

Scarborough Community of Toronto
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“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

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Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

Prague Unity Agreement : FIDE Firms Up Its Side of the Draw

An impressive agreement was reached last May to reunify the world chess championship. The FIDE side of the draw has Ruslan Ponomarev (Ukraine), 2002 FIDE world champion, playing Garry Kasparov (Russia), 13th FIDE world champion, and highest rated player in the world, in Yalta, Ukraine. The match was originally to have been played in June, but then was generally rescheduled into sometime in early September. FIDE has now fixed the start date for Sept. 19.

The other side of the draw features classical world champion, Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), against Peter Leko (Hungary). But the problem is that a corporation, Einstein TV , holds the rights to this challenge match of Kramnik's. It previously announced that it had been unable to find a sponsor for the full prize fund for the match. But now things seem to have gotten worse. On July 1, Einstein Group (the holding company) petitioned the British High Court for the “ appointment of administrators “. This usually means the company is insolvent. Where will this leave the holding of the Kramnik match ?

2003 Canadian Open

This tournament was played in Kapuskasing, Ontario from July 12 – 20. The turnout was over 100 players, which is lower than usual for the Open. Some have ventured that this was solely due to the problem of a small town in a more isolated location. But there were over 10 GM's/WGM's, which added greatly to the interest and.

SCTCN&V Website : <http://scarboroughchess.webhop.net>
SCC e – mail : scarboro@idirect.ca SCC Website : <http://webhome.idirect.com/~blamb/>
Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Ave.
(one block east of Woodbine Ave./Cosburn Ave. intersection, in former East York)

competitiveness of the tournament.

The winner was Alexander Moiseenko, with 8/10 pts.. In clear second, with 7.5 pts., was Aleksander Wojtkiewicz. Third was shared, each with 7 pts. : Alexei Iljushin, Larry Christiansen, and Walter Arencibia.

2003-4 CFC Annual General Meeting

This meeting was held as usual during the course of the Canadian Open in Kapuskasing last month. The main item on the agenda was the election of new officers to the CFC. Elected were :

President : Halldor Palsson

Vice – President : Stijn De Kerpel

Secretary – Alvah Mayo

Treasurer – Dilip Panjwani

FIDE Representative – Maurice Smith

Junior Coordinator – Patrick McDonald

Continuing on the Executive as “ Past President “ is Peter Stockhausen.

We will look at some of the issues raised at the AGM once the next GL comes out. But one item we will mention, since it has caused a lot of discussion. Kapuskasing was awarded the 2004 CYCC/Canadian Open. This is the first time the Canadian Open has been held in the same place in back to back years. The other aspect of it is a question as to whether the AGM followed proper CFC rules when dealing with the bids at the AGM. It is being argued that where there are competing bids, the voting is to be referred over to the whole body of Governors. And the bids can be firmed up and are published in the GL before the vote. This was not done. The matter was dealt with at the AGM, despite there being four bids or indications of interest in bidding. We’ll have to see if the new Executive brings a motion to set aside the AGM decision, or whether they intend to let it stand.

July 2003 FIDE Rating List

A dramatic shift occurred with the release of the April rating list, and continues in the July list. For the first time since July 2001, there is now only one player over 2800 : # 1 : Garry Kasparov (Russia), 13 th FIDE World Champion – 2830.

There are now 15 players in the 2700’s. # 2 is still Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), 2000 BrainGamesNetwork World Champion (in the April list, he dropped out of the 2800’s for the first time in 2 years) – 2785 ; # 3 spot is still held by Viswanathan Anand (India), 2000 FIDE World Champion – 2774 (now only 11 pts. behind Kramnik); remaining in # 4 is Peter Leko (Hungary), the challenger of Kramnik in their semi-final match coming up later this year – 2739 ; # 5 is Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) – 2735; #6 sees the return to the top 10 of Alexander Grischuk (Russia), up from # 15 – 2732; dropping from #5 to # 7 is Alexei Shirov (Spain) – 2732; at # 11 is the strongest women’s player in the world , Judit Polgar (Hungary), who is playing some of her best chess ever – 2718; dropping out of the top 10, in # 12 is Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine), 2002 FIDE World Champion – 2718.

12th FIDE World Champion, Anatoly Karpov (Russia) is # 21 – 2693; 1999 FIDE World Champion, Alexander Khalifman (Russia) is # 24 (down from # 14)– 2678.

Here are a number of the younger players we've been watching (including Grischuk) : Francisco Vallejo Pons (Spain) is # 30 (up from # 59 in the January list) – 2662; Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan) is # 45 (up from # 68 in the January list) – 2648; Etienne Bacrot (France) is # 47 (down from # 27 in the January list) – 2645; the # 100 player is rated 2606.

The two highest Canadians with FIDE ratings are : GM Alexandre Le Siege, 2001 Canadian Champion, at 2535; GM Kevin Spraggett, former Canadian Champion, at 2530.

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

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