

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

Newsletter of / Le Journal de
Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 11-13 – March 1 , 2010

Shirov a Gracious Guest of SCC

On Thursday, Feb. 18, world # 20 (2723), Alexei Shirov,



who recently came 2nd/3rd at this year's Corus A, Netherlands, the first major tournament of the year, visited SCC for a 25-board simul. He was most pleasant and social, talking informally with members with ease before the simul. He was professionally dressed in jacket and tie, and provided a good image for professional chess, and the over-2700 chess elite. The event was well attended by spectators, there being more there than players/club

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Birkdale Community Ctre, 1299 Ellesmere Road
(between Midland Ave. and Brimley Road)

administration, including numbers of non-members. The cost for members was \$ 20, with the club subsidizing each member to the tune of \$ 5 (Shirov's standard fee is \$ 25/board).

The room was set up as a large rectangle for the simul, with Shirov walking around on the inside, as he made his moves.



(Picture by David Cohen)



(picture by Martin Maister)

Shirov graciously offered to alternate boards with black and white, so members could choose which colour they wanted to play against him (the norm is that the GM plays White on all boards, which makes it easier for him, and gives him the initiative in every game). The evening lasted for about 3 hours. At the end of the session, he even offered to continue the chess debates at his hotel afterwards, inviting players to go over their games with him there.

As is usual at the club, we used carbon score sheets. One copy was handed in, and former member (from a while ago), David Cohen, offered to take the games and enter them into a database and return it to the club. Many thanks for his volunteer help to the club. He also volunteered to take a number of pictures for the club.

The final score was: Shirov +17 -2 =6. Losses were to junior Zaidun Alganabi (U 1700 winner of the recent Jack Frost Swiss) and master John Hall (former club champion). Draws were with Alex Rapoport, William Rutherford, master Rune Pederson, master Erwin Casareno, Pepin Manalo, and Arkadiy Ugodnikov. This is a pretty creditable showing for the SCC !! Those of us going under were: your intrepid editor, Bob Armstrong (2nd player to have to resign – the Pirc refuted by the Austrian Attack?); Pino Verde, Joe Bellomo, Daniel Wiebe, Anup Chauhan, Michael Song, Gord Marcille, Andrew Philip, Scott Huston ,Jan Mahoney, Haqi Alganabi, Yasir Alganabi, Jiaxin Liu, Kevin Wu, Michael Orsini, Ken Kurkowski, and Martin Maister.

John Hall's game was a good win, with John sacking the exchange, and getting mating threats as a result. So Shirov had to sack his Q for a R, and John went up Q + B vs 2 R's + 2 P's. Then Shirov was about to lose a P, and resigned. Congratulations John (on right below) !!



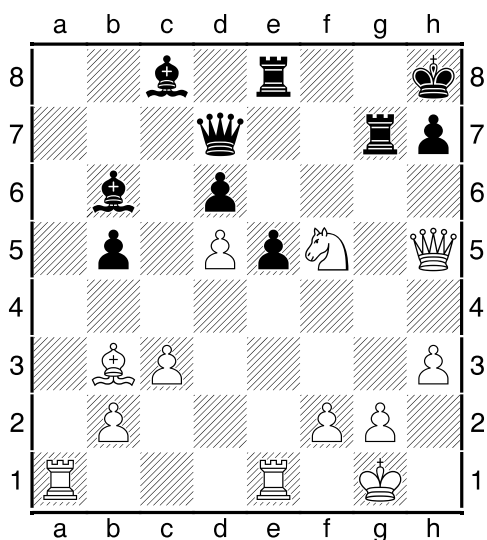
(picture by David Cohen)

Here is his game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Shirov, Alexei (2723) – Hall, John (2238) [C92]

Scarborough CC Shirov simul Toronto, CAN (2), 18.02.2010

1.e4= 0.16 1...e5 for Fritz, the only equalizing move. 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Ruy Lopez or Spanish Opening (coincidence that Shirov now resides in Spain?) 3...a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5?!± [6...d6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6=] 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3?!= [9.d4 Bb7 10.Qe2 Qd7±] 9...Bb7?!± [9...Na5 10.Bc2 c5=] 10.d4 Qd7 11.Nbd2 [11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Qd8±] 11...Rae8 12.a4?!= [12.Bc2 Bd8 13.b3 exd4 14.cxd4 Nh5±] 12...Bd8?!± [12...exd4 13.Nxd4 Ne5=] 13.axb5 axb5 14.d5 Ne7 15.Nf1 c6 16.Bg5?!= [16.dxc6 Qxc6 17.Ng3 h6±] 16...cxd5 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.exd5 Kh8 19.Ng3 Rg8 20.Nh4 f5 21.Qh5?!± for the first time in the game, John gets the advantage [21.Bc2 Nxd5 22.Nhxf5 Rg6=] 21...Bc8?!± Shirov gets a " clear " advantage [21...Nxd5 22.Qxf5 Qc6±] 22.Qxf7= Shirov goes up a P, but loses his advantage [22.Bc2 e4 23.Qh6 Nxd5 24.Nhxf5 Nf6±] 22...Rg7 23.Qh5?± John gets a " clear " advantage [23.Qe6 Qc7 24.Qh6 Ng8=] 23...Bb6 24.Ngxf5?!+ Shirov goes up 2 P's, but John gets a " winning " advantage [24.Ne2 Reg8 (24...f4±) 25.Kf1 f4±; 24.Kh1 Reg8 25.Re2 Bxf2! 26.Rxf2 Rxc3±] 24...Nxf5 25.Nxf5



Qxf5! a nice exchange sac, threatening mate **26.Qxe8+** Shirov is up the exchange + 2 P's, and losing **26...Rg8 27.Qxg8+** Shirov must sac his Q to stop the mate **27...Kxg8** John is up Q + B vs 2 R's + 2 P's **28.Re2 Kg7 29.Bc2 Qf4 30.Rae1 h5 31.Be4 h4 32.Kh1 Bf5 33.f3 Kf6 34.b4?+-** - 4.16 [34.Ra1 Bc8 35.b3 Be3+- - 2.71] **34...Qg3?+-** - 2.63 [34...Bxe4 35.fxe4 Ke7+- - 4.08] **35.Rf1?+-** - 5.33 Shirov resigned, seeing John could continue his attack and win material. [35.Bxf5 Kxf5 36.Re4 Qg8+- - 3.00] The game could have continued **35...Bxh3! 36.Ra1** [36.gxh3?? Qxh3+ 37.Rh2 Qxf1#] **36...Bc8+-** - 7.40 **0-1**

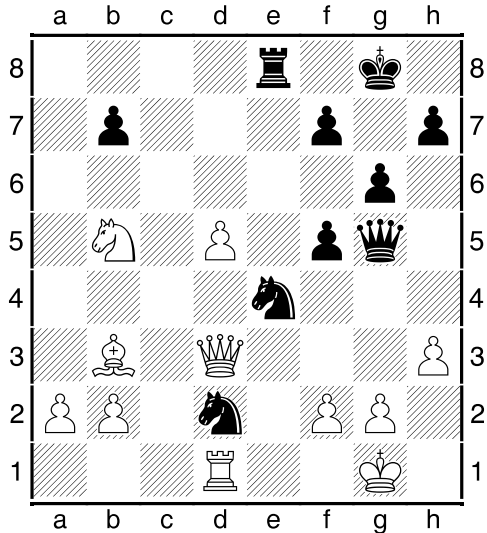
Zaidun (see photo above of Shirov/Hall – Zaidun is to Hall's right) played a very strong game for his rating. Shirov never got the advantage the whole game ! The loss, however, came as a simul oversight, when Shirov removed a necessary defender, and dropped 2 N's for a R. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

al Ganabi, Zaidun (1520) – Shirov, Alexei (2723) [D94]

Scarborough CC Shirov simul Toronto, CAN (3), 18.02.2010

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± [2...e6=] 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 d5 Grunfeld Defence 5.e3?!= [5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5±] 5...0-0 6.Be2 dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.0-0 cxd4 9.exd4 Nbd7?!± [9...Bg4 10.h3 Bf5=] 10.Re1 Nb6 11.Bb3 Bg4 12.d5?!= [12.Bf4 a5 13.a4 Rc8±] 12...Ne8?!± [12...a5 13.Be3 a4=] 13.Bg5 Bf6 14.Bxf6 exf6?!± Zaidun gets a " clear " advantage [14...Nxf6 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3

Re8± (16...a6?!±)] **15.h3?!±** [15.Qd3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nd6±] **15...Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nd6 17.Rac1** [17.a4 f5 18.Qf4 Rc8±] **17...f5 18.Qd3 Rc8 19.Nb5 Rxc1 20.Rxc1 Re8?!±** an oversight; Shirov fails to protect his aP [20...Nbc8 21.Nxd6 Nxd6±] **21.Nxa7** Zaidun goes up a P **21...Qg5 22.Rd1 Nd7 23.Nb5 Ne5 24.Qf1?!±** [24.Qe2 Nec4 25.Qc2 Nxb5 26.Qxc4 Nd6±] **24...Nf3+ 25.Kh1 Nd2 26.Qd3 N6e4 27.Kg1**



Qh4??+- a simul blunder – Shirov removes one of the protectors of the d2N; Zaidun gets a "winning" advantage. Although Shirov did blunder, it should be noted that he never got the advantage against Zaidun all game ! [27...Qf4 28.f3 Nxb3 29.fxe4 Nc5±] **28.Rxd2+-** 3.84 Shirov must go down material and resigned. The game could have continued **28...Nxd2 29.Qxd2 Qe7+-** 3.80 Zaidun would be up B + N + P vs R **1-0**

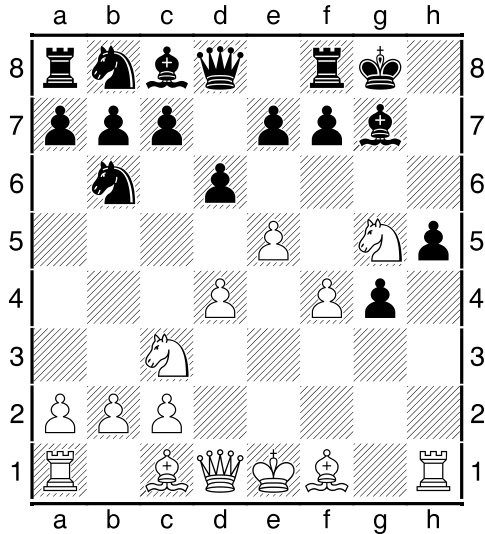
Your editor's game against Shirov brought out his famed attacking personality !
See how I got crushed (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Shirov, Alexei (2723) – Armstrong, Robert (1746) [B09]

Scarborough CC 25-Board Simul Toronto (1), 18.02.2010

1.e4= 0.16 **1...g6±** [1...e5= For Fritz, the only equalizing move. For all other normal replies, including the Modern/Pirc, W is given a "slight" advantage. This evaluation is not generally accepted.] **2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4** Austrian Attack **4...Nf6** Pirc Defence **5.Nf3 0-0 6.e5** as per his "fire on board" personality, Shirov picks an aggressive line [6.Bd3 d5 7.e5 Ng4±] **6...Nfd7 7.h4?!=** though not best, it makes sense for Shirov to play an aggressive line against a club player, who may not be able to find the best defences. [7.Be3 Nb6 8.Qd2 Na6±] **7...h5?!±** already my defensive instincts wobble a bit (being attacked out of the gate by Shirov is a bit unsettling) [7...c5 8.e6 fxe6 9.h5 gxh5 10.Ng5 Nf6 11.dxc5 Nc6=] **8.g4?!=** the pawn sac is OK (it should not be taken), though it is not the best move in the position. But it is consistent with Shirov's attacking ideas here [8.Be3 Nb6 9.Qd2 Na6±] **8...hxg4?!±** I go up a P, but I should refuse the sac, and try to break the K-side attack with counter-play in the centre. [8...dxe5 9.fxe5 c5 10.gxh5 cxd4 11.hxg6! dxc3 12.gxf7+ Rxf7 13.Bc4 Qb6=] **9.Ng5** well positioned for an attack, as compensation for the sacked P **9...Nb6 10.h5?!=** continuing aggression (even if not best). So far I'm holding my own – the evaluation is equal at this point, 10 moves in. [10.e6 fxe6 11.Qxg4 Qe8±] **10...gxh5??+-** I go up 2 P's, but it is a defensive error. Shirov makes immediate use of the cleared b1-h7 diagonal. I guess this might be considered the losing move, since the Q-threat is the lynch-pin of the successful attack. Shirov gets a "winning" advantage [10...f6 11.h6 fxg5 12.hxg7 Kxg7 13.fxg5 dxe5 14.d5 Rh8=]

Position after 10...gxh5??



11.Qd3 mate is threatened 11...f5 12.exf6 Rxf6 13.Qh7+ Kf8 14.Qxh5 I am up a P 14...e5?+- 4.11 I felt I was going to have to give up the exchange, but at least then the pressure might subside a bit, and I would have a P compensation. But this is not the solution to the problem [14...Bf5 15.Bd3 e6 16.Bxf5 exf5 17.Nh7+ Kg8 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Qe8+ Qf8+- 1.52 Shirov would be up the exchange, but I would have a P compensation, and still be fighting] 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.Nh7+ Kg8 17.Bg5 N8d7 18.Ne4 Qe7??+- a blunder under the pressure – this leads to mate. But the game was lost anyways. [18...Rf5 19.Bxd8 Rxh5 20.Rxh5 exd4 21.Bxc7 Nf8+- 6.38 Shirov would be up R vs P] 19.Nexf6+ Bxf6 20.Nxf6+ [a slightly faster mate is 20.Qg6+ Qg7 21.Qe8+ Qf8 22.Nxf8 Nxf8 23.Bxf6 exd4 24.Rh8#] 20...Nxf6 21.Qh8+- I resigned. I must lose my Q and am mated 21...Kf7 22.Rh7+ Kg6 [22...Ke6 23.Rxe7+ Kd5 (23...Kxe7? 24.Qxf6+ Kd7 25.Bb5+ c6 26.Qe7#) 24.Rxe5+ Kxd4 25.0-0-0! Kxe5 26.Qxf6+ Ke4 27.Bg2#] 23.Rxe7 Kxg5 24.Qg7+ Kf4 25.Qxf6+ Bf5 26.Qxe5+ Kg5 27.Rg7+ Kh6 28.Qf6+ Bg6 29.Qxg6# 1-0

Linares, Spain

This tournament took place Feb. 12 – 25, and the participants were:

- Veselin Topalov – 2805 (Bulgaria - 2010 World Championship Challenger)
- Levon Aronian - 2781 (Armenia - 2008-10 FIDE Grand Prix Winner)
- Boris Gelfand - 2761 (2009 FIDE World Cup Winner)
- Vugar Gashimov – 2759 (Azerbaijan – his first top level tournament; # 7 in the world)
- Alexander Grischuk - 2736 (Current Russian Champion and Linares Defending Champion)
- Francisco Vallejo Pons - 2705 (the Spanish Representative)

The average rating of the tournament was 2758. This is almost the same as the rating of the tournament in 2009, which was 2756. It is stronger than the recent Corus A tournament, which was rated 2719, but it did have 14 players, while Linares this year has only 6 players (it had 8 players last year).

The winner was Topalov with 6.5/10 pts., ½ pt. ahead of second place finisher, Grischuk, the defending champion.

In Rd. 2, Topalov ground out a win in a difficult ending against Gashimov, to tie Grischuk for the lead. In the end he went on a K-hunt/mate. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, V (2805) – Gashimov, V (2759) [D11]

XXVII Super GM Linares ESP (2), 14.02.2010

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6± [2...e6=] **3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 a6** [4...e6 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.0-0 0-0±] **5.Qc2 g6 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbd2 Nbd7 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.b3?!=** [10.Nb3 a5 11.Bd2 a4±] **10...Nb8 11.Ba3 Nc6 12.Rac1 Be6 13.Qb2 Re8 14.h3 Rc8 15.Rc2 Bf5 16.Bxf5 gxf5 17.Ne1?!±** [17.Rfc1 Qd7 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Rxc2 20.Qxc2 Ne4=] **17...Ne4 18.Nd3 e5 19.Nxe4 dxe4?!=** [19...fxe4 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.dxe5 Bxe5 22.Rxc8 Qxc8±] **20.Nxe5** Topalov goes up a P **20...Nxe5 21.dxe5 Rxc2 22.Qxc2 Qa5 23.Bd6 Bxe5** material equality **24.b4 Qd8 25.Bxe5 Rxe5 26.Rc1 Rd5 27.a4 b5 28.axb5 Rxb5?!±** [28...axb5 29.Qc6 Kg7=] **29.Qa4 Qd6 30.Qa1 Qe5 31.Qxa6 Rxb4 32.Qh6 Rb8 33.g3 Qe6 34.Qf4 Rc8 35.Rd1 Rc6 36.Rd8+ Kg7 37.Kg2 h6?+-** Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [37...Rb6 38.Qc7 h6±] **38.Qb8 Qf6** 3.87 [38...Qe7 39.Rh8 Rg6+- 3.37] **39.Rd5?±** Topalov is losing his advantage [39.Rh8 Kg6 40.h4 Rb6+-] **39...Re6?!±** [39...Rc1 40.Rxf5! Qxf5 41.Qb2+ Qf6 42.Qxc1 Qf3+ 43.Kg1 h5±] **40.h4 h5?!+-** Topalov gets back a " winning " advantage [40...Re7 41.Qf4 Kg6±] **41.Rd8 Kh7?+-** 5.79 [41...Qe7 42.Rg8+ Kf6+- 6.79] **42.Rg8 f4 43.gxf4?+-** 3.42 [43.Rg5 f3+ 44.Kh2 Qxg5 45.hxg5 Kg7+- 7.57 Topalov would be up Q vs R] **43...Qxh4??+-** mate in 17 moves [43...Rd6 44.Qf8 Rd5+-] **44.Rh8+ Kg6 45.Qg8+ Kf6 46.Qd8+ Re7 47.Rh6+ Kf5 48.Qd5+-** Gashimov resigned. It is mate in 9 moves **48...Kg4 49.f3+ exf3+ 50.Qxf3+ Kf5 51.Qd5+ Kg4 52.Qd1+ Kf5 53.Qd3+ Re4 54.Qd5+ Kg4 55.Rg6+! fxc6 56.Qd7+ Re6 57.Qxe6# 1-0**

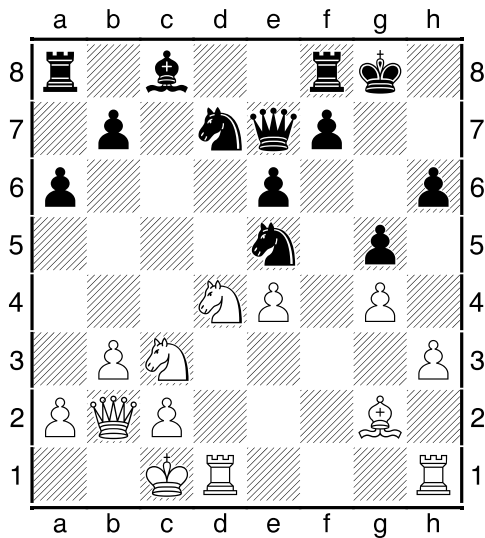
In Rd. 5, the two co-leaders met: Topalov and Grischuk. Topalov wrongly sacked an N for an attack, and gave Grischuk a “ winning “ advantage. He got back the advantage, and then sacked a P, again to attack, and again gave Grischuk a “ winning “ advantage. He then got back his minor piece, and again Grischuk gave him back equality. Topalov eventually went up a P, and started marching his P’s and Grischuk resigned. This put Topalov in sole possession of first place. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, V (2805) – Grischuk, A (2736) [B90]

XXVII Super GM Linares ESP (5), 18.02.2010

1.e4= 0.16 **1...c5±** [1...e5= For Fritz, the only equalizing move. For all other normal replies, including the Sicilian, W is given a " slight " advantage. This evaluation is not generally accepted.] **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bc1** [7.Bg5 Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6±] **7...Nf6 8.h3 Nc6 9.g4?!=** [9.Be3 e5 10.Nf3 Be7±] **9...Qb6 10.Nde2 e6 11.Bg2 Be7 12.b3?!±** [12.Be3 Qc7 13.0-0 Nd7=] **12...h6** [12...Nd7 13.0-0 Qc7 14.f4 b6±] **13.Qd2 g5?±** [13...0-0 14.a3 Qc7 15.Bb2 b5±] **14.Ba3 Ne5 15.0-0-0 Qxf2** [15...h5?! 16.f4 gxf4 17.Nxf4 Qc6±; 15...Bd7 16.Bxd6 Bxd6 17.Qxd6 Qxd6 18.Rxd6 h5±] **16.Bxd6 16...Bxd6 17.Qxd6 Nfd7 18.Nd4 Qf6 19.Qa3?!=** [19.Rd2?! Qe7 20.Qxe7+ Kxe7=; 19.Kb2 Qe7 20.Qxe7+ Kxe7±] **19...Qe7 20.Qb2** [20.Qxe7+?! Kxe7 21.h4 Ng6=] **20...0-0** [20...h5 21.gxh5 Rxh5=]

Position after 20...0-0



21.Nf5?!? an unsound sac, though enterprising and not terrible [21.h4 gxh4 22.Rh3 (22.Kb1?! b6?) 22...Ng6 23.Kb1 Nde5=] **21...exf5** Grischuk goes up an N **22.Nd5 Qc5 23.exf5** Grischuk is up N vs P **23...a5** [23...f6 24.b4 Qc4 25.Rd4 Qe2 26.Qb3 Nf7?] **24.h4 gxh4 25.Rxh4 Ra6** [25...Re8? 26.Kb1 a4±] **26.Kb1?+-** Grischuk gets a "winning" advantage [26.Rh3?! Qf2 27.c4 (27.Ne7+?! Kg7 28.Rxd7 f6? Topalov would be up a P) 27...Qxb2+ 28.Kxb2 Kg7?] **26...Qf2 27.Ne7+ Kg7?!?** [27...Kh7 28.Rdh1 Qxg2 29.Qc1 Nxg4+- Grischuk would be up B + N] **28.Rh2 f6?±** Topalov gets back the advantage [28...Rd6! 29.Rdh1 Qd4?] **29.g5?+-** Topalov sacs a P to open up lines to the K, but gives Grischuk a "winning" advantage [29.Qc1 Nxg4 30.Nxc8 Nc5±] **29...fxg5** Grischuk is up an N **30.Nxc8** Topalov gets back his minor piece **30...Raf6!** [30...Rxc8?? 31.Rxd7+ Kf8 32.Rd1 b5±] **31.Ne7 R8f7?=-** Grischuk lets Topalov off the hook; Grischuk has lost his advantage [31...Qg3 32.Rdh1 Ng4+-] **32.Nd5 Nf3?!±** [32...Rxf5 33.Rdh1 Qg3=] **33.Bxf3 33...Qxh2 34.Nxf6?±** [34.Qd4] **34...Nxf6** material equality **35.a4** [35.Rh1 Qf4 36.Bd5 Rc7?] **35...Qf4?!=** [35...Re7 36.Qd4 Qe5?] **36.Bd5 Rd7 37.Re1 Qxf5** Grischuk goes up a P **38.Bc4?±** [38.Be6 Qf2 39.Qe5 Re7=] **38...Qf2?=-** [38...Qg4 39.Re2 Qd4?] **39.Qe5 Qd4 40.Qf5 Qg4 41.Qxa5** material equality **41...Rd1+ 42.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 43.Kb2 Qd6** [43...Qd4+ 44.Kb1 g4=] **44.Qa7 Qe5+ 45.Ka2 Qe4 46.Bd3 Qc6 47.a5 Nd5 48.Qd4+ Nf6 49.Qe5 Kf8 50.c4 g4 51.Bf5 Kf7 52.Qb8 Ne8?±** this loses a P; Topalov gets a "clear" advantage [52...Ke7 53.Kb2 Nd7=] **53.Qf4 Qc5?!+-** Topalov gets a "winning" advantage [53...Nf6 54.Qxh6 Qa6±] **54.Bxg4+** Topalov goes up a P **54...Nf6 55.Qf5 Qd4 56.Bf3 Qf2+** 3.16 [56...b6 57.a6 Qf2+ 58.Ka3 Qd4+- 3.48] **57.Ka3 Kg7 58.Ka4?+-** 2.07 [58.b4 b6 59.a6 Qd4+- 3.95] **58...b6 59.axb6 Qxb6 60.c5 Qa7+ 61.Kb5 Qb8+ 62.Kc4 Qg8+ 63.Kc3 Qe8 64.b4 Qe1+ 65.Kc4 Qf1+ 66.Kb3 Qb5 67.Bd1?+-** 3.02 [67.Be4 Kf7 68.Bd3 Qd7 69.b5 Ke7+- 3.83] **67...Qc6 68.Bc2 Kf7 69.Bd3+-** 3.51 **1-0**

In Rd. 6, Topalov defeated Vallejo Pons, and took a 1 ½ pt. lead. Vallejo Pons had the advantage much of the game and at one point was up 3 P's. But in the end, in time pressure, with the position equal (though he was still up a P), he blundered a full R. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, V (2805) – Vallejo Pons, F (2705) [A29]

XXVII Super GM Linares ESP (6), 19.02.2010

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.a3?!? [7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 Be6=] **7...g5?!=** [7...Be6 8.0-0 Be7?] **8.d3 g4 9.Nd2 h5 10.b4 h4 11.Bb2 Rh6 12.Nb3?!?** [12.gxh4 Qxh4

13.Nb5 Qd8=] **12...Nd4 13.Nc5** [13.gxh4 Nf5 14.Nc5 c6] **13...c6 14.e3 Ne6 15.0-0?!?** Vallejo Pons gets a " clear " advantage [15.Nxe6 Bxe6 16.gxh4 Qxh4] **15...hgx3** [15...Qg5 16.Nxe6 Bxe6] **16.fxg3 Nxc5 17.bxc5 Bxc5** Vallejo Pons goes up a P **18.Qe2 Be7 19.Rad1 f5 20.Qf2 Be6 21.e4 Rh5 22.Ne2 Qc7 23.exf5 Rxf5 24.Qe3 Na4?!?** [24...Qd6 25.Rxf5 Bxf5] **25.Qh6 Kd7 26.Rxf5?+?** Vallejo Pons gets a " winning " advantage [26.Ba1 Raf8 27.Rxf5 Bxf5] **26...Nxb2!** temporarily sacking the exchange; Topalov is up the exchange, but Vallejo Pons has a P compensation [26...Bxf5?! 27.Ba1 Rf8] **27.Rdf1** – 1.61 [27.Rff1 Nxd1 28.Rxd1 Qd6-+ – 1.60] **27...Bxf5 28.Rxf5 Nxd3** Vallejo Pons is up 2 P's **29.h4** – 1.64 [29.Be4 Nc5 30.Qh5 Qd6-+ – 1.79] **29...Qd6 30.Qg7 Qxa3?!?** Vallejo Pons is up 3 P's [30...Kc7 31.h5 Kb6-+] **31.Kh2 a5?=?** Vallejo Pons loses his advantage (though up 3 P's) [31...Re8 32.Qxg4 Kc7] **32.Rf7??** Vallejo Pons gets back a " clear " advantage [32.Be4 Nc5 33.Rxe5 Nxe4 34.Rxe4 Re8=] **32...a4?=?** [32...Re8 33.h5 Ne1 34.Qxg4+ Kc7] **33.h5??** [33.Be4 Re8 34.Qxg4+ Kc7=] **33...Ne1?!±** for the first time in the game, Topalov gets the advantage, a " clear " advantage (though still down 3 P's) [33...Qb4 34.Nc3 a3] **34.Qxg4+?!=?** Vallejo Pons is up 2 P's, but Topalov has a passed P on the 5th rank [34.Be4 Qc5 35.Bf5+ Kd6±] **34...Kc7 35.Qe6 Re8 36.Qxe5+** Vallejo Pons is up a P **36...Kb6 37.Rf5 Qb4 38.Qe3+ Bc5??+?** in the time pressure, Vallejo Pons blunders a full R; Topalov gets the win [38...Kc7 39.Qe5+ Kb6 40.Qe3+ Kc7 41.Qe5+]=] **39.Qxe8** Topalov is up R vs P **39...Nxx2 40.Kxx2 a3+?** 4.32 1-0

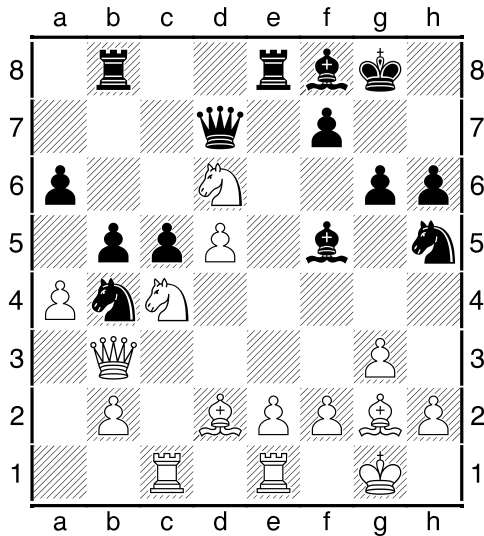
In Rd. 8, Grischuk defeated Gashimov to take second place alone, 1 pt. behind Topalov. He went up the exchange + 2 P's, and Gashimov eventually resigned. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Grischuk, A (2736) – Gashimov, V (2759) [A62]

XXVII Super GM Linares ESP (8), 21.02.2010

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5± Benoni Defence [3...d5=] **4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 g6?!±** Grischuk gets an early " clear " advantage (Fritz is not enamoured of this defence) [6...Be7 7.e4 0-0±] **7.g3?!±** [7.Qa4+ Nbd7 8.Bf4 Be7±] **7...Bg7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Bf4 Na6 11.Re1?!=?** [11.Nb5 Bf8 12.Nd2 Nh5±] **11...Bg4?!±** [11...h6?! 12.e4 g5 13.Bc1 g4 14.Nd2 Nd7±; 11...Bf5 12.Nh4 Bd7=] **12.Qb3 Nh5 13.Bg5** [13.Bc1 Qb6 14.Qxb6 axb6±] **13...Qd7 14.Nd2** [14.Bd2?! h6 15.e4 Rac8=] **14...h6 15.Be3 Bf5** [15...Rab8 16.Nb5 Nb4 17.Nc4! Qxb5 18.a3 Qd7 19.axb4 b5±; 15...Bh3 16.Bf3 Nf6±] **16.Nc4 Nb4 17.Rac1 Rab8** [17...Reb8 18.a3 b5±] **18.a4** [18.Nb5!? Bc2 19.Rxc2 Nxc2 20.Qxc2 Rxe3 21.fxe3 Qxb5±] **18...b6 19.Nb5 Bf8?!±** [19...Bh3 20.Bf3 Red8±] **20.Bd2 a6 21.Nbxd6** Grischuk goes up a P **21...b5?!+?** too fancy; Grischuk gets a " winning " advantage [21...Bxd6 22.e4 Bxe4 23.Rxe4 Rxe4 24.Bxe4 Nf6±

Position after 21...b5?!



22.Nxe8 bxc4 Grischuk is up the exchange + P **23.Qxc4 Rxe8** Grischuk is up R + 2 P's vs 2 N's
24.Bxb4 cxb4 25.e4 Bg4 26.e5 Qf5 this traps the B **27.e6 fxe6 28.dxe6 Be7** 3.19 [28...Kg7 29.f3
(29.Qd4+? Kh7+- 2.30) 29...Bxf3 30.Rf1 Qxe6 31.Bxf3 Nf6+- 3.09] **29.f3 Bh3** 3.45 [29...Bxf3?
30.Rf1 Bc5+ 31.Qxc5 Qxc5+ 32.Rxc5 Bxg2 33.Kxg2 Rxe6+- 4.13] **30.g4** the B is trapped
30...Qg5 31.Bxh3 Grischuk is up the exchange + 2 P's **31...Nf4 32.Bf1 Rf8 33.Qc7 h5** 4.57
[33...Rd8 34.Rc4 Nd5+- 4.16] **34.Qe5** 4.83 [34.Re5 Qh4 35.gxh5 gxh5+- 4.55] **34...Qh4 35.Re4**
Nh3+?+- 9.30 [35...g5 36.Rxb4 hxg4 37.Rb8 g3+- 7.09] **36.Bxh3 Qxh3 37.Qg3?+-** 4.74 [37.Rf4
Qh4 38.Rxf8+ Bxf8+- mate in 12 moves] **37...hxg4** Grischuk is up the exchange + P
38.Qxh3?+- 4.44 [38.Rc7 Re8 39.Rxg4 Qxg3+ 40.hxg3 Kg7 41.Rxb4 Kf6+- 6.55] **38...gxh3**
39.Kf2 Rd8 40.Ke2+- 4.23 **1-0**

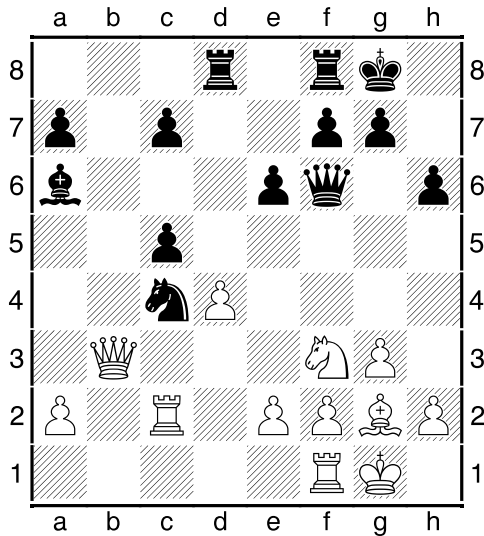
In Rd. 9, Grischuk, one point back, played the leader Topalov. Topalov exchanged his B + N for R + 2 P's, but came out with the short end of the stick. Then Grischuk simplified down to having R + B + N vs Q, and went on to win, as the Q was able to accomplish nothing alone. With the win, Grischuk tied Topalov for first, with the last round to go. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Grischuk, A (2736) – Topalov, V (2805) [E15]

XXVII Super GM Linares ESP (9), 23.02.2010

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6± Queen's Indian Defence [3...d5=] **4.g3?!=** [4.Nc3 Bb7 5.Bg5 Be7±]
4...Ba6 5.b3 [5.Nbd2 Be7 6.Bg2 Bb7=] **5...Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Rc1 Ba3 9.Rc2 Nc6**
10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Bg2 d5 13.0-0 dxc4 14.bxc4 Rad8 15.Rd2 Bb4 16.Qb3 Bxc3?!±
[16...Be7?! 17.e3 Na5±; 16...Bb7 17.Rfd1 a6=] **17.Qxc3 Na5 18.c5 Nc4 19.Rc2 bxc5** Topalov
goes up a P **20.Qb3**

Position after 20.Qb3



cx d4!? Topalov goes up 2 P's, exchanging the N & B for R + P's [20...Nd6 21.dxc5 Nf5±; 20...e5 21.Rxc4 Bxc4 22.Qxc4 cxd4±] **21.Rxc4** Grischuk is up N vs 2 P's **21...Rb8 22.Qc2 Bxc4 23.Qxc4** Grischuk is up B + N vs R + 2 P's **23...e5?!±** Grischuk gets a " clear " advantage [23...a5 24.Qxc7 Rb2±] **24.Qxc7** Grischuk is up B + N vs R + P **24...Rfe8** [24...Rb2 25.Nxe5 Rxe2±] **25.Qxa7** Grischuk is up B + N vs R **25...Rb2 26.Re1 g6 27.a4 Rd8?!+-** Grischuk gets a " winning " advantage [27...Qd6 28.Bf1 Rc8±] **28.Qa5?!±** [28.Qc7?! e4 29.Qe5 Qxe5 30.Nxe5 Re8±; 28.Qc5 e4 29.Ne5 d3+-] **28...e4 29.Nd2 e3 30.fxe3** Grischuk has B + N + P vs R **30...d3?!+-** Topalov cannot afford to sac a P [30...dxe3 31.Ne4 Qd4±] **31.Ne4 Qe7 32.exd3 Rxd3 33.Qa8+ Kg7 34.Qc6** [34.Bf1 Ra3 35.Qd5 Rxa4+-] **34...f5 35.Nf2 Rdd2 36.Qc3+ Kh7 37.Rf1 Rbc2 38.Qb3 Rb2 39.Qc3 Rbc2 40.Qb3 Rb2** repeating to reach 1st time control **41.Qc4 h5 42.Qf4 Re2 43.Bf3 Rec2 44.Nd3 Ra2** allowing Grischuk to exchange pieces, getting Topalov's 2 R's, and giving up his Q **45.Nb4?+-** 2.07 going for the simplification – maybe not best, but practically effective [45.Bd5 Ra3 46.Ne5 Qc5+- 3.08] **45...Rxa4 46.Nxc2 Rxf4 47.gxf4** Grischuk is up R + B + N vs Q **47...Kh6 48.Rb1 Qe6 49.Re1 Qa2 50.Nd4 h4 51.Be2 g5 52.fxg5+ Kxg5 53.Rf1 4.02 53...Kg6 54.Rxf5** Grischuk is up R + B + N + P vs Q **54...Qb1+ 55.Rf1 Qe4 56.Kf2+-** 4.17 1-0

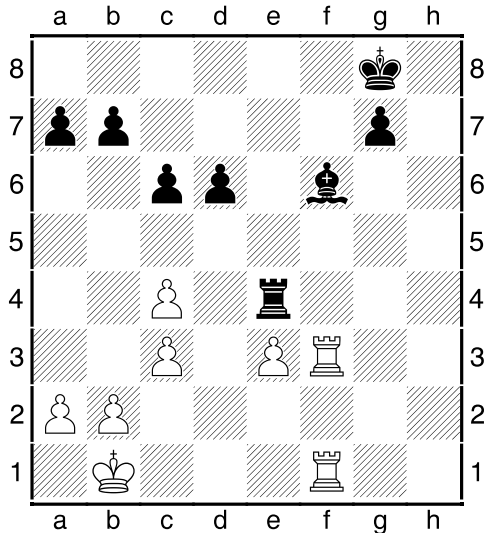
In the final round, with Topalov and Grischuk tied, Topalov managed a win against Gelfand, when the latter blew a drawn ending, down a doubled pawn. The win gave Topalov outright first place (when Grischuk drew). Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, V (2805) – Gelfand, B (2761) [C42]

XXVII Super GM Linares ESP (10), 24.02.2010

1.e4= 0.16 **1...e5** for Fritz, the only equalizing move **2.Nf3 Nf6±** Petroff Defence [2...Nc6=] **3.Nxe5** [3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Nd7±] **3...d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3** [5.Qe2 Qe7 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.dxc3 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 Nc6±] **5...Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3?!=** [7.Bd3?! Na6 8.0-0 Nc5=; 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Nd7±] **7...0-0 8.Qd2** [8.Bc4 c6 9.0-0 Re8=; 8.Bd3 c6 9.Qd2 Nd7=] **8...Nd7 9.0-0-0 Re8 10.h4 c6 11.h5 h6 12.Kb1 Nf6 13.Bd3 Bf8 14.Rdg1?!±** Gelfand gets the advantage [14.Rhe1 c5 15.Bxc5! Be6± (15...dxc5 16.Bh7+ Nxh7 17.Qxd8 Rxd8 18.Rxd8 Nf6 19.Re7 b5±)] **14...Ng4 15.Bf4 Qf6?±** [15...Qa5 16.Re1 Be6 17.b3 Bd7±] **16.Nh2 Nxh2?!±** Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [16...Ne5 17.g4 Qe6±] **17.Rxh2 Bf5** [17...c5?! 18.g4 c4! 19.g5 (19.Bxc4?? Re4 20.Be3 Rxc4±) 19...hxg5 20.Bxg5 Qe5 21.Bf4 Qe6 22.h6! g6 23.h7+ Kh8+-] **18.Bxf5?!±** [18.g4 Bxd3 19.cxd3 Qe6±]

18...Qxf5 19.g4 Qe4?!± [19...Qd5 20.Qxd5 cxd5±] 20.g5 hxg5?!+- Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [20...Qe2 21.Qxe2 Rxe2±] 21.Bxg5 Qe2 22.Qxe2 Rxe2 23.Be3 Rxe3?!+- 2.00 Gelfand panics on his R being trapped; the exchange sac is not yet required. [23...Re8 24.Rh3 Kh7 25.Kc1 d5 (25...Re5+-) 26.Kd1 R8xe3 27.fxe3 Rf2+- 1.50] 24.fxe3 Topalov is up the exchange 24...Re8 25.Rh3 Re6 26.c4 Be7 27.Rf3 Re5 28.Rgf1 [28.h6 Bg5 29.h7+ Kxh7 30.Rxf7 Rxe3 31.Rxb7 Re7+-] 28...Rxh5 29.Rxf7 Re5 30.R7f3 Bf6 31.c3 [31.Rd1 Re6 32.c3 g5+-] 31...Re4



32.Rxf6?!± giving back the exchange is not required [32.Rd1 Be5 33.b3 g5+-] 32...gxf6 33.Rxf6 Rxe3 34.Rxd6 Topalov is up a P 34...Kf7 35.Kc2 Re2+ 36.Kb3 Ke7 37.Rd4 c5 38.Rd3 b6 39.Ka3 Rc2 40.Rd5 a5 41.Rd3 Rh2 42.b3?!± Topalov is losing his advantage [42.Kb3 Rf2 43.a4 Rf4±] 42...Rc2 43.Ka4?!= Topalov has lost his advantage [43.Re3+ Kd7 44.Rf3 Kc8±] 43...Rxa2+ material equality 44.Kb5 Rb2 45.Kxb6 Topalov goes up a P again 45...a4 46.Kxc5 Rxb3 47.Kc6 a3 48.c5 Ke8 49.Rh3 a2??+- a blunder; Topalov gets a " winning " advantage again [49...Ke7 50.Rh7+ Ke6=] 50.Rh8+ Ke7 51.Ra8 Rb2 1.95 [51...Rxc3 52.Rxa2 Kd8+- 2.07] 52.Kc7 Rc2 4.30 [52...Ke6 4.30] 53.c6 Rb2 5.11 [53...Ke6 54.Ra3 Rb2+- 4.86] 54.c4 Rc2 5.13 [54...Ke6 5.13] 55.Ra6 Rb2 5.13 [55...Ke8+- 5.13] 56.c5 Ke6 57.Ra5 5.37 57...Rc2 58.Kb7 Rb2+ 59.Kc8 Ke7 60.c7 Ke8 61.Rxa2! Topalov sacs to queen and goes up 2 P's 61...Rxa2 Gelfand is up R vs 2 P's, but is lost 62.Kb7+- 7.81 Gelfand cannot stop the P from queening 1-0

Here are the final standings (from TWIC):

1. Topalov, Veselin g BUL 2805 * * 1 0 ½ ½ ½ 1 ½ 1 1 ½ 6½ 2858
2. Grischuk, Alexander g RUS 2736 0 1 * * ½ ½ ½ ½ 1 ½ ½ 1 6 2834
3. Aronian, Levon g ARM 2781 ½ ½ ½ ½ * * ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ 1 5½ 2789
4. Vallejo Pons, Francisco g ESP 2705 ½ 0 ½ ½ ½ ½ * * ½ ½ 0 ½ 4 2696
5. Gelfand, Boris g ISR 2761 ½ 0 0 ½ ½ ½ ½ * * ½ ½ 4 2685
6. Gashimov, Vugar g AZE 2759 0 ½ ½ 0 ½ 0 1 ½ ½ ½ * * 4 2685

Aeroflot Open, Moscow, Russia

The International Chess Festival "Aeroflot Open 2010" was held in Moscow from 8 February (the day of arrival) to 19 February 2010 (the day of departure). There are four groups, with the top group of 40 having a rating floor of 2550, though there are a number of WGM's under that rating, and a few others. The top group is the strongest open of the

year - 80 GMs and IMs over 2550; it included two of the top French players heading the list: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Etienne Bacrot.

The winner of the “ A “ Group was Vietnamese GM Quang Liem Le. This young Vietnamese grandmaster is having an incredible run: after finishing joint first in the very strong Moscow Open, and without a single day's rest, he played in the Aeroflot and clinched sole first. As a result, Le Quang Liem won the tournament and automatic entry into Dortmund, and given his strong play throughout the event, he is a most deserving winner. He led (alone or tied) from start to finish, beat four players in the 5.5 score group, and had an exceptional 2872 TPR, nearly 100 points greater than the next highest performance.



The final standings of the top group was:

Final

Rank	Name	Flags	Score	Fed.	M/F	Rating	TPR	W-We	Col.Bal.	Rat-HiLo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	GM Le, Quang Liem		7.0	VIE	M	2647	2872	+2.58	1	2655.0	1	1	1	½	½	½	½	1	1
2	GM Korobov, Anton		6.5	UKR	M	2648	2776	+1.54	1	2606.0	½	0	1	1	½	1	½	1	1
3	GM Motylev, Alexander		6.0	RUS	M	2697	2755	+0.67	-1	2629.7	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1
4	GM Zhou, Jianchao		6.0	CHN	M	2632	2778	+1.75	1	2660.1	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	½	1
5	GM Nguyen, Ngoc Truong Son		6.0	VIE	M	2616	2749	+1.61	1	2638.7	½	1	1	1	½	½	½	1	0
6	GM Grachev, Boris		6.0	RUS	M	2653	2745	+1.09	1	2616.3	1	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	½

(from the Susan Polgar Blog) Filipino Grandmaster Wesley Barbaso So



made a quick draw to successfully defend his Aeroflot Junior title at the end of the Aeroflot Chess Festival 2010 at the Hotel Gamma-Delta in Moscow, Russia late Wednesday night (Manila Time).

The 16-year-old So, the country's highest-rated player with an Elo of 2656, drew his ninth and final-round match against Venezuela's GM Eduardo Iturrizaga (Elo 2616) in just 10 pushes of the Slav defense Queen's Gambit Accepted transposition with the black pieces to finish in a tie for 7th to 19th places with 5.5 points on three wins, five draws and one loss in nine outings. After the tie break point was applied, the 2009 Corus C champion So landed at over-all 11th place.

The Bacoor, Cavite kid So, who was voted as the "Chess Player of the Year" by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) went home with 2,500 Euros for winning again the top junior award.

The finishing totals of the women in the top group were:

Rank	Name	Flags	Score	Fed.	M/F	Rating	TPR	W-We	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
51	GM Hou, Yifan	w	4.0	CHN	F	2590	2552	-0.45	0	½	0	1	½	1	½	0	½
58	GM Kosintseva, Tatiana	w	4.0	RUS	F	2515	2596	+1.00	1	½	½	0	½	0	1	0	½
61	IM Kosintseva, Nadezhda	w	4.0	RUS	F	2533	2585	+0.67	1	½	½	0	0	0	1	½	½
69	IM Javakhishvili, Lela	w	3.0	GEO	F	2493	2484	-0.09	½	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	0
71	GM Sebag, Marie	w	3.0	FRA	F	2510	2471	-0.45	0	½	1	½	0	0	0	1	0

World Blitz Championship Preliminaries

This tournament was played Feb. 18, 2010, as part of the Aeroflot tournament. Rate of play was G-3'+2". The tournament was won by World Junior Champion, GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. Seven players shared the 2nd place, with 13 points each, but only five qualified for the final event. By the sequential tie break criteria, these players were: Bu Xiangzhi (China), Rauf Mamedov (Azerbaijan), and Russians [Boris Grachev](#), Boris Savchenko and [Ian Nepomniachtchi](#).

Cappelle la Grande International, France

This tournament ran from February 13 – 20. It is a one-section swiss with hyper-accelerated pairings (a variant of this system was used in the 2007 Ottawa Canadian Open). The tournament attracted 652 players. It is considered the 3rd most prestigious open chess tournament in the world each year (after Aeroflot and Gibraltar); a total of 82 grandmasters and 61 international masters participated. Among them were two top Canadians: Ukrainian born GM Anton Kovalyov (who plays for Argentina), currently the highest-rated Canadian; IM Jean Hebert, 2009 Canadian Champion.

The winner was 16-year old Ukrainian GM Yaroslav Zherebukh.



Winner Yaroslav Zherebukh. Photo © Europe-Echecs | <http://www.europe-echecs.com>

The top finishers were:

Pl	Nom	Elo	Cat.	Fed	Ligu	Rd01	Rd02	Rd03	Rd04	Rd05	Rd06	Rd07	Rd08	Rd09	Pts	Tr.	Perf.
1	g ZHEREBUKH Yaroslav	252	Cad M	UKR		+171 N	+96B	-39N	+168B	+215 N	+47B	+13N	+5B	=4N	7,5	43	273 4
2	g KRYVORUCHKO Yuriy	260	SenM	UKR	PCH	+28B	=51N	+53B	=11N	+376B	=41N	=44B	+91N	+38B	7	43	269 5
3	g RADULSKI Julian	257	SenM	BUL	BRG	+169B	=119 N	+50B	=36N	+65B	+46N	+34B	=14N	=12B	7	43	268 3
4	g NEGI Parimarjan	262	Cad M	IND		+204B	=19N	=89B	+49N	=83B	+51N	+43B	+81N	=1B	7	43	266 3
5	g GUREVICH Mikhail	259	SenM	TUR	HNO	+219 N	+118B	=84N	+97B	+39B	+160 N	=12B	-1N	+44B	7	42,	274 3
6	g AMIN Bassem	254	SenM	EGY		+192 N	+32B	=87N	+48B	=34B	=16N	=37B	+36N	+42B	7	42,	272 4
7	g EDOUARD Romain	260	JunM	FRA	CHA	+109B	=52N	+104 B	=41N	+177B	=81N	=11B	+62N	+35B	7	41,	270 5
8	g ARUTINIAN David	256	SenM	GEO		-25B	=272 N	+128 B	+154 N	+165B	+99N	=91B	+53N	+56B	7	40,	258 9
9	g DZIUBA Marcin	258	SenM	POL	BRE	+110B	+181 N	+176 B	=38N	=82B	=44N	=161 B	+116 N	+43B	7	40	268 6
10	g KRAVTSIV Martyn	254	JunM	UKR		=122B	=100 N	+186 B	-164N	+182B	+190 N	+117 B	+49N	+85B	7	38	255 6

Kovalyov finished 47th with 6 points. Hebert came 50th with 6 points.

FIDE Finalizes 2009-10 Women's Grand Prix

Two Women's Grand Prix events took place in 2009 1st – Istanbul, Turkey; 2nd – Nanjing, China. The 3rd event will be in Nalchik, Russia from 25 April (arrival) to 8 May (departure). 2010.

The full list of participants for Nalchik is below:

NAME		TITLE	COUNTRY
Koneru,	Humpy	GM	IND
Yifan,	Hou	GM	CHN
Cramling,	Pia	GM	SVE

Dzagnidze,	Nana	GM	GEO
Xue,	Zhao	GM	CHN
Kosintseva,	Tatiana	IM	RUS
Chen,	Zhu	GM	QTR
Danielian,	Elina	IM	ARM
Batkhuayag,	Munguntuul	WGM	MGL
Yildiz,	Betul	WIM	TRK
Mrktchian,	Lilit	IM	ARM
Kovanova,	Baira	WGM	RUS

The 4th Grand Prix will take place in Jermuk, Armenia, on 23rd June – 6th July 2010
The 5th Grand Prix will take place in Ulanbaatar, Mongolia, on 29 July - 12 August 2010
The 6th Grand Prix will take place in Santiago, Chile, on 27th October – 9th November 2010

The winner of each tournament wins 6,500 euros out of a prize fund of 40,000 euros and the overall winner of the series will win a further 15,000 euros at the end of the series.

This is the first time that such a Grand Prix series has been organized by FIDE and is a significant development for the chess world. The introduction of the Grand Prix series means that there will be a World Championship contest annually now from 2010. This year, the Champion will be determined from the World Championship Knockout which will be held in Turkey. One article has said that the following year, 2011, the World Champion will face the Winner of the Grand Prix series 2009/2010 in a match for the title.

Then I am a bit confused. Another article has said that the Zonal/Continental Women's championships in 2010/11 will qualify them for the Women's World Championship in 2012. What happens to the Grand Prix ? Is there no 2011/12 Women's Grand Prix? And if there is, how does it fit in with the knockout Women's World Championship 2012? It seems FIDE is trying to have the system for determining the Women's World Champion approximate that for the World Championship cycle, and be decided by a Championship Match. But the exact system for the next 2 years is not exactly clear to me. If anyone out there can help out on this, write me (bobarm@sympatico.ca).

Kitchener-Waterloo Winter Open

The 4 section swiss was held Feb. 19-21 and attracted 56 participants.
Here are the top results:

Open Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Artiom Samsonkin	2616	W6	W5	W3	W7	W2	5.0
2	Nikita Gusev	2243	W17	D9	W8	W10	L1	3.5
3	Liam Henry	2276	H---	W12	L1	W11	D5	3.0
4	Brian Fiedler	2154	H---	D13	W12	D5	D6	3.0
5	Michael Humphreys	2153	W14	L1	W13	D4	D3	3.0
6	Gordon Olheiser	2134	L1	H---	W18	W16	D4	3.0
7	Vladimir Drkulec	2087	H---	W15	W9	L1	D10	3.0
8	Paul Becker	2026	H---	W11	L2	D17	W13	3.0

U 2000

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Haizhou Xu	1892	W15	W17	W9	W2	W4	5.0
2	Joseph Bellissimo	1608	W11	W4	W3	L1	W10	4.0
3	Steven H Liu	1923	W20	W6	L2	D10	D8	3.0
4	Richard Douglas	1871	W16	L2	W15	W9	L1	3.0
5	Jonathan Farine	1861	L17	W13	D7	D14	W15	3.0
6	Guannan Terry Song	1808	W19	L3	W16	D11	D7	3.0
7	Nicholas Gellner	1725	W10	L9	D5	W18	D6	3.0
8	Mario Moran-Venegas	1677	D18	H---	D11	W12	D3	3.0

U 1700

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Piotr Pisanski	1564	L6	W5	W3	W4	W2	4.0
2	John Van Leeuwen	1628	D5	W9	W4	W7	L1	3.5
3	Steven Douglas	1497	L4	W8	L1	W9	W7	3.0

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	John Mangold	1332	X---	W4	W2	W7	W5	5.0
2	Andrei Preda	1254	W5	W3	L1	W4	W7	4.0
3	Kai Gauer	1234	W7	L2	D4	W6	W8	3.5

SCC – Who Are We ??

This is a series, in each Issue, where we introduce to our subscribers, the members who make up SCC, the friendliest chess club in Canada ! This Issue we introduce

Frankie Stewart



Hello - my name is Frankie Stewart. I started playing chess at the age of 12. I received the game as a Christmas present. My brother and I read the rules and played. A passion was ignited that continues today. I play chess for the love of the game, plus it helps me grow in many areas of life. I was searching for an official club and SCC was the most accessible. I benefit greatly with its big and diverse members. It appears there is something here for everyone. My goal is to become a chess Master. It is achievable because I love to do my homework. My favourite player is Andrew Soltis and my favourite book is called Pawn Structure Chess. I study puzzles and books related to pawn structure. Anthology of chess Combinations is another book I am studying - I am at puzzle 933; it goes up to 2001. My rating is 1770, and I have been a club member for

3 months - my goal is to reach a rating of 2000 within 2 years. I dream of one day opening a chess club in Oshawa. I am a full time husband and dad of four children, and work in the Addiction field. For the future I hope to continue my healthy addiction to chess and pass my skills to my children.

SCC Juniors In Top Canadians' Lists

(from Canadian Chess News)

Top Canadian CFC Rated - 47 Yuan, Yuanling ON 2323

Top Female - 2 Yuan, Yuanling ON 2323

Top Under 16 years - 3 Yuan, Yuanling 16 ON 2323

Top Under 12 years - 4 Song, Michael 11 ON 1858

- 9 Lin, Tony (Juntao) 12 ON 1734

Top Under 10 years - 1 Zhang, Yuanchen 9 ON 1647

- 2 Bellissimo, Joseph 10 ON 1608

- 8 Liu, Jiaxin 9 ON 1297

Keep up the good work all of you, and give all us SCC members a run for our money !!

Rick's Chess Trivia

(questions/presentations researched by Rick Garel,



former SCC Executive, SCC member, Orillia CC President)

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

Fischer won how many U.S. championships?

The Answer: CFC Governor, Ken Craft, who has been a winner a couple of times before as well, gets the bragging rights this Issue. He submitted the right number.

The answer is 8

Today's Trivia Question is:

Submit the last name of any player who has beaten Fischer in U.S. Championship play.
(Last name will do; if you have the full name, give it)

You can use any resource available to answer the question ! Just find it fast and send it in as fast as you can, by e-mail, to Rick : rickgarel@gmail.com .

The first correct e-mail received wins, and gets bragging rights. Also, we will publish the honoured winner's name in the next newsletter, along with a few details they provide as to their chess experience (if they wish), along with Rick's researched answer.

Thanks for playing !!

Chess History is fun !!

Also 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 Garel : rickgarel@gmail.com

SCC Jack Frost Swiss

Open to SCC members only

No field limit

Two sections (Open and U1700)

January 7 – February 18

Entry Fee: None

Tournament Director: Bryan Lamb

Time control: G/90

Rounds: 7

Type: Swiss

63 players showed up the Open section. It was headed by 8 masters (!) and 4 experts. 23 players registered for the U 1700 section. The total of 86 players is the highest we've had since the start of the millennium and higher than our average in 2008-9 of mid-70's per tournament. Our new location has a maximum capacity of about 100 players, and so our space problem is solved for the foreseeable future.

The winners were:

Open Section:

1st/2nd – 5 pts. - Master Andrei Moffat; expert Bill Peng

4th/7th – 4.5 pts. - Master Hacat Kevork; WIM Yuanling Yuan; Jim Paterson; Pino Verde

U 1700 Section:

1st – 5 pts. – Zaidun al Ganabi

2nd/4th – 4.5 pts.- Maurice Smith; John Walker; Michael Rogers

Games are collected each week (handing in the white original score sheet is mandatory and the player gets to keep the yellow carbon copy) and put into the tournament database by myself and Ken Kurkowski. But distribution and publication of games under the SCC Policy on the Games Database is delayed until the end of the tournament, so no games from this tournament have yet been published. If you are interested in finding out about this new policy, just e-mail me at bobarm@sympatico.ca and I will forward to you the new policy. So in this Issue, and the next 5 issues, we are presenting some of the more interesting games from various rounds. In this Issue, we see some games from round 2.

In Round 2 in the Open Section, Mario Moran-Venegas



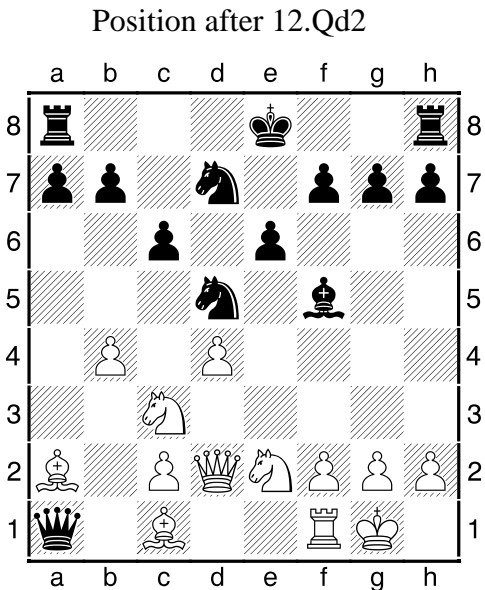
was playing a master, rated almost 400 pts. higher, former club champion, Erwin Casareno. Mario missed a pin, and Erwin got the advantage. Then Mario got the bright idea of sacking his R to trap Erwin's Q – but it wasn't sound. He gave up the R, and commenced his faulty plan. But Erwin may have been rather complacent about the danger, and didn't deal with it immediately. Then he made a fatal move, self-trapping his Q. Mario went on to win the Q vs R game that followed. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Moran-Venegas, Mario (1634) – Casareno, Erwin (2204) [B01]

Scarborough CC Jack Frost (Open) Toronto (2), 14.01.2010

1.e4= 0.20 **1...d5±** [1...e5= For Fritz, the only equalizing move. For all other normal replies, including the Scandinavian, W is given a " slight " advantage. This evaluation is not generally accepted.] **2.exd5 Qxd5** [2...Nf6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bc4 Bg4±] **3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4?!=** [5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Bd2 Nbd7 7.h3 Bh5±] **5...Bf5?!±** [5...Nc6 6.d5 Nb4=] **6.Nge2?!=** [6.Bd2 c6 7.Qe2 Qc7±] **6...Nbd7?!±** [6...Nc6 7.Bd2 0-0-0 8.Nb5 Qb6=] **7.0-0 e6 8.a3?!=** [8.Ng3 Bg6 9.Bd2 Qb6±] **8...c6?!±** [8...Bd6 9.Ng3 Bg6=] **9.b4?≠** Mario misses that the aP is pinned; for the first time in the

game, Erwin gets the advantage [9.Ng3 Bg6 10.f4 0-0-0±] **9...Bxb4!** **10.axb4??-+** Mario has a faulty plan to capture the Q when it wins the R; Erwin gets a "winning" advantage [10.Bd2 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Qc7±] **10...Qxa1** Erwin is up the exchange + P **11.Ba2!** Mario starts to execute what he believes is a trap that Erwin has wandered into **11...Nd5?!±** Erwin delays dealing with the danger [11...a5 12.bxa5 Rxa5 13.Bb3 Ra8-+] **12.Qd2**



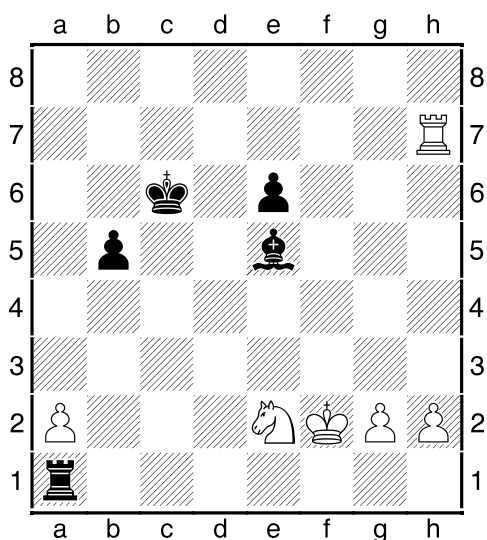
a5??+- now this move is no good – Erwin self-traps himself – a blunder, now trapping the Q; Mario gets a "winning" advantage [12...N7f6 13.b5 (13.Ba3?! Ne4 14.Nxe4 Qxa2 15.Nd6+ Kf8 16.Nxf5 Qxa3 17.c4 Qxb4-+ - 2.51) 13...a5± (13...Nxc3 14.Nxc3 Nd5 15.Nxd5 cxd5 16.Bxd5 exd5±)] **13.Ba3! Qxf1+ 14.Kxf1 axb4** Mario is up Q + B vs R + 2 P's **15.Nxd5 Rxa3??+-** 5.79 this does not help – it loses the exchange on a mate threat [15...Ra4? 16.Bxb4 Rxa2 17.Qg5 Nf6 18.Nxf6+ gx6 19.Qxf6 Ra1+ 20.Nc1 Rxc1+ 21.Ke2 Rxc2+ 22.Ke3 c5 23.Qxh8+ Kd7+- 7.76; 15...exd5 16.Qxb4 Kd8 17.Qe7+ Kc8 18.Bb3 g5+- 4.04] **16.Qxb4!** threatening mate and the R simultaneously **16...exd5 17.Qxa3** Mario is up Q vs R + P **17...Nb6 18.Qd6 f6 19.Qb8+??+-** 6.25 [19.c4 dxc4 20.Qc7 Nc8 21.Bxc4 Bd7+- 8.75] **19...Nc8 20.Qxb7** Mario is up Q vs R **20...Bd7 21.Nf4??+-** 6.91 [21.Bb3 Ke7 22.Ba4 Nd6+- 10.10] **21...Rf8 22.Nd3 Nd6 23.Qc7** 7.58 **23...Nb5 24.Qb7 Nxd4** Mario is up Q vs R + P **25.Nc5 Rf7 26.Qb8+ Ke7 27.Nxd7 Nxc2??+-** Mario is up Q + B vs R + 2 P's (connected and passed) mate in 13 moves, and it is mate in 12 moves [27...Kxd7 28.Qa7+ Ke8 29.Qxd4 Rb7+- 10.96] **28.Nb6??+-** 13.99 Mario misses the mate [28.Nc5 Ne3+ 29.fxe3 f5 30.Qc7+ Ke8 31.Qxc6+ Kd8 32.Qd6+ Ke8 33.Bxd5 Rc7 34.Qxc7 g6 35.Qd7+ Kf8 36.Qf7#] **28...Nb4 29.Nc8+ Kd7 30.Qb7++-** 13.99 **1-0**

In Round 2, Gabriel Azmitia, playing up in the Open Section for the first time, played veteran Rick Garel, rated more than 400 pts. higher than Gabriel. This was one of the other round upsets. Rick got the advantage early, and kept it for ¾ of the game. In the early end game, Rick was up a P. But Gabriel had an advanced bP, blocked by Rick's aP. But Gabriel managed to win it, and continue advancing his bP. He eventually got it into queening territory, and Rick had to resign – one of the big upsets of the round, that saw a number of them. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Garel, Rick (1954) – Azmitia, Gabriel (1526) [B41]

Scarborough CC Jack Frost (Open) Toronto (2), 14.01.2010

1.e4= 0.20 1...c5± [1...e5= For Fritz, the only equalizing move. For all other normal replies, including the Sicilian, W is given a " slight " advantage. This evaluation is not generally accepted.]
2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Qc7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Be7 8.Be2 b6 9.0-0 Ng4 10.Bxg4 Bxg5 11.Qd3?!= [11.e5 Be7 12.Qd3 (12.f4?! 0-0=) 12...Bb7±] 11...Nc6 12.Nxc6 Qxc6?± Rick gets a " clear " advantage [12...dxc6 13.Rad1 0-0=] 13.f4 [13.Qg3 Bh6 14.b3 Bb7±] 13...Be7 14.e5 Bb7 15.Bf3 Qc7 16.Kh1?= [16.Bxb7 Qxb7 17.f5 Qc6±] 16...Rd8?± [16...Bxf3 17.Rxf3 0-0=] 17.Bxb7 Qxb7 18.Qg3?= [18.f5 Qc7 19.Rae1 g6±] 18...g6?± [18...0-0 19.b3 f6=] 19.Rad1?!± [19.f5 gxf5 20.Qg7 Rf8±] 19...d6?+- Rick gets a " winning " advantage [19...f5 20.a4 d6±] 20.f5! gxf5?+- 2.67 [20...dxe5 21.fxe6 f6+- 1.83] 21.exd6 Bf6 22.b4?!± [22.Nd5! exd5 23.Rxf5 dxc4 (23...Bxb2?? 24.Re1+ Kd7 25.Rxf7+ Kc8 26.Rxb7 Kxb7+- mate in 10 moves)] 22...Kd7?!+- [22...Kf8 23.c5 Rg8 24.Qf3 Qxf3 25.Rxf3 bxc5 26.bxc5 Rg4±] 23.c5?± Rick is losing his advantage [23.Nd5! exd5 24.Rxf5 Kc8 25.Rxf6 dxc4 26.Qg4+ Kb8 27.Qxc4 b5+- 2.52] 23...Rhg8 24.Qf3?+- for the first time in the game, Gabriel gets the advantage, and it is a " winning " advantage [24.Qh3 Bxc3 25.Rc1 (25.Qxc3?? Qxg2#) 25...Rc8 (25...Bf6?? 26.c6+ Qxc6 27.Rxc6 Kxc6±) 26.Rxc3 Qe4±] 24...Qxf3 25.Rxf3 bxc5?!± [25...Rg4 26.a3 bxc5 27.bxc5 Kc6-+] 26.bxc5 Rg4 27.Ne2 Re4 28.Ng3 [28.Nc1 Rc8 29.Nb3 h5±] 28...Rc4 29.Nxf5?!+- Rick wrongly sacs his N, intending to pick up some pawns for it [29.Ra3 Ra8 30.Rb3 Kc6±] 29...Rxc5?± Gabriel wrongly refuses the sac; Rick gets back the advantage, a " clear " advantage [29...exf5 30.Rxf5] 30.Ng3 Be5 [30...Bh4 31.Rxf7+ Ke8±] 31.Rxf7+ Rick goes up a P 31...Kc6 32.Rc7+?!± [32.Ne4 Ra5 33.Rc7+ Kb6 34.Rb1+ Rb5 35.Rxb5+ axb5 36.Rxh7 Kc6±] 32...Kb6 33.Rb1+?!= [33.Rxc5 Kxc5 34.Ne4+ Kc6±] 33...Rb5 34.Rxb5+ axb5 35.Rxh7 Rxd6 36.Kg1 Kc6 37.Ne2?± for only the second time in the game, Gabriel gets the advantage, again a " clear " advantage [37.Re7 b4 38.Kf2 Rd2+ 39.Kf3 Rxa2 40.Rxe6+ Kd5=] 37...Rd1+?= [37...Rd2 38.Kf2 Rxa2±] 38.Kf2 Ra1



39.h4?!± Rick needs to protect the aP because it blocks the dangerous bP, Gabriel's only winning chance [39.Ra7 Bxh2 40.g3 e5=] 39...Rxa2 material equality 40.Rf7?!± [40.Kf3 b4 41.Nc1 Ra3+ 42.Ke4 Bd6±] 40...b4 41.Ke3?!+- the losing move – Rick needs to block the progress of the bP [41.Rf3 Kc5 42.Ke1 Ra3 43.Kd2 b3 44.Rf1 b2 45.Rb1 Ra1 46.Kc2 Ra7±] 41...b3 42.Rf1 b2-+ – 3.08 Rick resigned; Rick will have to sac to stop the P 43.Rb1 Ra1 44.Rxb2 Bxb2-+ – 3.78 Gabriel would be up R vs P 0-1

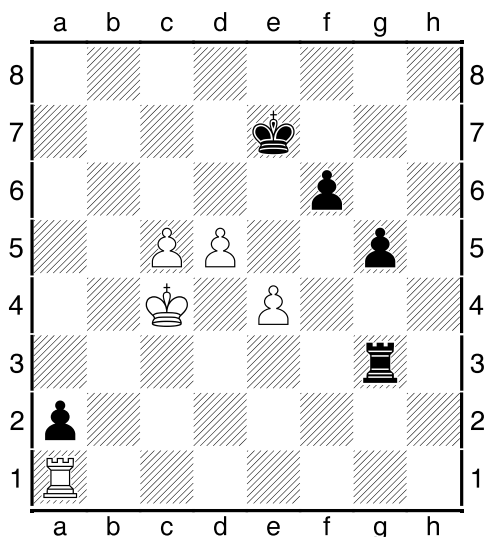
In Rd. 2 in the Open section, returning member Chris Takov upset expert Alex Ferreira. Chris first went up 2 P's. But Alex fought back and by move 45, had gotten

back material equality. Then Chris erred on move 46, and for the first time in the game, Alex got the advantage, a "clear" advantage. But on move 47, Alex was the one to err, and gave the game back to Chris, though he valiantly tried to stop Chris' 2 connected, passed P's. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Takov, Chris (1750) – Ferreira, Alex (2060) [A22]

Scarborough CC Jack Frost (Open) Toronto (2), 14.01.2010

1.c4 d5± [1...e5=] 2.cxd5 Nf6 [2...Qxd5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Qa5±; 2...c6! 3.dxc6 Nxc6 4.Nc3 e5±] 3.Nc3 Nxd5 [3...c6! 4.dxc6 Nxc6±] 4.g3?!= [4.Nf3 c5 5.d4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 cxd4 7.cxd4 e5±] 4...e5 5.Bg2 c6 [5...Nxc3 6.bxc3 Nc6=] 6.Nf3 Nxc3 [6...Nd7?! 7.0-0 Be7±] 7.bxc3 Bd6 8.d3 [8.d4 exd4 9.Qxd4 0-0=] 8...0-0 9.0-0 Be6?!± [9...Nd7 10.Rb1 Qe7=] 10.Ng5 Bd5?+- this loses at least 1 P; Chris gets a "winning" advantage [10...Bc8 11.Qc2 Nd7±] 11.Bxd5?!± [11.e4 h6 12.exd5 hxg5 13.Rb1 Na6 14.Rxb7 cxd5 15.Bxd5 Be7+- Chris would be up a P] 11...cxd5 12.Qb3 Be7 13.Qxb7 Chris goes up a P 13...Nd7 14.Qxd5 Chris goes up 2 P's 14...Bxg5 15.Bxg5 Qxg5 16.Qxd7 Qd2 Alex looks for ways to try to recover the pawns 17.c4 Rfd8?!+- Alex should grab the P [17...Qxe2 18.Rfe1 Qb2±] 18.Qg4 Rab8 19.Qf3 Rb2 20.Rfe1 Rxa2 Chris is now up only 1 P; Alex is fighting back 21.Qe3 [21.Qb7 Re8 22.Qd7 Rf8+-] 21...Qxe3 22.fxe3 Rxa1 [22...Rc2 23.Rxa7 h5+-] 23.Rxa1 Rd7 24.Ra5 f6 25.Kf2 Kf7 26.e4 [26.Kf3 Ke6 27.g4 Kf7+-] 26...Kg6 [26...Ke8 27.Ke3 Re7 28.Kd2 Kd8+-] 27.h4 Kh5 28.Kf3 h6 29.Rd5 Re7 30.Rd6 Rf7 31.e3 Rc7 32.Rd5 g5 33.hxg5 hxg5 34.g4+ Kg6 35.c5?!± [35.Ra5 Rd7 36.Ke2 Rh7+-] 35...a5 36.d4 a4 37.Rd6?!± Chris is losing his advantage [37.Rd8 Ra7 38.Rg8+ Kf7 39.Rh8 Ra6±] 37...Ra7 38.Rb6 a3 Alex pins his drawing/winning hopes on this P 39.Rb1 a2 40.Ra1 exd4?!± [40...Kf7 41.d5 Ke8±] 41.exd4 Ra3+ [41...Kf7 42.d5 Ra3+ 43.Ke2 Ke7±] 42.Ke2 Kf7 43.d5 Rg3 [43...Ke7 44.Kd1 Ra4±] 44.Kd2?=- Chris gives Alex drawing chances; Chris has lost his advantage [44.c6 Ke7 45.c7 Rc3 46.Rxa2 Rxc7±] 44...Ke7 45.Kc2 Rxc4 Alex has fought back to material equality 46.Kd3?=- for the first time in the game, Alex gets the advantage, a "clear" advantage – does he have a chance to win now? [46.Kb3 Rg2 47.Rc1 Kd7 48.c6+ Kd8 49.d6 Rd2=] 46...Rg3+ 47.Kc4



Re3??+- major error; Alex gives Chris back the game [47...Ra3 48.Kb5 Kd7 49.Kb4 Ra6±] 48.Rxa2 Rxe4+ 49.Kb5 Kd7?+- 6.04 [49...Rd4 50.Kc6 f5 51.d6+ Ke6+- 3.73] 50.Ra7+ Kc8 51.Rf7 g4 52.Rxf6 g3 53.Rg6 Re3 10.78 [53...Kb8? 54.d6 Re1 55.Rxg3 Rd1+- mate in 13 moves; 53...g2? 54.d6 Re1 55.Rxg2 Kd7+- 11.54; 53...Re5 54.Kc6 Kd8+- 11.03] 54.Rg7?+- 6.25 [54.d6 Re5 55.Kc6 Kd8+- 18.22] 54...Kd8 55.c6?+- 6.84 [55.d6 Rd3 56.Rg8+ Kd7 57.c6+ Ke6+- 10.70(57...Kxd6?? 58.Rd8+- 14.71)] 55...Rc3?+- mate in 12 moves [55...Rd3 56.Kc4 Rd1+- 7.76] 56.d6 Ke8 57.Kb6 [57.d7+ Kf8 (57...Kd8?? 58.Rg8+ Ke7 59.d8Q+ Ke6 60.Re8+

Kf5+- mate in 6 moves) 58.Rh7 Kg8 59.Re7 Rb3+ 60.Kc4 Rb8 61.c7 (61.Re8+? Kh7 62.c7 (62.Rxb8 g2 63.d8Q! g1Q 64.Rb7+ Qg7 65.Qg5 Qxb7 66.cxb7 Kh8 67.b8Q+ Kh7 68.Qh2#) 62...Rxe8 63.dxe8Q Kg7 64.Qe6 g2 65.c8Q g1Q 66.Qcg8#) 61...Rf8 62.c8Q g2 63.Qxf8+ Kxf8 64.d8Q#] **57...Kf8 58.Rg4 Ke8** mate in 14 moves [58...Rc1 59.d7 Ke7+- mate in 12 moves] **59.Kc7?+-** 12.17 Chris misses the mate [59.d7+ Ke7 60.Rg7+ Ke6 61.d8Q Rb3+- mate in 8 moves] **59...Rd3 60.d7+ Ke7** 31.50 [60...Kf7? 61.Rg5 Ke6+- 33.77] **61.Rxg3!+-** 33.82 **1-0**

Continuing with our theme of Rd. 2 upsets, in the U 1700 section, new junior girl member, Sobiga Vyravanathan,



one of our younger juniors, upset Steve Douglas, over 400 pts. higher rated. Sobiga had the advantage for the first half of the game, but then the momentum swung to Steve and he ended up with a “winning” advantage. But Sobiga held on, and by move 26 she could have had a slight advantage, and 2 N’s vs R + P. Then came Steve’s fateful move 27, where he suffered chess blindness, and dropped his Q and had to resign – but Sobiga played, nonetheless, a very creditable game against her stronger opponent. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Vyravanathan, Sobiga (1116) – Douglas, Steve (1546) [B06]

SCC Jack Frost Swiss (U1700) Toronto (2), 14.01.2010

599MB, Fritz11.ctg, My Computer **1.e4=** 0.20 **1...g6±** [1...e5= For Fritz, the only equalizing move. For all other normal replies, including the Modern Defence, W is given a "slight" advantage. This evaluation is not generally accepted.] **2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 Nd7?!±** Sobiga gets an early "clear" advantage [4...Nf6 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6±] **5.Be2 c5 6.Be3?!±** [6.dxc5?! Nxc5 7.e5 Bg4±] **6...cxd4 7.Bxd4 e5?+-** Sobiga gets a "winning" advantage [7...Ngf6 8.Qd2 0-0±] **8.Be3 Ngf6 9.0-0** 1.67 Sobiga should capture the dP [9.Qxd6 Bf8 10.Qd3 Ng4+- 2.28] **9...0-0 10.Re1?±** again, Sobiga should capture the dP; she is losing her advantage [10.Qxd6 Ng4 11.Bg5 Qb6+-] **10...Ng4?!±** [10...Nc5 11.Nd2 Be6±] **11.Bg5 f6 12.Bd2 Qb6 13.Rf1 Qxb2?!+-** Steve goes up a P, but gets his Q trapped in the process; Sobiga gets back her "winning" advantage [13...Nc5 14.Nd5 Qd8 15.Bc4 b5 16.Ne7+ Kh8 17.Bd5 Bd7 18.Bxa8 Qxa8±] **14.Nb5 Nc5?+-** 6.16 [14...a6 15.Bc3 Qxa1 16.Bxa1 axb5 17.Qxd6 Rf7+- 3.24] **15.Nxd6?±** Sobiga misses winning the Q; again

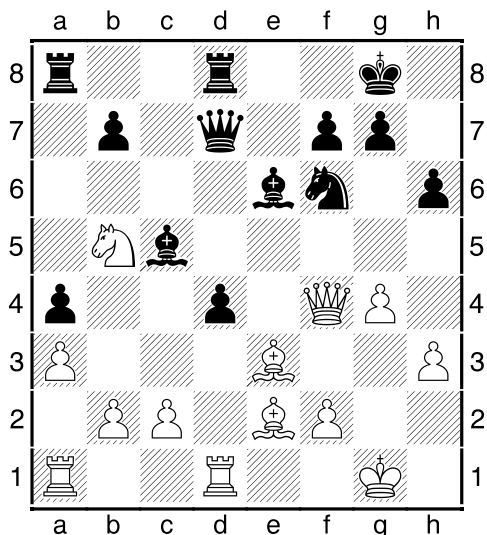
she is losing her advantage; material equality [15.Bc3 Qxa1 16.Bxa1 b6+-] **15...Be6?!±** [15...Qb6 16.Nxc8 Raxc8±] **16.Bc4?±** for the first time in the game, Steve gets the advantage [16.Rb1 Qxa2 17.Bb4 Na6±] **16...Bxc4** [16...Qb6 17.Bxe6+ Nxe6 18.Bb4! Qxb4 19.Qd5 Rfe8 20.Nxe8 Rxe8±] **17.Nxc4** [17.Rb1 Qa3 18.Bb4 Qa6 19.Nxc4 Qxc4 20.Nd2 Nxf2 21.Rxf2 Qb5 22.Bxc5 Qxc5 23.Rxb7 Bh6±] **17...Qb5** **18.Na3?!±** Steve gets a " clear " advantage [18.Nd6 Qc6 19.Bb4 Rfd8 20.Bxc5 Qxc5 21.Nxb7 Rxd1 22.Nxc5 Rxa1 23.Rxa1 Rc8 24.Nd3 f5±] **18...Qc6** **19.Bb4?!+** Steve gets a " winning " advantage [19.h3 Nxf2 20.Rxf2 Nxe4 21.Re2 f5±] **19...Rfd8** **20.Qe2 Nxe4** Steve goes up a P **21.h3** - 2.52 [21.Rab1 f5 22.Qb5 Qxb5 23.Nxb5 Rac8+ - 2.39] **21...Ngxf2** Steve goes up 2 P's **22.Rxf2?!+** - 3.51 [22.Kh2 f5 23.Be1 Qc5 24.Bxf2 Qxa3+ - 3.04] **22...Nxf2** **23.Qxf2** Steve has R + 2 P's vs 2 N's **23...Qa4?+** - 1.83 [23...e4 24.Ne1 f5+ - 3.70] **24.Qc5 Bf8??±** this loses a pawn, and gives Sobiga back the advantage [24...Rac8 25.Qb5 Qxb5 26.Nxb5 a6 27.Na3 b6+] **25.Qc4+ Kh8** **26.Bxf8?!=** [26.Be7 Qxc4 27.Bxf6+ Bg7 28.Bxg7+ Kxg7 29.Nxc4 Rac8± Steve would be up R + P vs 2 N's] **26...Rxf8??+-** **27.Qxa4** Black resigns. **1-0**

And our last upset game – young junior Jason Wang upset Russell Super, almost 400 rating points higher. Jason came up with a very nice pin-breaking move that allowed him to win a B + P. He went on to mate Russell. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Super, Russell (1474) – Wang, Jason (1080) [B46]

Scarborough CC Jack Frost (U 1700) Toronto (2), 14.01.2010

1.e4= 0.20 **1...c5±** [1...e5= For Fritz, the only equalizing move. For all other normal replies, including the Sicilian, W is given a " slight " advantage. This evaluation is not generally accepted.] **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6?!±** Russell gets an early " clear " advantage [6...e5 7.Nxc6 bxc6±] **7.Nb3?!±** [7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Nd5±] **7...h6 8.a3 d5 9.exd5?!=** [9.Be3 dxe4 10.Qxd8+ Nxd8±] **9...exd5 10.Be3 Be7 11.0-0** [11.Qd2 Be6 12.0-0-0 0-0=] **11...0-0 12.h3** [12.Qd2 Bd6 13.Rfe1 (13.Rad1 Qc7=) 13...Bf5=] **12...Be6 13.Bf3 a5?!±** [13...Bd6 14.Re1 (14.Qe2?! Re8 15.Rad1 Rc8±) 14...Rc8=] **14.Qd2?!=** [14.Re1 Rc8 15.Nd4 Re8±] **14...a4?!±** [14...Ne5 15.Be2 Re8=] **15.Nd4 Nxd4?!±** Russell gets a " clear " advantage [15...Ne5 16.Qe2 Bd6±] **16.Qxd4?!±** [16.Bxd4 Re8 17.Rfe1 Rc8±] **16...Qd7 17.g4** [17.Rfe1 Rac8 18.Qd2 Bc5±] **17...Rfc8 18.Be2?!=** [18.Rad1 b5 19.Bxd5 Nxd5 20.Nxd5 Rc4±] **18...Bc5 19.Qf4 d4 20.Rfd1 Rd8 21.Nb5?+** for the first time in the game, Jason gets the advantage, a " winning " one. [21.Bb5 Nd5 22.Qf3 Qe7=]



21...Nd5! blocking the potential threat of the R against the Q 22.Qe5 dxe3 Jason is up a B 23.Nc3?+- - 7.67 [23.c4 exf2+ 24.Kh2 Qe8+- - 5.67] 23...exf2+ Jason is up B + P 24.Kh1 Qc6?-+ - 6.12 [24...Bd6 25.Qe4 Nxc3 26.bxc3 Qe7+- - 8.54] 25.Bf3 Qd6?+- - 4.51 [25...Bxa3! 26.bxa3 (26.Rxa3?? Nxc3 27.Rf1 (27.bxc3?? Rxd1+ 28.Kh2 f1Q 29.Qxg7+ Kxg7 30.Kg3 Qcxf3+ 31.Kh4 Q1xh3#) 27...Qxf3+ 28.Kh2 Bd5+- - 14.05) 26...Qxc3 27.Qxc3 Nxc3+- - 6.73] 26.Qh5?+-+ mate in 10 moves [26.Qxd6 Rxd6 27.Rxd5 Bxd5 28.Bxd5 Bxa3! 29.bxa3 Rc8 30.Bxf7+ Kxf7+- - 5.84] 26...Qg3 27.Bxd5?+- leads to a quick mate [27.Ne4 Qxf3+ 28.Kh2 Nf4 29.Rxd8+ Rxd8 30.Qxf7+ Bxf7 31.Nf6+ gxf6 32.g5 Qxh3#] 27...Bxd5+ 28.Nxd5 Qf3+-+ . Russell resigned. It is mate in 3 moves 29.Kh2 Bd6+ 30.Qe5 Bxe5+ 31.Nf4 Bxf4# 0-1

SCC 2009-10 Club Championship

Currently the SCC Website states:

SCC Club Championship starts Thursday, February 25, 2010 (10 player round robin plus two reserve Swiss-format sections)!

But I have a note (I believe) that it used to also say:

Open to SCC members only – new members must take out at least a 6-month membership to enter (no tournament memberships available)

The site may have been changed because an issue arose on the question of who can join the club championship top section. The problem from the club's point of view has been that in the past, strong players have come in at the last minute and joined the championship and bumped regular members from the top group (since there are only 10 places – it is a round robin). The Sept. 2009 SCC AGM dealt with the club championship and the minutes show:

"New rules concerning eligibility for the club championship were proposed. It was proposed that starting with the 2009-2010 chess season, the SCC Club Championship Round Robin is restricted to the top nine rated players plus the winner of the Open Swiss Reserves from the previous year. If the winner of the Open Swiss Reserves from the previous year qualifies by their rating, the tenth spot goes to the second place finisher, and so on. Participants in the Round Robin championship are required to hold at least a six-month club membership at the time of the championship. This proposed policy was voted on and was carried with 15 in favour, 0 against and 3 abstentions."

The issue is whether the AGM solved the problem. Some say that the intent was to prevent last minute new entries from bumping strong regular members down into the Open Reserves Section. But, under the AGM decision, can a new strong member just take out a 6-month membership at the start of the club championship and join the top group, bumping out someone who has been a member over the course of the prior six months, and therefore has an established connection to the club?

There was a fairly raging debate within the executive on what the interpretation was, what was fair to established strong members, and whether the executive should nonetheless now impose a prior connection qualification of some kind, for example: that

you have to have had at least a six-month membership as of the start of the season in Sept. 2009; that you had to have played in at least one tournament in the season prior to the club championship; that you had to have held a valid 1 year or 2 year membership at a date one week (7 days) before the club championship; etc..

It was decided that the executive would impose a prior membership criterion, regardless of the interpretation of the AGM decision, and so certain applicants to join and play in the top section were advised they were ineligible (and this restriction seems to have been accepted by them as reasonable for the club to impose). Obviously the wording of the qualification must be clarified at the Sept. 2010 SCC AGM.

This fourth tournament of the season runs from Feb. 25 to April 22. 10 players play in the Championship Round Robin – it was headed by 7 masters (!) and 3 experts this year. The players are:

1. Rune Pedersen (2340)
2. Yuanling Yuan (2323)
3. Andrei Moffat (2289)
4. John Hall (2238)
5. Karl Sellars (2227)
6. Bryan Lamb (2214)
7. Kevork Hacat (2212)
8. Bill Peng (2186)
9. Erwin Casareno (2181)
10. Alex T Ferreira (2024)

(Alex qualified the wildcard spot by virtue of his finish in last year's Open Reserves section.)

49 players showed up for the Reserves-Open section.. 20 players registered for the Reserves-U 1700 section. The total of 79 players is more than our average in the 2008-9 year of mid-70's players per tournament (though we had 86 players for the prior Jack Frost Swiss).

Scoring their first point in the Championship section in Rd. 1 on Feb. 25 were: master Rune Pedersen (against master John Hall), WIM/master Yuanling Yuan (against master Karl Sellars), master Kevork Hacat (against expert Alex Ferreira), expert Bill Peng (against master Andrei Moffat), and expert Erwin Casareno (against master Bryan Lamb).

Games will be collected each week (the handing in of the white score sheet is mandatory), but there will be no games of this tournament sent out to members in database format, nor published, until the tournament has concluded. This is because of the new policy adopted at the September 2009-10 SCC AGM concerning, score sheets, the games database, and the newsletter. If you are interested in finding out about this new policy, just e-mail me at bobarm@sympatico.ca and I will forward to you the new policy. My thanks to SCC member Ken Kurkowski who is now volunteering to work with me on entering the SCC games each week into the tournament database, which will be sent out to members when the tournament is concluded. He has also now volunteered to help me analyze possible games for the newsletter, when they can be published.

A Bit of History - 1977 Scarborough/Indianapolis Peace Game Photo – Can You Help?



Eric Malmsten (in red) submitted this pic with a few questions:

1. Is it Jim Paterson or Gary Ruben sitting on the left?
2. Erik believes he was the TD – anyone know for sure?
3. Who was the Scarborough CC Captain? – some possibles – Joe Deidun Jr.; Al MacDonald?

If you have a good memory, send me your answers (bobarm@sympatico.ca).

Express Your INNER Self !!

Got a chess issue that has been bothering you for a while? Got a favourite chess topic that you've always wanted to share with other chess players? Read something in SCTCN&V that you profoundly agreed with, or maybe (surely not !) disagreed with?

SCTCN&V may be for you. We are very open to publishing freelance articles from our readers – David Cohen and Erik Malmsten have presented us with material in the past. Now we have a new columnist, Rick Garel. Maybe there's a writer inside just waiting to get going !

Also, if you would like us to cover some topic, send us your idea, and we'll see if we can write something up on it.

This may be the chance you've been waiting for ! Want to express your inner self???

Toronto Open

When: April 2nd, 3rd, 4th (Fri, Sat, Sun)

Where: Music & East Common/Debates Room, 2nd Floor, Hart House, University of Toronto
7 Hart House Circle, Toronto

Style: 6 round Swiss in 5 sections: Open (FIDE Rated), U2200, U2000, U1800 & U1600

Rounds: 10am & 4pm Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Time Control: 30/90, SD/60 for U2200, U2000, U1800 & U1600 --- 120 minutes with 30 second increment for Open Section.

Entry Fees: \$70 in advance, \$80 cash only on site. Extra \$10 to play up each section.

Registration: 9am – 9:30am on Friday, April 2nd

Registrants after 9:30am are not guaranteed to be paired by 10am

In advance (arrival by April 1st) 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 (by April 1st) Email registrants must arrive onsite by 9:30am to pay or will be charged onsite fee.

Tournament Director: Bryan Lamb

Organizer: Hart House Chess Club

Please bring sets and clocks.

No smoking. No computers. No cell phones (on).

For all the detailed information, including:

- Printable flyer with all the above information
- Access/Maps & parking info
- Prize fund projection
- Pre-Registered list of players

Visit our website at:

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

Canadian Junior 2010

April 30th – May 4th (Fri - Tue)

South Dining Room, 2nd floor, Hart House, University of Toronto
7 Hart House Circle, Toronto

Eligibility: Open for Canadian players born after Jan 1st, 1990

Style: 9 round Swiss

Rounds: 6pm Friday evening, 10am & 4pm Saturday through Tuesday

Time Control: 90 mins for 40 moves, 30 minutes added + 30 sec inc from move 1

Registration: In advance by Monday, April 26th

In advance (arrival by April 26th) 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 inquiries to alex.ferreira@utoronto.ca

Players registering on April 30th will not be paired for Round 1.

Membership: Registrants must be current CFC members or bring payment prior to playing.

Entry Fees: \$150 in advance, \$180 from April 27th to April 29th, \$200 on April 30th.

Byes: Maximum of 3 in rounds 1-8.

Hart House: 10 minute walk Southeast from St. George subway station or 5 minute walk Southwest from Museum subway station.

The 2010 Canadian Junior Champion will be Canada's representative at the 2010 World Junior which will take place in Poland in August and get subsidy in the value of two thirds of entries fees to cover expenses. 2nd place will be entitled to represent Canada at the 2010 Pan-American event.

Other Info: No Smoking. All equipment provided.

Event will be rated by CFC and FIDE.

For parking and access information please visit our website.

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

Organizer: Hart House Chess Club

HART HOUSE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
416.978.2452 www.harthouse.utoronto.ca

2010 Ontario Open Chess Championship (early notice)

Dates: Victoria Day Weekend, Saturday – Monday, May 22 – 24, 2010

Place: 918 Bathurst Street, two blocks north of Bloor Street West

Rounds: 6, two rounds per day at 10:00am and 4:00pm

Type: Swiss, Open, under 2000, under 1600

TC: Game in 150 minutes per player

EF: \$90 (\$10 discount before March 1st, 2010) \$60 for students in K–12 or in full-time attendance at university during the summer; seniors age 65+; players with FIDE titles of WFM, FM, WIM, or IM (\$10 discount before March 1st, 2010).

Free entry with advance registration before March 1st, 2010 only for WGM, GM.

Prizes: \$9,000 (based on 200 entries)

Contact: To register send an e-mail to Ted Winick at ted@chessinstitute.ca with the words "Ontario Open" in the subject line. www.chessinstitute.ca Mail entries to: Chess Institute of Canada, 41 Nina St. Toronto, ON, M5R 1Z5. Deadline to enter is Monday May 17, 2010.

Make your cheque or money order payable to “Chess Institute of Canada”.

2010 CANADIAN OPEN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP (early notice)

JULY 10TH to JULY 18TH

LOCATION: Westin Harbour Castle

Downtown **Toronto**. See following page for map (website given at end).

STYLE: 9 Round Swiss System, Single Section, CFC and FIDE rated.

Accelerated pairings will be used in early rounds.

TIME CONTROL: 40 moves in 90 minutes, 30 minutes for remainder (with 30 second increments from move 1).

SCHEDULE: Saturday July 10th Opening Ceremony & Round 1 6:00pm Sharp

July 11th- July 16th Rounds 2-7 6:00pm Daily

Saturday July 17th Round 8 2:00pm

Sunday July 18th Round 9 10:00am

Sunday July 18th Awards Banquet / Presentation 6:00pm

For other side events, including Canadian Speed Chess Championship, GM simuls and lectures, see website

PRIZE FUND: \$ 30,000+ Guaranteed! (see following page for details).

ENTRY FEE: \$175 per person (Early bird Special to April 30), thereafter \$195. **Deadline July 6th**. To enter see details / entry form on following page.

ACCOMMODATION: Special Chess Rate of only **\$99.00** is being offered by the luxurious Westin Harbour Castle. **Book early**; a limited number of rooms are available at this rate.

BYES: Maximum of 3 ½-point byes available in rounds 1-8

EQUIPMENT: Please bring chess sets and digital clocks, if you have them.

CHIEF ARBITER: Hal Bond, I.A. halbond@sympatico.ca

ORGANIZERS: Greater Toronto Chess League

Michael Barron 416 739-6257 barron045@yahoo.com

Brian Fiedler 416 733-3199 fiedlerbrian@yahoo.com.au

WEBSITES: www.chess.ca www.monroi.com

PRIZE FUND Overall

DETAILS:

Tournament Placement

Prizes

1st	\$ 6,500
2nd	\$ 3,500
3rd	\$ 2,500
4th	\$ 1,500
5th	\$ 1,500
6th	\$ 500
7th	\$ 500
8th	\$ 500
9th	\$ 500
10th	\$ 500

(Below is full flyer



2010 Canadian Open
Flyer Final.pdf

or go to <http://www.chess.ca/misc2009/2010CANOP.pdf>)

Members enjoy an evening at SCC !



(picture by Erik Malmsten)

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.
C – The opinions expressed here are those of the editor, and not necessarily those of the Scarborough CC.
D - To review this newsletter after it has been deleted, or some of the archived newsletters, visit our own SCTCN&V official website at : <http://scarboroughchess.webhop.net>.
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