

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 # 10-15 – April 1, 2009

The Important Role of the Governor in the CFC

(and this is not an April Fools' joke !!)

Provincial AGM's & Governors

Each year, usually in mid-Spring, Provinces hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM). Members of the CFC have the opportunity at this meeting to elect their governors for the CFC. Is this important to CFC members? Should they come out and vote? Let's take a look at what role the CFC Governors play, and whether CFC members should be concerned about these upcoming elections.

The Nature of CFC Governors

A pro-bono CFC lawyer stated some time ago, that the Governors (called “ Special Members “ in the Bylaws) are similar to corporate shareholders, and not liable for their actions. He stated:

“As a practicing lawyer I can advise that the CFC is a corporation and as such is a separate legal entity. Shareholders of a corporation are not liable for the misdeeds of a corporation. At the annual meeting Governors - who are the equivalent of shareholders- elect an executive to manage the affairs of the corporation in the same way that business corporations elect a board of directors. In the CFC's case the executive are the directors and are registered as such with the appropriate government authority in the same way that a business corporation registers its board of directors with the appropriate government

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authority. The directors (i.e. the executive in the case of the CFC) of a corporation are occasionally, though not usually, liable unless the acts that they do are themselves unlawful. The directors are not usually personally liable if the corporation takes some action which causes problems or losses to another individual. The corporation may in some circumstances be liable but not the directors personally. This is one of the main reasons why people incorporate. The situation is entirely different with a group of individuals who are not incorporated as is often the case with community groups. “

Differences Of Governors From Shareholders

I, however, see significant differences between the " Special Members = Governors " of the non-profit CFC corporation, and " shareholders " in a normal corporation. Shareholders do not " govern " a corporation. They elect a Board of Directors to govern the corporation for them, and the Board elects an Executive to carry out the day to day running of the enterprise, and to bring matters of governance back to them for their voting decision.

That is not the case in the CFC. Yes the Governors are members of the non-profit, but they are " Special Members ", representing the members in the provinces/territories. And the Bylaws give them powers you don't see being given to shareholders. For example, take Section 1 of CFC Bylaw # 2:

” BY-LAW NUMBER TWO OF THE CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA

1. ASSEMBLY OF GOVERNORS

The Chess Federation of Canada shall be **governed** (my emphasis) by an Assembly of Governors (hereinafter called the Assembly)... “

This is further emphasized in Section 7:

” 7. POWERS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF GOVERNORS

The Assembly shall have **plenary powers** (my emphasis) to exercise in the name of the Federation **all powers that the Federation has accorded to it** (my emphasis) by its Constitution and the Canada Corporations Act (Part II). “

In fact certain critical powers are reserved exclusively to the Governors -

” 8. MATTERS RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE ASSEMBLY OF GOVERNORS

Final decisions in the following matters are **reserved exclusively** (my emphasis) to the Assembly.

the formal recognition as an affiliate of any provincial association or interim provincial association in Canada,

the appointment of an honorary patron and one or more presidents emeriti from time to time,

the determination of the amount of fees for any class of membership as provided in these by-laws,

the amending in any degree of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Federation,

the election or removal of a Director(s) or Officer(s), unless otherwise provided for in the by-laws,

the changing of the titles, duties and responsibilities of the directors and officers,

the spending, transferring or otherwise disposing of a significant portion of the Federation's assets,

the appointment or removal of an auditor or auditors. “

The CFC “ Board of Directors “

Furthermore, the Board of Directors of the CFC (= the Executive) is the creature of the Governors. It is elected by the Governors. Its powers come from the Governors. And it does not “ govern “ the corporation as a Board of Directors does in a regular corporation. It is more like the Assembly of Governors' Executive Committee. See Section 9 -

” 9. DELEGATION OF POWERS

The Assembly may delegate any of its powers to the Board of Directors, or to the President or other person or persons. Where a power is delegated to the Board of Directors the Board may in turn delegate such power to the President or other member of the Board of Directors and such delegation shall be deemed to have been made by the Assembly. “

It is my understanding that the Governors have only delegated to the Board of Directors the day-to-day operations of the CFC, and not all powers. Policy decisions and major operating decisions that are urgent, where there is no time to convene (however) the Governors to vote, are also delegated to the Executive.. But otherwise all major decisions are to be made by the Governors wherever possible. I have not found anything, however, that clearly shows this is the policy that the Governors have followed. But this appears to

be the practice of the Governors. They deal with major items by their own motions, and it seems they expect major items to be brought back to them by the Executive for decision.

So as I read it, the Governors are more like the Board of Directors of a corporation, than like mere shareholders. The CFC Board of Directors (= Executive) are more like an “ Executive Committee “ and do the bidding of the Governors.

However, the CFC Executive are " the Board of Directors " legally, and registered as Directors with the Ministry. Nevertheless, anyone would quickly see through that as a **sham**, and could easily prove that the **Governors run** the CFC (or at least are supposed to). Bylaw # 2 of the CFC makes this clear, as does the practice of the Governors/Executive.

Liability of Governors

If the Governors have these decision-making powers, and exercise them, then can they be liable for negligent exercise of these powers (or for failure to exercise them)? They are expected by the membership to exercise their powers to the extent that any reasonable person would do. If they don't, can they be liable?

It is true that in normal corporations, the individual directors are generally protected from liability by the outer shell of the corporation. Negligent actions of the corporation may lead to liability of the corporation, but not of the individual directors. And the directors, in my opinion, run the corporation the same as the Governors run the CFC corporation. So generally, I would expect that the Governors are shielded from liability generally, as are directors generally.

But there has been a broadening of the liability of Directors in recent years, beyond simply actions of illegality. This is why some corporations have now made it a practice to have Directors' Liability Insurance. It would be good for the CFC to be sure that they do not need such insurance for the Executive/Governors.

Provincial/Territorial Naming of Governors

Based on CFC membership numbers, each Province/Territory is granted a certain number of governor seats based on CFC members, and there are named Governors-at-large. Here is the Governor structure and breakdown for 2008-9:

1. **Governors-at-Large :**
 - A - Executive - 7
 - B – Non-Executive Officers - Masters' Representative and Women's Coordinator - 2
 - C - Representative of Chess Foundation of Canada, and, Canadian Correspondence Chess Association - 2
 - D - Canadian Champion and Runner-Up - 2
 - E – Former CFC Presidents (some Life Governors) – 10 (almost equal the votes of the other Governors-at-Large)

Total – 23

2. Provincial/Territorial Governors:

A - B.C. - 5
B - Alta. - 5
C - Sask. - 1
D - Man. - 2
E - Ont. - 17
F - Que. - 2
G - N.B. - 2
H - P.E.I. - 1
I - N.S. - 2
J - Nfld. & Lab. - 1
K - no reps from the 3 territories (3 vacancies)

Total - 38 (and three vacancies)

3. Total No. of Governors - 61 (and 3 vacancies)

The Ontario Situation

Ontario is unique among the provinces as to how it is set up for CFC Governor elections. In Ontario, the Ontario Chess Association has divided the province up into regions, called “ Leagues “. Again, according to CFC membership numbers, each league is allowed to nominate a certain number of CFC Governors, and one seat is reserved for the OCA president.

It is the CFC practice, that when a governor becomes a member of the CFC Executive, elected at the July AGM, they change from being a provincial governor, to being a Governor-at-Large. In this case, the province/territory gets to name a replacement governor, since the governor-at-large is no longer considered representing the province/territory, but is supposed to now represent all CFC members. In 2007-8, for example, Ontario sent in 20 governors names, the 17 allowed, plus three extras, since it appeared that 3 of the new executive might well come from Ontario.

Sure enough, 3 Ontario governors that year got elected to the CFC Executive: Hal Bond – President; Stijn de Kerpel, Vice-President, and Bob Gillanders, Treasurer. So Ontario ended up with the correct number of “representative “ governors in the final result – 17.

How Many Governors

The CFC usually sends to the provinces/territories the number of governors for the coming year at the end of April. This is when they determine the number of CFC members per province, for the purpose of allotting Governors. This then allows each

province/territory to hold their respective AGM's, and have a list of governors to send in in time for the CFC AGM held in July at the time of the Canadian Open.

But Is There a “ Governor Problem ” ?

I think the governor structure the CFC currently has gives rise to 2 distinct problems.

The first is administrative. There are 61 governors for about 1400 adult members. This works out to about a governor for every 23 adult members. Where do you get these kinds of representation figures in real life organizations?? This is bureaucratic overkill. And it makes decision-making difficult when there are so many voters to communicate with and get to vote. Getting quorums becomes a problem with such a large body of deciders. Today's business models tend to be lean and mean – smaller groups that can make decisions quickly – our system is cumbersome to say the least. Surely the system needs at least to be streamlined – perhaps the number of governors reduced.

The second problem is “ qualitative “. What type of governors do we actually have? When one looks at the Governors' Letters, there is cause for concern, perhaps somewhat more in past years than in 2008-9. But even this year in some votes, few Governors voted, or even commented. For example, on Motion 2009-06, only 15 Governors sent in their e-mail vote – out of 61 ! This is a vote percentage of only 25 % ! There does seem to be an issue of apathy of some Governors (many? most ?).

And here I think the responsibility flows back to the provincial associations. After all, the CFC initially was formed as a federation of provincial organizations. There is too little blame being cast on the various provincial organizations for the lack of oversight by the Governors, since the Associations put forward the names of their respective Governors to the CFC for approval. The Provincial Organization must take responsibility to send representatives who will be interested and active as Governors. It is their responsibility. I think each Provincial/Territorial affiliate should, before the nomination of the new set of governors, do a survey of the Governors' Letters since July of the prior year, and list each current Governor, and how many motions they voted on, how many they commented on but failed to vote on, and how many times outside of motions, they commented on anything in the GL. This way the members would know for incumbents running again, their past track record, and whether they are worthy of being re-elected.

Lastly blame must also go to the members in the Provincial Association, who have the vote on the Governors to be nominated. The members do have the power over their own Governors (although in Ontario they have no say in the rest of the Governors nominated from other Leagues). The members must choose people who promise to be active and vigilant stewards of the CFC affairs. And here the Provincial Associations again have fallen down - they have not generated enough awareness of the power of CFC members in this regard. They have not promoted the attendance of CFC members at the time of voting. They have failed to beat the bushes to find the kind of Governors needed, to stand for election. I am here using Ontario as my model (I'm not sure how other provinces are set up). Here the mandate is delegated to the number of " Leagues " in the province - the league organizes the nomination meeting, and gets out the nominees. So in Ontario, it is not so much the Provincial Association that has fallen down, as the local Leagues. If this

could be corrected, and we could get active and interested Governors, then I think the current system could work.

Back to the Provincial/Territorial AGM's

Individual members must make their voices heard on this issue. They must help seek out good Governor candidates, and volunteer themselves to serve. The members do have a certain amount of power under the current system, but I think they are not using it. We all need to start exercising the power we do have. One certain way to do that is to come out to your AGM and make your vote count.

Notice of Upcoming GTCL AGM on Saturday, May 2 !

The location has now been confirmed (the same site as they've used the last few years):

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto,
86 Overlea Blvd., between Don Mills and Thorncliffe.
(turn North at William Morgan Drive, turn East and through the gates)

The time will be from 11:00AM – 2:00 PM.

Calling All GTCL CFC Governor Candidates !

Given the importance of the role of CFC Governor, we would like to help Candidates present themselves to the GTA CFC members. Please send us a short, concise, approximately 200 - 300 word description of yourself (chess-wise), and any statement you would like to make. We will publish it in the next 2 issues of the newsletter (April 15 & May 1)! If you know someone who is thinking of running (incumbent or newbie) who you think may not get this newsletter (there are such Neanderthals??), please let them know. Thanks.

European Individual Championship

The 10th European Individual took place in Budva , Montenegro 6th-17th March 2009. Evgeny Tomashevsky



took the title after a day of playoffs; he beat Vladimir Malakhov 2-1 in the final. Baadur Jobava (Georgia) won bronze.

The 1st/11th finishers, with 8/11 pts. were:

Final Ranking after 11 Rounds

Rk.		Name	FED	Rtg	Pts.	TB1	TB2	TB3	Rp
1		GM Tomashevsky Evgeny	RUS	2664	8,0	1	62,0	75,5	2724
2		GM Malakhov Vladimir	RUS	2692	8,0	2	60,5	73,5	2749
3		GM Jobava Baadur	GEO	2669	8,0	3	59,5	71,5	2765
4		GM Inarkiev Ernesto	RUS	2656	8,0	4	62,5	76,0	2778
5		GM Sokolov Ivan	NED	2657	8,0	0	63,0	76,5	2763
6		GM Naiditsch Arkadij	GER	2693	8,0	0	62,5	76,0	2767
7		GM Navara David	CZE	2638	8,0	0	60,5	74,0	2747
8		GM Grachev Boris	RUS	2655	8,0	0	60,0	73,0	2726
9		GM Kobalia Mikhail	RUS	2634	8,0	0	59,0	72,0	2748
10		GM Guseinov Gadir	AZE	2661	8,0	0	57,5	70,0	2718
11		GM Nyback Tomi	FIN	2644	8,0	0	54,5	66,5	2716

10th European Individual Women's Chess Championship

This 11 round Swiss tournament was played in St. Petersburg, Russia, on March 7 - March 21. The first Women Grand Prix tournament overlapped with the European Women's Individual Championship. It's a little surprising to see the two big events clashing with each other. The playing time was 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one. It is interesting to note that this " new " time control brought in by FIDE some time ago, is still vying with the classical time control in big tournaments of 2 hours for 40 moves plus 1 hour for an additional 60 moves plus 15 min. for the rest of the game, with increment of 30 seconds per move from move 60. The top 20 players divided a prize fund of 70 000 euro.

The high interest in the tournament was due to the fact that the Individual European Women's Championship 2009 is a qualification event for the next World Championship for Women. According to FIDE regulations and the decision of the ECU Board, 14 players qualified.

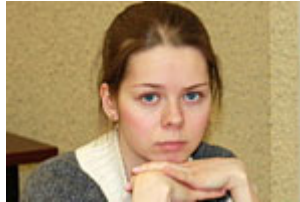
The final standings were:

Final standings of the leaders:

1	11	IM	Mkrtchian, Lilit	2460	ARM	8,5
2	5	IM	Kosintseva, Tatiana	2497	RUS	8,5
3	15	GM	Socko, Monika	2449	POL	8
4	24	WGM	Shadrina, Tatiana	2416	RUS	8
5	17	IM	Lomineishvili, Maia	2437	GEO	8

6	16	IM	Kovalevskaya, Ekaterina	2442	RUS	8
7	9	WGM	Pogonina, Natalija	2467	RUS	8
8	27	IM	Rajlich, Iweta	2399	POL	8
9	18	IM	Ovod, Evgenija	2430	RUS	8

This necessitated a number of play-offs for 1st, 3rd and the 14th Women's World Championship place. The tiebreak for the title in St Petersburg was won by Russian IM Tatiana Kosintseva,



who beat her Armenian rival IM Lilit Mkrtchian 1½–½. There was also a seven-player tiebreak for bronze, which was won by WGM Natalija Pogonina of Russia. And finally a playoff for the 14th place in the next World Championship, which was taken by Ukrainian IM Mariya Muzychuk

FIDE Women's Grand Prix

The FIDE Women's Grand Prix took place in Istanbul, Turkey, 5th-20th March 2009. It was a 12-player round robin. It was won by GM Humpy Koneru of India.

The final standings were:

FIDE Women's Grand Prix Istanbul (TUR), 7-19 iii 2009													cat. X (2481)				
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2		
1.	Koneru, Humpy	g	IND	2621	*	1	0	½	1	1	1	1	1	½	½	8½	2679
2.	Danielian, Elina	m	ARM	2496	0	*	½	1	1	1	½	1	½	½	1	8	2654
3.	Hou Yifan	wg	CHN	2571	1	½	*	0	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	8	2647
4.	Zhao Xue	g	CHN	2508	½	0	1	*	0	1	1	½	½	1	1	7½	2611

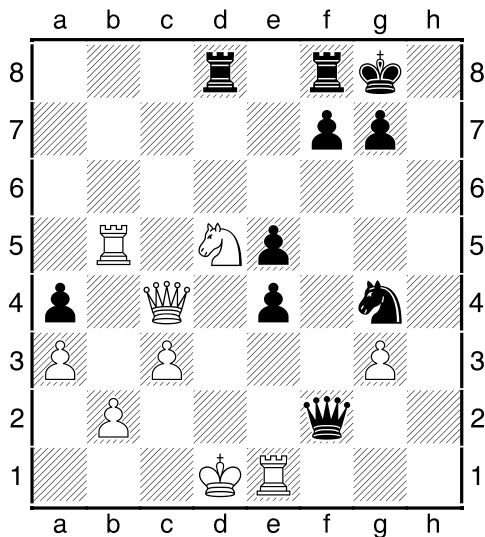
Here is Koneru's



last round win which clinched her first place – she manages to harass the W King, win an exchange, and then go on to promote a pawn (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Sebag, M (2529) – Koneru, H (2621) [C92]
 FIDE Women's Grand Prix Istanbul TUR (11), 19.03.2009

1.e4= 0.20 1...e5 for Fritz, the only equalizing move 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 3...a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5?!± [6...d6= 0.16 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.d4 exd4 9.Nxd4 Bd7=] 7.Bb3 d6 [7...0-0 8.d4 d6 9.c3 Bg4±] 8.c3 0-0 9.h3?!= [9.d4 Bg4 10.Qd3 Qd7±] 9...a5 10.d3 a4 11.Bc2 Bd7 12.Nbd2 Re8 13.Nf1 h6?!± [13...Bf8 14.Ng3 Ne7=] 14.Ng3 Bf8 15.Nh2?!= [15.d4 Na5 16.Rb1 g6=] 15...Ne7 [15...d5 16.exd5 Nxd5 17.a3 Be6=] 16.Qf3 Ng6 17.Ng4 [17.d4 a3 18.bxa3 c6=] 17...Nxb3 18.hxg4 Be7 [18...Nh4 19.Qe2 c6=] 19.Nf5 Bg5 20.g3 Bxc1 21.Raxc1 Qg5 22.Rcd1?!± for the first time in the game, Koneru gets the advantage [22.d4 Nf8 23.Rcd1 Rad8=] 22...Be6?!= [22...a3 23.bxa3 Rxa3 24.Bb3 Be6=] 23.a3 Rad8 24.Ne3 Nf8 25.d4 Nh7 26.Bd3 Bd7 27.Qe2 c6 28.d5 cxd5 29.Bxb5?!± [29.exd5 Rb8 30.f3 Nf6=] 29...Bxb5 30.Qxb5 dxe4?!± [30...d4 31.cxd4 exd4 32.Nf5 Qxg4=] 31.Rxd6 Ra8 32.Rd7?!= [32.Ra6 Qd8 33.Qxa4 Rxa6 34.Qxa6 Re6±] 32...Nf6 [32...Qf6 33.Nd5 Qf3=] 33.Rb7 h5 34.Qc4 Rf8 35.gxh5 Qxh5 36.Nd5?+- this allows the Q & N to get in; Koneru gets a " winning " advantage [36.Qe2 Qh3 37.Qf1 Qh6=] 36...Ng4 37.Kf1 Qh2 38.Ke2?+- - 4.79 [38.Rxf7 Kh8 39.Ne7 Qh5+- - 2.60] 38...Qxf2+?+- - 5.53 Koneru goes up a P [38...Nxf2 39.Kd2 Rab8 - 6.29] 39.Kd1 Rad8?+- - 4.36 [39...Rfd8 40.Qxe4 f5 41.Qd3 e4 42.Qc4 Rac8 43.Qd4 Qxd4+ 44.cxd4 Rxd5+- - 7.67 Koneru would be up an N] 40.Rb5



Ne3+ 41.Rxe3 Qxe3 Koneru is up the exchange + P 42.Kc2 Qf2+?+- - 3.48 [42...Qf3 43.Ne7+ Kh8 44.Rd5 Rxd5 45.Qxd5 Rb8+- - 5.05] 43.Kb1 Rfe8 44.Ka2?+- - 6.45 [44.Qc5 Qxg3 45.Ka2 Qd3+- - 4.37] 44...e3 45.Qb4?+- - 9.94 [45.Qc5 Rxd5! 46.Qxd5 e2 47.Qd7 Re6+- - 8.55] 45...Rxd5! 46.Rxd5 Koneru is up a passed (and deciding) pawn 46...e2 47.Qxa4 - 11.61 material equality [47.Rd2 Qe3 48.Rxe2 Qxe2+- - 11.75] 47...Rb8+- - 11.86 0-1

The Melody Amber Tournament, Nice, France

This is a show tournament for chess. It was played March 14 - 26. It is composed of two tournaments: a rapid tournament and a blindfold tournament. Then there is a combined winner. It is a 12-player round robin, with two game matches per round. It was very strong. The participants were (in alphabetical order): World Champion Viswanathan Anand (India), Levon Aronian (Armenia), Magnus Carlsen (Norway), Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), Gata

Kamsky (United States), Sergey Karjakin (Ukraine), Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), Peter Leko (Hungary), Alexander Morozevich (Russia), Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan), Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) and Wang Yue (China).

Though this tournament is a chance for the top players to enjoy themselves, they take it seriously, and there are decent prizes.

The combined winner was Aronian.

The final standings were (from ChessBase):

Final standings (after eleven rounds)

Blindfold			Rapid			Combined		
1.	Aronian	7	1.	Anand	7	1.	Aronian	14
	Carlsen	7		Aronian	7	2.	Anand	13½
	Kramnik	7		Kamsky	7		Kramnik	13½
4.	Anand	6½	4.	Kramnik	6½	4.	Carlsen	13
	Morozevich	6½	5.	Carlsen	6	5.	Morozevich	11
6.	Leko	5½		Karjakin	6	6.	Karjakin	10½
	Topalov	5½	7.	Topalov	5		Topalov	10½
8.	Ivanchuk	5	8.	Ivanchuk	4½	8.	Kamsky	10
	Radjabov	5		Leko	4½		Leko	10
10.	Karjakin	4½		Morozevich	4½	10.	Ivanchuk	9½
11.	Wang Yue	3½	11.	Radjabov	4	11.	Radjabov	9
12.	Kamsky	3		Wang Yue	4	12.	Wang Yue	7½

Anti-Sandbagging Rule in Canadian CFC-rated Tournaments

A GTA CFC member has run into what appears to be a clear sandbagging problem at a CFC-rated tournament at a Toronto chess club. I believe I also know of a case that is very suspicious with an Ontario player I have played a couple of times. I was told by someone that he was dropping his rating in hopes in future of using it to win a large lower-rated tournament prize, either here or in USA.

You may remember that in Issue # 10-11, I have proposed using an anti-sandbagging rule here in Canada, if we could get an organizer to organize what we called a " Class Tournament ":

" A " Class Tournament " Is a Good Idea

Last Issue, we lobbed into the discussion arena, the idea of holding a " Class Tournament ". Its features were:

1. **The Equal Treatment Rule** -
2. **The " More " Prizes Rule** -
3. **The Anti-Sandbagging Rule** – A player may not play in a section for which he would otherwise qualify, if, in the last 3 years, his rating has been higher than the ceiling rating of the section + 50 pts (e.g. a player is rated 1799 and wants to play in the 1799 & Under section. But in 2007, his rating was 1850. His highest allowable rating would be 1799 + 50 = 1849. Therefore he cannot play in his otherwise normal section). "

But this rule could be put into use in any tournament!

I wrote Mark Dutton, an IA, to see what he knows of the experience with an anti-sandbagging rule here in Canada (USA organizers sometimes use an anti-sandbagging rule in their tournaments). Mark replied:

“ I have a couple of anti sandbagging rules that I use when running large class chess tournaments.

- 1. RATINGS:** We will use your HIGHEST published rating right now for placement into a section. Players rated under more than 1 system, we will use your highest.
- 2. TD Discretion:** Refuse entry to an obvious sandbagger -- eg. a regular 2000+ player entering the Under 1800 section because they dropped their rating 2 classes - to like 1790 or something like that.

The CFC does NOT need a rule.

The ORGANIZERS of events must ensure that FAIR PLAY is used and that in class tournaments, the organizer and tournament director should police their own event.

I hope that this is helpful. “

The GTA CFC member suggested I draw the issue to CFC's attention. So I wrote Bob Gillanders, CFC E.D. as follows:

“ Do you think CFC should publicize such a rule as I have recommended, and “ recommend “ [Ed. – not necessarily put it into the CFC Handbook as a formal “ rule “ for organizers] to Canadian organizers that they seriously consider making it in future, a term and condition of their CFC-rated tournaments? “

Bob replied by a post on the CFC Chess Forum:

“ I have been asked to comment on the issue of sandbagging. For the benefit of those few lucky souls not familiar with the practice, a definition:

Sandbagging - to intentionally lower your chess rating to become eligible to win prizes you should not be entitled to. (pardon the grammar).

Sandbagging is unethical and shows bad sportsmanship. Nevertheless, it is a fact of life. I'm sure everyone has entertained the thought at one time "hmmm.....I'm having a bad tournament, if I throw my last 2 games, my rating will go down and I can play in a lower class next weekend....and win the class prize !" Fortunately, the vast majority of us resist the impulse and play to win every game.

Sandbagging brings disrepute to the game of chess. As such, it violates both CFC and FIDE tournament rules. I refer you to Article 12: The conduct of the players in the FIDE Laws of Chess:

12.1 The players shall take no action that will bring the game of chess into disrepute.

Practically speaking, sandbagging is a very difficult area to police. Ratings go up and down, intentionally or otherwise. I don't know of any reliable rule or test that could accurately do the job. I believe this preface to the FIDE Laws of Chess is relevant to this issue:

" The Laws of Chess cannot cover all possible situations that may arise during a game, nor can they regulate all administrative questions. Where cases are not precisely regulated by an Article of the Laws, it should be possible to reach a correct decision by studying analogous situations which are discussed in the Laws. The Laws assume that arbiters have the necessary competence, sound judgment and absolute objectivity. Too detailed a rule might deprive the arbiter of his/her freedom of judgment and thus prevent him/her from finding the solution to a problem dictated by fairness, logic, and special factors. FIDE appeals to all chess players and federations to accept this view."

I agree. There are no specific regulations in the CFC handbook to cover sandbagging. We leave it to the good judgment of our TD's and organizers. We are blessed with many good experienced TD's who have dealt with sandbagging. I would invite them to share their thoughts and recommendations here for some of our newer TD's who are still struggling with sandbagging issues.

One final thought. We must not encourage frivolous claims of sandbagging. Fortunately, most cases of sandbagging are obvious when you carefully review a players history. TD's are encouraged to report (in confidence) suspected cases of sandbagging to the CFC office. "

What do you think about this issue here in Canada? Is it a problem? Does it need to be dealt with? Is my recommended rule an option to be considered? Should it be promoted by the CFC to Canadian organizers?

Send us your views – we'll publish them next Issue.

Ontario Chess Association 2009 Annual General Meeting – May 23

(posted on ChessTalk by Michael von Keitz, OCA Secretary)

Will be held at Kitchener City Hall in Kitchener, ON

On Saturday May 23, 2009, starting at 10:00 am.

Agenda, Reports and Motions will be distributed in advance.

Feel free to observe some OYCC games while you are here!

Toronto Closed - Reserves

This tournament started Tuesday, Jan. 27 at the Willowdale CC and ran to March 24 It was a 10-player round robin – time control was game/90 min. (the Championship section was also a 10-player round robin, with last round finishing last night – we didn't have all final results when we went to press – we'll report on that section next Issue).

The winner of the Reserves was the top rated player at the start of the tournament, junior Michael Kleinman (2032), who finished with an impressive 7.5/9 pts. (tournament average rating at the start was 1963). Second , 1 pt. behind, was junior Alexandru Florea.

The final standings were:

1st – 7.5 pts. - Michael Kleinman 2032

2nd – 6.5 pts. - Alexandru Florea 1885

3rd – 6 pts. - Anthony Cheron 1975

4th – 5 pts. - Alex Ferreira 2062 (SCC member)

5th – 4.5 pts. - Oleg Tseluiko 1949

6th – 8th – 3.5 pts. - Mickey Stein 1957 (former SCC member)

Yelizaveta Orlova 1993

Olya Chichkina 1909

9th/10th – 2.5 pts. - Daruish Kenani 1894 (withdrew after 5 rounds)

Bob Armstrong 1827 (SCC member)

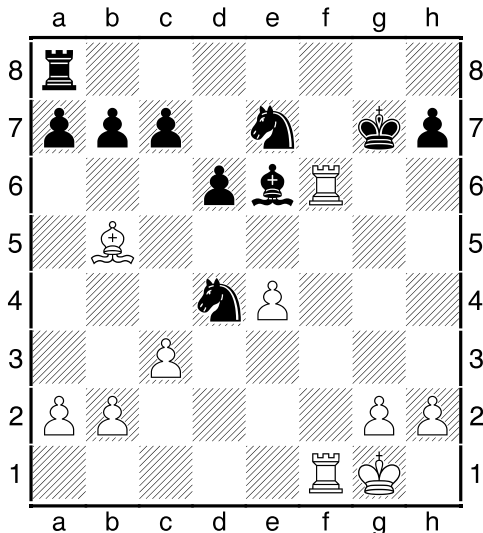
Going into the last round, Michael was leading with 6.5 pts., but close on his heels was Alexandru with 6 pts.. So if Michael lost to Olya, and Alexandru beat Oleg, Alexandru could take clear first. But it was not to be. Alexandru drew, and Michael defeated Olya in an unusual opening game. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Kleinman, Michael – Chichkina, Olya [C46]

Toronto Closed (Reserves) Willowdale Chess Club (9), 24.03.2009

1.e4= 0.20 **1...e5** for Fritz, the only equalizing reply **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bc5?!±** [3...Nf6] **4.Nxe5 Bxf2+?!±** Michael gets a " clear " advantage [4...Nxe5 5.d4 Bd6 6.dxe5 Bxe5±] **5.Kxf2 Nxe5** material equality **6.d4 Nc6 7.Be3 Qf6+?!+-** 1.99 Michael gets an early " winning " advantage [7...d6 8.Be2 Nf6 9.Rf1 Ng4+ 10.Bxg4 Qh4+ 11.Kg1 Bxg4±] **8.Qf3 d6 9.Nd5 Qd8 10.Bb5 Bd7 11.Rhf1?!±** [11.Qg3 Kf8 12.Bg5 Nce7 13.Nxe7 Nxe7+-] **11...Nge7 12.Kg1 0-0 13.Bg5** [13.Bc4 Nxd5 14.exd5 Ne7±] **13...f6?!+-** [13...Nxd4 14.Qd1 f6 15.Bc4 Ne6 (15...Nxd5?! 16.Qxd4 Kh8 17.Bxd5 c6 18.Bb3 c5 19.Qxd6 c4 20.Bxc4 fxg5+-) 16.Bxf6! gxf6 17.Nxf6+ Kh8 18.Qh5 Rxf6 19.Rxf6 Ng7±] **14.Nxf6+!** a foreseeing sac. Michael goes up a P **14...Kh8** 5.14 it is best for Olya not to accept the sac [14...gxf6? 15.Bxf6 Qe8 16.Bc4+ d5 17.exd5 Na5 18.Bd3 Bf5 19.Bxf5 Rxf6 20.Bxh7+! Kxh7 21.Qxf6 Ng6+- 9.91] **15.Qh5 gxf6 16.Bxf6+?!+-** 2.36 Olya is up N vs 2 P's [16.Rxf6! Qe8 17.Rxf8+ Qxf8 18.Rf1 Nf5 19.exf5 Qg7+- 9.22] **16...Rxf6** Olya must sac the exchange to avoid mate [16...Kg8 17.Bc4+ d5 18.Qg5+ Kf7 (18...Ng6?? 19.Qxd5+ Be6 20.Qxe6+ Rf7 21.Qxf7#) 19.Bxe7+ Bf5 20.Rxf5+ Ke6 21.exd5+ Kd7 22.dxc6+ bxc6 23.Bxd8 Raxd8

24.Rd5+! cxd5 25.Qxd5+ Kc8 26.Ba6+ Kb8 27.Qb7#] **17.Rxf6** Michael is up R + 2 P's vs 2 N's
17...Qg8 18.Qf7??? a blunder – Olya gets, for the first time in the game, the advantage [18.Raf1
 Qg4 19.Rf8+ Rxf8 20.Rxf8+ Ng8 21.Qxg4 Bxg4 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Rf7 a5 24.Rxc7 Nf6+- 3.60]
18...Bh3?± trading queens is essential – must dissipate the pressure [18...Qxf7 19.Rxf7 Be6
 20.Rf6 Nxd4± Olya would be up 2 N's vs R + P] **19.Rf2??** Olya gets a " clear " advantage
 [19.Qxg8+ Rxg8 20.Bxc6 Nxc6 21.d5 Ne5 22.Rf2 h5±] **19...Qxf7 20.Rxf7 Be6 21.Rf6 Nxd4** Olya
 is up 2 N's vs R + P **22.c3?!-+** this should lose a P; Olya gets a " winning " advantage [22.Bd3
 Re8 23.c3 Ng8 24.Rf4 Nc6±] **22...Kg7 23.Raf1**



Nef5??± Olya wrongly decides (or errs) to give back the 2 minors for the R, and misses winning
 the P. Michael gets back a " clear " advantage [23...Ng8 24.R6f4 Nxb5 25.a4 Nxc3 26.bxc3 Ne7-
 + Olya would be up B + N vs R] **24.Rxe6 Nxe6 25.exf5** Michael is up a P **25...Nf8?+-** 1.96
 [25...Nc5 26.f6+ Kg6 27.b4 Ne4 28.Bd3 d5±] **26.f6+ Kf7 27.Bc4+ Kg6 28.Rf4?!±** [28.g4 Re8
 29.h4 c6 30.Bd3+ Kf7 31.g5 Re3+-] **28...c6 29.Kf2** [29.g4 Kg5 30.Rf3 Kxg4 31.Rf1 (31.Kg2 Kg5
 32.Bd3 Nd7 33.Bxh7 Rh8 34.Bc2 Rf8±) 31...Ng6±] **29...Rd8** [29...Nd7 30.Bd3+ Kf7 31.Bxh7 Rh8
 32.Bf5 Nxf6 33.h3 Kg7±] **30.Bd3+** [30.Bg8 Nd7 31.f7 Nf6±; 30.g4 d5 31.Bd3+ Kf7 32.g5 Ne6
 33.Rg4 Rg8 34.h4 h6±] **30...Kf7 31.Rh4 Kxf6 32.Bxh7 Rd7?!+-** [32...Kg5 33.g3 Rd7±] **33.Bc2**
d5 34.Rf4+ Kg7 35.Bf5 Rf7 36.g4?!± [36.Rf3 c5 37.g4 Nd7+- 1.83] **36...Re7?!+-** [36...Ng6
 37.Ra4 Nh4 (37...b5?! 38.Ra6 Nh4 39.Rxc6 Nxf5 40.gxf5 Rxf5+ 41.Ke3 Rh5 42.Ra6 Rxh2 43.b4
 Rh4+-) 38.Rxa7 Nxf5 39.gxf5 Kf6 40.a4 Kxf5±] **37.Rf3 Rf7 38.Re3 Rc7 39.h4 Rf7 40.Ke2 Rc7**
41.Kd3 Rf7 42.Kd4 Rc7 43.Kc5 Kf6 4.27 [43...Rf7 44.h5 Nd7+ 45.Bxd7 Rxd7 46.Re6 Kf7
 47.Rd6 Re7+- 4.75] **44.Kd6 Rg7 45.Rf3?+-** 4.86 [45.Re5 Rf7 46.g5+ Kg7 47.h5 a6 48.Re7 Kg8
 49.Rxf7 Kxf7+- 8.50] **45...Rg8** 8.87 [45...Kf7 46.h5 Kg8 47.Re3 Rf7 48.Re8 Kg7 49.Re7 Rxe7
 50.Kxe7 b6+- 9.26] **46.Bh7+ 46...Kg7 47.Bxg8+-** 11.01 Michael is going up the exchange + P
1-0

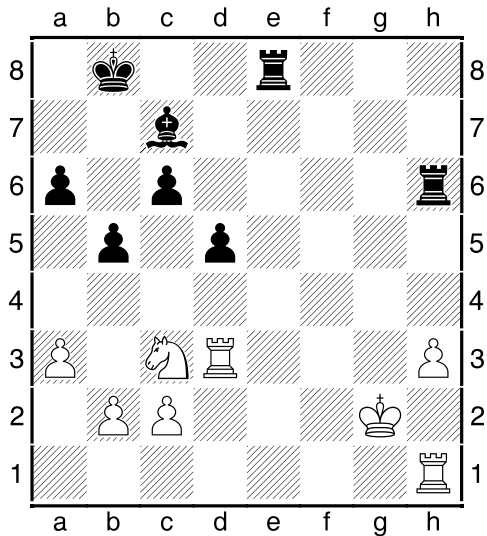
The second place finisher, Alexandru, had a nice win against Mickey Stein.
 Mickey was winning most of the game, but eventually it turned out that Alexandru had a
 passed hP that he could run. Mickey ended up having to sac a R for the queened P and
 resigned. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Florea, Alexandru – Stein, Mickey [C12]

Toronto Closed (Reserves) Willowdale Chess Club (6), 03.03.2009

1.e4= 0.20 **1...e6±** [1...e5= the only equalizing move for Fritz; for all other normal replies,
 including the French, W is given a " slight " advantage. This evaluation is not generally accepted.]

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 [3.Nd2?!=; 3.e5?!=] 3...Nf6 4.Bg5 [4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5±] 4...Bb4 5.e5 h6 6.exf6?!= [6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Ne4 8.Qg4 Rg8±] 6...hgx5 7.fgx7 Alexandru goes up a P temporarily 7...Rg8 8.Nf3 Qf6 [8...Rgx7 9.Qd2 Nc6=] 9.Be2 [9.Qd3 Nc6 10.a3 Bd6=] 9...Qxg7 10.0-0?⚡ Mickey gets a " clear " advantage [10.a3 Bd6 11.Nb5 g4 12.Nxd6+ cxd6 13.Ng1 Bd7=] 10...a6 11.Re1 Nc6 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Bd7 14.Bg4 0-0-0 15.Qd3 f5 16.exf6 Qxf6 17.Rad1 Bd6 18.Qe3 Kb8 19.h3 Rgf8 20.Qf3 Bb4?⚡ Mickey loses his advantage [20...Qh8 21.Qd3 Rf4⚡] 21.Qe3?⚡ [21.Qxf6 Rxf6 22.Re5 Rg6=] 21...Ba5 22.Bxe6?!-+ - 3.61 Alexandru goes up a P, but Mickey gets back his " winning " advantage [22.Re2 Bb6 23.Qg3 Bc5⚡] 22...Bxe6?-+ - 1.82 [22...Bb6 23.Qf3 Bxe6 24.Qxf6 Rxf6 25.Re2 g4 26.Rd3-+ - 4.61] 23.Qxe6 Qxf2+ material equality 24.Kh1 c6 25.Qe2 Qh4 26.Rf1 Rh8 27.Qf2 Qh6?!⚡ [27...Qb4 28.Qf6 Rhf8 29.Qxg5 Qxb2 30.Qg3+ Ka8 31.Rxf8 Rxf8 32.Nxd5! cxd5 33.Qb3 Qxb3 34.cxb3 Re8 35.Rxd5 Re1+ 36.Kh2 Bc7+ 37.g3 Re2+ 38.Kg1 Bxg3 39.a4 Re3-+] 28.Qf6 g4 29.Qxh6 Rxh6 30.Rd3 gxh3 31.gxh3 Re8 32.Kg2 Bc7 33.Rh1?!-+ [33.Rff3 Rg6+ 34.Kf1 Rge6⚡] 33...b5?!⚡ [33...Rg6+ 34.Kf2 Bb6+ 35.Re3 (35.Kf3 Rf6+ 36.Kg4 Rg8+ 37.Kh5 Rf7 38.Kh6 Bc5 39.Rg3 Bf8+ 40.Rg7 Rfxg7 41.Nxd5 Rh8#) 35...Rxe3 36.Nxd5 cxd5 37.Rf1 Re8+ 38.Kf3 Rf6+ 39.Kg2 Rg8+ 40.Kh1 Rxf1+ 41.Kh2 Bc7#] 34.a3?!-+ - 14.68 [34.Rd4?! a5 35.Rf1 b4 36.Nd1 Bb6 37.Rdf4 Re2+ 38.Kf3 Rxc2-+ - 2.27; 34.Rf3 Kb7 35.Nd1 d4⚡]



34...Rg8+??⚡ Mickey misses the win [34...Rg6+ 35.Rg3 (35.Kf1?? Rf6+ 36.Kg2 Rg8+ 37.Rg3 Rxg3+ 38.Kh2 Rf2#) 35...Rxxg3+ 36.Kf2 Rg7-+] 35.Kf2?!-+ [35.Kf1 Re6 36.Rf3 Rge8⚡] 35...Bb6+?!⚡ [35...Re6 36.h4 Bb6+ 37.Kf1 Rf8+ 38.Kg2 Rf2+ 39.Kh3 Rxc2-+] 36.Ke1 Re6+ 37.Kd1 d4?!⚡ Mickey is losing his advantage [37...Be3 38.h4 Kc7 39.h5 Kd6⚡] 38.Ne2 c5 39.h4 c4?!= [39...Rh6 40.Rg3 Rgh8 41.Rgh3 Kc7⚡] 40.Rf3 Re4?!± for the first time since early in the game, Alexandru gets the advantage [40...Rge8 41.Ng3 Bd8 42.h5 Bg5=] 41.h5 this passed P is a killer 41...Rh8?!± Alexandru gets a " clear " advantage [41...Re7 42.Rf6 Kb7 43.Nf4 Rh7 44.Rxb6+ Kxb6 45.Nd5+ Kc6 46.Nf6 Rgh8 47.Nxh7 Rxh7±] 42.h6 [42.Rf6 Bc7 43.h6 Rhe8 44.Rf2 Be5 45.h7 Bh8±] 42...Re6 43.h7 Re7 44.Rfh3 Rf7 45.Rh4 Kc7?!+- Alexandru gets a " winning " advantage [45...Kc8 46.Ng3 Bd8 47.Rh6 a5 48.R6h5 Bc7 49.Ne4 Re7 50.Nf6 Re5±] 46.Nf4 d3 47.Ng6 dxc2+ 48.Kxc2 Rf2+ 49.Kb1+- 3.14 Mickey will have to give up a R for a queened P, and Alexandru will be up R vs P 1-0

Under-promotion

(Written and copyright 2009 by David Cohen)

This is my third topic on the general theme of strange middle games: the April Fool's joke of chess moves, that move with the strange twist, under-promotion. Usually, you

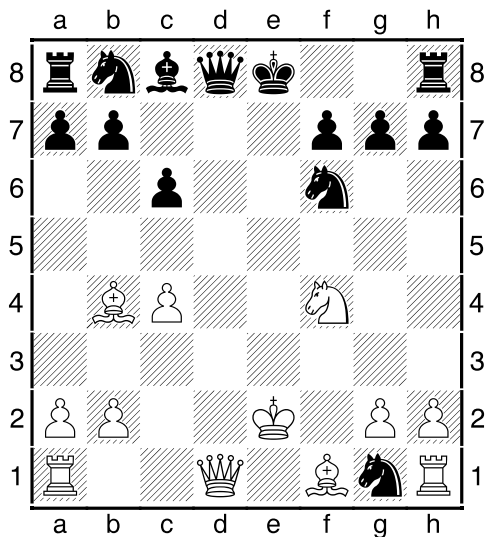
expect your opponent to promote to a queen, the strongest piece. You are not afraid, you are ready for it. But right at that moment, your opponent asks the arbiter for a third knight, and the joke's on you.

Albin Counter Gambit - Lasker Trap

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5 3. Nc3 exd4 4. Nxd5 c6 5. Nf4 Nf6 6. e3 Bb4+ 7. Bd2 dxe3 8. Bxb4 exf2+ 9. Ke2

If 9. Kxf2 Qb6+ and the double attack on K+B/b4 regains the piece.

9... fxg1=N+



9... fxg1=Q 10. Qxd8+ Kxd8 11. Rxd8 is not as good. The under-promotion is with check, which forces White to respond, and so White does not have time to make this exchange.

10. Ke1

If 10. Rxd8 Bg4+ skews the king and wins the Q/d1 on 11. Ke1 Bxd1.

10... Qb6

Protecting N/g1 and remaining a solid piece up.

0-1

Rick's Chess Trivia (New Regular Feature !!!)

(questions/presentations researched by Rick Garel,



former SCC Executive, former SCC member, Orillia CC President)

Last Issue's Chess Trivia was the **question:**

Which GM holds the record for most games without a loss?

The Answer:

Between October 23, 1973, when he lost a game in a [Soviet championship](#), and October 16, 1974, when he lost to Kirov at the [Novi Sad](#) tournament, [Mikhail Tal](#) had a string of 95 tournament games without a loss (46 wins and 49 draws) ([Soltis 2002](#), p. 44) ([Tal 1976](#), p. 500). Tal also has the second-longest unbeaten run in top-level competition. He went unbeaten in 86 games from July 1972, when he lost to Uusi in the tenth round at Viljandi, until he lost to Balashov on board 3 at the USSR Team ch. Moscow, round 2 in April 1973. This streak included 47 wins and 39 draws ([Tal 1976](#)).

[José Raúl Capablanca](#) famously went eight years without a loss (1916 to 1924, including his [World Chess Championship 1921](#) victory over [Emanuel Lasker](#)), but this was "only" 63 games.^[13]

Source: Wikipedia

The Winner ! : Tyler Longo get's this Issue's bragging rights ! Tyler, on request, gave Rick a bit of his personal chess history:

“ Hi Rick:

I've been playing tournaments since I was about 9 or 10 with Chess 'n Math, so 10 years now. Started playing CFC tournaments in 2003.

That second question [Ed. – highest rating?] is just cruel: My highest rating is 1999 after Canadian Open 2007 (a little depressing really). I'm on the way back up now!

I'm particularly proud of how I have played in big national events, specifically Canadian Open 2005 (5.5/10, won some money) and 2007 (I won u2000, 6/10).

[Ed. - Thanks to Tyler for adding a bit of a personal touch to the column.]

Today's Trivia Presentation is:

There is, a very famous saying from Rueben Fine often quoted during analysis:
"I'd rather have a pawn than a finger."

Once about 40 players were watching an online broadcast of a major match. One of the players was a pawn down, and there was some argument as to how much compensation the other had.

One of the masters present quoted Fine,
"As Ruben Fine said, "I'd rather have a pawn than a finger."

To which Grandmaster Roman Dzindzichashvili replied:
"It all depends: which pawn and which finger?"

P.S.

Once an opponent of Fischer offered a draw, saying,
"I'm not sure who's better, but I offer a draw."

Fischer replied,

"I'm not sure who's better either, but I have an extra pawn."

Chess history is fun !!

Write Rick if you have any chess trivia questions or presentations you'd like him to consider for his column. He will give credit to the author if he uses your suggestion. Write Rick Gare! :
rickgarel@gmail.com

SCC 2008-9 Club Championship

The club championship is in 3 sections this year.

The Championship Section is a 10-player round robin comprised of the top 8 rated players in the club registered (this year is exceptionally strong with 6 masters , 3 experts and 1 " A " Class player) – master Liam Henry, WFM/master Yuanling Yuan, master David Krupka, master John Hall, master Bryan Lamb, master Karl Sellars, expert Hugh Siddeley,

and expert Andrei Moffat, along with the two winners of last year's Reserves Championship – expert Oscar Villalobos; A Class Kevin Wu.

The Reserves are split into two. There is an Open Section, and an U 1700 Section. In the top Reserves, 32 players registered, and the roster is headed by 3 experts and a number of A Class players who were formerly experts. In the U 1700 Section, 35 players registered. The winner of the Open Reserves gains entry into next year's Championship Section, so there is something very worthwhile to play for in that section. The total of 77 players is the highest number we have had out since early in the millennium. The highest we had had out this 2008-9 year was 68 players for the Howard Ridout Swiss in the early Fall, 2008.

After 5 rounds, the leaders are:

Championship Section:

1st – 4.5 pts. – WFM Yuanling Yuan
2nd/4th – 3.5 pts. – Master Liam Henry
Master Bryan Lamb
Master John Hall

Reserves – Open Section:

1st/2nd – 4.5 pts. – Master Josh Guo
Expert Alex Ferreira
3rd/6th – 3.5 pts. – Expert Geordie Derraugh
Marcus Wilker
Josh Sherman
Bill Peng

Reserves – U 1700 Section:

1st – 5 pts. (5 consecutive wins) – Maurice Smith
2nd/5th – 3.5 pts. – Dean Ward
Jacob Stein
Arvin Farhang
Samir Hossain

A concern has arisen, that it is not a level playing field in the Championships, where some are voluntarily handing in their games, and others are not (the SCC policy is that the handing in of games for the database is “ voluntary “). Those cooperating with the club's request to hand in games, are at a disadvantage because their games are available for opponents to use to prepare against them. But the cooperating members have no games to use against those refusing to hand in their games (as they have the right to do). So the executive has decided that all games voluntarily handed in will not be immediately entered into the database. They will be held back and only entered into the database, and distributed, and some published, AFTER the tournament is over.

Therefore, no further games from the club championship will be reproduced here until the tournament has concluded.

PwC Toronto Open Championship – April 17-19

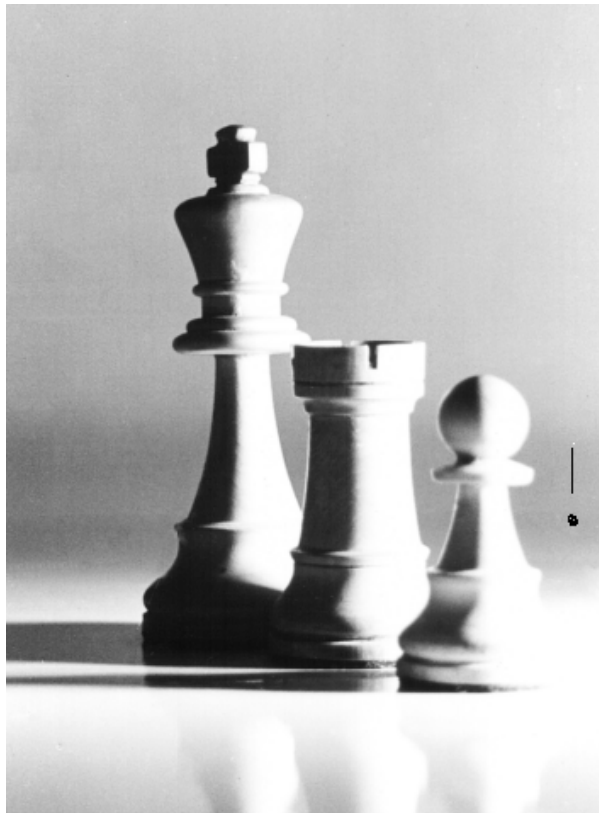
click on the icon below to open the tournament flyer



2009 PwC Toronto
Open w Logos.pdf

Please let me know if you have any trouble opening this link – I have no difficulty, but one subscriber advised that he was having a problem with it – Thanks.

An Impressive Trio !



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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