

**Scarborough Chess Club
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, September 9, 2004
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
The Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 42 (Beaches)
303 Kingston Road
Scarborough, Ontario, Canada**

Minutes

Present: Luc Chamberland
Steve Karpik (minutes)
Bryan Lamb
Martin Maister
Adam Merifield
Jim Paterson
Andrew Philip
Lenord Quan
Maurice Smith
Ted Termeer
Pino Verde

1) Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. A decision was made to move “Any Business Arising from Last Year” to the “New Business” section at the end of the meeting. The agenda was approved as amended.

2) Minutes of 2003 AGM

There were no written minutes from the 2003 AGM. Consequently, Bryan Lamb made a verbal report based on his notes. Highlights included:

- New membership fees were established for 2003-2004.
- In reaction to expected higher fees at the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, the club was going to begin a search for new accommodation.
- The club planned to hold at least one Active tournament in 2003-2004.

After some discussion, the verbal minutes were accepted as reported.

3) President’s Report

Bryan Lamb reported on highlights of the 2003-2004 club activities:

- Bryan reviewed the club’s move from the Stan Wadlow Community Centre to the Beaches Legion Hall. The move help the club avoid an announced price increase for city-based community centres. An evening’s rent at the Royal Canadian Legion is only \$40.

- In response to reduced numbers of members playing on Sunday and Tuesday nights, a decision was made to collapse all of the club's activities to Thursday nights only.
- The new surroundings at the Royal Canadian Legion have been excellent. However, recently there has been a problem with the Irish Dance Club extending their activities to Thursday evenings. Located on the floor above the chess club, the dance club is very noisy. Maurice Smith is negotiating with the Legion on our behalf to see if the Irish Dance Club can move to another evening; however little hope is held out for a solution since the Irish Dance Club is a major client of the Legion, renting space on Monday through Thursday nights.
- Bryan expressed the concern that our Beaches location is hurting membership numbers and that a central Scarborough location would better serve the membership. A move to a new location would however be somewhat at odds with the club's desire to have a stable location.
- Given our membership numbers which currently stand at around 27, it is advisable to stay at one night per week until our numbers increase to a high enough level to support more nights of play.

4) Vice President's Report

Maurice Smith presented the Vice President's Report with the following highlights:

- Three Executive meetings were held in 2003-2004.
- Successful negotiations with Susan James of the Beaches Royal Canadian Legion led to our current arrangement where a night's rent costs the club \$40. This arrangement has worked out well until the Irish dancing began. The Irish dancers do soft-shoe dancing from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and then from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. they do heaving dancing.
- Maurice has written an article for *Chess Canada Échecs* that will come out in October 2004 that profiles the club from its inception through its glory days through its downturn of a few years ago concluding with an account of more recent positive times.

5) Treasurer's Report

Martin Maister submitted a financial report for 2003-2004 (see Appendix A). The main point that was noticed from this report was that a comparison of total expenses and total revenue for 2003-2004 shows that we had a surplus (i.e. revenue over expenses) of \$126.71 bringing our bank balance to \$1,364.42. However, it should be noted that some of the revenue from last year was in the form of two year memberships which should be treated as part deferred revenue. Even the loss of one member could push us into a situation where our revenue no longer covers our costs. Increased membership is therefore essential.

6) Secretary's Report

Steve Karpik presented a report from the secretary. Highlights included:

- A new web site for the club was designed, written and coded in 2004. The web site address is www.ScarboroughChessClub.ca. Included with the web hosting service for the site was one email address which is dedicated to receiving queries from the public about the club.

This address is info@ScarboroughChessClub.ca, which is forwarded to Steve for responses.

- Steve regularly posted announcements of club activities to ChessTalk (www.ChessTalk.com) on topics like the Thursday Swiss tournaments, the Active, and our AGM, as well as our new home address when we moved from Stan Wadlow to the Legion.
- A brochure was created in time for the Labour Day Open to publicize the club and its activities. Approximately 40 were distributed at the tournament, leaving just over 100 for distribution at other venues.

7) Other Officer's Reports

The Officer-at-Large, Andrew Philip, commended Maurice Smith for his efforts in securing the Legion as our new home; Martin Maister for bringing financial stability back to the club; Bryan Lamb for excellent tournament services provided to the club; and Steve Karpik for the web site development and maintenance. Andrew stressed the importance of advertising in maintaining and growing our membership numbers.

8) Election of President

Bryan Lamb was acclaimed as President for 2004-2005.

9) Election of Vice President

Maurice Smith was acclaimed as Vice President for 2004-2005.

10) Election of Treasurer

Martin Maister informed the members at the meeting that he was unfortunately too busy this year to take on the responsibilities associated with being club treasurer. Members thanked Martin for the conscientious and professional manner in which he undertook the treasurer's tasks for the past year.

Andrew Philip was acclaimed as Treasurer for 2004-2005.

11) Election of Secretary

Steve Karpik was acclaimed as Secretary for 2004-2005.

12) Election of Junior Representative

The position of Junior Representative went vacant.

13) Election of Officer-at-Large

Lenord Quan was acclaimed as Officer-at-Large for 2004-2005.

14) New Business

a) Accuracy of Membership Records

There was some concern that despite the excellent work done by Martin Maister in 2003-2004, our membership records and the collection of fees from members was not yet entirely perfect. The Treasurer and Secretary will work together this year to continue to build on Martin's work with the goal of maintaining a complete, up-to-date membership list.

b) Maintaining and Building Membership Numbers

There was a general consensus that advertising our club and its activities will help us maintain and even build our membership base. To this end, the Secretary will be sending out regular emails to club members to let them know when club events are coming up (for example, new Swiss tournaments, Active tournaments, etc.). Also reminders will continue to be posted to the club's web site as well as to ChessTalk.com.

c) New Accommodation

In anticipation that the Irish dancers might be too noisy for us at the Legion, Maurice Smith is going to lead the effort to find a new home for the club. One complication is that wherever we go the club requires significant storage space for its equipment (boards, pieces, clocks, etc.). Lenord Quan and other club members have made suggestions as to alternative homes for the club. Maurice will follow up on these suggestions and report back to the Executive on his findings and recommendations.

d) New Format for Club Championship

The success of the Bayview Games Club with round-robin tournaments that feature prize funds led Andrew Philip among others to suggest that our tournaments might draw more and better players if there were prize funds associated with them. To test this theory, it was suggested that this year's club championship should have a prize fund. The prize fund would come from participants – perhaps a fee of \$20 or \$30 each (to be in line with the Bayview Games Club). For this to be successful there must be some advertisement of the tournament and we don't want the championship happening too late in the year as we're hoping for it to be a big draw to increase our members.

It was suggested that a round-robin championship with eight rounds could commence October 28, 2004 and finish December 16, 2004. There would be no club play on December 23, 2004 or December 30, 2004. It should be noted that one of the rounds falls on November 11, 2004 (Remembrance Day), which may or may not be a problem at the Legion. The club Executive will meet as soon as possible to discuss the date and format of the 2004-2005 club championship.

15) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m. The next AGM is scheduled for the first Thursday following Labour Day in 2005 (Thursday, September 8, 2005).

**Appendix A: Scarborough Chess Club Financial Report, as of September 9, 2004
Submitted by Martin Maister, Treasurer**

Balance at September 4, 2003: **\$1,237.71**

Income:

Club Membership:	\$2,849.50
CFC Rebates:	\$65.15
In Trust:	\$36.00
Total Income:	\$2,950.65

Expenses:

Rent Royal Canadian Legion:	\$1,600.00
Rent Stan Wadlow:	\$233.28
Rating fees:	\$612.00
Clocks:	\$222.23
Website:	\$139.04
Stationary:	\$17.39
Total Expenses:	\$2,823.94

Profit: **\$126.71**

Add Profit: **\$126.71**

Balance at September 9, 2004: **\$1,364.42**

Our financial situation seems good as the balance increased by \$126.71.

We should be aware of the following:

- A “slight increase” is not very healthy, as we should allow for the safety margin (e.g. sudden expenses).
- Next year our membership will likely be reduced by a few players. If so, our balance would be decreasing.
- Our finances are definitely not “bad”. The next executive, however, should not neglect the situation. We must find a plan to increase membership and/or reduce expenses, before it catches up with us in the future.