

**Scarborough Chess Club
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, September 2, 2010
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Birkdale Community Centre
1299 Ellesmere Road
Scarborough, Ontario, Canada**

Minutes

Present: Bob Armstrong
Joe Bellomo
Alex Ferreira
Doug Gillis
Steve Karpik
Bryan Lamb
Martin Maister
Andre Moffat
Jim Paterson
Andrew Philip
Hassan Pishdad
Maurice Smith
Ted Termeer
Pino Verde

1) Welcome

Scarborough Chess Club (SCC) President Maurice Smith welcomed everyone to the 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

2) Minutes of 2009 AGM

The 2009 AGM minutes were approved as presented.

3) President's Report

Maurice Smith reported on highlights of the 2009-2010 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).

5) Treasurer's Report

Andrew Philip submitted a Financial Report for 2009-2010 (see Appendix C). The Financial Report was voted upon in two stages. First, all of the report with the exception of the proposed fee increases, was presented to the membership for approval. This was unanimously accepted as presented.

Second, the membership considered the proposal for a fee increase. As a result of increasing rental fees at the Birkdale Community Centre, it was proposed to increase membership fees to offset this rise in costs, as below:

	Proposed Fees			2009-2010 Fees		
	Regular	Senior	Junior	Regular	Senior	Junior
½ year	\$90	\$70	\$50	\$70	\$50	\$35
1 year	\$140	\$100	\$70	\$100	\$90	\$60
2 year	\$240	\$180	\$120	\$200	\$150	\$100

The new fees were approved unanimously, and it was agreed that they would go into effect on January 1, 2011.

6) Secretary's Report

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

Doug Gillis requested that in the future the web site posting of results contain information on who is playing black and who is playing white. It was agreed that this would be the practice in the future.

7) Officer-at-Large Report

Martin Maister verbally presented the Officer-at-Large's report. He suggested that the club needed to clarify its rules about attendance and lateness. This issue was deferred for discussion under "New Business" (see below).

8) Elections of Executive Committee Members

a) Election of President

Maurice Smith was acclaimed as President for 2010-2011.

b) Election of Vice President

Bryan Lamb was acclaimed as Vice President for 2010-2011.

c) Election of Treasurer

Andrew Philip was acclaimed as Treasurer for 2010-2011.

d) Election of Secretary

Steve Karpik was acclaimed as Secretary for 2010-2011.

e) Election of Officer-at-Large

Martin Maister was acclaimed as Officer-at-Large for 2010-2011.

9) Other Business from the Past Year

a) Club Championship

In order to ensure that the SCC Club Championship is indeed a championship for club members, it was decided to strengthen the qualification rules. Starting with this year's club

championship (beginning February 24, 2011), the round robin championship is open to the top-ranked nine players plus the winner of the 2009-2010 club championships reserve section. In addition, these players must satisfy the following:

- They must have played in at least ten club games since the beginning of the chess season (September 9, 2010); and
- They must hold valid club and CFC memberships for the duration of the tournament.

b) Grand Prix

It was noted that the Grand Prix results from 2009-2010 had not yet been tabulated. Bryan Lamb promised to present the results at the start of Round 1 of the Howard Ridout Memorial Swiss Tournament on September 9, 2010.

It was decided not to hold a Grand Prix in 2010-2011.

10) New Business

a) Club Closure Dates

It was noted that because of conflicting bookings at the Birkdale Community Centre and holidays, the club will be closed on the following Thursdays throughout the 2010-2011 season:

- October 7, 2010
- December 16, 2010
- December 23, 2010
- December 30, 2010
- May 5, 2011

Steve Karpik will post these closures on the web site.

b) Clarification of Byes and Late Rules

The following rules were approved:

- If a player needs a bye for a particular game, they must notify the club in advance. They can do this in two ways: either email regrets@scarboroughchessclub.ca by 5:00 p.m. on game day; or call one of the Executive Members before 6:00 p.m. by phone. All members are given Scarborough Chess Club business cards that list all the phone numbers of the Executive Members
- Failure to notify the club of an absence will result in a forfeited game and the player will not automatically be paired for the next round. Players who contact the club in time will be given a 1/2 point bye except in the last round of a tournament where a 0 point bye will be assigned.
- Players who know they are going to be late (for example, who find themselves stuck in traffic trying to get to the club) must call one of the Executive members. Games are scheduled to start promptly at 7:30 p.m.
- If a player hasn't shown up and they haven't called the Club by 7:45 p.m., the Club reserves the right to re-pair the late player's opponent and the late player will be given a bye if they show up after 7:45 p.m. Players are reminded that even if they call to say

they'll be late, the clock will be running and they will get a forfeit loss if they do not arrive by 8:30 p.m.

Steve Karpik will produce a handout with these rules for club members and will post them on the club's web site

c) New Structure for Swiss Tournaments

It was noted that the club continues to grow and is outgrowing the two-tiered Swiss format used in 2009-2010 (Open and U1700 sections). It was therefore proposed to adopt a new structure for the Thursday night Swiss tournaments. It was suggested that starting on September 9, 2010, the club's Swiss tournaments will be in three sections: 2000+, U2000 and U1700 plus unrated.

It was further proposed that players within 100 points of the rating floor of a higher section may elect to play up a section (so players rated 1900 to 1999 can elect to play in the 2000+ section and players rated 1600 to 1699 can similarly elect to play in the U2000 section). These sections will ensure that club members are paired in games that are competitive and exciting. There's also the incentive for players to improve their play in order to qualify to play in higher sections.

These proposals were unanimously approved.

d) Club Database

It was decided to post the club database managed by Bob Armstrong on the club's web site.

e) Donated Books

Maurice Smith spoke about the chess books that had been recently donated to the club by several members. He noted there isn't enough room at the club to store the books and one possibility is to hold a book sale. Andre Moffat expressed some interest in buying them.

f) Assistant Tournament Director

To accommodate occasions when Bryan Lamb cannot attend on a particular evening, it was decided to create a new position in the club – Assistant Tournament Director. Alex Ferreira was asked if he would take up this new position and he agreed. Bryan made it clear that he would always be available by phone should there be any issues that Alex would like to consult with him on. Normally Bryan will be Tournament Director and responsible for all questions regarding rules and disputes.

11) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next AGM is scheduled for the first Thursday in September (Thursday, September 1, 2011).

Appendix A: Scarborough Chess Club 2009-2010 President's Report

Submitted by Maurice Smith

I have been a Club member since 1976 and I think that this has been the best year ever for the Scarborough Chess Club. There were at least three highlights to choose from. First was the moving to our new location at Birkdale Community Centre. This is a wonderful place for the Club. Accessible by TTC and with plenty of free parking, it is easy to get to. Inside we play in the main room with good lighting and loads of space. A big plus for the Club. Once there, we invited Alexei Shirov, one of the top players in the world to do a simul against Club members. He proved to be very personable and it was an enjoyable night for all. In May we had our 50th anniversary party. Past members were invited to attend, and it was good seeing and chatting with members from previous years. A big cake and free refreshments for all, made it a great success.

Not to be overlooked in the good news stories of the past year, is the fact that we went over 100 in Club Memberships. This had not happened for a long time. The successful year owes much to the efforts of the Executive. We have been very fortunate to have four very dedicated members in Bryan, Andrew, Steve and Martin, working with me to make the Club what it is today. Also, we must remember Bob Armstrong for the database and the Newsletter. Finally, all the Club members who helped setting things up and those that helped to close up. Without these volunteers, the Club would not operate as well as it does.

There will be new challenges in the upcoming years. The rent for Birkdale has gone up quite substantially, so we must find the best way to resolve this financial situation. Our Treasurer will have more details. To meet any new challenges, all of our Executive have agreed to return, if nominated and elected. I have also changed my mind and agreed to run for President one more time. However, as always, the members have the final say.

With all the high rated players, class players and the new Juniors, I believe we will have another outstanding year. I look forward to seeing all our members again and playing a strong role in maintaining our status as the biggest and best chess club in Canada.

Appendix B: Scarborough Chess Club 2009-2010 Vice-President's Report

Submitted by Bryan Lamb

This year marked my second consecutive as the SCC Vice President, acting in a similar capacity as the previous year with the same fellow executive members. The club has been around for 50 years, and 2011 will mark for me 25 years of consecutive membership with the SCC.

The duties that I performed for the club in the past year were:

- Chief arbiter for the club events
- Working with Steve Karpik for pairings and general tournament issues related to the pairings
- Helping pack up and close most days that I was present for
- Remitting some tournament reports and memberships to the CFC
- Doing calculations to determine the winners of Grand Prix prizes during the year
- Managing club concession sales

I will prepare the report on the Grand Prix and send to Steve Karpik for website posting and Maurice Smith for administering the award ceremony.

I have not had as much time to devote to the club in the past year as previously, partly to demands of family and partly due to work related issues. I hope that I will miss fewer weeks this year and be more effective in my role, if I have one.

I am satisfied with the relocation of the club to its current locale. I think the biggest positive is the additional space, however I think the location is a preferable also, with fewer disruptions from outside the premises.

I think that the other executive members have all done a more than competent job at their respective positions and the executive as a whole works harmoniously together and easily works through minor differences of opinion. Though I would not discourage other club members from running for executive positions I certainly think that any of these gentlemen should be considered again if they choose to run.

Based on the rent increase we are facing, I am in agreement that a membership fee increase in line with this is called for. However given that the need is not immediate or dire, it was my suggestion to postpone any increase until January 1 2011 and to permit all current members to renew at the previous rate prior to this date. This means that in a practical sense, we are proposing to implement a fee increase this year that does not take practical effect until next year. I do not believe that we can afford to wait more than this year to make that change. This way we are giving fair warning, and considering that this is only the second increase in general membership rates in the past decade, it is important to understand that the executive is doing its best to manage the club in a financially responsible manner and to hold off on fee increases until they are felt to be really necessary. Playing at the SCC for one year, on a per game basis, costs only one fourth to one third of playing in weekend events.

May the club prosper for 50 more years!

Appendix C: Scarborough Chess Club 2009-2010 Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Andrew Philip

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

Revenues:

Club Memberships	\$8,135.00
CFC Dues Collected	1,980.00
Coffee & Concession	<u>280.90</u>
Total Revenues	\$10,395.90

Expenses:

Rent	\$3,796.78
CFC Rating Fees	1,278.00
CFC Dues Remitted	1,981.00
Website Hosting/Domain Name	251.37
Coffee Supplies	123.90
Trophies	123.52
Chess Equipment	738.57
Grand Prix Prizes	540.00
Member Rebates	95.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	62.40
Scoresheets	566.27
50 TH Anniversary Party	121.50
Shirov Simultaneous	125.00
Cabinet Repairs	73.33
Moving Expenses	124.56
Bank/Misc Charges	<u>29.32</u>
Total Expenses	\$10,030.52

Net Income: **\$365.38**

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

Treasurer's Opinion

The Club continues to maintain its strong financial position. This is the fourth season in a row of continued improved fiscal health for the Club with the 2009/2010 financials showing a nominal improvement in performance over 2008/2009. Our cash balance is approaching \$10,000.

Strong club membership continues to be 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.

Last year 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 2nd year of this program was even more successful than the first resulting in the largest CFC dues collection numbers we have seen to date.

For the new season, we unfortunately face a fairly sizeable 20% increase in hall rental costs under the new permit. Analysis of our yearly cost structure indicates that this level of increase uncompensated for would send the Club into a loss position for the upcoming year and create a destabilizing trend on our cash balance for future years. While the Club has healthy cash balance currently it is not in the best interests of the Club in terms of long term stability to allow this balance to draw down significantly.

In my opinion after the strong gains in Club membership numbers we saw in the past few years, membership is entering a levelling off period and thus we cannot rely on net membership gains to offset the rental increase. Thus the course of action I am recommending is for Club Membership dues to be increased from their current rates for the upcoming season.

This is not a decision the Executive has taken lightly. The Executive believes the current Club Hall is a positive in all respects for the Club and has no desire at this time to seek out other options.

Naturally, the Club intends to be prudent with its spending, yet at the same time the Executive would prefer to have enough flexibility financially to continue to be able to offer interesting special events from time to time to the membership. This is a hallmark of all the great chess clubs around the world and we believe SCC with its 50 year history stands proudly amongst the very best.

Long term members will be aware that membership fees have not increased for a very long time which as one of the longest standing Club Treasurers' I am justifiably proud. That said, ensuring a stable future for the Club is paramount and the time has come to ask our members to contribute a bit more to ensure the Club will continue to flourish. Even with the proposed increase SCC will remain one of the cheapest forms of sport on a per game basis (typical 40 week season equates to \$3.50 per game on a regular one year membership).

The proposed fees are:

	Regular	Senior	Junior
½ year	\$90	\$70	\$50
1 year	\$140	\$100	\$70
2 year	\$240	\$180	\$120

Recognizing that members will not have had any prior warning of this proposed fee increase, the Executive is proposing to implement the new rates beginning January 1, 2011, and is offering the opportunity for all members to renew prior to then at the old rates.

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 2009-2010 Secretary's Report

Submitted by Steve Karpik

The year 2009-2010 was yet another great year for the Scarborough Chess Club. It was our 50th anniversary and the club celebrated in style. The Shirov simultaneous, the prizes to tournament winners and our birthday party added to an already great year of chess.

We continue to attract new members to the club, ranging from novices to players of the highest calibre. The web site (www.scarboroughchessclub.ca) continues to be an excellent medium for getting the word out to the chess community at large about the club and our activities.

Since the mid-December, I've been using Google Analytics to track our website traffic. Here is our traffic measured in terms of the number of visits per day from January 1, 2010 to August 31, 2010.



We had a total of 6,546 visits in this period. Over 20,000 pages were viewed. We had visitors from 40 countries and 171 cities in Canada with the bulk of the visits from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). It is interesting to look at how visitors get to our website.

Traffic Sources	Visits	% visits
google (organic)	2,503	38.24%
(direct) (none)	2,007	30.66%
chess.ca (referral)	392	5.99%
chesstalk.info (referral)	225	3.44%
yahoo (organic)	151	2.31%

When searching for us using search engines like Google, here a few keywords predominate:

Search Keywords	Visits	% visits
scarborough chess club	1,267	46.01%
scarborough chess	91	3.30%
toronto chess club	90	3.27%
chess club toronto	87	3.16%
scarborough chess club toronto	72	2.61%

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 2009-2010.