

Scarborough Chess Club
2012 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 6, 2012
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Birkdale Community Centre
1299 Ellesmere Road
Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

1) Call to order

Club President Maurice Smith called to order the Annual General Meeting of the Scarborough Chess Club at 7:30 p.m. on September 6, 2012 at the Birkdale Community Centre. Maurice welcomed all in the room and thanked them for their attendance at the AGM.

2) Roll call

Secretary Steve Karpik noted that the following persons were present:

Bob Armstrong
Hamid Azizi
Doug Gillis
Steve Karpik
David Krupka
Ken Kurkowski
Bryan Lamb
Ari Mendrinos
Jim Paterson
M. Hassan Pishdad
William Rutherford
Maurice Smith
Carl Veacock
Pino Verde
Tyler Wayne

3) Approval of minutes from last meeting

The 2011 AGM minutes were approved with a minor correction (Jim Mourgelas' name was misspelled in the list of those present at the 2011 AGM).

4) President's Report

Maurice Smith reported on highlights of the 2011-2012 club activities. Maurice circulated the President's Report (see Appendix A).

5) Vice President's Report

David Krupka, SCC Vice President 2011-2012, announced that he was in doubt about whether he would be playing at the club in 2012-2013 and therefore was not intending to stand for Vice President. To those who might consider succeeding him in

the VP position, he explained that the duties are not onerous. He also expressed his appreciation for the way the executive worked together. David concluded his report by appealing to club members to become involved in the SCC as volunteers. The executive always needs help and would welcome fresh blood.

6) Treasurer's Report

Ken Kurkowski submitted a Financial Report for 2011-2012 (see Appendix B). The Financial Report was accepted by the members in a unanimous vote.

7) Secretary's Report

Secretary Steve Karpik presented a written Secretary's Report (see Appendix C). He reported that the website continues to be an important communications resource for the club. SCC members use the website to get information regarding current and upcoming club events as well as to check the results of ongoing tournament play. The website is perhaps even more valuable for providing information to prospective new club members.

8) Office-at-Large Report

Hamid Azizi, 2011-2012 Officer-at-Large, focused his report on the finances of the club's coffee and hot chocolate service. Hamid's experience was the money received at the end of the night frequently did not match the number of cups used. We were almost always short on money. People might not be paying for their beverages or more likely they were simply using the Styrofoam cups for water or their own beverages. That's leaving the club a little short financially, so Hamid is recommending that the club increase the price of coffee and hot chocolate to \$1 a cup. This increase will allow the coffee and hot chocolate service to become financially self-supporting and maybe generate a small profit.

9) Database and Newsletter Reports

After producing the SCC newsletter continuously since 1999 and maintaining the club's database of games since 2006, Bob Armstrong is stepping back from his volunteer activities so that he has time for a new venture – a digital newsletter called Toronto Chess News. On behalf of the entire club, President Maurice Smith thanked Bob for his the volunteer contributions.

10) Decisions

- a) The price for a cup of coffee goes up to \$1 to cover the small shortfall we suffered in providing this service in 2011-2012.
- b) Players will continue to be given half-point byes for rounds that they give advance notice of their absence. Half-point byes accumulated after the last played game of the tournament will be stripped away before the results are finalized.
- c) Forfeits continue to be a problem. To help encourage players to notify the Tournament Director if they cannot play a match, the following procedures were voted on and accepted by the membership:

- A player who forfeits a game will get a rated forfeit unless the TD can re-pair their opponent. If re-pairing is possible, the player who failed to give proper notice of their absence gets a zero score for the night.
- A player who does not advise the TD of their absence will not be paired in the next round unless they contact the TD prior to the next round.
- If a player on two occasions fails to notify the TD of their absence, they will be removed from the tournament.
- The TD can exercise discretion in consultation with the Executive in cases where an absence was unavoidable (car accident, serious unexpected illness, or some other event out of the player's control).

11) Any Other Business for the Outgoing Executive

None.

12) Elections of the 2012-2013 Executive Committee Members

a) Election of President

Maurice Smith was acclaimed as President for 2012-2013.

b) Election of Vice President

David Krupka was acclaimed as Vice President for 2012-2013.

c) Election of Treasurer

Ken Kurkowski was acclaimed as Treasurer for 2012-2013.

d) Election of Secretary

Steve Karpik was acclaimed as Secretary for 2012-2013.

e) Election of Officer-at-Large

Hamid Azizi was acclaimed as Officer-at-Large for 2012-2013.

13) Appointment of Committees

In lieu of a Database Committee with chair and members, Ken Kurkowski has volunteered to provide SCC games to the Toronto Chess News as his time permits.

In lieu of the club having a Newsletter Editor, Ken Kurkowski has volunteered to act as a liaison to the Toronto Chess News and provide articles and information about the club as his time permits.

14) FIDE Rated Tournaments

It was agreed that the top section of the SCC Championship will be both CFC and FIDE rated this year (2012-2013) as an experiment.

15) Quick Chess Tournament

A proposal was made that the club hold a Quick Chess tournament sometime in 2012-2013. The idea received a mixed reception and consequently it will be presented to

the club membership as a whole to decide on whether we should substitute a regular night of chess for a Quick Chess Tournament.

16) Junior Certificates

In addition to awarding SCC members who represent Canada at the WYCC a one-year extension to their club membership and a one year extension to their CFC membership as recognition of their accomplishment in representing Canada at a premiere international chess event, the club will also present these individuals with certificates from the SCC congratulating them on their accomplishment.

17) Any Other Business

- a) It was also proposed that the club host a simultaneous event with GM Wesley So. This idea was generally well accepted but it was decided that this proposal should go to the general membership for ratification. Also such an event depends on the availability of GM So.
- b) Carl Veecoock advised the club that it should keep an inventory of its physical assets. The President thanked Carl for his good advice and the Executive will carry out such an inventory.

18) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. The next AGM is scheduled for the first Thursday in September 2013 (Thursday, September 5, 2013).

Appendix A: President's Report

2011/12 was another successful year for the Scarborough Chess Club. Membership has stayed at over 100 throughout the year. This is amazing, not only in Canada but also in North America. Over 40% of our members are Juniors, which bodes well for the future.

An initiative we introduced this year was to provide a one year Scarborough membership extension and also pay for a C.F.C. Membership for one year for all our juniors who participate in the World Youth Chess Championship. This shows our commitment to our fast rising young Junior members.

The winners of the three sections of our Club Championship were all first time winners. It is encouraging to see different members rising to the top of their divisions each year.

Our financial situation remains strong, with increased funds over last year. However there is potential for concern for the future. Last week I received some good news and bad news combined. The dance club that operated down the hall have not renewed for this year, so it should be quieter. However, Birkdale divided the overall rent between the two groups. Now there is only us, so we will be paying around \$50.00 a night more, over forty nights. We can manage alright this year, but next year we may have to try to increase revenue or cut our expenses or both. I will let the Treasurer discuss in detail other financial items.

Our Club could not operate successfully without all the wonderful volunteers that we have. From helping putting out the equipment and board numbers and setting the clocks to putting everything away, their help is invaluable. Then we have our Executives, David, Steve, Ken and Hamid. They did many different jobs and all provided great insight in working out the policies, procedures and problems that we encountered. You really cannot fully appreciate the wonderful Executive we had unless you were part of them as I was.

Finally, if there is someone suitable that wishes to stand for President, I will not oppose him or her. I would like to retire as President, but I would like to see the Club go forward in the future in capable hands.

Wishing all Scarborough Chess Club members a truly great year in chess.

Maurice Smith
President

Appendix B: Treasurer's Report

Scarborough Chess Club 2011-2012 Financial Report

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

Revenues:

Club Memberships	\$11,119.00
CFC Dues Collected	2,526.00
Coffee & Concession	<u>229.94</u>
Total Revenues	\$13,874.94

Expenses:

Rent	\$5743.21
CFC Rating Fees	2027.22
CFC Dues Remitted *	2556.00
Website Hosting/Domain Name	270.52
Coffee Supplies	235.45
Trophies	127.55
Chess Equipment	709.39
Miscellaneous Supplies	0.00
Bank/Misc Charges	0.00
Adjustment for stale dated cheque	(0.00)
Total Expenses	\$11,669.34

Net Income: **\$2,205.60**

Closing Balance at August 02, 2012: **\$13,711.69**

*Includes \$30.00 dues paid by SCC for V. Paraparan

Treasurer's Opinion

The Club continues to maintain its strong financial position. This is the seventh season in a row of continued improved fiscal health for the Club with the 2011/2012 financials showing a significant improvement in performance over 2010/2011. Our cash balance is now over \$13,000.

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 4th year of this program resulted in only slightly reduced CFC dues collection numbers.

Hall rental costs have somewhat stabilized, with an increase of approximately 6% (compared to last year's 20%). No further membership fee increases are recommended for this year.

It is my opinion that the Club continues to be 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. I will close by reiterating my predecessor's belief 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

Ken Kurkowski, Treasurer

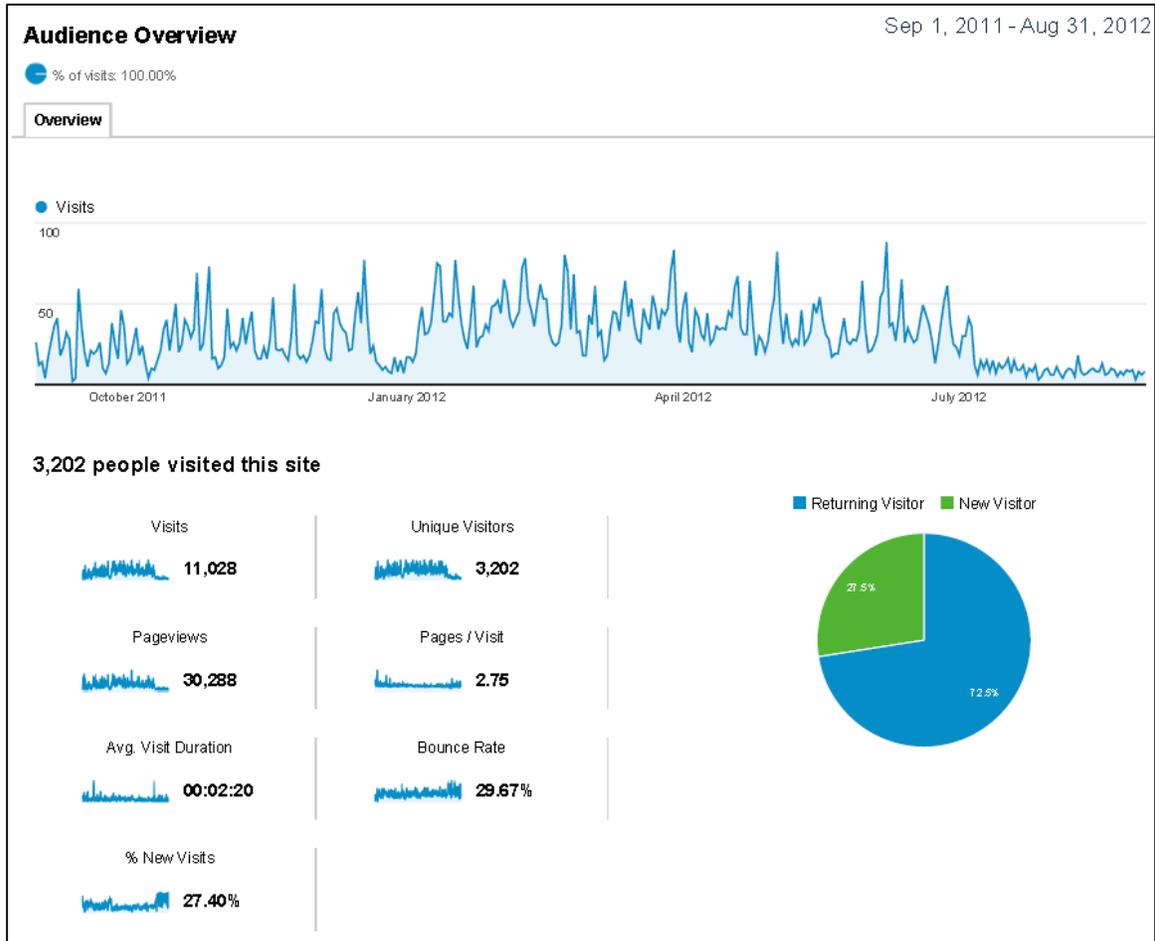
September 1, 2012

Appendix C: Secretary's Report

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.

Scarborough Chess Club Web Site Overview

Our web traffic also continues to increase. It is clear that club members and others interested in chess in Toronto are turning to our web site for information about our current and future tournaments.



From September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012, we had **11,028** visits to the web site. We had **2,132 more** visits this year than we had for the same period last year, when from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011, we had **8,896** visits to the web site. This represents a whopping **24% increase** in web traffic.

Scarborough Chess Club Goes Mobile!

According to a new study from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, it was found that almost 90 percent of U.S. adults own a cell phone and as of April 2012, more than half of them (55 percent) use their phone to surf the Internet from time-to-time — up from 31 percent in 2009. Even more significant is the fact that about 17 percent of all American

adult cell phone owners rely on smartphones almost exclusively for their Internet browsing. Figures for Canada are likely very similar. In other parts of the world, like India and other rapidly developing nations, access to the Internet using mobile devices is even more prevalent. So why does this matter to a chess club like the SCC?

The Internet is an important communication tool for organizations like the Scarborough Chess Club. Our website is essential both for communicating with existing club members and to attract new members. The club website is often the source of first contact for many individuals who join the SCC. Up until recently having a website that works well on a desktop computer or laptop was more than sufficient but with the explosion in mobile Internet usage, a mobile-friendly website is almost a necessity.

In response to these changing times, I'm happy to announce that the Scarborough Chess Club has a new mobile-friendly website. Now if you visit www.scarboroughchessclub.ca using your iPhone, Android phone or Blackberry, you will be re-directed to a special mobile-friendly version of the SCC website. At the present time, the mobile website has basic club information but over the next few weeks and months new features will be added to make the mobile version of the SCC website even more useful.

So from now on if you visit the SCC website with your desktop computer or laptop, you'll get the same website you've been seeing for several years. However, if you use your smartphone, you'll arrive at a site that looks like the accompanying screenshot.



Be sure to visit www.scarboroughchessclub.ca on your smartphone and give me feedback about how the mobile site looks and what you think.

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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 2012-2013.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Karpik

Steve Karpik