Scarborough Chess Club

2026 Annual General Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2026, 7:30-9:30
34 Ilfracombe Crescent, Scarborough, ON M1R 3R8

In Attendance

Maurice Smith
Omar Shah
Liam Henry
Ted Speevak
Shankar Balakrishnan
Ralph Streich
Iris Lai
Michelle Zhang
Vivian Chen
Luc Chamberland

1. Welcome

At the request of Omar Shah, Maurice Smith chaired the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

Note: no minutes had been submitted from the last year.

2. President's Report

Omar presented the highlights of his report (see Appendix A).

Omar indicated that his goal is to raise the membership to 175, and that the current membership count is approximately 130. Discussion ensued on membership demographics (losing adults, highly-rated juniors), acquiring more juniors. Michelle raised the view by some parents that a higher-rated section would help retain top talent.

Maurice raised the concern about the lack of progress on new bank arrangements. Omar/Liam will try one more time to sort out a proper bank card, and also get Vivian as a signatory. If no real progress is made by November 1, then Omar and Vivian will consider switching to a new bank.

3. Vice-President's Report

Michelle presented the highlights of her report (see Appendix B). Maurice suggested that the VP take a larger ownership role regarding books and trophies, maintain the relationship with the CFC, and support the Birkdale Community Centre lead. Maurice also indicated that the web site should be handled by the Secretary, not the VP.

Luc asked to be provided with access to the Google Drive for the membership list.

4. Secretary's Report

No report was presented as the role has been vacant for the past year.

5. Treasurer's Report

Vivian presented the highlights of her report (see Appendix C). She highlighted that books reflect when cash is transacted, not when expenses are accrued. Also noted that FIDE fees are paid via CFC, so the books do not show a breakdown of fees between CFC and FIDE.

Luc raised that governance of expenditures be better documented so that there is better oversight over large expenditures. Luc also asked about dividing expenses into Opex and Capex, but the consensus was that this would make the accounting too complicated.

Ted asked about the investment strategy for the cash in the bank. Vivian indicated that at least $20,000 could be safely invested now without jeopardizing near-term operational needs.

Maurice initiated a discussion regarding CFC fees collected by SCC. Given the amount of effort required to separate out and handle the CFC fee vis-a-vis the amount that SCC derives from this, it was deemed not worth the time to continue handling this. In January 2027, CFC fees will no longer be collected and SCC members will be directed to go directly to the CFC site to renew their CFC memberships.

6. Officer at Large Report

Luc presented the highlights of his report (see Appendix D).

Ted asked how much web traffic is coming into ChessProfiler, which includes SCC members. Luc reported approximately 600 unique visitors per month, though the volume is growing.

7. Tournament Director's Report

Liam did not provide a formal report. He did indicate that he has maintained the policy to have pairings posted by 6:45pm. He also indicated that there is an ongoing issue with some member emails (e.g., bye requests) not being received in a timely manner, which affects the pairings. Omar indicated that changes were coming regarding which email addresses to use; this will be advertised on the club web site, although many members do not check the web site.

8. Any Other Business

9. Election of President

Luc nominates Omar Shah for President. Omar stands and is acclaimed.

10. Election of Vice President

Omar nominates Michelle Zhang as Vice President. Michelle stands and is acclaimed.

11. Election of Treasurer

Liam nominates Vivian Chen as Treasurer. Vivian stands and is acclaimed.

12. Election of Secretary

Omar nominates Luc Chamberland as Secretary. Luc declines to stand.
Vivian nominates Iris Lai as Secretary. Iris stands and is acclaimed.

13. Election of Officer At Large

Omar nominates Luc Chamberland as Officer At Large. Luc stands and is acclaimed.
Liam nominates Ralph Streich as Officer At Large. Ralph stands and is acclaimed.
Vivian nominates Shankar Balakrishnan as Officer At Large. Shankar stands and is acclaimed.

14. Election of Tournament Director

Michelle nominates Liam Henry as Tournament Director. Liam stands and is acclaimed.

15. Election of Committee Recruiter

Luc nominates Ted Speevak as Committee Recruiter. Ted declines to stand.
Ted nominates Maurice Smith as Committee Recruiter. Maurice stands and is acclaimed.

16. Motion - Web Site Updates

- Brought by Ted Speevak and Maurice Smith
- Motion:
  That the SCC website be updated by the end of September 2026. More specifically:
  "Governance" Page:
    - AGM minutes are listed immediately after approval at the subsequent AGM;
    - SCC Constitution be updated (as per AGM-2025) for the addition of the Committee Recruiter to the Executive Committee.

  "Contact Us" Page:
    - Executive Committee members be listed with contact coordinates (i.e. e-mail address)
- Amendment put forward by Luc that the contacts be role-based email addresses, not personal email addresses. Amendment unanimously supported.
- Motion unanimously supported.
- Luc (acting as Secretary for this AGM) to send minutes to Steve Karpik by Sept 15
- Omar and Iris to manage web site updates by Sept 30.

17. Motion - Electronic Payment Process

- Brought by Ted Speevak and Maurice Smith
- Motion:

That the SCC modernize and implement an electronic payment process with appropriate controls for the collection of fees, by end of November 2026. Possibilities include interac e-transfer (with Auto-Deposit). The existing process is manually intensive & time consuming and involves the actual handling of a large amount of cash. Also that the AGM minutes reflect the action item (WHO will do WHAT and by WHEN) with respect to implementing an electronic payment process with appropriate controls for the collection of fees.

- Motion unanimously supported.
- Omar and Vivian to handle by Nov 30.

18. Motion - Play-Up Fee

- Brought by Michelle and Liam.
- Motion: That players may play up a section for a $20 fee (per tournament) if they are within 100 rating points of the section floor.
- Voting: 7 supported, 2 did not support. Motion passed.

19. Motion - FIDE-rated Tournaments

- Brought by Liam and Omar.
- Motion: All sections except junior to be FIDE-rated
- Voting: 7 supported, 2 did not support. Motion passed.

20. Any other business

Liam put forward a new motion: "add new section to SCC for O1900 (FIDE or CFC), or at the discretion of the TD, in order to attract strong, higher-rated players to the club."

- Voting: 8 supported, 1 did not support. Motion passed.

Vivienne indicates that CFC has not cashed cheques for three years. Omar indicates that no new cheques will be issued for stale-dated cheques dated before September 2025.

Liam indicates that concerns have been raised about the 10:30pm game adjudication process. For example, a Stockfish engine line for a given position may not be accurate. It was agreed that communication about the process will be maintained.

Michelle put forward a new motion: "increase the membership fee for all members for all options by $10, effective immediately".

- Ralph seconded the motion.
- Voting: 6 supported, 3 did not support. Motion passed.

21. Adjourn

- Ted put forward a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Liam seconded.

Appendix A. President's Report

Fellow Executives and SCC Members,

Over the past few years, one of my goals at SCC was to find efficiencies and run the Club in an orderly fashion. After a few years of diligent work, the Club is seeing a very healthy bank balance.

An example of “trimming the fat” was moving the AGM away from the Club, given that we would barely have half a dozen members attend. The cost of hosting the AGM at the Birkdale Community Center was over $200. Another example was to find ways to save on expenses: I found out that a member’s father has a printing company, so in exchange for a free Junior Membership (valued at $90), I received $300 worth of scoresheets for the year. A win for SCC, a win for the parent and a win for me.

This year I mustered up the courage and resources to overhaul all our equipment, starting from the Sets, Boards, bags and finally the “mammoth” investment; DGT Clocks. I firmly believe that uniform equipment is important for Club’s image and day to day operations. Even though we spent close to $4000, I think it is a great investment for the Club. Lastly, on this topic, the wear and tear on our equipment is minimal compared to other clubs. I think this boils down to not allowing Blitz play with the clocks and members knowing the protocol of putting items back at the end of the night. Also, the fancy DGT cases Aluminum ($150 each) where we store the clocks help tremendously.

I look forward to working with my fellow executives in rebuilding our active member base to 175 -200 attending a night. The above is one of the last elusive goals I have had for the Club. I believe it is achievable in the current climate of the Game’s popularity.

This year I hope to streamline the registration process and bye-requesting process. At time is has been tricky and some information has been lost.

I would like to thank all the fellow executives at SCC for their hard work and dedication. Also, the volunteers who help in setting up and putting away all the

equipment at the club. A special thanks to Hassan Pishdad. Alexander Gebhardt, Alan Wang and Joe Gao.

If nominated, I shall run again as President. Lastly, I will step down after this Club year and hand the reigns over the Michelle Z., Luc C., Vivian H., Liam H, and all the exceptional volunteers.

Best Regards,

Omar Shah

SCC President

Appendix B. Vice President's Report

It is my pleasure to present the Vice-President's Report for the Scarborough Chess Club.
As Vice-President, one of my main responsibilities is to support the administration and day-to-day operations of the club. I work closely with the President, Treasurer, tournament organizers, and other volunteers to make sure that the club's membership and weekly tournament activities run smoothly.

Membership Administration

One of my primary responsibilities is managing club membership for each new tournament year, beginning in September.

My responsibilities include:
● Managing new club membership registrations and existing member renewals.
● Updating and maintaining the club membership list.
● Collecting club membership fees and CFC membership fees.
● Working with the Treasurer to collect payments and issue receipts.
● Reviewing the current membership list and sending reminders about upcoming renewal dates.
● Reviewing CFC membership status and sending reminders when CFC memberships are due for renewal.
● Preparing the Google Form and Google Sheet for the 2026–2027 club membership registration.

These activities help us keep our membership records accurate and up to date and make the registration and renewal process easier for both members and the club.

Weekly Tournament Support

In addition to membership administration, I also assist with the club's weekly tournaments.
My responsibilities include:
● Helping set up the playing area before the tournament.

● Setting up chess boards, chess sets, and clocks.
● Assisting players and parents with the registration process.
● Explaining the tournament setup and procedures to new players and parents.
● Helping ensure that the weekly tournament starts smoothly and that players understand what they need to do.

Looking Ahead

For the coming year, I will continue to support the club's administration and look for ways to make our membership and tournament processes more organized and efficient. I would also like to thank the President, Treasurer, tournament organizers, and all the volunteers who contribute their time and effort to keep the Scarborough Chess Club running successfully.

Most importantly, I would like to thank all our members, parents, and players for their continued support of the club.

Thank you.
Michelle Zhang

Appendix C. Treasurer's Report

Overview
I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the period from August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026. The club's financial position remains stable, with sufficient funds to support the club's ongoing activities and upcoming events.
Financial Summary
Total revenue is $21,503
Total expense is $21,664.77
Overall operating deficit is $161.77

Income - Total Income: $21,503
During the reporting period, the club received income from the following sources:
Membership fees $18,615, compared with previous year, increased 845. Although we increasedmembership fee in 2025, the increased fee just to cover the increased FIDE rating fee.
The CFC membership fee we collected is $1,838
We received donation from Chess4win for $1,000 and from Bi's family for $50.

Expenses - Total Expenses: $21,664.77
The club's main expenses during the reporting period included:
Rent $12,878.07, increased 3,793 compared with previous fiscal year, mainly because we rent additional room to accommodate more players.
The CFC and Fide rating fee is $2,546.92
The CFC membership dues paid to CFC is $1,655.78
Another big expense is for equipment for $4,080.08. We bought chess board, chess pieces, chess bags, DGT clocks, score sheet and a printer.
Bank Balance
As of July 31, 2026, the club's bank balance was $44,293.02. The ending balance includinguncashed cheque 2,012.71. The balance has been reconciled with the club's financial records.
Financial Considerations
We have an unpaid balance with CFC $1,290.28 from previous years 2022 and 2023 with the amount of $1,290.28. The coming year we don't have any significant forecasted expense for equipment; we would forecast surplus for the coming year. Also, we have $44K sitting at our bank, which we could invest on GIC.

Conclusion
Overall, the club is in a stable financial position. I will continue to monitor the club's income and expenses and maintain accurate financial records to support the club's activities.

Submitted by:
Vivian Hong Chen
Treasurer, Scarborough Chess Club
September 02, 2026

Appendix D. Officer at Large Report

September 9, 2026
Luc Chamberland

The main activity taken for the 2025-26 season was to help SCC members better understand how other SCC members play, by digitizing SCC tournament scoresheets.

- 840 scoresheets (420 games) scanned, representing all SCC tournament games for the O1600 section.
- purchased an Epson Scanner ($418, out of pocket by Officer at Large) to accelerate the scanning process.
- Liaised with Hugh Brodie (Canbase) re the distribution of scans so that he could convert to PGN format.
- PGNs (from Canbase) processed, stored, integrated, and analyzed into ChessProfiler web site.
- Made SCC club members aware of the digitized games so that they can improve their level of play.
- To raise awareness of SCC, prominently displayed the SCC logo on ChessProfiler clubs page: https://chessprofiler.com/clubs