

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 # 9 - 10 – January 15, 2007

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

January 1, 2008 FIDE Rating List

There is once again no player over 2800 : (Garry Kasparov (Russia), 13th World Champion, now retired, was the first player to break 2800 [highest rating ever in July 1999 – 2851]; Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), 14th World Champion, was the second player; Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), the 2005 FIDE World Champion, was the third; Viswanathan Anand (India), 15th World Champion, was the fourth player in history to break the 2800 barrier – he has surpassed the 2800 mark twice).

There are 24 players in the 2700's. Some of the top players are (birth date of younger players in brackets, after country) :

1 : Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), 14th World Champion, rated 2799 (up from # 3);

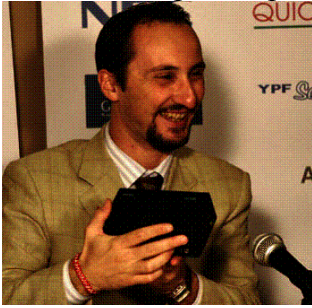


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2 : Viswanathan Anand (India), 15th and current World Champion, rated 2799;



3 : Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), 2005 FIDE World Champion, and 2006 World Championship Challenger, at 2780;



4 : Alexander Morozevich (Russia), rated 2765;

5 : Peter Svidler (Russia), rated 2763;

6 : Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan – 1985) – 2760;

7 : Alexei Shirov (Spain), rated 2755;

8 : Peter Leko (Hungary), 2004 World Championship Challenger, at 2753;

9 : Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), rated 2751 (down from # 2 !);

10 : Levon Aronian (Armenia), rated 2739;

22 : Judit Polgar (Hungary), the strongest women's player in the world, with 2707.

Some other past World Champions/FIDE World Champions and their current ratings are :

18 : 2002 FIDE World Champion, Ruslan Ponomarev (Ukraine) at 2719;

34 : 2004 FIDE World Champion, Rustam Kasimdzhanov (Uzbekistan) at 2681;

60: 12th World Champion, Anatoly Karpov (Russia) – 2655 ;

83 : 1999 FIDE World Champion, Alexander Khalifman (Russia) – 2638 ;

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

12: Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan – 1987) – 2735;

13 : Magnus Carlsen (Norway – 1990) – 2733 ;

14 : Sergey Karjakin (Ukraine – 1990) – 2732 (up from # 24);

19 : Ivan Cheparinov (Bulgaria – 1986) – 2713;

20 : Evgeny Alekseev (Russia – 1985) – 2711;

25 : Yue Wang (China – 1987) – 2698;

28 : Xiangzhi Bu (China – 1985) – 2691 - won the 2007 Canadian Open:

36 : Ernesto Inarkiev (Russia – 1985) – 2681;

38 : David Navara (Czech Rep. - 1985) – 2656 (up from # 54).

The 6 highest FIDE rated Canadians (active in the last 24 months, internationally or in Canada) are:

1 : GM Kevin **Spraggett**, 5 times Canadian Champion (last in 1996), at 2588;



2 : GM Mark **Bluvshstein** at 2544 (up 24 pts.);



3 : GM Pascal **Charbonneau**, 2002 & 2004 Canadian Champion, at 2496;

4 : IM Igor **Zugic**, 2006 Canadian Champion, at 2472.

5 : IM Thomas **Roussel-Roozman** at 2442.

6 : IM Tomas **Krnan** at 2439.

The current 2007 Canadian Champion, 16 year old IM Nikolay **Noritsyn**, is rated 2364 .

Canada has 3 inactive GM's : Alexander **Le Siege**; Duncan **Suttles**; Dmitry **Tyomkin**.

The top 5 women in the world are :

1 : GM Judit Polgar (Hungary) – 2707 (first woman player in history to break 2700);

2 : GM Humpy Koneru (India – 1987) – 2612 (second woman over 2600);

3 : GM Jun Xie (China) – 2574;

4 : GM Chen Zhu (Qatar) – 2548;

5 : WGM Yifan Hou (China – 1994) – 2527 (13 years old !; up from # 8)

The top 5 FIDE rated Canadian women players are (active in the last 24 months, internationally or in Canada) :

1 : WIM Nava **Starr**, 8 time Canadian Women's Champion (last in 2001), at 2173.



2 : WIM Natalia **Khoudgarian**, 2006 & 2007 Canadian Women's Champion, at 2151.

3 : WFM Dina **Kagramanov**, 2006 & 2007 Canadian Women's Championship Runner-Up, at 2111.

4 : WIM Dinara **Khaziyeva**, 2004 Canadian Women's Champion, at 2111.

5 : Yuanling **Yuan** (SCC member !) at 2082.

Carlsen/Aronian Lead 2008 Corus, Netherlands

This is the first major tournament of the year, and is a 14-player round robin with average rating of 2742 (FIDE Category 20) – Jan. 11 – 27. The players are:

Name	Country	Rating	Position	
GM Viswanathan Anand	IND	2799	1-2	Biography
GM Vladimir Kramnik	RUS	2799	1-2	Biography
GM Veselin Topalov	BUL	2780	3	Biography
GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	AZE	2760	6	Biography
GM Peter Leko	HUN	2753	8	Biography
GM Vassily Ivanchuk	UKR	2751	9	Biography
GM Levon Aronian	ARM	2739	10	Biography
GM Boris Gelfand	ISR	2737	11	Biography
GM Teimour Radjabov	AZE	2735	12	Biography
GM Magnus Carlsen	NOR	2733	13	Biography
GM Michael Adams	ENG	2726	15-16	Biography
GM Judit Polgar	HUN	2707	22	Biography
GM Pavel Eljanov	UKR	2692	27	Biography

After 3 rounds, Carlsen and Aronian have 2 ½ pts. and are the co-leaders. In third place alone is Radjabov, with a win and 2 draws. The “ new “ generation of players are flexing their muscles. Not what was expected in a field with Anand, Kramnik and Topalov ! But it is still early in the tournament – the “ establishment “ players should not yet be counted out on this one.

2nd Association of Chess Professionals World Rapid Cup in Odessa, Ukraine January 4-7, 2008.

This was a knockout event with 16 players participating:

Ivanchuk, Vassily (Ukraine)
Grischuk, Alexander (Russia)
Gelfand, Boris (Israel)
Radjabov, Teimour (Azerbaijan)
Shirov, Alexei (Spain)
Inarkiev, Ernesto (Russia)
Svidler, Peter (Russia)
Karpov, Anatoly (Russia)
Savchenko, Boris (Russia)
Karjakin, Sergey (Ukraine)
Jakovenko, Dmitry (Russia)
Najer, Evgeny (Russia)
Polgar, Judit (Hungary)
Drozdovskij, Yuri (Ukraine)
Eljanov, Pavel (Ukraine)
Shabalov, Alexander (USA)

2007 World Cup Finalist GM Alexei Shirov was eliminated by GM Inarkiev in Rd. 1 . 12th World Champion, Karpov, and the world’s strongest female player, Polgar , were also knocked out in the first round.

The semi-final match-up was:

Radjabov - Jakovenko
Grischuk – Karjakin

In the finals, Radjabov defeated Grischuk.

Winning Streaks in Chess

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With the New England Patriots completing a perfect season (16-0) in the National Football League, sports reporters naturally compare their feat to winning streaks in other sports. Not surprisingly, in North America chess gets left out. So let's correct that here with a look at the perfect accomplishments of three players: D. Abraham (Abe) **Yanofsky**

of Winnipeg; Laszlo (Leslie) **Witt** of Hungary, Montreal and Toronto; and the American, Robert (Bobby) **Fischer**.

D. Abraham **Yanofsky**

Abe Yanofsky put up a picket fence, which is how a row of ones for victories looks on the cross-table, to win the Canadian Closed Championship with a perfect score of 11-0 - not once, but twice!! In 1943, New Brunswick hosted its first national championship, as Yanofsky, serving in the Canadian Navy during World War Two, joined players from Quebec to meet the best of the Maritime provinces at Dalhousie. Montrealer Charles Smith put up the most resistance with their last round battle for first place, only falling into a combination on move 56.

Charles Smith - D. Abraham Yanofsky

Canadian Championship, Dalhousie, New Brunswick, Round 11, 1943

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 d5 4. Nf3 c6 5. cxd5 cxd5 6. Nc3 Bg7 7. Bg2 Nc6 8. O-O O-O 9. b3 Bf5 10. Bb2 Qc8 11. Rc1 Bh3 12. Ne5 Bxg2 13. Kxg2 Qe8 14. Nxc6 Qxc6 15. Na4 Qd6 16. Nc5 b6 17. Nd3 Rac8 18. Qd2 Ne4 19. Qe3 Bf6 20. Rxc8 Rxc8 21. Rc1 Rxc1 22. Qxc1 Qd7 23. Qe3 h5 24. Ne5 Qc8 25. Qd3 Kg7 26. Nf3 Qf5 27. Bc1 h4 28. h3 hxg3 29. fxg3 g5 30. g4 Qc8 31. Bb2 e6 32. Nd2 Nd6 33. Nf3 Qc7 34. Nd2 Qc6 35. Kf3 Qc7 36. Kg2 Be7 37. e4 dxe4 38. Nxe4 Nxe4 39. Qxe4 Bf6 40. Qd3 Qc6+ 41. Kf2 Qh1 42. Qc3 Qh2+ 43. Ke1 b5 44. a3 Qg2 45. Kd1 Qe4 46. Kc1 Qd5 47. Qe3 a5 48. Kc2 Kg8 49. Kc1 a4 50. bxa4 Qc4+ 51. Kb1 Qxa4 52. Kc1 Qc4+ 53. Kd2 Kf8 54. Qg3 Qd5 55. Qe3 e5 56. Kd3 Qb3+ 57. Bc3 exd4 0-1

Amazingly, at Montreal in 1959, IM (and future GM) Yanofsky duplicated his feat against a stronger field, including IM Frank Anderson, that took their best shots at him.

Lionel Joyner - D. Abraham Yanofsky

Canadian Championship, Montreal, Quebec, Round 7, 1959

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 g6 3. e4 d6 4. d4 Bg7 5. f3 e5 6. Nge2 O-O 7. Bg5 c6 8. Qd2 Qe8 9. d5 cxd5 10. cxd5 Na6 11. g4 b5 12. Ng3 Rb8 13. h4 b4 14. Nd1 Nc5 15. h5 Qa4 16. Bh6 Rb7 17. Bxg7 Kxg7 18. Nf5+ Bxf5 19. exf5 b3 20. hxg6 fxg6 21. Qh6+ Kg8 22. g5 Nxd5 23. fxg6 hxg6 24. Qh8+ Kf7 25. Qh7+ Ke8 26. Qxg6+ Rbf7 27. Nc3 Nxc3 28. bxc3 Qa5 29. Kd2 b2 30. Rb1 Na4 31. Qd3 a6 32. Rh3 Rc7 33. f4 Nxc3 34. Qg6+ Kd8 35. Qxd6+ Rd7 36. Qxd7+ Kxd7 37. Rxc3 Rxf4 38. Be2 Rf2 0-1

Laszlo **Witt**

In 1962, Laszlo Witt won the 4th Canadian Open Chess Championship with a perfect 9-0! Here's a battle against Mark Schulman of Winnipeg, recorded in the tournament book edited by Ron F. Rodgers.

Mark Schulman - Laszlo Witt

Canadian Open Championship, Ottawa, Ontario, Round 3, 1962.08.28

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 Nbd7 7. Bc4 e6 8. f4 Qc7 9. Bb3 b5 10. Qf3 Bb7 11. a3 Nxe4 12. Nxe4 Nc5 13. Qc3 Bxe4 14. O-O Qb7 15. Rae1 Nxb3 16. Qxb3 d5 17. Kh1 Bd6 18. Qh3 Qd7 19. f5 e5 20. Ne6 f6 21. Be3 Rc8 22. c3 Qf7 23. Bb6 Ke7 24. Qe3 Bxf5 25. Nxg7 Qxg7 26. Rxf5 Rhg8 27. Qf2 Ke6 28. Rf1 Be7 29. Be3 Qg6 30. Ba7 Rc6 31. Qf3 Rc4 32. Qh3 Qg4 33. Qxg4 Rcxg4 34. g3 Re4 35. Rh5 Rg7 36. Rh6 Re2 37. Bb6 Rxb2 0-1

Robert Fischer

Bobby Fischer equaled Yanofsky's feats by winning the 1963-4 USA Chess Championship with a perfect 11-0. In Round 3, he beat IM (and future GM) Robert Byrne with Black in 21 moves. In Round 10, he beat GM Pal Benko, again in 21 moves, with a famous demonstration of the interference tactic on move 19.

Robert Fischer - Pal Benko

1963-4 USA Championship, New York, NY, USA, Round 10, 1963.12.15

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. f4 Nf6 5. Nf3 O-O 6. Bd3 Bg4 7. h3 Bxf3 8. Qxf3 Nc6 9. Be3 e5 10. dxe5 dxe5 11. f5 gxf5 12. Qxf5 Nd4 13. Qf2 Ne8 14. O-O Nd6 15. Qg3 Kh8 16. Qg4 c6 17. Qh5 Qe8 18. Bxd4 exd4 19. Rf6 Kg8 20. e5 h6 21. Ne2 1-0

Bobby Fischer also set the record for consecutive victories in Grandmaster competition, with 19 wins in a row in 1970-1. During the last six rounds of the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal competition, part of the World Chess Championship cycle of qualifications, Fischer rolled over Rubineti, Uhlmann, Taimanov, Suttles, Mecking and Gligoric. His games were full of energy and initiative. Against Canada's Suttles, notice how he delays the recapture of a pawn by five moves, using the time to attack and develop simultaneously (rather than play 24... Qxf4).

Duncan Suttles - Robert Fischer

Interzonal, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, Round 20, 1970.12.07

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. c4 Nb6 5. exd6 cxd6 6. Be3 g6 7. d5 Bg7 8. Bd4 Bxd4 9. Qxd4 O-O 10. Nc3 e5 11. Qd2 f5 12. Nf3 N8d7 13. O-O-O Qf6 14. Qh6 Qe7 15. Re1 e4 16. Nd2 Ne5 17. h3 Nbd7 18. Qe3 Qh4 19. g3 Qf6 20. Kb1 Nc5 21. f4 exf3 22. Nxf3 f4 23. gxf4 Nxf3 24. Qxf3 Qh4 25. Be2 Bf5+ 26. Ka1 Rae8 27. Rc1 Be4 28. Nxe4 Rxe4 29. Rh2 Rxf4 30. Qc3 Qe7 31. Bf1 Re3 32. Qd2 Ref3 33. Re2 Qf6 34. Bg2 Rf2 35. Rce1 Rxe2 36. Rxe2 Rxc4 37. Qe3 Qe5 38. Kb1 Qxe3 39. Rxe3 Rf4 40. Bf3 h5 41. Kc2 Kf7 42. Kd2 Rb4 43. Kc3 Rh4 44. b4 Nd7 45. Be2 Nf6 46. Rf3 Kg7 47. Rd3 g5 48. a3 g4 49. Bf1 Ne4+ 50. Kc2 Nf2 51. Re3 gxh3 52. Re7+ Kf8 0-1

Fischer then crushed Mark Taimanov 6-0 in the quarter-finals of the next stage of the World Chess Championship, the Candidates Matches, held in Vancouver in 1971. In the semi-finals, he similarly crushed Bent Larsen 6-0. In the finals, he beat Tigran

Petrosian in the first game of their match, before Petrosian finally halted Fischer's streak with a victory in Game 2. Fischer went on to beat Petrosian in the match, and followed with a successful challenge for the title, against Boris Spassky in 1972.

2007/8 SCC Club Championship Starts

On Jan. 3 SCC started its 2007/8 Club Championship. It is in 2 sections again this year. 51 players registered.

The top section A is a 10-player 9-round round robin. It is composed of the top 8 rated players who registered, plus the first and second place winner in the 2006/7 Club Championship Reserves. Playing this year are a master, 4 experts and 5 A players: Master Bryan Lamb; junior girl expert Yuanling Yuan, expert John Hall; expert Alex Ferreira; expert Erwin Casareno; A player Rick Garel; A player Randy Moysoski; A player Yibing Fan; A player Bob Armstrong (1st - Reserves); and A player Josh Sherman (2nd - Reserves).

The other 41 members play in a one section, 10 round swiss. The first and second place finishers earn the right to play in the Championship Section for the 2008/9 Club Championship.

After 2 rounds, the following players lead:

Section A :

The co-leaders, undefeated, are John Hall, and your intrepid editor (bottom-rated in the section !), Bob Armstrong, with 1 ½ pts.. But it should be noted master Bryan Lamb has only 1 pt., but has an outstanding game. Randy Moysoski has 2 outstanding games. So they could theoretically get 2 pts. and be in the lead. As well Yuanling Yuan and Rick Garel, each have ½ pt. and 1 game outstanding, so they could possibly tie us for the lead.

Section B:

Leading with a perfect score, alone in first, is junior Sam Arfin

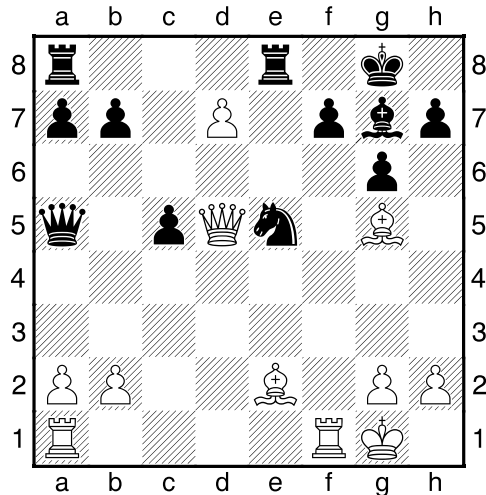
In Rd. 1, in Section A, John Hall, in a King's Indian Defence, sacked 2 centre pawns to open lines to Yuanling Yuan's Black King, had a winning advantage, and then sacked a R to get a perpetual and a draw. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Hall, J (2127) – Yuan, Y (2180) [A69]

SCC Club Championship Toronto (1), 03.01.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 [5.Nf3±] 5...0-0 6.Nf3 c5 7.d5 e6 [7...Qa5 8.Bd2 Qb6 9.Be2 Na6±] 8.Be2 exd5 9.cxd5 Re8 10.e5?!= John sacks the first centre pawn [10.Nd2 c4 11.a4 Na6 12.0-0 Nc5±] **10...dxe5 11.fxe5 Ng4 12.Bg5?!±** John takes his B to the wrong square. Yuanling gets the advantage [12.Bf4 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Bxe5 14.Nxe5 Rxe5=] **12...Qa5 [12...Qb6 13.Na4 Qa5+ 14.Bd2 Qc7 15.0-0 Bxe5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5±] 13.0-0 Nxe5** Yuanling goes up a P **14.d6 Be6?±** definitely the wrong move; John gets the advantage [14...c4? 15.Nd5 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 Nd7±; 14...Nbc6 15.Nd5 c4 16.Kh1 Be6 17.Nf6+ Bxf6 18.Bxf6 Ng4 19.Bc3 Qh5±] **15.Nd5 Bxd5?+-** this gives John tactical threats against the BI K; John gets a " winning " advantage [15...Nbd7 16.Nc7 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Bxb2 18.Rb1 Qxa2 19.Kh1 Bf5 20.Nxa8 Rxa8 21.Bxb7 Qxb1 (21...Rb8? 22.Rxf5 gxf5+- John would have B vs 2 P) 22.Qxb1 Bxb1 23.Bxa8 Bf5± John would be up the exchange, but Yuanling would have 2 P compensation.] **16.Qxd5 Nbd7 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.d7!** John sacks the 2nd centre pawn

Position after 18.d7!



18...Nxd7?+- 2.50 taking the pawn is a NO-NO; Yuanling goes up 2 P, but John has a "winning" advantage, and the BI N is hanging [an amazing line is 18...Red8? 19.Rxf7!! Nxf7 20.Qxf7+!! Kxf7 21.Bc4+ Kf8 22.Rf1+ Bf6 23.Rxf6+ Ke7 (23...Kg7?? 24.Rf7+ Kg8 25.Rf3+ Kg7 26.Bf6+ Kf8 27.Be5+ Ke7 28.Rf7#) 24.Ra6+ Kxd7 25.Rxa5 Rf8+- 2.49; 18...Rf8 19.Rae1 Qb6 20.Be7 Qc6 21.Qxc6 Nxc6 22.Bxc5 Rfd8+- 1.70] **19.Rxf7?!±** John misplays the attack; John is down a P , but the BI N is hanging [19.Qxd7 f5 20.Bc4+ Kh8 21.Rad1 Bxb2 22.Qxb7 Qb6+- 2.88 John would be up B vs 2 P] **19...Bd4+ 20.Kh1** [20.Rf2+? Kh8 21.Qxd7 Qb6 22.Qb5 h6 23.Bh4 (23.Bxh6?? Qf6#) 23...Re4 24.Bg3 Qxb5 25.Bxb5 Rd8±] **20...Nb6** the hanging N finds safety **21.Rf8+?=** John decides to sac the R, and go for a draw, rather than try to win it (he had a "clear " advantage) [21.Qf3 c4 22.Bf6 Kxf7 23.Bxd4+ Qf5 24.Bxc4+ Nxc4 25.Qxb7+ Ke6 26.Re1+ Kd6 27.Qb4+ Kd7 28.Qa4+ Kd6 29.Rxe8 Rxe8 30.Qxe8 Qb1+ 31.Bg1 Qxa2±] **21...Kxf8 22.Rf1+ Kg7 23.Qf7+ Kh8 24.Bf6+=** it's perpetual check **1-0**

In the top section in Rd. 1, there was an upset, as your intrepid editor, Bob Armstrong, defeated expert Alex Ferreira, slowly increasing my pawn advantage, and eventually threatening to queen a pawn. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ferreira, A (2023) – Armstrong, R (1818) [B06]

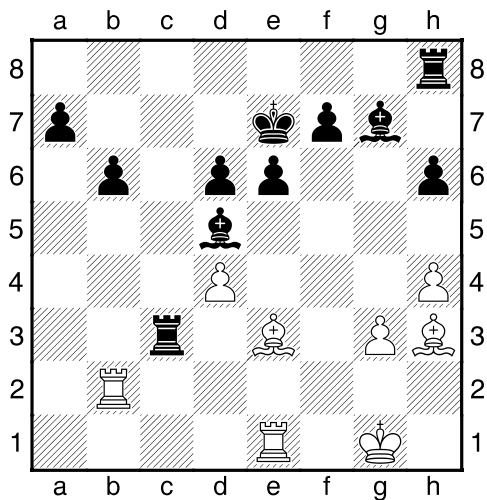
SCC Club Championship Toronto (1), 03.01.2008

]

1.e4 g6± 2.h4?!= this follows an earlier Ferreira-Armstrong game [2.Nf3±] **2...h6?!±** I pick a weak reply to Alex' unusual opening choice (the same one I used in our previous game). [2...d5 3.exd5 Bg7 4.d4 Nf6 5.h5 Nxd5 6.c3 Nc6=] **3.d4 Bg7 4.Be3 d6 5.Nd2** [5.h5 g5 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.f3 c6 8.Qd2 Qa5±] **5...Nf6 6.Be2 Nbd7?!±** Alex gets a "clear " advantage [6...0-0 7.c3 Qd7 8.Nh3 Ng4 9.Bxg4 Qxg4 10.Qxg4 Bxg4±; 6...Qd7 7.c3 0-0±] **7.c3 c5 8.f4?=[** [8.Nh3 0-0 9.g4 Ne8 10.d5 Qb6 11.Qc2 Ne5 12.f3 Nf6±] **8...cxd4 9.cxd4** [9.Bxd4 e5 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Be3 Qc7 12.h5 g5=] **9...Qa5 10.Rc1?+-** unexplainably, Alex sacs the eP [10.Bd3 0-0 11.Nh3 Qb4 12.Qb3 Qxb3 13.Nxb3 a5=] **10...Nxe4** I go up a P **11.Qc2?+-** - 2.93 [11.Bd3 Ng3 12.Rh3 Nf5 13.Ne2 0-0 14.Bg1 Nf6+- - 2.25] **11...Ndf6 12.b4?!+-** - 3.27 Alex sacks a second P [12.h5 Ng3 13.Rh2 Nd5 14.Qb3 Nf5 15.Bb5+ Kf8+- - 2.42] **12...Qxb4** I go up 2 P **13.Rb1 Qc3 14.Bb5+?!+-** - 4.58 [

14.Qxc3 Nxc3 15.Rb3 Nxe2 16.Nxe2 Be6 17.Ra3 0-0+ - 4.09] **14...Kf8 15.Qxc3 Nxc3 16.Rb3** - 4.29 [16.Rb2? Ng4 17.Nf1 Nxe3 18.Nxe3 Bxd4+ - 5.39 I would be up 3 P] **16...Nxa2** I go up 3 P **17.Nb1?+ -** 5.41 [17.Ndf3 a6 18.Bd3 a5 19.Bd2 Nb4 20.Bxb4 axb4 21.Rxb4 Nd5 22.Rb2 Nxf4 23.Bb1 Ra1+ - 3.97] **17...Be6 18.Rb2 Rc8 19.Ne2 b6?!+ -** 3.37 [19...Bd5 20.0-0 e6 21.Bd3 Ng4 22.Bd2 Bf6+ - 3.82] **20.Bd3 Bd5 21.f5 gxf5 22.Bxf5 e6 23.Bh3 Ne4 24.0-0 Ke7 25.Nf4 Nac3 26.Nxc3** -5.50 [26.Nh5 Nxb1 27.Nxg7 Na3 28.Bf4 Rc2 29.Rxc2 Nxc2 30.Rc1 Nxd4 31.Rc7+ Kf6 32.Nh5+ Kg6 33.Be3 Kxh5 34.Bxd4 e5 35.Be3 a5+ - 5.86] **26...Nxc3?+ -** 3.22 I recapture with the wrong piece [26...Rxc3 27.Nxd5+ exd5 28.Ra2 a5 (28...Rxe3?? 29.Rxa7+ Ke8 30.Ra8+ Ke7 31.Ra7+=) 29.Bf2 Rg8+ - 5.16] **27.Rc1?+ -** 4.51 [27.Nh5 Rhg8 28.Nxg7 Rxg7 29.Bxh6 Rg6 30.Be3 Ne4 - 3.05] **27...Be4 28.g3?+ -** 5.00 [28.Nh5 Bf6 29.Nxf6 Kxf6 30.g4 Kg7+ - 3.93] **28...Nd5 29.Nxd5+ Bxd5 30.Rf1?+ -** 5.54 [30.Ra1 Rc7 31.Bg2 Bxg2 32.Kxg2 f5+ - 4.16] **30...Rc3 31.Re1?+ -** 7.28 this should lose the dP [31.Bf2 Rhc8 32.Bg2 Bc4 33.Rd1 f5+ - 5.65]

Position after 31.Re1



31...Rhc8?+ - 5.75 I fail to see the tactical combination [31...Rxe3! 32.Rxe3 Bxd4 33.Rbe2 a5 34.Kf1 Bxe3 35.Rxe3 b5+ - 9.11] **32.Bf2 Rc1 33.Rbe2 Rxe1+ 34.Rxe1 Rc4 35.Ra1 a5 36.Rb1 Bxd4?+ -** 6.18 I should just push my aP [36...a4 37.Bg2 Bxg2 38.Kxg2 Rc2 39.Kf3 Rxf2+ 40.Kxf2 Bxd4+ 41.Kf3 a3 42.g4 a2 43.Rf1 a1Q 44.Rxa1 Bxa1+ 45.Ke4 - 13.39 I would be up B + 3 P] **37.Bxd4 Rxd4 38.Rxb6 a4 39.Ra6 Rd1+ 40.Kf2 Ra1** I had 5 min. left, and Alex had 7 min. **41.g4 Kf6** it is worth it to sac the dP to stop W's activity on the K-side, and to allow me to push my aP further. **42.Rxd6** I am up 2 P **42...a3 43.Bg2??+ -** 10.16 Alex blunders in my time pressure [43.Ra6 a2 44.Bg2 Bc4 45.Ra5 Rb1 46.g5+ hxg5 47.hxg5+ Kg7 48.Ke3 a1Q 49.Rxa1 Rxa1+ - 7.33] **43...Ra2+** I had 4 min. left, and Alex had 6 min.. Alex must lose a piece. He resigned. Coming is **44.Kg3** [44.Ke1 Rxg2 45.g5+ hxg5 46.hxg5+ Kxg5 47.Ra6 a2 48.Ra7 f5+ (48...a1Q+ 49.Rxa1 Rg1+ 50.Ke2 Rxa1+)] **44...Rxg2+ 45.Kh3 a2 46.Ra6 Rg1 47.Kh2 a1Q 48.Rxa1 Rxa1+ 0-1**

In the Reserves in Rd. 1 there was also an upset as junior girl Linda Xia defeated veteran SCC Treasurer, Andrew Philip, going up a minor piece after a long combination. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Xia, L (1382) – Philip, A (1636) [D47]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (1), 03.01.2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Nc3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4?!± [6...Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.e4 dxc4 9.Bxc4 e5 10.Bg5 Qe7=] **7.Bxc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 c5 9.0-0 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Qxd4 11.Nxd4?!=** [11.exd4 Bd6 12.Bg5 0-0±] **11...a6?!±** [11...Bc5 12.Nf3 Bd7 13.Rd1 0-0 14.Ne5 Rfd8=] **12.Ba4+?±** Andrew gets the advantage [12.e4 Bc5 13.Nf3 0-0 14.Bg5 Bd7 15.e5 (15.Bxf6? gxf6±) 15...Nfd5±] **12...Nxa4 13.Nxa4 Bd7 14.Nb6 Rd8 15.Bd2 e5?!=** [15...Bc5 16.Nxd7 Bxd4 17.exd4 Kxd7±] **16.Nf3 Bb5** [16...Bg4 17.Ba5 e4 18.Nd4 Bc5=; 16...e4 17.Nxd7 Nxd7 18.Nd4 Nc5=] **17.Rfc1 Ne4 18.Ba5 Bd6?+-** Linda gets a " winning " advantage [18...f6 19.Ne1 Ng5 20.b4 Ne6=] **19.Nc8 Rd7?!+-** 3.52 better for Andrew to give up the exchange [19...Bb8 20.Bxd8 Kxd8 21.Nb6 Ke7+- 1.43] **20.Nxd6+ Nxd6 21.Nxe5** Linda goes up a P **21...Re7 22.Nf3?+-** 2.03 [22.Bb4 Rxe5 23.Bxd6 Rh5 24.Rc7 Rd5 25.Rc8+ Kd7 26.Rxh8 Rxd6 27.Rxh7 Ke7 28.Rxg7 Kf6 29.Rg8 Rd2+- 5.44 Linda would be up the exchange + 3 P's] **22...Nc4?+-** 4.39 this should lead to loss of the exchange [22...h5 23.Rc5 Rh6 24.Rd1 Re4+- 2.33] **23.Bb4 Rd7?+-** 5.09 this should lose a minor piece [23...a5 24.Bxe7 Kxe7 25.b3 Nd6+- 4.19 Linda would be up the exchange + P] **24.b3?+-** 4.13 Linda misses winning a minor piece [24.a4 Bxa4 25.Rxc4 Bb3 26.Rc8+ Rd8 27.Rc7 Rd7 28.Rac1 Be6+- 7.57 Linda would be up an N] **24...Nb2?! 5.28** Andrew is still going to lose the exchange or a minor piece [24...Nd6 25.Ne5 Rd8 26.Bxd6 f6 (26...Rxd6?? 27.Rc8+ Ke7 28.Rxh8 Rd5 29.Nf3 h6+-) 27.Bc7 fxe5 28.Bxd8 Kxd8+- 4.16 Linda would be up the exchange + P] **25.Ne5 Nd3 5.62** [25...Bc6 26.Nxd7 Kxd7+- 5.83 Linda would be up the exchange + P] **26.Rc8+ Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Kxd8 28.Nxd3** Linda goes up an N + P **28...Bxd3 29.Rd1 Kc7 30.Rxd3** Linda is up B + P **30...Re8 31.Kf1 Re4 32.a3 b6 33.Ke2 Rh4 34.Bd6+ Kc6 35.Bg3 Rh5 36.Rc3+ Kd5 7.63** [36...Rc5 37.Rxc5+ Kxc5 38.Be5 g6 39.g4 h5 40.gxh5 gxh5+- 8.14] **37.Rd3+ Kc6 38.Rd6+ Kc5 39.b4+?+- 6.81** [39.Rd7 f5 40.Rxg7 b5 41.Re7 Kc6+- 9.30] **39...Kb5 40.a4+?+- 5.55** [40.e4 a5 41.bxa5 bxa5 42.Rd7 f5 43.e5 Rh6+- 8.35] **40...Kxb4 41.Rxb6+ Ka5 42.Bc7 Kxa4 43.Rxa6+ Kb3 44.Bg3 Rd5 6.24** [44...f5 45.Rc6 Ka3 46.Rb6 Ka4 47.Kd3 Rg5+- 6.45] **45.Rb6+ Kc3 46.Rc6+ Kb4 47.Rc7 Rf5 48.e4 Rf6 49.Kd3 g6 50.f3 h5 51.Be1+- 1-0**

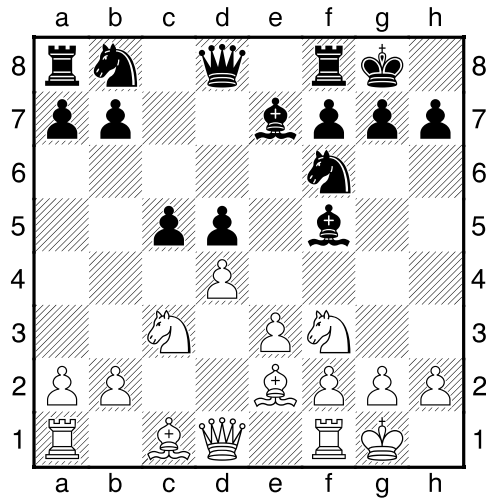
In Round 1 in the Reserves, Tom Muir managed to go up a P when Marc Ben-Avraham inadvertently left it hanging. He was then heading for an ending up a P, when Marc unfortunately blundered into a knight fork. Here is their game (Annotations by Tom Muir):

Muir, T (1685) – Ben-Avraham, M (1460) [D35]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (1), 03.01.2008

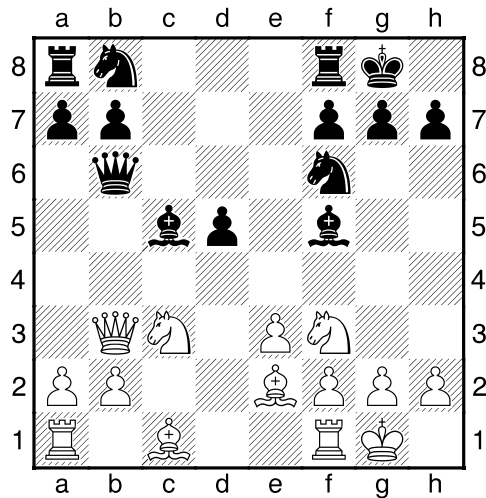
158MB, Fritz10.ctg, TOM-8A899E70138 **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6** The Main Line second move. **3.Nc3** The 'most aggressive' third move for W in the Main Line. **3...Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.e3** last book move **5...Bf5 6.Nf3** Considered Bd3 but didn't see a real rationale for trying to exchange Bs. **6...Be7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 c5** Diagram

Position after 8...c5



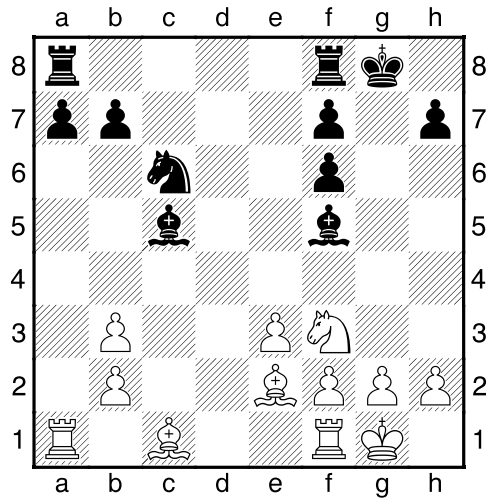
Considered b3 to prevent c4 but felt this weakened Nc3 and blocked my Q. In its favour, b3 would have allowed the c1B to develop. **9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Qb3** Considered Nd4 but this would have potentially lead to an isolated Pd4. Qb3 created a new threat against b7 and a following Rfd1 would result in three pieces attacking d5 – I was thinking about how to 'pile on' the pieces attacking d5. **10...Qb6** Diagram

Position after 10...Qb6



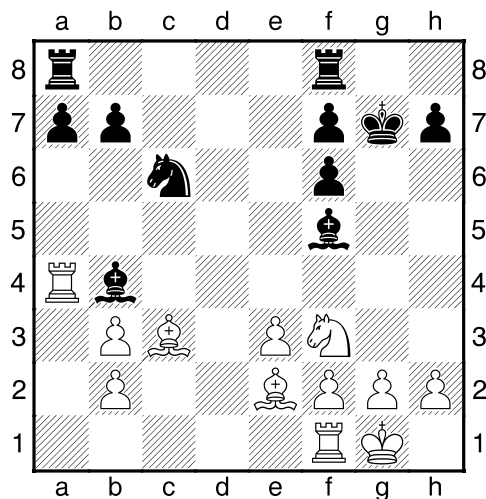
I immediately saw the opportunity to go up a pawn with Nxd5 and potentially to double B's Ps in front of its K. [1.11 Fritz 10: 10...Qd7 11.Rd1 Be6 12.Qc2 Rc8 13.a3 Bd6 14.b3 Nc6 0.32/15] **11.Nxd5 Qxb3 12.Nxf6+ gxf6 13.axb3 Nc6** Diagram

Position after 13...Nc6



Positional assessment: W is up a P; B's doubled Ps are more troublesome than W's because they are in front of B's K; W controls the 1/2 open a file; the d file is opened but not controlled; B's Bs are more actively developed than W's Bs. From this I concluded I needed first to develop my dark B and then try to occupy the open e file. **14.Bd2 Bb4 15.Bc3** A nice threat against f6 forcing either a 'wasted' K move or the undoubling of my b file pawns with ...Bxc3; bxc. **15...Kg7 16.Ra4** Diagram

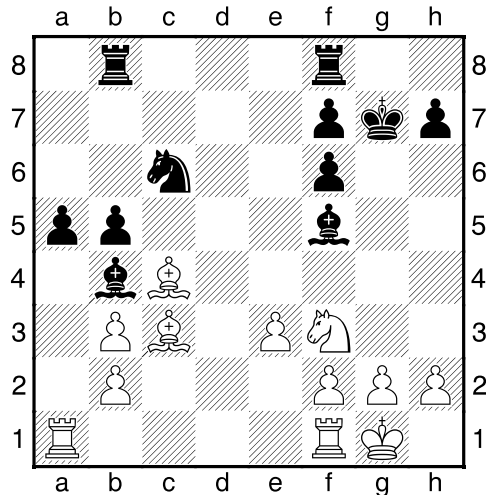
Position after 16.Ra4



Also considered Bc4 and Ne4 (to start trading off pieces); either would have been better than Ra4; idea behind Ra4 was the threat of moving the R across the 4th line toward the open black K, and/or doubling Rs on the a file; I played a tactical move rather than a strategic/positional move too quickly, before compiling what I set out to do after my positional review: better develop my Bs

and occupy the open d file. **16...a5 17.Bc4 Rab8 18.Raa1** Here I decided to just get right at undoing the poor Ra4 move. I also saw the danger of playing Rd1 which would be followed by the double attacking move Bc2. **18...b5** Diagram

Position after 18...b5



19.Bd5 I liked this move! At this point I decided to get on with exchanging pieces to magnify my advantages. I expected black to play Ne7 and foresaw the exchange of all Bs and the doubling of blacks Q-side pawns on the b file: ...Ne7, Nd4; Bxb4, axb4; Nd4, Nxd4 (likely now that f3 is anew escape square for my light B); Nxf5+ etc. **19...Ne7 20.Bxb4 axb4 21.Nd4 Nxd5 22.Nxf5+ Kg6 23.Nd4** Also considered Nh4+ etc. but ultimately saw the check as 'empty' and the ending N position on f3 rather than d4 (its best square) as simply losing a tempo. **23...Rfc8 24.Rfc1 Rc7 25.Rxc7** Begin liquidating the remaining pieces counting on an end game win based on the K-side pawn majority and structure. **25...Nxc7 26.Nc6** Black blunders. **26...Rc8** [9.97 Fritz 10: 26...Re8 27.Kf1 Nd5 28.Rc1 Kg7 29.Nd4 Re5 30.h3 Kg6 31.g4 h5 32.Rc8 2.14/17] **27.Ne7+ 1-0**

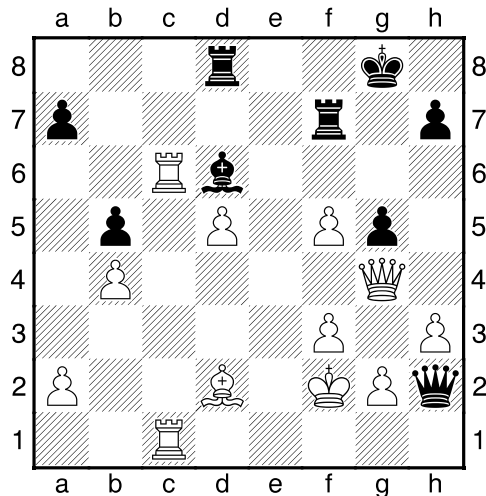
In Round 2 in the Championship Section, John Hall, in a tactic filled ending, secured a share of first by defeating Alex Ferreira. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Hall, J (2127) – Ferreira, A (2023) [D94]

SCC Club Championship Toronto (2), 10.01.2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 g6± [4...e6=] **5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 Bg4** [7...Bf5 8.Bxf5 gxf5 9.Qb3 Qb6±] **8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nbd7?!±** a miscalculation – this drops the dP. John gets a " clear " advantage [9...Qd6 10.a4 e5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.dxe5 Qxe5±] **10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Nxd5** John goes up a P **11...e5?!+-** John gets a " winning " advantage [11...Nxd5 12.Qxd5 e5 13.Rd1 exd4 14.exd4 Nb6 15.Qxb7 Qxd4±] **12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.d5 Bg7 14.e4 Nc5 15.Bd2 f5 16.Qe2 Qh4 17.f3 Rf7 18.Rac1 Bf8 19.b4 Nxd3 20.Qxd3 Rd8 21.Rc4 b5 22.Rc6 Bd6 23.Rfc1?+-** 2.17 better to just take the free pawn [23.Qxb5 Bc7 (23...fxe4? 24.fxe4 Rb8 25.Qe2 Rxf1+ 26.Qxf1 Rf8 27.Qe2 Rd8+- 4.43) 24.Kh2 Bb6+- 3.32 John would be up 2 P] **23...g5?+-** 3.82 Alex tries to create some K-side counter play, but this is risky. [23...fxe4 24.Qxe4 Qxe4 25.fxe4 Kg7+- 2.68] **24.exf5?+-** 2.71 again it is best to take the bP. John goes up 2 P's [24.Qxb5 Bf8 25.Rc7 Rxc7 26.Rxc7 g4 27.fxg4 fxe4+- 4.74] **24...e4?+-** 6.39 Alex continues to try to create an attack, by sacking the eP to open up the BI B on the diagonal. But he is falling further behind with this

strategy [24...Qd4+ 25.Qxd4 exd4 26.Bxg5 Be7 27.Bxe7 Rxe7+- 3.76] **25.Qxe4** John is now up 3 P's, 2 of them passed and on the 5th rank. **25...Qg3?+-** 7.07 setting up an assault on the b8-h2 diagonal. But this allows mate ! [25...Qh6 26.Qg4 Qh4+- 5.76] **26.Qg4?+-** 3.34 John tries to entice an exchange of Q's, and set up an attack of his own on the BI K – but this is not the best strategy. He misses the rather complex mate. [26.f4 Rf6 27.Rxd6! Rfxd6 28.Rc7 gxf4 29.Bxf4 Qh4 30.f6 R6d7 31.Rxd7 Rf8 (31...Rxd7?? 32.Qe8#) 32.Qe7 Qe1+ 33.Qxe1 Kh8 34.Qe7 Rf7 35.Qd8+ Rf8 36.Qxf8#] **26...Qh2+?+-** 5.60 Knowing that he will otherwise lose, Alex forgoes the theoretically better exchange of Q's, to try to develop an attack. [26...Qxg4 27.hxg4 Be7 28.Rc8 Rff8 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.Rc7 Bf6+- 3.84] **27.Kf2?+-** 4.68 [27.Kf1 Qg3 28.Bxg5 Qxg4 29.fxg4 Rdd7+- 5.94]



27...h5?+- 18.98 in a losing battle, this is a desperate attempt to sack some pieces and, in Alex' words, " create some slime ", to see if the attack on the W K can lead to anything. [27...Rdf8 28.Bxg5 h5 29.Qxh5 Rxf5+- 4.40] **28.Qxg5+** John goes up 4 P's **28...Rg7 29.Qxd8+** John is up R + 4 P's **29...Kh7 30.Qxd6?+-** 16.47 taking time to defend is much more preferable here. John goes up R + B + 4 P's [30.Rg1 Qe5 31.Rxd6+- 29.68] **30...Rxc2+** John is up R + B + 3 P's **31.Ke3 Re2+ 32.Kd3 Rxd2+** John is up R + 3 P's **33.Kc3+-** There is really nothing left now that Alex can accomplish, and John is threatening mate. Alex resigned. **1-0**

Also in the top section in Rd. 2, master Bryan Lamb kept his championship hopes alive by defeating newcomer expert Erwin Casareno with an impressive 2 piece sack combination. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

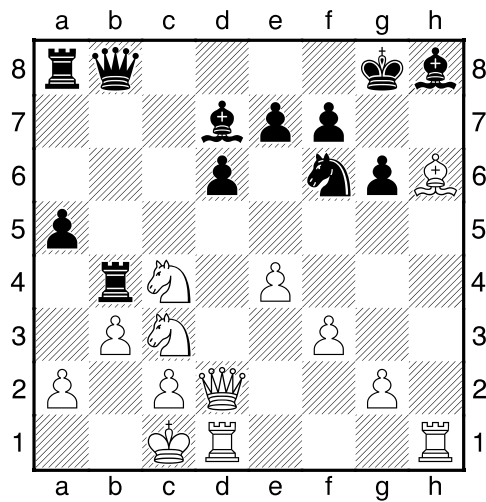
Casareno, E (2003) – Lamb, B (2229) [B78]

SCC Club Championship Toronto (2), 10.01.2008

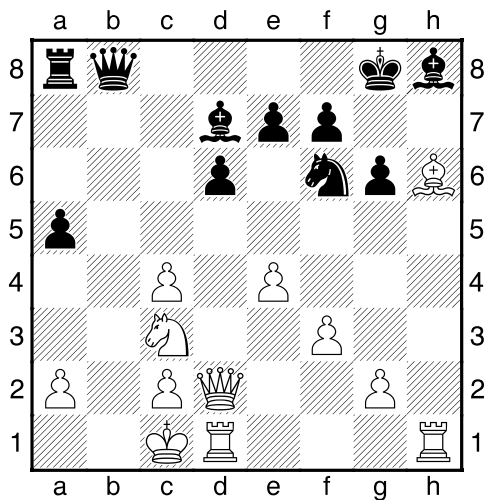
1.e4 c5± 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6± [5...e6±] **6.Be3** [6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7±] **6...Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4** [9.Be2 d5 10.0-0-0 dxe4 11.fxe4 Ng4 12.Kb1 Nxe3 13.Nxc6 Qxd2 14.Nxe7+ Kh8 15.Rxd2 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Be6±] **9...Bd7** [9...Qc7 10.Bb3 a6 11.0-0 Rd8±] **10.0-0-0?!=** [10.0-0 Ne5 11.Bb3 Rc8±] **10...Qb8?!±** [10...Qc7?! 11.Bd5 Rac8 12.h4 h5±; 10...Rc8 11.Be2 a6 12.g4 b5 13.g5 Nh5=] **11.h4 b5?!±** Bryan sacks a P to open lines to the W K. Erwin gets a " clear " advantage [11...Rc8?! 12.Bb3 a5 13.a4 h5±; 11...Qc7 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.h5

Nxh5 14.g4 Nf6±] **12.Ndx5?!±** [12.Bb3 Na5 13.h5 Nxb3+ 14.Nxb3 b4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Rc8±] **12...Ne5 13.Be2 Rc8 14.Bh6?±** for the first time in the game, Bryan gets the advantage [14.Nd4 h5 15.Bg5 Nc4 16.Bxc4 Rxc4±] **14...Bh8?±** [14...Bxh6 15.Qxh6 Qb6 16.h5 Bxb5 17.Nxb5 Nxh5 18.c3 Nf6±] **15.h5?±** [15.Nd4 a5 16.Bg5 e6 (16...Nc4?! 17.Bxc4 Rxc4±) 17.g4 Qb7±; 15.Bg5?! Qb7 16.h5 Rab8 17.b3 Bxb5 18.Nxb5 Nxh5=] **15...Nc4?±** Erwin gets back a " clear " advantage [15...Nxh5? 16.Rxh5! Bxb5 17.Rxe5 Bxe2 18.Rxe7 Bc4 19.b3 Bf6 20.Rd7 Qb4 21.Rxd6 Be7 22.Qd4 f6 23.Rxf6 Bxf6 24.Qxf6 Qb7+-; 15...Bxb5 16.Nxb5 Nxh5 17.Rh3 a6 18.Nc3 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4±] **16.Bxc4 Rxc4 17.Na3?±** [17.hxg6 fxg6 (17...hxg6 18.Nd4) 18.Na3 Rxc3 19.Qxc3 Nxe4 20.Qc4+ e6 21.Qxe4 Qxb2+ 22.Kd2 Rc8 23.Nb1 d5 24.Qd3 Ba4±] **17...Rb4?±** [17...Rxc3! 18.bxc3 Qb6 19.Qe3 Nxh5 20.Qxb6 axb6 21.Kb2 b5=] **18.b3 a5?+-** 2.57 [18...Bc6 19.hxg6 hxg6 20.Bg5 Bg7±] **19.hxg6 hxg6 20.Nc4??±** Erwin blunders – Bryan gets an impressive combination out of the position, and gets a " clear " advantage. [20.Bg5 Bg7 21.Bxf6 exf6 22.Qxd6 Be6+- 2.48]

Position after 20.Nc4



20...Rxc4!± Bryan first sacs the exchange to open the b-file **21.bxc4**



Nxe4! now Bryan sacs his N to open the diagonal for his h8B **22.fxe4** Erwin is up a R, but Bryan has a " clear " advantage **22...Qb4 23.Qd5 Rb8 24.Rd3?!+-** - 2.76 [24.Na4? Bxa4 25.Rdf1 Qb2+ 26.Kd2 e6 27.Qd3 Bxc2! 28.Qxc2 Qd4+ 29.Ke1 Rb2 30.Qc1 Be5+- - 5.07; 24.Kd2 Qxc3+ 25.Ke2 Be6 26.Qd2 Bg4+ 27.Kf2 Qf6+ 28.Kg3 Bxd1 29.Qxd1 Rb4+- - 2.14 material equality] **24...Bxc3 25.Rxc3?+-** - 4.88 this is a wrong sacrifice [25.Kd1 Be6 26.Qc6 Bg4+ 27.Rf3 Qa3 28.Rhf1 Qxa2+- - 3.28 Materially, Erwin would be only temporarily up the exchange, since the W R is pinned by the B, and so Bryan would effectively be up a passed aP] **25...Qb1+ 26.Kd2 Qxh1** material equality **27.Be3?+-** - 10.02 this mistake seals Erwin's fate. Best to abandon the B now. [27.Re3 Qxh6 28.Qxa5 Qf4 29.g3 Qf2+ 30.Re2 Qd4+ 31.Kc1 Bg4 32.Re1 Bf3+- - 6.99 Bryan would be up B vs P] **27...Rb1 28.Qa8+ Kh7 29.Bf2 Qxg2** Bryan is up a P **30.Qa7 Rf1+-** the B is lost. Erwin resigns. **0-1**

In Rd. 2 in the Reserves, a major upset saw junior Sam Arfin defeat veteran Jim Paterson, former club co-champion, to share in first place , with a perfect record after 2 rounds. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Arfin, S (1659) – Paterson, J (1850) [B13]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (2), 10.01.2008

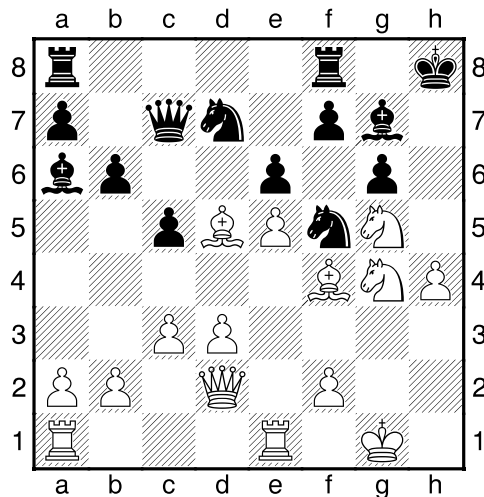
1.d4 c6± 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4 e6 7.Nf3 Bd6 8.Bxd6 Qxd6 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Ne5?!= [10.0-0 Qf4 11.Nbd2 Bd7 12.Rae1 a6±] **10...Bd7?±** Sam gets an early " clear " advantage [10...Qc7 11.0-0 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7=] **11.f4** [11.0-0 Rab8 12.Na3 Ne7±] **11...Rfd8** [11...Ne7 12.0-0 a6±] **12.0-0 Be8 13.Nd2 Ne7 14.Rf3 g6 15.Qf2 Nf5?!+-** Sam gets a " winning " advantage [15...Qb6 16.Nb3 Bb5 17.Qh4 Kg7 18.Bc2 Be2 19.Re3 Bc4±] **16.g4 Ng7 17.Qh4 Qe7 18.Raf1 h5** 3.95 [18...Kh8 19.Rh3 Rac8 20.Qh6 Kg8+- 4.39; 18...Bc6 19.f5 exf5 20.gxf5 Ngh5+- 4.13] **19.f5 exf5 20.gxf5 g5 21.Qxg5** Sam goes up a P **21...Kf8?+-** 17.93 this should lose the Q [21...Rd6 22.Rg3 Qf8 23.Kh1 Nh7 24.Qxh5 Kh8+- 11.55] **22.Rg3 Ng4 23.Qxe7+?+-** 5.85 Sam misses winning the Q, though he will win a piece [23.f6 Qxf6 (23...Qe6?? 24.Qxg7#) 24.Rxf6+- 28.12] **23...Kxe7 24.Nxg4 Nxf5 25.Bxf5 hxg4 26.Bxg4** Sam is up N + P **26...Bb5 27.Re3+ Kf8 28.Rf6 Bd7 29.Bxd7 Rxd7 30.h4?+-** 6.13 [30.Nf3 Kg7 31.Ne5 Kxf6 32.Nxd7+ Kg5 33.Re5+ f5 34.Rxd5 Kf4+- 7.90] **30...Kg7 31.Rf5 Rh8 32.Rg5+ Kf8 33.Nf3 f6 34.Rf5 Kg7 35.Rf4?+-** 5.82 [35.Re6 Rh6 36.h5 a6 37.Re2 Rh8 38.Rg2+ Kf7 39.Ng5+ Ke8 40.Ne6 Rd6 41.Nc7+ Ke7 42.Nxd5+ Ke6 43.Ne3 Kf7+- 9.05] **35...Rh6 36.Rg4+ Rg6 37.Rxg6+ Kxg6 38.Re8 Kf5 39.Kf2 Kf4 40.Rg8 Ke4 41.Rg3 Kf4?+-** 6.70 [41...Rh7 42.Rg1 b6 43.Re1+ Kf4 44.Re6 Rh6 45.Re7 a5 46.a4 f5+- 8.68] **42.Rh3?+-** 5.57 [42.Ne1 Kf5 43.Rf3+ Kg6 44.Ng2 Rd6 45.Ne3 Kf7 46.Rf5 Ra6 47.a3 Rb6 48.b4 Ra6 49.Nxd5 Rxa3 50.Rxf6+ Kg8+- 8.33] **42...Rh7 43.h5 Rh6 44.Rh4+ Kf5 45.Kg3 Rh8 46.Rf4+ Ke6 47.Kh4 Rh7 48.Nh2 f5 49.Nf3?+-** 7.33 [49.Nf1 Re7 50.Ng3 Rf7 51.h6 Rh7 52.Kh5 b6+- 11.38] **49...Kf6 50.Ne5 Re7 51.h6 Rh7 52.Kh5 Rh8** 11.12 [52...Ke6 53.Kg6 Rh8 54.Kg7 Rb8 55.Nf7 b5+- 14.18] **53.Nf3?+-** 9.62 [53.Ng4+ Kf7 54.Rxf5+ Ke6 55.Re5+ Kd6 56.Nf6 a6+- 12.30] **53...Re8** 11.23 [53...Rg8? 54.h7 Rh8 55.Kh6 b6 56.Nh4 Rxh7+ 57.Kxh7+- 12.14] **54.h7?+-** 9.62 [54.Nh4 Ke6 55.Rxf5 Rd8 56.Kg5 Rh8 57.Ng6 Rxh6 58.Nf4+ Kd6 59.Kxh6+- 13.12] **54...Kg7 55.Rxf5?+-** 7.59 Sam is up N + 2 P's [55.Ng5 Kf6 56.Rf2 a6 57.Re2! Rh8 58.Re6+ Kg7 59.Re7+ Kf8 60.Rxb7 Rxh7+ 61.Nxh7+ Ke8+- 16.41 Sam would be up R + N + P] **55...Re2?+-** 17.86 [55...Kxh7 56.Rf7+ Kg8 57.Rxb7 Re2+- 8.54] **56.Ng5?+-** 11.78 [56.Rf7+! Kxf7 57.h8Q+- 16.59] **56...Rxb2??+-** leads to mate [56...Rh2+ 57.Kg4 Rg2+ 58.Kf3 Rh2 59.Rxd5 Kf6 60.Kg4 Rxh7 61.Nxh7+ Ke6+- 16.67] **57.Rf7+ Kh8 58.Rf8+** Jim resigns. It is mate **58...Kg7 59.h8Q# 1-0**

In the Reserves in Rd. 2, “ sac-a-piece “ Pino Verde cast a spell on David Farrant – he pulled two of his patented sacs, in a row (both unsound !), and David refused to accept them ! The win left Pino a ½ pt. out of first place.. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Verde, P (1677) – Farrant, D (1476) [B40]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (2), 10.01.2008

1.e4 c5± 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3?!= [3.Nc3±] 3...Nf6 4.Nbd2 [4.e5 Nd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7=; 4.Be2 d6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.0-0 0-0=] 4...d5 5.g3 b6 6.Bg2 Bb7 7.e5?!≠ David gets the advantage [7.0-0 Nc6 8.exd5 exd5 9.c4 Be7=] 7...Nfd7 8.0-0 Qc7 9.Re1 Nc6 10.Qe2 g6?!= Fritz says fianchettoing here is a wrong idea [10...Be7 11.Nb3 0-0 12.Bf4 a5≠] 11.Nf1?≠ David gets a " clear " advantage [11.c4 d4 12.Ne4 h6 13.Nf6+ Nxf6 14.exf6 g5=] 11...Bg7 12.Bf4 0-0?= David loses his advantage [12...h6 13.c3 g5 14.Be3 Ba6 15.h3 Ndx5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5≠] 13.h4 Ba6?!± [13...b5 14.N1h2 Qa5 15.Ng4 h5 16.Nh6+ Kh7 17.Ng5+ Kxh6 18.Bh3 Ndx5 19.Nxf7+ Kh7 20.Nxe5 Nd4 21.Qd1 Qa4=] 14.N1h2 h5 15.c3 Ne7 [15...Rac8 16.g4 hxg4 17.Nxg4 Ne7±] 16.g4 hxg4 17.Nxg4 Nf5 18.Qd2 Kh7?!± Pino gets a " clear " advantage [18...Rac8 19.Rac1 Kh7 20.Ne3 Ne7±] 19.Ng5+ [19.Rad1?! Rac8 20.Ne3 Ne7±] 19...Kh8 20.Bxd5?≠ a trademark Pino sac – this time unsound. Pino goes up a P. David gets back a " clear " advantage [20.c4 Qc6 21.h5 Bb7±]



20...Rad8?+- David should accept the sacrifice, Now Pino gets back a " winning " advantage [20...exd5 21.e6 Qd8 22.exd7 Qxd7≠ material equality, with David having a " clear " advantage] 21.Bxe6?= Pino is on a roll – he executes a second " unsound " sacrifice. Pino goes up a second P, but now the position is equal. [21.Be4 c4 22.Bxf5 Nc5 23.Be4 Nxd3 24.Bxd3 Rxd3 25.Qe2 Bb7+-] 21...Nxb4?+- Pino has got David spooked – he wrongly rejects the second sac as well; Pino gets back his " winning " advantage. Pino is up a P. [21...fxe6 22.Nxe6 Qc6 23.Nxd8 Rxd8= David would have B + N vs R + 3 P's] 22.Qe3?+- 4.16 [22.f3 Kg8 (22...Bh6? 23.Nxb6 Nxf3+ 24.Nxf3 fxe6+- 14.92) 23.Qh2 Nxf3+ 24.Nxf3 Nxe5 25.Rxe5 Qe7+- 13.43] 22...fxe6??+- 18.74 Rattled, David commits a final fatal error. He must now lose more material. He resigned. [best, but still losing, is 22...Qc6 23.Qh3 Qg2+ 24.Qxg2 Nxg2 25.Kxg2 fxe6 26.Nxe6 Bxd3 27.Bh6 Bxh6 28.Nxb6 Rb8 29.Nxf8 Nxf8+- 4.59 Pino would be up the exchange + P; 22...Kg8? 23.Qh3 Nxe5 24.Rxe5 Nf3+ 25.Qxf3 Qe7+- 23.38] The game could have continued 23.Qh3 Rxf4 24.Qxh4+ Kg8 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.Nxe6+ Ke7 27.Nxf4! [27.Nxc7?? Rxc7+ 28.Kf1 Bxd3+ 29.Re2 Bxe2+ 30.Kxe2 Re4+ 31.Kf1 Nxe5 32.Qxg7+ Nf7 33.Qxg6 Re5+- 8.99] 27...Re8 [27...Qc6?? 28.Qxg7+ Ke8 29.Nf6+ Qxf6 30.exf6+ Ne5 31.Qe7#] 28.Nd5+ Kd8 29.Nxc7 Kxc7 30.Qxg7 Rd8+- 25.19 1-0

Our Readers Write !: SCC Club Championship Format Criticized !

SCC member Will Rutherford came out initially to put his name forward for the Club Championship. But he did not make the Championship section with his 1820 rating. He then withdrew his name and said he wouldn't play. Now he has written his opinion on why he is uncomfortable with the current format. Here is what he has to say:

“ Partly I [Will Rutherford] stayed out of this tournament because of being busy with a number of things. However, I am also uncomfortable with the format of the tournament and wouldn't have enjoyed competing.

The first problem is that the structure of the tournament comes across as elitist. There is a single limited entry championship section and everyone else is thrown into steerage.

The second problem is that the resulting title of Club Champion is dubious. Many people in the championship section come from outside and only compete in this one tournament [Ed.: Will is not factually correct here – all players in the Championship Section have played in both Fall tournaments from Sept. to Dec., except Erwin Casareno, who played only part of the Fall Swiss : Bryan Lamb, Yuanling Yuan, John Hall, Alex Ferreira, Rick Garel, Randy Moysoski, Yibing Fan, myself (Bob Armstrong), and Josh Sherman], protected from the rest of the club. There is no requirement of previous participation in club tournaments [Ed. : this is true – to play, a new member only has to take out a 6-month membership]. So really the trophy goes out to someone who is champion of that one section of the tournament, not really a champion of the club.

To set this up as a proper club championship, and to make it fair and interesting to ordinary club members, it really ought to have one of two formats:

[A] A big single-section Swiss. Everyone has a shot at the title, and the winner truly has to prove his strength against the field.

[B] The entire tournament is divided evenly between multiple round-robin sections, based on rating range. The winner of each section gets a trophy for his group.

Format [B] is how they used to do it in the SCC back in the Porter Collegiate days. “

What do you think of Will's observations and suggestions? Responses to him will be published in the next newsletter.

2008 Toronto Closed – Upcoming Tournament

WILLOWDALE CHESS CLUB PRESENTS (A GTCL event):

The TORONTO CLOSED CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

January 22 to March 4

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 15 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 15, 2008.

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

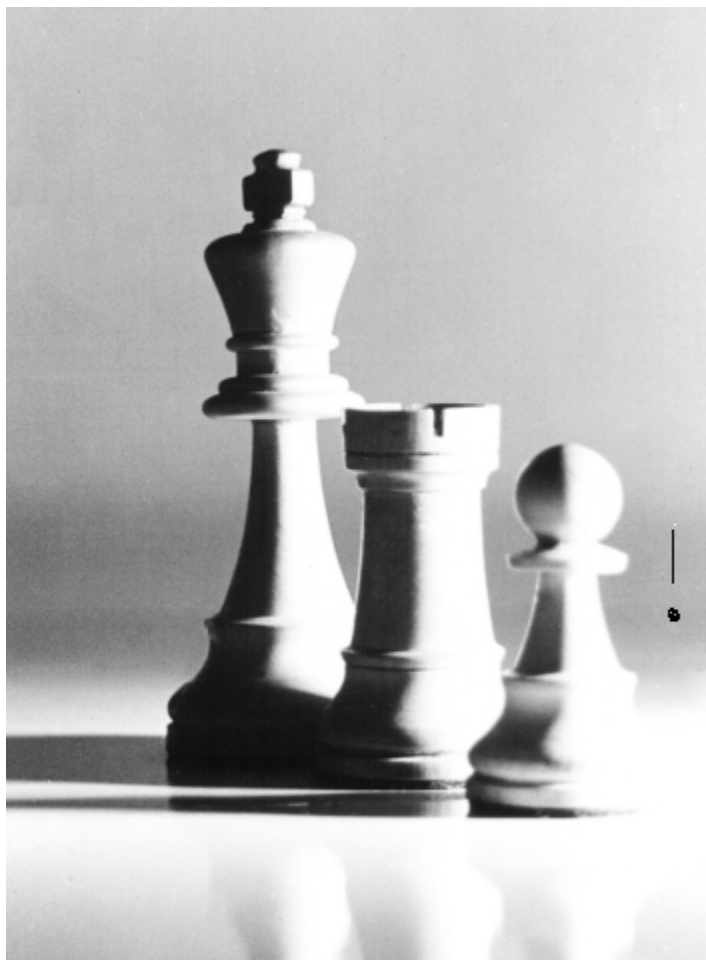
NAME.....RATING.....CFC

PHONE.....daysFIDE

.....evgs

ENTRY FEE \$80 enclosed.

An Impressive Trio !



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

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