

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 - 8 – December 15 , 2008

Is It Time for CFC Constitutional Reform??

(Posted on CFC Chess Forum on November 28)

“ Question: Is it now time to consider the CONSTITUTIONAL restructuring of the CFC? I think there has to be an open and vigorous debate on this on the websites and at the provincial association levels. And I think there needs to be a CFC committee to receive deputations on constitutional reform, which will make a recommendation to the governors. I see nothing wrong with starting this process now (it need not interfere with other CFC financial and restructuring changes in the meantime, as may be currently still necessary).

Some Options:

1. Executive Committee

Some have suggested that the current 60+ Governor structure is too unwieldy, and it needs to be replaced by a streamlined management structure (let's say 8-person executive committee).. This executive committee could be in for a 1-year term, and will have all power to run the CFC. This committee could be elected geographically somehow by one member- one vote, with the provincial associations continuing to have a voice. Then the elected committee members would decide among themselves as to officer positions.

(Continued on next page)

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Modification A : President/VP/Secretary/Treasurer by national vote; 1 each from West, Ontario, Quebec, East).

Modification B: Or these 8 could be elected from across the country without references to province/territory. However others argue that there must be some type of geographic representation criteria, otherwise all executive might end up coming from Ontario which has the biggest CFC membership base.

Modification C : Another alternative to one member one vote, could be having each Provincial Association elect a member to a somewhat larger Executive Committee, and they would determine how that member would be elected/appointed (the same as is done now).

2. Organizer Format :

Some have raised the following argument:

“ Anyone who organizes at least two tournaments with a minimum total of 75 players should automatically become a Governor? They can refuse the honour, but at least all the arm chair quarterbacks will disappear. Organizers/TDs are the backbone of the organization and they should be the ones determining its future. This would lead to a small Management Committee being formed of active organizers, who would have all power to run the CFC. “

My View : As to the role of organizers, I differ with the above. I think that the role of organizer and governor are very different and being good at one doesn't mean you will be good at the other. The reality is that ever since the inception of the CFC, organizers have had the power to take over the CFC if they wanted to. They merely needed to organize themselves and get elected across the country. The reality is that few organizers want to be bothered with politics and all the other issues that are involved in running the CFC that don't deal with tournaments. I would not be expecting any better management from a group of organizers conscripted into being governors than now exists. There are other types of organizing and administrative skills that might make a person valuable to the CFC management team. For example, I am not an organizer, though I have organized a number of types of tournaments, and been on a chess club executive. I would be excluded. I don't think I should be. And there are many others in this category whom you would not want to lose from CFC governance. I agree that organizers/TD's are the backbone of GENERATING MEMBERSHIPS; I don't think they are the backbone of CFC management. But I do definitely believe CFC has to put much thought into how to develop more organizers, and to support existing ones.

3. The Current Governor Set-Up (or a slightly modified version):

My View: I must say that I personally have always favoured the Governor structure, despite its faults. I like the fact that it is democratic in that it is representative of the entire country. It also puts the power where it belongs, in the local provincial bodies, since they

elect/appoint the Governors. They know best which candidates from their province will do the best job. And tournaments are the backbone of the CFC, and these are best coordinated by the provincial bodies.

I think the problems often pointed out with respect to this structure are due to the lack of commitment by the provincial bodies to making CFC work. They elect/appoint people who do not wish to govern, and who then don't vote, and bring the whole structure into disrepute. And where there are elections in provinces, then the members are to blame if they fail to elect good people. If they want a vital CFC, then they have to find good candidates and fight to get them elected. And no one in the CFC has been cracking the whip on this one – the CFC has just been wringing its hands bemoaning the fact that there are bad, uninterested governors. There has been no campaign to work with the provinces to get GOOD candidates.

Modification A: However, I do agree that the number of governors seems no longer to make sense. The ratio is about 1 governor per 30 members (approximately 60 for 1800 members). I think a proportional reduction in the governors per province is in order, to try to make the structure more streamlined and efficient. And with fewer places, maybe there would be more chance of getting good people. Now the provinces sometimes have trouble getting enough governors, and appoint just anybody to just fill the spot. With fewer governors, maybe it would become a position that would become more desirable and lead to more contesting of the positions by good people. I would suggest a 50% reduction of the number of governors across the board.

Modification B: One further change often proposed is to go to One Member- One Vote. The provinces all have different systems for electing/appointing CFC Governors. Would it be better to have all CFC members in a province having a vote for governors of that province. There could be a province wide vote for province-wide provincial governors. Or perhaps a system similar to that in Ontario would be better, where the province is divided up into regions, and the regions elect a certain number of the provincial governors, based on their CFC membership numbers.

Modification C:

It has been argued:

“ Life Governors should be discontinued. Or let the current ones stay, but from now on only the past president goes onto the executive, and when his term is finished, he has to run for office again like everyone else. Our current system breeds militance AGAINST reform, because the life governors often show a leaning towards do things the way they USED to be done in the GLORY days. Not good when radical change is needed. “

My View: I am sympathetic to this view, though some life governors are very current in their thinking. My support however is more from the democratic point of view. With the current system, the number of life-governors just keeps growing. And they provide more and more of a counterweight to the democratically elected governors. And we no longer know if these former presidents still would have the backing of the current membership.

On the other hand, the current system is argued to be good, because it brings valuable management experience to the newly elected governors – after all, these life governors are former Presidents.

Conclusion

I think it is time for the members to petition the Executive/Governors to act on this issue, and to strike a committee to receive depositions on constitutional restructuring and come back with recommendations, or with a set of options. And one issue of importance is whether there will be some type of polling of ordinary members on the recommendations/options, so that the issue is not just governor-decided without any input at the final stage.

What do you think? “

Here is the current Governor structure:

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)

CFC Governor Elections – Are They Constitutional?

(Posted on CFC Chess Forum on Dec. 3)

“ CFC Bylaw 1

ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

5. Any person, ordinarily resident in Canada, may become an Ordinary Member of the Federation, for the then-current fiscal year, upon payment of the Membership per Capita Fee, directly to the Federation, or through his Provincial Organization. Every Ordinary or Life Member has a right to vote on the appointment or election of the Governor or Governors who will represent his Provincial Organization. **Every Ordinary or Life Member has a right to vote on the appointment or election of the Governor or Governors who will represent his Provincial Organization at the assembly of Governors** but shall not be entitled to vote under any other circumstances unless specifically provided in these by-laws.

CFC Rules and Regulations, Article 1

SELECTION OF GOVERNORS BY PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATION

9. As soon as possible after the receipt by a Provincial Organization of the aforementioned Certificate, such body will convene **a meeting of its Federation Members for the purpose of electing its necessary number of nominees for the Board for the ensuing term.**

The above sets out for the CFC, as far as I can interpret it, a modified system of “ one member-one vote “. Members are to have a vote, in their province/territory, for the number of CFC Governors allotted to that province/territory, based on the principles set out in the CFC Handbook, of a Governor for every 50 members (or part thereof).

But is this the system used in all Provinces?

I believe in some provinces, the Executive of the Provincial Organization, appoints the necessary number of Governors (maybe someone can help out by identifying those provinces that do it this way). They do NOT give their CFC members a direct vote for the Governors.

In Ontario, I only know the situation in the GTCL region of the province. The province is divided up into 4 regions, and based on CFC membership numbers, the region gets to nominate their proportionate number of governors for the province. This restriction on the right of members to vote is currently unconstitutional under the CFC Handbook. Also the GTCL Constitution (see it on the GTCL website) is not set up to allow CFC members to vote for the Governors. It gives the votes to certain chess clubs' and chess organizations' representatives, and 3 members-at-large, and certain ex-officio

representatives, at the Annual General Meeting. This is contrary to the rules of the CFC and contradicts the “ one member-one vote “ system demanded by the CFC Handbook (Assuming I am right on this, I have brought the issue to the GTCL to amend their Constitution).

Are there any provinces that give ordinary CFC members a direct vote for their governors?

Is anyone aware of whether any CFC members have tried to get changes in the Provincial Organizations where their system of CFC Governor appointment is unconstitutional?

Is anyone aware of whether the CFC Governors have passed any motions NOT IN THE HANDBOOK that affect this system of voting for Governors?. “

Subsequently it was confirmed that BC, NB and NS all give their CFC members the right to vote directly for their governors. It also was confirmed that in Ontario, the GTCL, the EOCA and SWOCL all have allowed the CFC members to directly vote to “ nominate “ (not to “ elect “) a person to be a CFC governor (though the GTCL constitution is not clear on this right – the executive is currently considering whether to amend the constitution in this regard).

These “ nominations “ then go to the OCA Annual Meeting. And the fact that the OCA Governors, not the CFC members “ elect “ the CFC Governors, has been established. This is unconstitutional under the CFC Handbook and must be reformed.

2008 Canadian Chess Player of the Year – GM Mark Bluvshstein!

(partly based on David Cohen’s Press Release)

At the end of each year, chess organizer, historian, TD, writer, David Cohen, organizes a vote for that year’s Chess Player of the Year. The votes are given to the Canadian chess journalists. As well, there is a fan poll carried out by David, and the results of this poll constitute one ballot, along with those of the chess journalists.

This year’s winner is Toronto’s GM Mark Bluvshstein. Only 1 vote behind was Calgary’s Eric Hansen.

Here are some of the achievements of Mark during his chess career (from David’s Canadian Chess website):

- International Grandmaster 2004
- Youngest Canadian to be awarded Grandmaster title, at age 16
- Canadian Chess Player of the Year (2004, 2005, 2008)
- Canadian Open Champion 2005
- Represented Canada at Olympiads (2002, 2004, 2006, 2008)
- 2nd place Canadian Championship 2006
- 3rd place Canadian Championship (2001, 2004)
- Canadian Under-18 Champion 2005
- Canadian Boys Under-14 Champion (2001, 2002)
- Canadian Grade 10 Champion 2004

- Canadian Grade 8 Champion 2002
- Canadian Grade 7 Champion 2001
- Israel Boys Under-12 Champion 1999
- Israel Boys Under-10 Champion 1998
- Represented Canada World Boys Under-18 Championship 2005 (3rd place)
- Represented Canada World Boys Under-14 Championship 2001 (8th place), 2002 (6th place)
- Represented Israel World Boys Under-12 Championship 1999
- Represented Israel World Boys Under-10 Championship 1998

His accomplishments in 2008 are:

=3rd place 6.5/9, XXVII Open A Zalakarosi (HUN), 22-30 v 2008 (May); 10/13 1st by 1 point! FSGM June Budapest HUN (HUN), 7-19 vi 2008 (June); =5th, 5/9 Top Canadian, 3rd Edmonton International (Aug); =2nd 5.5/9 Top Canadian 9th TIM Montreal (CAN), 24 viii-2 ix 2008 cat. XIII (2556); Corus Internet Qualifier ICC 1-9 xi: 0.5/2 in 1/4 final. Olympiad: Board 1 5/9.

Congratulations Mark !!

FIDE Grand Prix Falling Apart?

This concept was unveiled by FIDE when they were initially setting up the 2008-2010 World Championship Cycle. The idea was to have a series of 6 world class round robin tournaments (14 players), and players will amass cumulative points for their standings in the various tournaments (their best three results). The Grand Prix winner will be the player with the most points accumulated by the end of 2009. This winner was then to play a 2010 Challengers' Match with the 2009 FIDE World Cup winner, for the right to play for the World Championship in 2010

The venues and dates for these 6 tournaments were (apparently FIDE tried to schedule so as not to conflict with already established major tournaments like Corus, Morelia/Linares, Sophia, Dortmund, etc.):

April 20th – May 6th 2008, Baku, Azerbaijan

July 30th – August 15th 2008, Krasnoyarsk (or other Russian city), Russia (held in Sochi, Russia)

December 13th – 29th, 2008, Doha, Qatar

April 14th – 28th, 2009, Montreux, Switzerland

August 1st – 17th, 2009, Elista, Russia

December 7th – 23rd, 2009, Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic

Reserve cities were Istanbul and Teheran.

Among the 21 players for this series (each player plays in 4 of the 6 tournaments) are: Anand, Kramnik, Topalov, Kamsky, Shirov, Carlsen, Karjakin, Ivanchuk, Mamedyarov, Leko, Morozevich, Aronian, Radjabov, Gelfand, Adams,

Svidler, and Grischuk. The average rating of Grand Prix # 1 was 2717, quite respectable. The rating for Grand Prix # 2 was 2708.

The Grand Prix # 1 and # 2 seemed to come off well enough, and it looked like FIDE had instituted a reasonable “ second path “ to the World Championship (beside the World Cup). The FIDE website shows the current Grand Prix leaders after 2 tournaments as:

Yue Wang – 273.3 pts.

Vugar Gashimov – 218.3 pts.

Teimour Radjabov – 210 pts.

Levon Aronian – 180 pts.

Gata Kamsky – 180 pts.

But then the wheels started to come off. Doha, Qatar (Grand Prix # 3) withdrew from the series, and at the last minute, FIDE President Ilyumzhinov had to move it to his home state of Elista, Kalmykia, Russia. Now there is word that the Montreux bid (Grand Prix # 4) has failed to deposit the necessary financing, and there has been no firm announcement yet what will happen to Grand Prix # 4.

It seems as a result of this upheaval, and the fear that the Grand Prix series will be uncompleted, thus raising all kinds of issues around who is the qualifier for the 2010 Challengers’ Match, FIDE in its wisdom, last month in Dresden, Germany, changed the 2010 World Championship Cycle now in progress. It moved the 2 top Grand Prix finishers into an 8-player 2010 Candidates Tournament, along with the 2 finalists of the 2009 World Cup (whose winner was to have entered the 2010 Challengers’ Match), along with other stragglers. And the World Championship match was moved back from 2010 to 2011.

Alexi Shirov, not one of the Grand Prix participants, who is known to be outspoken, has loudly objected to the contracts for the Grand Prix being unilaterally altered in the midst of the current cycle. The participants are now not playing to go into a 2010 Challengers’ Match, but to go into a 2010 Candidates’ Tournament (now along with the runner-up). The father of Magnus Carlsen, also a Grand Prix participant, initially complained about lack of fairness in bringing about this mid-cycle change. Then after a week of communications with FIDE, Magnus withdrew from the Grand Prix, feeling that his contract had been broken, and he was no longer bound by it. Though understandable, this is regrettable, since many wanted to see him become the next cycle’s World Championship challenger.

Mig Greengard, in his “ Daily Dirt “ blog on Dec. 4 wrote:

“ If more of the elite players followed Carlsen's example Ilyumzhinov would get the bum's rush he so deserves. Or would he? He might just hang on like a chessic Mugabe, buying and bullying his way through elections forever as things crumble around him. It's times like these when all the attacks on Kasparov and Short for breaking away from FIDE in 1993 come into perspective. Is a schism worse than the corruption and ineptitude we have now? Unified idiocy is still idiocy. Speaking of, as far as I can tell, world champion Anand has been silent on all this so far. What will he do if/when they start

jerking him around, too? He's already going to be playing more defenses in a shorter time than any champion in history thanks to FIDE's blatant favoritism.

Ilyumzhinov keeps rolling out big plans and we watch them fall to pieces and/or end up in Elista. If FIDE wants players to act like professionals with 'zero forfeits' and contracts, it has to meet the same standards itself, at the very least. But they couldn't care less as long as it doesn't hurt their bottom line. As Kasparov predicted several years ago, it looks like only the new generation has the guts to stand up to this garbage. Carlsen doesn't see why he needs FIDE and he's right. He's letting them know he's not going to put up with them messing with his career, and thank god.”

Then on December 5, FIDE announced:

“ FIDE is pleased to announce that the Armenian Chess Federation has agreed to organize one of the FIDE Grand-Prix tournaments from 8th to 24th August 2009 in Yerevan. “

This will obviously replace the Elista tournament (Grand Prix # 5) originally scheduled for August 2009, now that the December 2008 Grand Prix # 3 has had to be hastily moved to Elista.

The upshot of all this was that there was nothing being said about replacing Grand Prix # 4 (Montreux) in April 2009.

Then on December 6, GM Levon Aronian, one of the Grand Prix participants, weighed in with a very intelligent and well-written open letter to the FIDE President:

Dear Mr. Ilyumzhinov and the Fide Presidential Board,
In the wake of recent events surrounding the FIDE Grand Prix and the General Assembly's decision to alter the current World Championship cycle, I feel obliged, as a participant and a leading chess player, to express my disappointment. I must request you to critically view and question the GA's latest decisions and the processes to which they came. I must stress that I am not one for scandals and do not wish to cause unnecessary fights – however I believe it is my duty to act as the voice of the players.
Firstly, the decision to alter the World Championship cycle at this time is not in the spirit of fair competition. We can draw a parallel to the following example: the rules set before a race state that the marathon is 42km, and while the runners are still running, having already completed 20km, the rules are suddenly changed to make the marathon an 80km run. The runners thus lose motivation to run and consequently distrust the rule makers. This is comparable to the situation the participants of the FIDE Grand Prix will be in if the GA's decisions are made final.
After severe criticism for many years over the World Championship cycle, FIDE finally created a promising new system, only now to self-impose new waves of criticism. When the initial World Championship cycle was set in place and the Grand Prix system was created for players to qualify legitimately for a chance to challenge the world champion,

we had the belief that there was finally a fair and reliable system (which my federation also supported).

With the GA's recent actions, it seems that there is a democratic deficit within FIDE. The GA did not consult the players currently taking part in the Grand Prix in their decision processes. Please keep in mind a very important point – these players, including myself, have a legally binding agreement with FIDE regarding the World Championship cycle and the Grand Prix. Therefore it is FIDE's duty to consult the other party of the contract – the participants.

Does this mean that the chess players have lesser rights than others? The GA appears to act

with no concern for the players. The decision to suddenly change the World Championship cycle has damaging effects on the career plans of leading chess players. It is also reasonable to ask: why should we go through several tournaments over several years and fight for a place in a tournament that another player gets by losing a match? The GA's decisions remove the motivation for players like myself to take part in the World Championship cycle.

It should be noted that Mr. Mastrokoukos' reason to change the cycle because of the unforeseen events of 2 legs of the Grand Prix withdrawing is not convincing and does not reflect reality – because a Grand Prix event in Yerevan has already been announced by FIDE as a replacement. It is clear that the withdrawal of Doha and Montreux are not endangering the system, as he would have us believe in his letter to Mr. Carlsen.

It seems that FIDE was on the right path towards a reliable World Championship cycle, which had the support of leading players and chess federations worldwide. However, with the GA's recent actions, FIDE has left the right path and will lose its credibility in the eyes of chess players world wide – not to mention, ruin its efforts to be recognized as a sport by the IOC.

I hope that the above arguments will be heard before finalizing the decisions of the GA.
Sincerely,

Levon Aronian
Frankfurt am Main
December 6, 2008

The next act in this soap opera saw Michael Adams of England pull out of the Grand Prix # 3 on December 9. His name was not on the list of the participants for the Elista tournament, as originally scheduled. **Magnus Carlsen pulled out earlier**. Mohamad Al Modiahki and Yannick Pelletier, also originally named on the Elista list, had to be replaced after their sponsors quit the series. The four new players in Elista are Pavel Eljanov of Ukraine, Evgeny Alekseev of Russia, Vladimir Akopian of Armenia and Rustam Kasimdzhanov of Uzbekistan.

Finally today, December 15, the negotiating on Grand Prix # 4 was announced by FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. FIDE is entertaining a bid by Kiev, Ukraine to hold it, and it is expected to be finalized shortly. So maybe FIDE can still save this series, but there seems to be a lot of collateral damage along the way..

We will keep you posted on how this all shakes out. We will see how Grand Prix # 3 (now going on in Elista – without all these original players) fares.

FIDE's New 2010 Candidates' Tournament In Doubt Now

FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov had this to say at the start of Grand Prix # 3 in Elista, at a press conference, on the changes to the current WC cycle discussed at the FIDE General Assembly this past November:

“ Which rights will the winner of the FIDE Grand prix series 2008-2009 have?

He will have a right to play an official match against the winner of the FIDE World Cup 2009. And the winner of this match will meet the winner of the match Viswanathan Anand-Topalov/Kamsky to further fight for the World Chess Champion crown. Therefore, it is obvious that the Grand Prix participants have good motivation to play. In this cycle of tournaments, more than 20 top-rated Grandmasters have participated, and in the World Cup 128 chess players from many countries have a chance to fight to the title.

According to your statement, Mr. President, the Grand Prix winner will compete with the World Champion. It means that the previous conditions, declared before these series, are still valid? What about the decision of the FIDE General Assembly in Dresden, which states that instead of the match winner of Grand Prix vs. winner of World Cup, a Candidates tournament with 8 players will be held? Does it mean we misunderstood something?

The FIDE General Assembly in Dresden opened a bid to organize the Candidates tournament started the discussions if this tournament should be organized or not. But the final decision on this issue will be made at the FIDE Presidential Board, which will take place in March next year. Now, we are collecting the bids. “

So Kirsan is now saying that the original plan still standsunless changed in March 2009.

So where does this leave Magnus Carlsen and Michael Adams, who withdrew from the Grand Prix Series, because they thought the decision of the General Assembly was final?? FIDE has a bad habit of creating messes.

Canada's Newest IM

18-year old Zhe Quan was recently awarded by FIDE his IM title. And at the recent National Congress tournament in Philadelphia, he came 2nd/4th. Congratulations Zhe !

Canadians at the World Youth Chess Championships

(Posted on ChessTalk by David Cohen)

Canadians have finished in the Top 10 at the World Youth Championships 18 times!

2008:

Eric Hansen Under-16 2nd (8/11),
Yelizaveta Orlova Under-14 Girls 9th (7/11),
Jonah Lee Under-8 6th (7.5/11),
Kelly Wang Under-8 Girls 3rd (8/11)

2006:
Raja Panjwani Under-16 5th (7.5/11),
Shiyam Thavandiran Under-14 10th (7/11)

2005:
Mark Bluvshstein Under-18 3rd (8/11),
Hazel Smith Under-14 Girls 9th (7/11),
Nikita Kraiouchkine Under-10 10th (7.5/11)

2003:
Yuanling Yuan Under-10 Girls 10th (7/11)

2002:
Mark Bluvshstein Under-14 6th (7.5/11),
Shiyam Thavandiran Under-10 4th (8/11),
Alina Sviridovitch Under-10 Girls 5th (8/11)

2001:
Mark Bluvshstein Under-14 8th,
Hazel Smith Under-10 Girls 9th

2000:
Thomas Roussel-Roozmon Under-12 9th

1986:
Jeff Sarwer Under-10 1st,
Julia Sarwer Under-10 (female competitors) 1st

Toronto Seniors' Chess Championship

This 8-player round robin finished December 2. It was played on Tuesdays at the Willowdale Chess Club. Organizer and TD, Michael Barron, reported as follows:

Final Standings:

Ruperto Frilles - 5
Oleg Tseluiko - 4.5
Robert Armstrong, Mickey Stein - 3.5
Ben Hosiosky, Ted Termeer - 2
Ernesto Villaluz - 0.5
Oswald Barmasch - withdrawn
[Ed. – Armstrong was third on tie-break !!]

Congratulations to Ruperto Frilles - Toronto Senior Chess Champion 2008!

SCC Fall Swiss

This 8 Rd. swiss started Thursday, October 30 and runs to the Thursday before Christmas. It is held in 2 sections: Open Section; U 1700 section. 38 players registered for the Open section. As with our first tournament this year, it is very strong at the top, with 4 masters and 6 experts . 29 players registered for the U 1700 section. The total of 67 players continues the highest numbers we have had out since early in the millennium. The highest we've had out this year is 68 players for the Howard Ridout Swiss in the early Fall.

The leaders after 7 rounds are:

Open Section:

1st – 6 pts. – master Erwin Casareno

2nd/ 3rd – 5.5 pts. - expert Bryan Lamb
master Kyle Morrison

U 1700 Section:

1st/ 2nd – 5.5 pts. – Dean Ward
Jim Roe

3rd – 5 pts. - Mario Umana

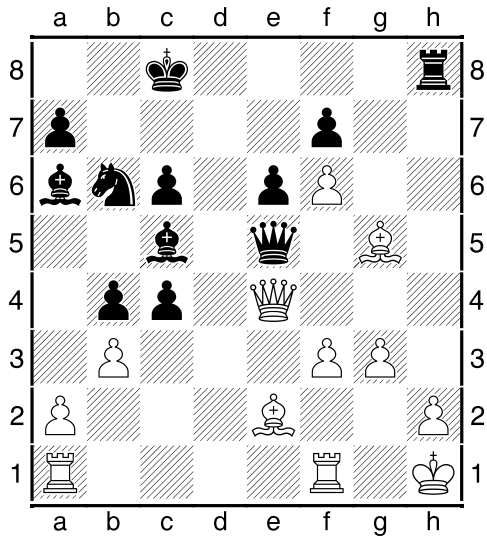
In Rd. 6, on second board in the Open section, lots of tactics ensued between master Erwin Casareno, 2007-8 Club Champion, and expert Karl Sellars. Here is their game, won by Erwin (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Sellars, Karl (2154) – Casareno, Erwin (2214) [D44]

SCC Spring Swiss (1700 & Over) Scarborough Chess Club (6), 04.12.2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4?!± Erwin goes up the gambitted P. But Karl gets the advantage [5...h6 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.e4 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Qa5+ 9.Qd2 Bb4 10.Nc3 e5=] **6.e4 b5** securing the extra P **7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5** Karl temporarily sacs his N **9...hxg5 10.Bxg5** Erwin is up, temporarily, N vs P **10...Nbd7** [10...Be7 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.exf6 Qxf6±] **11.exf6** Karl is up a P **11...Qa5 12.Be2?!=** [12.Qc2 Ba6 13.h4 0-0-0 14.0-0-0 b4±] **12...b4?±** Karl gets a " clear " advantage [12...Bb7 13.Bf3 0-0-0=] **13.Ne4 Ba6 14.0-0 0-0-0 15.Qc2 Nb6 16.b3?±** this loses the dP; now Erwin gets the advantage again [16.Rfd1 Qf5 17.h3 Bb7±] **16...Rxd4** material equality **17.g3?+ Erwin** gets a " winning " advantage [17.Bf3 Qe5 (17...Rxe4?! 18.Qxe4 Qxg5 19.Qxc6+ Kb8 20.Rad1 Qxf6=) 18.h3 Rxe4! 19.Qxe4 Qxg5 20.Qxc6+ Kb8±] **17...Qe5?±** Erwin loses his advantage [17...Qf5 18.f3 Rxe4! 19.Qxe4 Qxg5 20.Qxc6+ Kb8 21.Rad1 Bc5+ 22.Kg2 Qf5-+ – 9.41] **18.f3?!+ Erwin** gets back a " winning " advantage [18.Bf3 Rxe4! 19.Qxe4 Qxg5 20.Qxc6+ Kb8=] **18...Rxe4! 19.Qxe4** Karl is temporarily up the exchange **19...Bc5+?+ – 2.37** [19...Qxg5 20.bxc4 Bc5+ 21.Kg2 Nxc4 22.Bxc4 Bxc4 23.Qxc6+ Kb8-+ – 3.49] **20.Kh1?+ – 5.91** a mistake that sets up a complicated situation with the pin coming on the hP [20.Kg2 Qxg5 21.h4 Qd5-+ – 2.70]

Position after 20.Kh1?



20...Qxg5?+- - 4.22 Erwin should be making use of the pin ! Erwin has B + N vs R [20...Qxg3!
 21.Qxc6+ Kd8 22.Rad1+ Nd5 23.Qa8+ Bc8 24.Rxd5+ exd5 25.Qxd5+ Bd6 26.Qxd6+ Qxd6
 27.Rd1 Rxh2+ 28.Kg1 Qxd1+ 29.Bxd1 Rxa2 30.bxc4 Ra1 31.Kf2 Rxd1+- - 8.95 Erwin would be
 up a R] 21.bxc4 Bb7?+- - 4.16 again Erwin should make use of the pin [21...Qxg3! 22.Qxc6+
 Kd8 23.Rad1+ Nd5 24.Qa8+ Bc8 25.Rxd5+ exd5 26.Qxd5+ Bd6 27.Qxd6+ Qxd6 28.Rd1 Rxh2+
 29.Kg1 Qxd1+ 30.Bxd1 Rxa2 31.Kf1 Ba6+- - 11.14 Erwin would be up a R] 22.Kg2 Qxf6 Erwin
 still has B + N vs R 23.Rfd1 - 4.86 23...Na4 24.Qd3 Nc3 25.Re1?+- - 9.80 [25.f4 Nxe2 26.Qxe2
 Bd4 27.Rxd4 Qxd4 28.Rd1 c5+ 29.Kf1 Qe4+- - 6.15] 25...Bd4?+- - 6.25 [25...Qh6 26.h4 Rd8
 27.Qxd8+ (27.Qc2?? Rd2 28.Qc1 Qe3 29.Kh3 Nxe2 30.Rxe2 Qxe2 31.Qh1 Qd3+- - 34.69)
 27...Kxd8+- - 10.91] 26.Rac1 Nxa2 Erwin is up B + N + P (he now has 2 connected, passed P's
) vs R 27.Rc2 Nc3+- - 7.15 0-1

In Rd. 6 on first board in the U 1700 section, leader Dean Ward went up an N,
 then N + P, and then N + 2 P's, and John Graham resigned. Here is their game
 (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Graham, John (1504) – Ward, Dean (1614) [B40]

Scarb. CC Fall Swiss (Under 1700) Toronto (6), 04.12.2008

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...c5 2.c3= [2.Nf3±] 2...e6 [2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5
 4.Na3 Nc6=] 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 exd5?!± [4...Qxd5 5.Na3 Nf6 6.d4 Be7=] 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bxd7+
 Qxd7 7.d4 Qe6+?!± John gets a " clear " advantage [7...Nc6 8.0-0 cxd4 9.Re1+ Be7±] 8.Be3 Nf6
 9.0-0 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.dxc5 Qc8?!+- John gets a " winning " advantage [11...Re8 12.Nbd2
 Nbd7±] 12.Nbd2?± John is losing his advantage [12.Bd4 Qd7 13.Ne5 Qc8+-] 12...Bxc5 13.Bxc5
 Qxc5 14.Nb3 Qb6 15.Nfd4 Nc6 16.f3?!= John has lost his advantage [16.Nf5 a5 17.Qd2 Ne4
 18.Qxd5 Qxf2+ 19.Kh1 Nf6 20.Qf3 Qxb2±] 16...a5 17.Kh1? for the first time in the game, Dean
 gets the advantage, a " clear " advantage [17.Qd2 a4 18.Nc1 Rfe8=] 17...a4 18.Nxc6 bxc6
 19.Qd4 Rfb8 20.Qxb6?!+- Dean gets a " winning " advantage [20.Nc5 Qxb2 21.a3 Re8±]
 20...Rxb6 21.Nd4 c5 22.Nf5 Rxb2 Dean goes up a P 23.Red1 Rab8?+- - 1.63 [23...Re8 24.Nd6
 Ree2 25.Ne4 Rxa2 26.Nxc5 a3+- - 2.73] 24.h3 Kf8 25.Ne3 Rd8 26.Nxd5?+- - 6.46 a blunder -
 this just loses the N [26.Rd3 h6 27.Rad1 Rxa2 28.Nxd5 Nh5+- - 2.18] 26...Rxd5 Dean is up an N
 27.Re1 Rc2?+- - 6.40 [27...a3 28.c4 Rdd2 29.Re5 Rxc2 30.Rf5 Rh2+ 31.Kg1 Rxh3+- - 9.99
 Dean would be up N + 2 P's] 28.Rab1 Rd8?+- - 5.67 [28...g6 29.Rbc1 Rxa2 30.Ra1 Rdd2

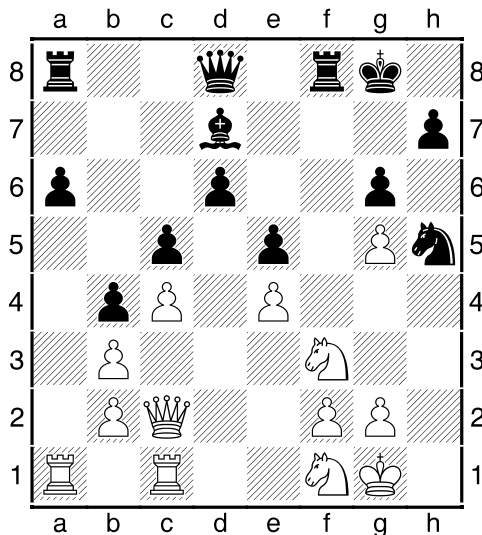
31.Rxa2 Rxa2+ - 7.09] **29.Rb7 Re8 30.Rd1 Rxc3?+ - 5.25** Dean goes up N + P [30...g5 31.a3 Ree2 32.Rg1 Nd5+ - 7.82] **31.g4?+ - 7.78** [31.Ra7 a3 32.h4 c4+ - 6.07] **31...g5 32.Kg2?+ - 11.24** [32.Ra7 Rxf3 33.Kg2 Ra3+ - 9.46] **32...Rc2+?+ - 10.18** [32...Re2+ 33.Kg1 Rxf3+ - 13.64] **33.Kf1?+ - 11.82** [33.Kg1 Ree2+ - 10.49] **33...Rxa2?+ - 9.06** Dean goes up N + 2 P's[33...Re3 34.Rb8+ Kg7+ - 14.00] **0-1**

On fifth board in the Open Section in Rd. 7, your intrepid editor, Bob Armstrong, got off to a flying start with a nice exchange sac on f3 (I was black), which destroyed the K-side for Alex Rapoport. But I then followed up with a series of weaker moves, that kept my winning advantage for a while, but then I blundered the “ winning “ advantage over to Alex. Fortunately, it was not a stellar game for him either, as I ended up getting back a “ winning “ advantage. But with only 2 minutes left, I couldn't win it in time, and had to offer a draw. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Rapoport, Alex (1895) – Armstrong, Robert (1832) [B06]

Scarb. CC Fall Swiss (1700 & Over) Toronto (7), 11.12.2008

1.Nf3 g6± 2.e4 Bg7 3.Bc4 d6 4.0-0 [4.Ng5 e6 5.d4 Nf6 6.Bd3 Nfd7±] **4...Nf6 5.d3?!=** [5.Qe2 Nc6 6.d4 Bg4±] **5...0-0 6.h3** [6.Re1 Nc6 7.d4 Bg4 8.c3 e5=] **6...Nc6 7.c3 a6 8.Be3 Na5 9.Nbd2 b5 10.Bb3 Nxb3 11.axb3?!±** for the first time in the game, I get the advantage [11.Qxb3 Be6 12.Qc2 c5 13.d4 Qc7=] **11...e5?!=** [11...c5 12.Qe2 Bb7 13.Bf4 e5±] **12.c4** [12.b4 Nh5 13.Nb3 Qe8=] **12...Bd7 13.Qc2?!±** [13.c5 dxc5 14.Qc2 Re8=] **13...c5 14.Rfc1?!±** I get a " clear " advantage [14.cxb5 axb5 15.b4 cxb4 16.d4 exd4 17.Bxd4 Qe7±] **14...b4 15.Nf1** [15.Bg5 h6 16.Bh4 g5 17.Bg3 Nh5±] **15...Nh5 16.Bd2 f5 17.Bg5 Bf6?!±** [17...Qe8 18.Ng3 Nhg3 19.fgx3 h6 20.Be3 Qe6±] **18.h4?!±** [18.Bh6 Rf7 19.Ne3 Bg7 20.Bxg7 Kxg7±] **18...fxe4 19.dxe4 Bxg5 20.hxg5?!+ - 1** get a " winning " advantage [20.Nxg5 h6 21.Nf3 Rxf3! 22.gxf3 Qxh4 23.Nh2 Nf4±]



20...Rxf3! a good exchange sac **21.gxf3 Qxg5+** Alex is up the exchange , but I have a P compensation **22.Ng3 Bh3** [22...Rf8 23.Qe2 Nf4 24.Qe1 Qh6+ - 3.80] **23.f4 - 4.99** this loses a piece [23.Kh2? Rf8! 24.Rxa6 (24.Kxh3?? Nf4+ 25.Kh2 Qh4+ 26.Kg1 Qh3 27.Rxa6 Qg2#) 24...Qh4 25.Rh1 Rxf3+ - 6.37; 23.Qe2? Nxg3 24.fgx3 Qxg3+ 25.Kh1 Rf8 26.Rxa6 Qh4+ - 6.46] **23...exf4** Alex is up the exchange, but I have 2 P compensation **24.Qd3 fxg3 25.fxg3?+ - 7.42** I have B + N + P vs R [25.Qd5+ Qxd5 26.cxd5 Nf4+ - 5.47] **25...Rf8?+ - 3.75** [25...Nf4 26.Qe3 Ne2+ 27.Qxe2 Qxg3+ 28.Kh1 Bg4 29.Rg1 Bf3+ 30.Qxf3 Qxf3+- - 13.74] **26.Qd5+ Qxd5 27.exd5 Rf3 28.Rxa6 Nxg3?+ - 4.15** [28...Rxg3+ 29.Kf2 (29.Kh2?? Rg2+ 30.Kxh3 Nf4+]

31.Kh4 g5#) 29...Rg2+ 30.Ke3 Rxb2 31.Rxd6 Ng3+ - 5.43] **29.Re1 Nf5?+-** - 3.16 [29...Kg7 30.Rxd6 Rxb3 31.Re7+ Kh6+ - 5.50] **30.Kh2?+-** - 5.05 [30.Ra7 Ne3 31.Rb7 h5 - 3.82] **30...Bf1?+-** - 2.74 I should get my K off the back rank to foil his taking the 7th threats [30...Kg7 31.Raa1 Rxb3 32.Re2 Bg4 33.Rd2 Ne3+ - 7.95] **31.Ra7** all of a sudden, Alex has counterplay **31...Kf8?+-** - 2.01 [I looked at the following line, and then wrongly rejected it 31...Ne3 32.Rea1 Ng4+ 33.Kh1 Bh3 34.Rb7 h5 35.Ra8+ Rf8+ - 4.19] **32.Rxh7** I have B + N vs R **32...Nd4???** a blunder - he now has drawing chances; I am losing my advantage [32...Ng7 33.Ra1 Kg8 34.Rh6 Kf7+ - 2.42] **33.Ra1 Kg8 34.Raa7 Rf5?=-** I thought Alex had a forced perpetual, so it mattered little what I did - it would be up to him if he wanted to try to play for a win; I did not seeNe2 [34...Ne2 35.Rag7+ Kf8 36.Rxg6 Rf2+ 37.Kh1 Rf7?] **35.Rhg7+ Kf8 36.Rgd7 Kg8 37.Rxd6** Alex passes up the perpetual with Rg7+; I have B + N vs R + P **37...Nxb3??+-** a terrible blunder; this loses the game, after winning for most of it [37...Bd3 38.Rxg6+ Kh8 39.Rh6+ Kg8 40.Rha6 Rg5=] **38.Rxg6+ Kf8 39.Rb6???** now Alex blunders his win; I get back the advantage [39.Rh6 Kg8 40.d6 Bxc4 41.Rg6+ Kf8 42.d7 Rf2+ 43.Kg3 Rd2+-] **39...Rf7 40.Ra8+ Kg7 41.d6 Bxc4** I have B + N vs R **42.Re8?+-** I get back a "winning" advantage [42.Rc8 Be6 43.Rc7 Bd7 44.Rbb7 Na5 45.Rb8 Nc6?] **42...Rd7** I now had 5 min. left, and Alex had 36 min.. **43.Rc6 Kf6 44.Re3 Bd5 45.Rb6 Nd4 46.Rd3 Ke5+-** - 3.50 I had only 2 min. left, Alex had 32 min.. though winning, I knew I could not make the time control; so I had to offer a draw. In a gentlemanly spirit, Alex accepted (rather than flagging me, which he could well have done). ½-½

Hart House Holidays Open Chess Tournament

December 19th, 20th, 21st 2008 (Fri, Sat, Sun)
 At the Debates Room, 2nd floor, Hart House, University of Toronto
 7 Hart House Circle, Toronto

- Style:** 5 round Swiss in 3 sections: Open (w/ U2200 prizes), U2000 (w/U1800 prizes), U1600 (w/U1400 prizes and UNR)
- Rounds:** 6pm Friday evening, 10am & 4pm Saturday & Sunday
- Time Control:** All Rounds: 30/90, SD/60
- Registration:** 5pm - 5:30pm on Friday, December 19th
 Registrants after 5:30pm are not guaranteed to be paired by 6pm
 In advance by mail to:
Hart House Chess Club - 7 Hart House Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3H3
 Make cheque payable to Hart House Chess Club. No postdated cheques please.
 Email registration to alex.ferreira@utoronto.ca Email registrants must arrive onsite by 5:30pm to pay or will be charged onsite fee.
- Membership:** Registrants must be current CFC members or bring payment prior to playing.
- Entry Fees:** \$60 in advance, \$70 cash only on site. Extra \$10 to play up a section.
- Discounts:** \$20 less for juniors (born after Dec. 19th, 1989), seniors (60+), women, and University of Toronto students (show ID card). Only one discount per player.
 Free for IMs before Dec. 12th, \$40 afterwards, \$50 on-site.

Byes: Maximum of 2 in rounds 1-4.
Hart House: 10 minute walk Southeast from St. George subway station or 5 minute walk Southwest from Museum subway station.

PRIZES: \$3,100

(Based on 85 players)

1st place in Open Section - \$500 minimum Guaranteed!
Prize distribution depending on turn-out

	Open	U2200	U2000	U1800	U1600	U1400	UNR
1	\$600	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$150	\$50
2	\$300	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$100	
3	\$200	\$100	\$100		\$100		

Open section prizes based on entire tournament.
Unrated players may only play for Open prizes or Unrated prize in U1600 section.

Other Info: No Smoking. Please bring Chess Sets and Clocks.
For parking and access information please visit our website.

Website: <http://hhchess.sa.utoronto.ca/hhopen>

Organizer: Hart House Chess Club

TD: Bryan Lamb [905.554.4548 or 416.904.5938]

bryan.lamb@rogers.com

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Toronto Closed Chess Championship

WILLOWDALE CHESS CLUB PRESENTS (A GTCL event):

The TORONTO CLOSED CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2009

January 27 to March 10 This will be an eight player round-robin tournament comprising of the eight highest rated players who apply. The deadline for entries will be 9 pm Tuesday, January 20 at the Willowdale Chess Club (4169 Bathurst St., inside Earl Bales Park), where the draw for position will take place. In addition there will be up to 5 reserve sections according to the CFC rating. Schedule: Games will be played on consecutive Tuesdays at 7 pm at the Willowdale Chess Club (Earl Bales Community Centre at the Earl Bales Park near Bathurst and Sheppard intersection) All sections will be CFC rated, and the rating fees will be paid by the GTCL. CFC membership is required. **TIME CONTROL: Championship:** 60 minutes for the game with 30 seconds increment from the first move. **Reserve sections:** 90 minutes for the game. **ENTRY FEE:** \$80 payable by 9 pm, January 20, 2009.

PRIZES:

Championship (100% of EFs) 1st - \$320 & Trophy 2nd - \$200 3rd - \$120
Reserve sections – 75% of entry fees (\$20 admin costs could be paid by Chess Clubs for their representatives).

Entries & Info: Fred Kormendi (416) 223-0126

NAME.....RATING.....CFC
PHONE.....daysFIDEevgs ENTRY
FEE \$80 enclosed.

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