.Kd4 Kf5 [46...Kd7+–] 47.Kc5 Ke4 48.Kxc6 f5 49.Kb6 Kd3 50.Kxa6 Kxc3 51.Kxb5 d4 [51...Kd4 52.Bf2+ Ke4 53.Kc5 Kf3 54.Bd4 Kg3 55.b5 Kxh4 56.b6 Kxh3 57.b7 g5 58.b8Q+–] 52.Be5 Kd3 53.Kc5 1-0

The Reserve Section is two one-section swisses (both 5 rounds, and results totaled) for all other members. The first swiss attracted 18 players. The winner of the first Swiss was junior, Richard Douglas, undefeated, with 4.5 points. In second place was Doug Gillis, with 4 pts.. Tied for 3rd/4th were Steve Douglas (Richard's father), and Gord Blackman, each with 3 pts..

The second swiss had 16 players. This time junior Richard Douglas tied for first/second with Joe Bellomo (who defeated Richard in Rd. 5). Each had 4 pts.. In third place was Steve Douglas with 3.5 pts..

To determine the 1st and 2nd place players in the Reserve Section, the scores in the 2 swisses are combined. Using this method the 1st place finisher is junior, Richard Douglas, with a combined score of 8.5 pts.. In second place with 7 pts. (4 from the first swiss, and 3 from the second), is Doug Gillis. Both of these members have thereby earned the right to play in the top Championship Section next year.

SCC Starts New Swiss

Tomorrow, on Thursday, March 16, SCC will start a new one-section swiss tournament of 7 rounds. We have been getting 25-30 players out this year, and so there is opportunity to play a number of different players of all different strengths (from expert down to beginner). We also have a number of juniors playing at the club this year. The tournaments are CFC-rated. Come out and play some friendly, but competitive, chess!! Clubhouse opens at 7:00 pm and games start at 7:30 pm. Time control is game/90 min., and we are out of the clubhouse by 11:00 pm.

Chess and Stephen Leacock

(Submitted by David Cohen)

I was browsing an updated list of chess stamps from countries around the world, when I came across a new entry: Canada! The stamp was from 1969, honouring humour writer Stephen Leacock. It turns out that he wrote a short story, "Pawn to King's Four", which describes a typical evening in a stuffy, old-fashioned chess club. Some quotes: "All chess players think of opening on the Queen's side but never do. Life ends too soon."; and "... said ... with a deep sigh. I knew he had been thinking of something that he daren't risk. All chess is one long regret." You can check it out at the Toronto Public Library, in a collection called "Happy Stories, Just To Laugh At".

The March Open – Toronto - Upcoming Tournament

This 5 round swiss will be held at the Bayview Games Club, 1681 Bayview Avenue, on March 17 – 19. 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 March 16). 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 March 10 – full entry fee rebate (\$ 55). There is a 60 player maximum capacity. For further information : Vlad Dobrich 416-722-9709.

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

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