

**Scarborough Chess Club
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, September 1, 2011
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Birkdale Community Centre
1299 Ellesmere Road
Scarborough, Ontario, Canada**

Minutes—Draft

Present: Bob Armstrong
Hamid Azizi
John Graham
Steve Karpik
Ken Kurkowski
Bryan Lamb
Martin Maister
Jim Mourgelai
Jim Paterson
Andrew Philip
M. Hassan Pishdad
Raymond Raphael
Maurice Smith
Pino Verde

1) Welcome

Scarborough Chess Club (SCC) President Maurice Smith welcomed everyone to the 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

2) Minutes of 2010 AGM

The 2010 AGM minutes were approved as presented.

3) President's Report

Maurice Smith reported on highlights of the 2010-2011 club activities. Maurice circulated the President's Report (see Appendix A).

4) Vice President's Report

Bryan Lamb presented the Vice President's Report (see Appendix B). Bryan noted that he has served on the SCC Executive for fourteen years and has decided to step back and not stand for elected office for the coming year. He will continue to act in the role of Tournament Director for the club.

5) Treasurer's Report

Andrew Philip submitted a Financial Report for 2010-2011 (see Appendix C).

6) Secretary's Report

Steve Karpik presented the Secretary's Report (see Appendix D).

7) Officer-at-Large Report

Martin Maister presented the Officer-at-Large's report (see Appendix E).

8) Elections of Executive Committee Members

Bob Armstrong thanked the 2010-2011 Executive Committee members for their hard work over the past year.

a) Election of President

Maurice Smith was acclaimed as President for 2011-2012.

b) Election of Vice President

David Krupka was acclaimed as Vice President for 2011-2012.

c) Election of Treasurer

Ken Kurkowski was acclaimed as Treasurer for 2011-2012.

d) Election of Secretary

Steve Karpik was acclaimed as Secretary for 2011-2012.

e) Election of Officer-at-Large

Hamid Azizi was acclaimed as Officer-at-Large for 2011-2012.

9) New Business

a) Forfeits

It was decided that a strict rule of forfeit will now be enforced where a player gives no notice to the executive of not attending and fails to appear in one hour. There will no longer be re-pairing of those whose opponents have not shown up; rather, they will get assigned a rated win by forfeit.

b) Sections

It was proposed to replace last year's three section structure (2000+, U2000 and U1600) with two sections (1800+ and U1800). There was lively discussion on the merits of two versus three sections, and where break points should be. It was finally decided by majority vote to try out the two sections (1800+ and U1800) for the first tournament of the season, the Howard Ridout Memorial Swiss. Players in the 1700s will have the option to play in the top group if they wish.

The Executive Committee was asked to solicit input from members during this experiment, and receive any other proposals for upcoming tournaments. The Executive will decide whether or not to continue the new format before the start of the second tournament.

c) Incentives

- Club Champion and Most Improved Player Incentives

It was agreed that, starting in 2011-2012, the Club Champion and the most improved player will each win one free membership for a year.

- Junior Incentives

Andrew proposed a new sponsorship initiative to support and encourage promising juniors – the Junior Support Fund. Given the club’s healthy financial position, he proposed allocating \$500 to \$1,000 in 2011-2012 on junior development through out-side-of-club tournament participation. Suggested ideas included:

- contributing toward those SCC age group winners of the Ontario Youth Chess Championship to compete in the Canadian Youth Chess Championship (CYCC); and
- holding a CYCC qualifier, and helping the winners with expenses for attending the CYCC.

There was broad support for the Junior Support Fund. It was decided to empower the Executive Committee to develop funding criteria prior to the start of the second tournament of the 2011-2012 season.

d) FIDE Rules: Sudden Death Game Claims

It was noted that members need more education on what claims can be made just before the end of time. To remedy this situation, Maurice Smith volunteered to draft a simplified “Rules Help Sheet” for members.

e) Cell Phones

It was decided that if a player’s cell phone rings in the playing hall, s/he will be given an automatic forfeit. If the parent of a player’s cell phone rings, s/he will be asked to spend the rest of the evening in the hallway.

10) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next AGM is scheduled for the first Thursday in September (Thursday, September 6, 2012).

Appendix A: Scarborough Chess Club 2010-2011 President's Report

Submitted by Maurice Smith

This past year was another good one for the Scarborough Chess Club. Membership topped the 100 mark and has stayed there. The majority of new members are Juniors and that is very promising for the future of the Club. All of our tournaments had many entries in each section, providing very competitive events.

Our finances are sound and there is an increase in the funds we have on hand from last year. This is important as we face the challenges of the future. Rent is up about \$160.00 from last year. We cannot be sure how many of the current membership will be back or how many new members will join. There will be competition from new chess clubs that will challenge the ways we attract and keep our members.

Our assets are the very nice playing location, our flexible payment system, the database and the Newsletter. Our greatest asset has been the dedication of the Executive. I wish to sincerely thank Bryan, Andrew, Steve and Martin for all the time they put in for the Club and the quality of their work. The Club could not function without all the volunteers who set up boards, sets and clocks, put board numbers and score sheets out and help put away equipment when games are finished. It is to the Club's credit that there are too many of these volunteers to list here, but they all know who they are.

So we look to the future with confidence. We are solid in all aspects of our organization. No matter the challenges that may come, we are in a great position to build on what we have. With a new Executive, our army of volunteers and an amazing variety of members, I look forward to another good year for the Scarborough Chess Club.

Appendix B: Scarborough Chess Club 2010-2011 Vice-President's Report

Submitted by Bryan Lamb

This year there were some family responsibilities and personal commitments that made it difficult for me to attend the club regularly because they fell on Thursdays. Resulting from this I played rather little chess as well last year. When I was present I aided in packing up materials at the end of the night and acting as tournament director. When not present the TD duties would have fallen to either Alex Ferreira or other members of the executive. I was normally available by phone in case any consultation was required, however in my recollection there were no occasions where this was necessary.

In my view the other members of the executive handled their responsibilities in their usual more-than-competent manners. I don't think I need to go to great lengths to point out the good things that Steve, Andrew, Maurice and of course Martin have done and continue to do. The combination of experience, dependability, and cooperation that they bring to the executive is a very valuable asset to the club, and it has been an honour to serve with them.

Sometimes it feels good to be needed, but to be honest there are also times when it feels good not to be needed too much. In view of both the recent difficulties I have had in making a regular commitment to the club and more importantly of some increased interest among other members in taking on club responsibilities, I feel that it is an appropriate time for me to temporarily step aside from the executive, after serving for 14 consecutive years, two as treasurer, nine as president and three as vice president. I get a needed break, and the club gets to see a new face or two or perhaps three on the executive.

I still offer my tournament directing experience to the club in whatever capacity it is deemed to be useful. Even if the executive decides to put someone else "in charge" I am still available to consult if needed. Friendly chess doesn't preclude the occasional unusual situation arising from time to time.

I wish the 2011-2012 executive all the best and confidently look forward to another successful year for the club.

Appendix C: Scarborough Chess Club 2010-2011 Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Andrew Philip

Opening Balance at August 31, 2010: **\$9,862.60**

Revenues:

Club Memberships	\$9,860.00
CFC Dues Collected	2,745.00
Coffee & Concession	<u>271.22</u>
Total Revenues	\$12,876.22

Expenses:

Rent	\$5,415.97
CFC Rating Fees	1,497.00
CFC Dues Remitted	2,745.00
Website Hosting/Domain Name	270.52
Coffee Supplies	224.19
Trophies	101.33
Chess Equipment	753.93
Grand Prix Prizes	500.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	60.96
Bank/Misc Charges	124.15
Adjustment for stale dated cheque	(460.32)
Total Expenses	\$11,232.73

Net Income: **\$1,643.49**

Closing Balance at August 18, 2011: **\$11,506.09**

Treasurer's Opinion

The Club continues to maintain its strong financial position. This is the fifth season in a row of continued improved fiscal health for the Club with the 2010/2011 financials showing a significant improvement in performance over 2009/2010. Our cash balance is now over \$11,000.

Strong club membership continues to be the primary contributor to the excellent financial performance. Both the Executive and the Membership are to be commended for their continued support of the all-important membership fee collection process.

Two years ago, the Executive introduced a more rigorous process to confirm members CFC dues are not in arrears, and for collection and remittance of CFC dues paid through our Club courtesy program. The 3rd year of this program resulted in the largest CFC dues collection numbers we have seen to date.

Last season, we faced a fairly sizeable 20% increase in hall rental costs under the new permit. The Executive took the difficult decision to increase membership fees to compensate for the increased operating costs. This action has had a positive effect on our financials that contributes to the long term stability of the Club. No further membership fee increases are proposed for this year.

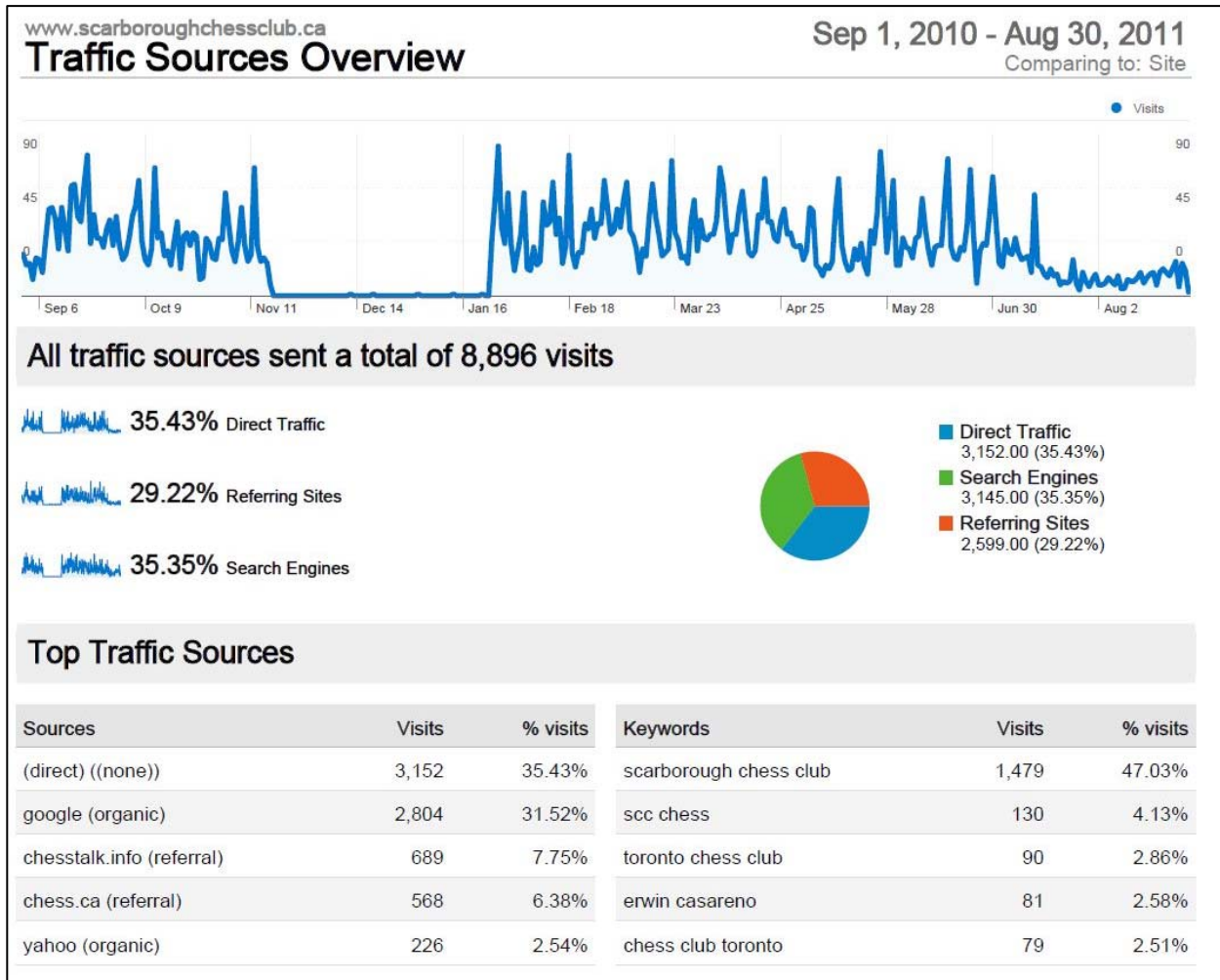
While the Club is always prudent with its spending, it is my opinion that the Club is now financially stable enough to consider setting aside a modest annual budget for sponsorship opportunities and/or offering special events from time to time to the membership. This type of contribution to the game is a hallmark of all the great chess clubs around the world and I believe SCC with its 50 year history stands proudly amongst the very best. I encourage the new Executive to consider this idea commencing this season.

I will close by reiterating my mantra from the past few years that the key to the Club's well-being is a healthy, active membership. The Executive and Club membership should continue to keep a strong focus on maintaining current membership and recruiting new members to replace those that inevitably drop off.

Appendix D: Scarborough Chess Club 2010-2011 Secretary’s Report

Submitted by Steve Karpik

We had another great year at the Scarborough Chess Club. Membership continues to increase and our web site (www.scarboroughchessclub.ca) is serving to get timely, accurate information out to current and potential members as well as the chess community at large.



From September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011, we had **8,896** visits to the web site. Note that Google Analytics was unavailable from early November 2010 through early January 2011 so the data represent web traffic for roughly 10 months. This compares to **6,546** visits from mid-December 2009 (when Google Analytics was first available to us) through August 31, 2009, a period of just over 8 months.

I’ve enjoyed volunteering as club Secretary over the past few years and am interested and willing to stand for election in the position for 2010-2011.

Appendix E: Scarborough Chess Club 2010-2011 Officer-at-Large's Report

Submitted by Martin Maister

Sales totaled \$271.22. Purchases were \$224.19. This yielded \$47.03 net profit for the year. I believe that we never did make big profits from the coffee, it is a service for the club. It was my pleasure to help provide that service this past year.

Out of interest, I looked carefully for patterns e.g. more coffee sales at any particular time of year.

Looking at the numbers, I could not find any pattern at all. Evidently Chess players like coffee equally at all times of the year!

I only noticed one interesting pattern. On six evenings, we made over \$10. Four of those six, were the last Thursday of the month. That is interesting, but I think coincidence.

It was a pleasure to help serve the club for this year.