

**Scarborough Chess Club
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, September 8, 2005
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
The Jack Goodlad Community Centre
929 Kennedy Road
Scarborough, Ontario, Canada**

Minutes

Present: Donal Déiseach
Wilf Ferner
Rick Garel
Steve Karpik (minutes)
Bryan Lamb
Jim Paterson
Andrew Philip
Alexander Rapoport
Maurice Smith
Ted Termeer

1) Welcome

SCC President Bryan Lamb welcomed everyone to the 2005-2006 Annual General Meeting.

2) Minutes of 2004 AGM

The minutes were approved as presented.

3) President's Report

Bryan Lamb reported on highlights of the 2004-2005 club activities. A copy of his report is included in Appendix A.

4) Vice President's Report

Maurice Smith presented the Vice President's Report. A copy of his report is included in Appendix B.

5) Treasurer's Report

Andrew Philip submitted a financial report for 2004-2005 (see Appendix C). He also provided a copy of last year's financial report for comparison (see Appendix D). In the ensuing discussion it was noted that CFC rating fees were considerably higher in 2003-2004 than in 2004-2005. It was suggested that a plausible explanation for this fact is that Bryan Lamb had paid some fees out of his own pocket for 2004-2005 and had not requested reimbursement. Bryan and Andrew agreed that the amount owed to Bryan is at most between \$100 and \$150. Taking this amount into account, the 2004-2005 rating fees look appropriate. Andrew pointed out that late in 2004/2005 procedures had

been instituted whereby, except in extraordinary circumstances, payments are to be made by the Treasurer alone in order to keep better track of expenditures.

The financial report was accepted as presented.

6) Secretary's Report

Steve Karpik presented a report from the secretary. Highlights included:

- The web site (www.ScarboroughChessClub.ca) continued to be an important and effective communication tool for the club.
- Members of the chess community were not only receiving information about the club from the web site, but also from emailing the associated email address (info@ScarboroughChessClub.ca) which was answered by Steve or forwarded on to appropriate club members for response.
- Steve regularly posted announcements of club activities to ChessTalk (www.ChessTalk.com) on topics like the Thursday Swiss tournaments, the Active, and our AGM, as well as our new home address when we moved from the Legion to the Goodlad Community Centre.
- An updated brochure was created in time for the Labour Day Open to publicize the club and its activities. Approximately 50 were distributed at the tournament, leaving just over 50 for distribution at other venues.

7) Other Business from the Past Year

Wilf Ferner pointed out that the CFC web site had an incorrect address for the club. Steve promised to follow up to get the proper address listed, but noted that he had informed them previously of the club's move to the Goodlad Community Centre.

Wilf also applauded the club for running the CFC-rated weekend tournaments that it organized last year.

8) Election of President

Bryan Lamb was acclaimed as President for 2005-2006.

9) Election of Vice President

Maurice Smith and Rick Garel both stood for election. A secret ballot was held, and Maurice was declared the winner.

10) Election of Treasurer

Andrew Philip was acclaimed as Treasurer for 2005-2006.

11) Election of Secretary

Steve Karpik was acclaimed as Secretary for 2005-2006.

12) Election of Junior Representative

The position of Junior Representative went vacant.

13) Election of Officer-at-Large

Rick Garel was acclaimed as Officer-at-Large for 2005-2006.

14) New Business

a) GTCL Teams

Over the summer Maurice Smith convinced the GTCL that its form of league play was largely meaningless to most club players in Toronto. Team members frequently were highly rated experts or masters who had no attachment to the club they were representing. Maurice suggested setting up an "Under 2000" league. The GTCL agreed and Maurice offered to create rules for the league. As a result of Maurice's initiative, the GTCL will be running an under 2000 chess league for 2005-2006. Maurice encouraged club members to become involved with the SCC team. Our Officer-at-Large Rick Garel will coordinate the SCC team. A roster will hopefully be set before the end of September 2005. Four players will be required, although more can be on the roster to handle situations when a given player cannot play on a certain night.

b) Club Championship

The 2004-2005 Club Championship was a great success. For the first time in recent memory, the top section of the Club Championship required a \$40 entry fee which was fully diverted to the prize fund for that section. This seemed to create some additional interest in the Club Championship. In 2004-2005, we permitted non-CFC members to join the club for the duration of the tournament at a cost of \$20. Maurice Smith argued that it was unfair to have spots in the top section occupied by individuals who had no real attachment to the club. Maurice proposed that for 2005-2006, we still permit outsiders to play in our Club Championship, but that they must take out a six-month membership in the club. Maurice also proposed that for 2005-2006, the top three finishers in the reserve section be granted a place in the premier section independent of their ratings. For years after 2005-2006, only the top two from the reserve section will receive this invitation. Both of Maurice's proposals were approved by the membership.

c) Bryan's Dead Laptop

Bryan announced at the AGM that the laptop that he was using for pairings had died. In the discussion that followed, it was suggested that a new laptop was needed, especially if Bryan might be too busy on certain days to arrive at the club on time to do pairings. A laptop with good pairing software would mean that other members of the Executive could look after pairings for an evening's play. Steve offered to look for a suitable used inexpensive laptop. If a club member couldn't donate one for free, a maximum of \$300 was allocated for this expenditure. This proposal was approved by the members.

15) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m. The next AGM is scheduled for the first Thursday following Labour Day in 2006 (Thursday, September 7, 2006).

Appendix A: SCC President's Report 2004-2005 by Bryan Lamb

This year, as has been for several years, has seen some changes for the club. We moved again, from the Royal Canadian Legion Hall to the Jack Goodlad Community Centre. Since the year 2000 we have had five different locations of the club and moved five times. We have played in cramped quarters, in unusual locations, with dwindling financial reserves but have survived all this turmoil which would have likely seen the end of many other clubs in similar circumstances. This survival is due to the loyalty of the club's membership and the good leadership of its executive members.

We now find ourselves in a reasonably located, reasonably sized, reasonably priced locale which we hope will be for a reasonable length of time. We are now finally in a position where we can hope for some stability and this past year indicates that with current membership levels, we should be able to rebuild financial stability for the club over the next couple of years.

The outgoing executive (Steve Karpik, Andrew Philip, Maurice Smith) consists of members who have been with the club a long time and who have a great deal of experience on executive boards. The club has been helped to take an important step in the right direction which hopefully can be furthered in the next year. I am happy with the makeup of the executive and welcome their return if they so choose.

The club championship round this year was competitive, with A class, expert level and even master level play. Tying for second were members Imtiaz Husain and Ismail Ibrahim, and somehow I managed to win the event, though several players gave me difficult games including Jim Paterson and two of our young new members last year, Brendan Fan and Matthew Lai. I would support a similar format this year with the added proviso that players in the top section hold a minimum 6 month membership in the club.

One individual the executive thought should be acknowledged formally is Bob Armstrong. Over the last six years he has developed a regular publication, Scarborough Community of Toronto Chess News and Views. With interesting articles and games, tournament reports, Bob has really done an excellent job with this and we appreciate that his work helps give the club another face to the Toronto chess community. Thank you, Bob for all your hard work and we appreciate what you are doing.

I foresee that my association with the Scarborough Chess Club will continue for a long time. However in view of my marriage this past summer it is more difficult to foresee the amount of time I will have to invest in the club in the coming years. I am still prepared to serve the club as its President this year but I may need to rely on some more assistance from other members in the running of the club. In the past year on some occasions when I have been unable to be at the club for the round start, Maurice Smith has filled in to get things running, and when I am able to make it to the club I can close up shop.

There will be more occasions when this will occur in the coming year, but I think there should be at least one other person who is prepared to act as my substitute apart from Maurice.

I trust that the next executive will retain and improve on the commitment to returning this club to stable, consistent and well attended operation.

Respectfully,

Bryan Lamb

Appendix B: SCC Vice-President's Report by Maurice Smith

As Vice-President of the Scarborough Chess Club, my main claim to fame this year was to acquire the Goodlad Community Centre for our club. It started when I contacted my Councillor, Michael Thompson, and advised him that the SCC had been in business for 45 years and needed a new home. Subsequently, a lady who worked for the City out of the McGregor Community Centre called me and said she had a possible site to show me. It was the Goodlad Community Centre, where we are now. The rate was much higher than we could have afforded. I negotiated it down to what we were paying at the Legion, I notified the Executive and we agreed to take it. Subsequently, I have been involved in securing the permit each time one is required, and I also pick up the key each week and open up for the club.

Other than that, the President has asked my opinion on Chess Club matters over the year and I have offered my advice. Also I convened two Executive meetings at my home. It has been a pleasure to work with this Executive.

Maurice Smith

**Appendix C: Scarborough Chess Club 2004-2005 Financial Report
As of September 8, 2005
Submitted by Andrew Philip, Treasurer**

Bank Balance at September 9, 2004: \$1,364.42

Revenues:

Club Memberships	\$2,695.00
Tournament Fees	648.00
CFC Rebates	<u>14.40</u>
Total Revenues	\$3,357.40

Expenses:

Rent	\$1,640.00
Tournament Prizes	375.00
CFC Rating Fees	189.00
SCC Website/Brochures	<u>163.43</u>
Total Expenses	\$2,367.43

Net Income: \$989.97

Bank Balance at July 29, 2005: \$2,354.39

Treasurer's Opinion

Our financial position has strengthened considerably over the last year. Net income was much stronger than in the previous season. Revenues from memberships declined, but the shortfall was more than made up in tournament fees. On the operating expense side, we saved nearly \$200 on rent expenses over the prior year. We also had no equipment expenditures this year. Rating fee expenses were down considerably compared to last year which warrants further investigation with the club manager.

Even with this improved financial position, we should remain aware of the risk for potential expense increases, particularly in the area of hall rental. I see no justification for a membership fee increase or decrease at this time, although this decision ultimately lies with the members and the new executive.

Andrew Philip, Treasurer

September 8, 2005

**Appendix D: Scarborough Chess Club Financial Report, as of September 9, 2004
Submitted by Martin Maister, Treasurer**

Balance at September 4, 2003: \$1,237.71

Income:

Club Membership:	\$2,849.50
CFC Rebates:	\$65.15
In Trust:	\$36.00
Total Income:	\$2,950.65

Expenses:

Rent Royal Canadian Legion:	\$1,600.00
Rent Stan Wadlow:	\$233.28
Rating fees:	\$612.00
Clocks:	\$222.23
Website:	\$139.04
Stationary:	\$17.39
Total Expenses:	\$2,823.94

Profit: \$126.71

Add Profit: \$126.71

Balance at September 9, 2004: \$1,364.42

Our financial situation seems good as the balance increased by \$126.71.

We should be aware of the following:

- A “slight increase” is not very healthy, as we should allow for the safety margin (e.g. sudden expenses).
- Next year our membership will likely be reduced by a few players. If so, our balance would be decreasing.
- Our finances are definitely not “bad”. The next executive, however, should not neglect the situation. We must find a plan to increase membership and/or reduce expenses, before it catches up with us in the future.