

**Scarborough Chess Club
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2009
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
The Jack Goodlad Community Centre
929 Kennedy Road
Scarborough, Ontario, Canada**

Minutes

Present: Bob Armstrong
Joe Bellomo
Alex Ferreira
Doug Gillis
Steve Karpik
Dave Krupka
Bryan Lamb
Yuanling Yuan
Martin Maister
Mario Moran-Venegas
Jim Paterson
Andrew Philip
Hassan Pishdad
Abdolreza Radpey
Will Rutherford
Maurice Smith
Ted Termeer
Pino Verde

1) Welcome

Scarborough Chess Club (SCC) President Maurice Smith welcomed everyone to the 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

2) Minutes of 2008 AGM

The 2008 AGM minutes were approved as presented.

3) President's Report

Maurice Smith reported on highlights of the 2008-2009 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).

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5) Treasurer's Report

Andrew Philip submitted a Financial Report for 2008-2009 (see Appendix C). There was a recommendation from the Treasurer to hold the membership fees unchanged. Pino Verde suggested that in return for their services, members of the SCC Executive should have their membership fees waived. The current executive unanimously declined Pino's offer.

The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

6) Secretary's Report

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

7) Officer-at-Large Report

Martin Maister verbally presented the Officer-at-Large's report. Martin remarked that the club is running very smoothly; so smoothly that only one meeting of the Executive was required in the last year.

8) Other Business from the Past Year

It was noted that the washrooms still suffer from the smell of urine and the club should ask the Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PF&R) Division of the City of Toronto to add another toilet or extraction fan. Maurice said he would follow up with the City to try to resolve this matter once and for all.

9) Elections of Executive Committee Members

a) Election of President

Maurice Smith was acclaimed as President for 2009-2010.

b) Election of Vice President

Bryan Lamb was acclaimed as Vice President for 2009-2010.

c) Election of Treasurer

Andrew Philip was acclaimed as Treasurer for 2009-2010.

d) Election of Secretary

Steve Karpik was acclaimed as Secretary for 2009-2010.

e) Election of Officer-at-Large

Martin Maister was acclaimed as Officer-at-Large for 2009-2010.

10) New Business

a) Scarborough Championship

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.

b) Publishing Games

A new policy regarding the publishing of games played at the club was presented. The proposed policy requires:

- All games are to be recorded on carbonless score sheets and each player is responsible for handing in the original copy of their game;
- All games are eligible for inclusion in the SCC game database. There is no guarantee that any game will actually appear there, however. Players cannot veto the inclusion of one of their games in the database;
- Selected games from the database may be analyzed and appear in the club newsletter. However, the publication of games from a tournament will be delayed until the end of the tournament. If both players of a game wish to exclude their game from the newsletter publication, they have that right. A single player on his/her own cannot veto the inclusion of a game in the newsletter.

The proposed policy was voted on and was carried with 16 in favour with 2 abstentions.

c) Alternate Location

It was agreed that the club is close to the capacity of our current location at the Jack Goodlad Community Centre. There are no obvious affordable alternate sites. Requirements for a site are:

- Appropriate tables and chairs;
- Affordable;
- Storage space for chess equipment;
- Good access by public transit;
- Parking; and
- A central Scarborough location that works for our membership that comes from all over the Toronto region.

Maurice is going to continue to investigate other locations.

d) 50th Anniversary Event

The club is planning some sort of chess event to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Maurice has suggested the possibility of a one-day active tournament. David Krupka proposed that a knock-out format tournament could be interesting. The Executive will continue to work on putting together an event for the spring of 2010.

e) Link to Library Chess Program

The successful program initiated by Yuanling Yuan was commended by the Executive and membership. To support the Chess in the Library program, the club will place a link to the Chess in the Library web site on the SCC home page.

f) 2010 Club Championship

The Club Championship will be the fourth tournament of the 2009-2010 chess season after the Howard Ridout Memorial Swiss, the Falling Leaves Swiss, and the Jack Frost Swiss.

g) Club Database

William Rutherford raised the issue that the club database is being distributed in a proprietary format (ChessBase compressed database). William expressed the opinion that the games should

be distributed in a more universally-accessible form like PGN. Our database maintainer, Bob Armstrong, said that meeting William's requirement was outside of his technical capabilities. It was decided therefore, to continue maintaining the database in ChessBase format unless another volunteer found a way to convert compressed ChessBase databases into PGN format and was willing to perform the conversion on a continuing basis.

11) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next AGM is scheduled for the first Thursday in September (Thursday, September 2, 2010).

Appendix A: Scarborough Chess Club 2008-2009 President's Report

Submitted by Maurice Smith

It was a very good year for the Scarborough Chess Club. Our bank balance more than doubled that of the previous year. Also, our membership increased so that we now have over 80 members. Their ages range from 6 years to the 70's. We now have the highest rated female player in Canada, in Yuanling Yuan. Our top players can compete well anywhere. We truly have a great mix of players in our membership.

This year we brought back the Grand Prix, where players get points for performance and attendance combined. The Club will be awarding a total of \$500. in prizes for the Grand Prix winners the first night of the new season.

The year would not have been successful without a strong Executive, and I believe we had one of the best. Our Vice President, Bryan Lamb, now one of the top Tournament Directors in the Country, directed our tournaments smoothly and effortlessly. His past Club experience in all areas helped the Executive to solve any problems that arose.

Our Treasurer, Andrew Philip kept a constant vigilance over our member's dues and therefore was able to keep good control over our revenues. His guidance on all things financial is reflected in the exceptionally good result shown in our financial bottom line.

The Club Secretary, Steve Karpik made all the pairings for the tournaments and handled all the problems that arose from no shows, etc. in an efficient manner. Steve also manages the website, which is a great advertisement for the Club.

The Officer at Large, Martin Maister contributed on all discussions, with his own brand of humor and insight. A club member dating back many years, Martin is a welcome addition to the Executive.

Success itself brings it own problems, such as the gradual lack of space. I have been informed by the City Administration for the Area, that nothing else is available and actually, our space is wanted by at least one other organization. Well, we have Goodlad for the coming year and would probably stay there forever, as long as we pay the rent. However, we will still look around and perhaps, with political help, maybe get a location that has more space.

This coming year is our 50th anniversary, so we would like to celebrate it in a number of ways. We plan to extend memberships by \$50 for tournament winners. A player can only win this once. Also, we are looking into the possibility of having a one-day tournament to celebrate, with a large cake, politicians, media coverage, and past players invited. The Canadian Open may be played in Toronto in 2010, and if so, we will try to sponsor a simul or lecture to keep our name in the news.

So, the last year was a great one. We have a great Club, due to our Members and our Executive. I look forward to having the best year yet with you all.

Appendix B: Scarborough Chess Club 2008-2009 Vice-President's Report

Submitted by Bryan Lamb

Prior to the commencement of the 2008-2009 season, Maurice Smith approached me regarding the SCC Presidency. After nine consecutive years as President, I didn't mind stepping aside and as long as Maurice has been at the club I would always have admitted there was at least one better person for the President's job than me.

Apart from the President – V.P. switch the Executive functioned in a similar way to the previous year with Andrew Philip and Steve Karpik both doing more than competent jobs at their respective posts.

As will be indicated by the Treasurer, our club's financial health has improved substantially however this only means that we are back to where we were more than a decade ago at Wexford Collegiate. We can afford some frills for the club's upcoming 50th year but we should not spend extravagantly, as we know from past experience there is no telling when the money in our account is going to become really necessary.

For my part, I attended the club approximately 35 out of the 40 weeks, occasionally taking a week off for family reasons with my two young children. As the main tournament director I insisted that I was available to consult on TD decision making even if I was absent, though no such case has ever arisen.

When I was present at the club I generally stayed until the end of the night and was usually the last one to leave the club premises. I tried to ensure that the club does not violate its 11:00 curfew. Many members have been helpful in putting chairs away at the end of the evening.

Steve Karpik handled the primary duties that related to operating the computer and making the pairings. I gave Steve directions as appropriate regarding how to handle any problems such as repairing players who had missing opponents. Andrew Philip also ran pairings on days that Steve Karpik was absent.

When tournaments were concluded, I sent the results of the tournament to the CFC for rating and handled payments for CFC membership renewals. The club reimbursed me in a timely fashion for these expenses. The physical collection of monies including CFC membership dues and club dues was handled chiefly by Andrew and Maurice.

I ran the club concession stand, which involved purchasing snacks and drinks and collecting monies from their sale. On days that I was absent Steve Karpik handled this duty for me. I remitted \$240.00 to the club at the end of the year from these sales, up from \$200 for the previous year. I believe this increase is consistent with an increased level of membership that the club has experienced. It may not seem like a lot but over the years it adds up.

I handled the responsibility of the newly returned SCC Grand Prix. I developed a method of determining scores which rewards a combination of regular attendance, points scored and performance rating. The goal of this method is to provide all members of the club with a reasonable chance of winning regardless of their playing strength. I believe that the formula I developed

does succeed at this, as evidenced by the fact that two of the top 4 finishers were players who increased their ratings substantially during their play at the club, while the other two top finishers were players who consistently scored highly in tournaments, played often and had a very good winning percentage. Two of the top four players generally played near the top boards, and the other two generally played in the "B" sections of the tournaments. I do believe the system could use some minor changes which I have already mostly worked out. I am willing to conduct a calculation of grand prix standings in the coming year regardless of whether the club decides to award prizes or not, as I feel that apart from the interest of competition it helps provide other useful statistics on the club's membership which I am prepared to produce a brief report on for next week.

There were a couple of issues that developed during the past year that some members raised concerns about. The executive needs to address these issues appropriately, however bearing in mind not only individual opinions but also that of the general membership, in issues that pertain to the general membership.

Speaking not for myself, the club has experienced and dependable people at its helm and this helps it remain vibrant and growing despite the increasingly cramped quarters. I believe the club does need to try to find some viable but affordable and practical plan to handle the possibility of overflow because we are still facing growth rather than a decline at the moment.

It has been a pleasure serving on the SCC executive with Andrew, Martin, Maurice and Steve and I would be willing to continue in the role of Vice President for the coming year provided that there is no other individual who would like to replace me at this position. It is still my intent to be at the club regularly although I do anticipate the possibility of having family commitments that may take me away to a greater extent this year. I would recommend that the club formally identify a deputy TD who will be charged with adjudication of issues in my absence. Obviously our esteemed President is more than capable of doing this, but I think it would be good to consider giving a responsibility of this nature to someone who may derive more benefit from it, such as Alex Ferreira if he is willing.

To conclude, I would like to extend a thank you to members of the club who have regularly supported GTCL events over the years and in particular this past year in which I have for the first time taken on the responsibility of Directing every major tournament in Toronto during the year, mostly by default. Although it would be amiss not to mention the important contributions of Alex Ferreira and the other SCC members who are also associated with the Hart House Chess Club, and also Randy Moysoski whose continued assistance with maintaining the St. Clement's, the Macedonian Church Hall which has been a mainstay of Toronto Chess for nearly 20 years now.

I look forward to the coming year, as we enter the club's 50th year and make preparations for bringing the Canadian Open back to Toronto. It should be an exciting year indeed.

Appendix C: Scarborough Chess Club 2008-2009 Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Andrew Philip

Opening Balance at August 31, 2008: **\$5,810.19**

Revenues:

Club Memberships	\$8,487.00
CFC Dues Collected	1,434.00
Coffee & Concession	<u>517.35</u>
Total Revenues	\$10,438.35

Expenses:

Rent	\$2,927.40
CFC Rating Fees	1,038.00
CFC Dues Remitted	1,421.00
Website Hosting/Domain Name	314.35
Coffee Supplies	114.79
Trophies	146.56
Chess Equipment	220.00
Grand Prix Prizes	500.00
Member Rebates	20.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	49.22
Bank Fees	0.00
Total Expenses	\$6,751.32

Net Income: **\$3,687.03**

Closing Balance at August 31, 2009: **\$9,497.22**

Treasurer's Opinion

The Club is in the strongest financial position in recent memory. This is the third season in a row of continued improved fiscal health for the Club with the 2008/2009 financials being a large step improvement in performance over 2007/2008. Our cash balance is over 60% higher than the previous year.

Significantly increased club membership was the primary contributor to the strong financial performance. Both the Executive and the Membership are to be commended for their continued support of the all-important fee collection process.

This season 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. Given our increase in CFC dues collected over prior seasons, the new procedures seem to have been a success.

For the new season, we will see a minor increase in hall rental costs. No other significant increases in spending are anticipated at this time. I recommend Club Membership dues remain at their current rates for the upcoming season.

Once again, I will reiterate 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.

Regards

Andrew Philip, Treasurer

September 3, 2009

Appendix D: Scarborough Chess Club 2008-2009 Secretary's Report

Submitted by Steve Karpik

The year 2008-2009 was yet another great year for the Scarborough Chess Club. We continue to attract new members to the club, ranging from novices to players of the highest calibre. The web site (www.scarboroughchessclub.ca) has been an excellent medium for getting the word out to the chess community at large about the club and our activities.

The web site was completely revamped this year. The main changes are:

- a reorganization of the sections to allow members to find information more easily;
- flexible font sizes to accommodate members who prefer larger fonts;
- a cleaner, more modern design.

The CFC introduced Swiss Sys as their preferred pairing program. This meant we switched away from Swiss Perfect. Among the benefits to the club in using Swiss Sys is tight integration with the CFC's membership database. This minimizes entry errors on our part (in either names or CFC numbers) and the ability to easily produce reports of which SCC members need to renew their CFC memberships. Out of date CFC memberships mean delays in getting our games rated. This new system allows us to get our tournaments rated more quickly because we can stay on top of CFC memberships.

What is new for 2009-2010? Some additional functionality for the web site was proposed in 2008-2009; however, Swiss Sys provided some of those functions, so the upgrade was postponed. In consultation with the Treasurer, I will see whether we can do some things with the web site to make the recordkeeping of SCC membership expiries more efficient.

I've enjoyed volunteering as club Secretary over the past couple of years and am interested and willing to stand for election in the position for 2009-2010.