

Scarborough Chess Club
2013 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 4, 2014
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 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 4, 2014 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:

Rahul Gangolli
Jim Paterson
Bob Armstrong
Bryan Lamb
Pino Verde
Ken Kurkowski
Omar Shah
Maurice Smith
Steve Karpik
David Krupka
Martin Maister
(Mario Moran-Venegas and Hamid Azizi sent their regrets.)

3) Approval of minutes from last meeting

The 2013 AGM minutes were approved as presented.

4) President's Report

Maurice Smith reported on highlights of the 2013-2014 club activities. Maurice circulated the President's Report (see Appendix A).

5) Vice President's Report

David Krupka, SCC Vice President 2013-2014, provided a verbal report. David spoke about the importance of the work done by volunteers in the club. He urged more to get involved. He concluded saying that he would not be standing for re-election this year although he did not rule out future involvement.

6) Secretary’s Report

Secretary Steve Karpik presented a written Secretary’s Report (see Appendix B). He commented on visitor traffic to the club website (it is higher) and reported that the website continues to be an important communications resource for the club. Steve informed the club that he would not be standing for re-election as Secretary due to time pressures from a new business.

7) Treasurer’s Report

Ken Kurkowski submitted a Financial Report for 2013-2014 (see Appendix C). A rent increase last year meant that the club suffered a small loss. Ken recommended that we should consider an increase in membership fees to avoid further losses. Also, it was noted that the way that 2-year memberships are accounted for is slightly misleading (we believe we have more funds than we do). In response, Ken explained that the distortion is small since very few people take out 2-year memberships. The Financial Report was accepted by the members in a unanimous vote.

8) Officer-at-Large Report

Hamid Azizi, 2013-2014 Officer-at-Large, was unable to attend the meeting. Maurice expressed his thanks for Hamid’s contributions. Hamid spoke to Maurice prior to the meeting and indicated that he was willing to stand for re-election as Officer-at-Large.

9) SCC Facebook Page Report

Bob Armstrong presented a report on the club’s Facebook page (see Appendix D). Bob indicated that he was offering to continue as the club’s Facebook administrator for 2014-2014.

10) Decisions

- a) A motion by Ken Kurkowski proposed increasing club membership fees across the board to pay for increased rental costs (Maurice Smith advised that the rent is going up by a further 3% or \$8,500 in 2014-15). Also, the executive recommends renting additional space in the room adjacent to our playing area to provide room for new members (in 2013-14 we were turning away members). Bryan Lamb suggested an amendment to Ken’s motion to even out the increase over membership categories and durations. A vote was held and Ken’s motion was amended (5 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions). The amended motion passed unanimously. The new fees are in table below.

	Regular (18-64)	Senior (65+)	Junior (under 18)
Half Year (5 months playing time)	\$100	\$80	\$60
One Year (10 months playing time)	\$160	\$120	\$90
Two Years (20 months playing time)	\$280	\$200	\$150

- b) After experimenting with 4 sections in 2013-2014, Mario Moran-Moran Venegas (absent from them meeting) proposed a joint motion with Steve Karpik to return to three section (1800+, U1800, U1400) with players within 100 points of a rating boundary being able to elect to play up a section. The motion passed unanimously.

11) Any Other Business for the Outgoing Executive

- a) Bob Armstrong presented a motion recommending doubly accelerate pairings in the club championship. In response, Bryan Lamb presented some detailed analysis of several options regarding the use of accelerated pairings. Bryan concluded that for the number of players in our club, our current practice of single acceleration in the first two rounds leads to the best result (i.e. minimizing mismatches and ensuring that the top two players meet in the last round). Bob's motion was defeated (1 for, 5 against, 4 abstain).
- b) Rahul Gangolli proposed a motion that in the event of a player not showing up for a game, there shall be no attempt to re-pair his/her opponent and the offending player receives a rated forfeit loss. Further, for a first occurrence in the year, the offending player is removed from the tournament but can apply to re-enter after sitting out one week (in addition to the game that they did not show up for). A second forfeit in the year leads to a two game suspension. A third offense results in a three game suspension, etc. The motion passed unanimously.

12) Elections of the 2014-2015 Executive Committee Members

- a) Election of President
Maurice Smith was acclaimed as President for 2014-2015.
- b) Election of Vice President
Omar Shah was acclaimed as Vice President for 2014-2015.
- c) Election of Treasurer
Ken Kurkowski was acclaimed as Treasurer for 2014-2015.
- d) Election of Secretary
Mario Moran-Venegas was acclaimed as Secretary for 2014-2015.
- e) Election of Officer-at-Large
Hamid Azizi was acclaimed as Officer-at-Large for 2014-2015.

13) Appointment of Facebook Page and Website Administrator

Bob Armstrong will continue as the content administrator for the club's Facebook page. Steve Karpik will continue to maintain the SCC website and will offer technical support to Bob for the club's Facebook page as required.

14) Any Other Business

David Krupka suggested that if we have the new room, we may want to hold a rapid-format simultaneous with our multi-week tournaments. Maurice said the Executive would consider this.

15) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m. The next AGM is scheduled for the first Thursday in September 2014 (Thursday, September 3, 2015).

Appendix A: President's Report

The past year was very eventful for the Club. On the upside we finally were able to settle on a time control that most players seemed happy with. One hour and ten minutes, plus 15 second increments allowed for a decent game with no sudden death. The fear was that there would be many games that would have to be adjudicated. However, this was not the case.

On the downside we had to discontinue our coffee service due to some vandalism and missing funds. In future if any service of this kind is used, we will need to have someone on hand to oversee it.

We were a victim of our success in that increased membership forced us to create a waiting list for new members. We went to over 120 members and the room we are using can only comfortably hold 110. The next room is not on the permit. To solve this predicament and allow us to keep growing, we have a motion on the agenda for moderate increases in the membership fees that will give us the means to rent the next room and allow us to accept new members.

There were many different winners of our tournaments this past year. I congratulate our new Club Champion David Southam who has been a strong supporter of our Club for many years. Many of our Juniors did well in Canadian and International tournaments throughout the year. Actually too many to mention them all, but one I definitely should mention is Harmony Zhu, the World Champion under eight.

In spite of an overall loss on the financial side due mainly to the increase in rent, we still have a strong financial base which would be the envy of most other chess clubs. So if you look at the whole picture, it can be said it was another good year for the Club.

The success of the Club depends in a large part on the contribution of its volunteers. If you think of what a great Club the Scarborough Chess Club is then think of Bob Armstrong, Doug Gillis, Mario Moran-Venegas, Hassan Pishdad and Pino Verde. Also our exceptional Executives, David Krupka, Steve Karpik, Ken Kurkowski and Hamid Azizi. Without all these dedicated volunteers the Club could not function. These members are the backbone of the Club.

I can foresee another great year ahead for our Club. Exciting chess, strong tournaments all in a friendly atmosphere. I will be happy to stand for one more year as President, but this will be absolutely, definitely my last year.

Maurice Smith

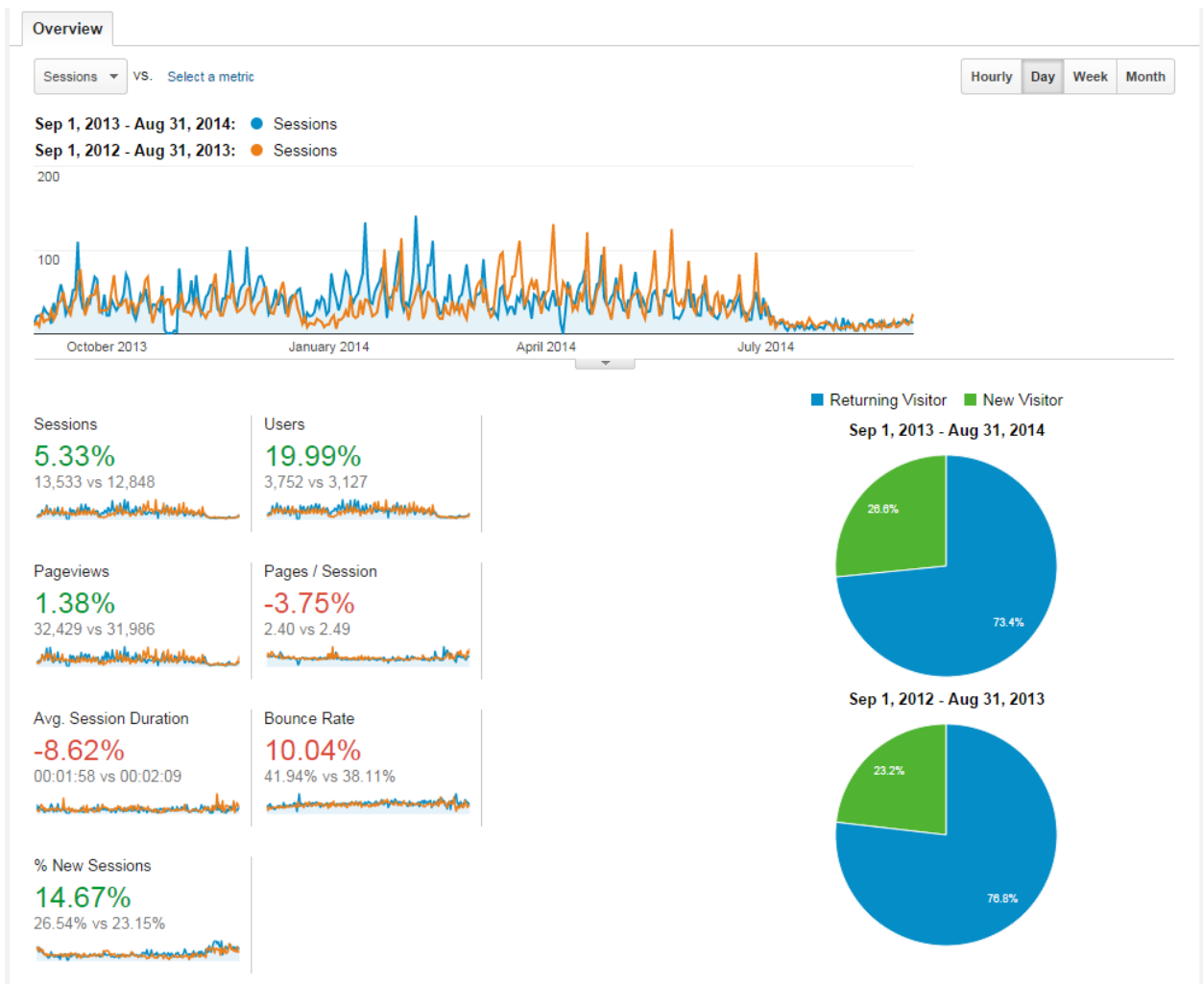
Appendix B: Secretary's Report Submitted by Steve Karpik

We had another great year at the Scarborough Chess Club. Membership continues to increase to the point where we had to cap our membership numbers. 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.

Web Analytics

The web analytics report below shows we had **13,533** visits to the web site between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014. Nearly 73% of visitors were returning visitors and 27% new visitors to the site.

We had **1,782** visits on mobile devices (iPhones, Android phones, tablets, etc.). This compares to **1,342** in the previous year which represents a **32.7%** increase in our mobile traffic!



Once again, we've had increases in our web traffic year over year, as can be seen in the chart below.

Year	Number of Visits	Increase Over Previous Year	Percentage Increase Over Previous Year
2010-2011	8,896	n/a	n/a
2011-2012	11,028	2,132	24%
2012-2013	12,826	1,798	16%
2013-2014	13,533	707	5%

* * * * *

I've enjoyed volunteering as club Secretary over the past several years; however, the demands of my work are making it increasingly difficult to do a proper job in this role. Consequently, I will not be standing for secretary this year but am quite happy to continue looking after the SCC website.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Karpik
Secretary

Appendix C: Treasurer's Report

Scarborough Chess Club 2013-2014 Financial Report

	2013-2014	2012-2013
OPENING BALANCE	14,422.06	13,711.69
Revenues		
Club Memberships	11,380.00	10,430.00
CFC Dues Collected	2,796.00	2,880.00
Coffee & Concession		287.51
Book & Equipment Sales/Rentals	20.00	120.00
Total Revenues	14,196.00	13,717.51
Expenses		
Rent	8,302.06	6,867.75
CFC Rating Fees	2,522.16	2,156.04
CFC Dues Remitted *	2,856.00	3,030.00
Website Hosting/Domain Name	586.12	0.00
Coffee Supplies		213.18
Trophies	134.33	134.33
Chess Equipment	516.49	437.29
Miscellaneous Supplies	98.29	0.00
Bank/Misc Charges	5.00	168.55
Total Expenses	15,020.45	13,007.14
Net Income	-824.45	710.37
CLOSING BALANCE	13,597.61	14,422.06

*2012-2013: Includes \$150 CFC dues paid by SCC for 5 CYCC winners from SCC

2013-2014: Includes \$60 CFC dues paid by SCC for 2 CYCC winners from SCC

Treasurer’s Opinion

The Club incurred a significant loss this past year because, while membership revenue increased, our rent increased more! I believe that the time has come to re-evaluate our financial situation, in particular:

- Raising membership rates
- Considering the expansion of our rented area (which of course will raise our rent even more) in order to accommodate increased membership and avoid the need for waiting lists.

Regards

Ken Kurkowski, Treasurer

September 4, 2014

Appendix D: Facebook Committee Report

Scarborough Chess Club Facebook Page – Annual Report to SCC 2014-5 AGM

SCC FB Page Committee (Member Volunteers): Bob Armstrong, Erwin Casareno, Steve Karpik (all are co-managers of the FB page)

Report by Bob Armstrong

Co-Manager Responsibilities

I have been co-manager of the SCC Facebook page, with Erwin Casareno and Steve Karpik. Erwin and I were responsible for updating content. Steve was responsible for technical maintenance, but does also post from time to time.

Other than setting up the page initially a few years ago, Steve has had no technical issues to deal with.

History

In late winter 2013, I requested that SCC activate its dormant SCC FB Page (Steve had set up the shell page sometime earlier, and it had been left on the shelf). At the same time, I volunteered to become the co-administrator with Steve, the then sole administrator. At that time, the executive considered opinions pro and con, and it seemed Steve's recommendation, as SCC FB Manager, to the executive to proceed, won the day. Maurice Smith, SCC President, then appointed me co-manager. The FB page was activated on or around March 15, 2013, and then Steve added me into the SCC FB Page administration as "co-manager" with himself.

Sometime in the fall of 2013, I believe, I recommended that SCC member, Erwin Casareno, join us as a co-manager, and he was appointed 'til this 2014-5 AGM.

SCC FB Page Members

By Sept/13, the SCC page already had 56 "Likes" (after 5 months; about 11 members per month). These are people who have visited the page and approved it by "liking" it. In a sense, they then become members of the page. If they want, they can opt to receive an e-mail of every post made on the page. If they don't do this, they often become regular visitors to the page to see new posts. Others who have not "liked" the page can also come and view the posts (both those with their own FB accounts, and also those who are just visitors to FB). Initially, a majority of the "Likes" were SCC members – we have had up to 90 views of some posts from time to time.

By Sept./14 (one year later), the membership had grown to 112 members (the rate slowed to about 5 new members per month). The majority in this group are likely not SCC members; they come from around the world, and have found the page, and wanted to note that they found it interesting.

Posts

Facebook operates by giving a page a “wall” – a column in the middle of the page where the owners/co-managers of the page can post brief chess comments, facts, etc.. The main posts SCC is concerned in posting, are the Friday midnight SCC Tournament Leaders’ Report, after each meeting night. Since the cross-tables do not go up ‘til later the following week usually on the website, this allows members to see immediately, at least who the leaders in the various sections are. We also post on current chess events/tournaments, chess history, tips on playing chess better, chess problems, etc. For example, in the first week of August, we made 18 new posts. We keep our page quite active and interesting, to draw members back to the page on a regular basis.

FB is particularly set up to accommodate pictures. So we have used many pictures of SCC members over the year (SCC has an arrangement with Toronto Chess News whereby TCN can, with permission, take pictures of SCC members, and TCN stores them and makes them available to SCC for its club report twice a month to TCN, and for its FB page).

SCC Benefits from its FB Page

1. Communication: It allows communication with the SCC membership, who have taken advantage of regularly visiting the FB Page.
2. Advertising/Promotion: It is a great platform to present SCC to the world, and advise what our club is like (one of the other FB chess news sites, often reposts some of our club reports on their own FB page). People can do a search on FB, and find our page.
3. New Membership: This is another way, as with the SCC Website, for potential members to find out about SCC.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That SCC continue operating its SCC FB Page for a further year.
2. That Steve and I be reappointed for a further year (we have agreed to this). Erwin sends his regrets on this – he has a new business, and does not have time to continue, and so is not standing for another year. Thanks to Erwin for his volunteer time last year.

14/8/29