

**Scarborough Chess Club**  
**2013 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 5, 2013  
7:30 p.m. to 9:45 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 5, 2013 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:

Hamid Azizi  
Wilf Ferner  
Steve Karpik  
David Krupka  
Ken Kurkowski  
Bryan Lamb  
Jim Paterson  
M. Hassan Pishdad  
William Rutherford  
Maurice Smith  
Pino Verde  
Dee Wu

**3) Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The 2012 AGM minutes were approved as presented.

**4) President's Report**

Maurice Smith reported on highlights of the 2012-2013 club activities. Maurice circulated the President's Report (see Appendix A).

**5) Vice President's Report**

David Krupka, SCC Vice President 2012-2013, provided a verbal report. In his report, he emphasized the need for volunteers to participate in the running of the club. He thanked those members who already help with tasks like putting out chess boards, clocks and pieces before our games. He noted that there is an urgent need for a backup for Steve Karpik in his role as pairings administrator. If Steve could not make it on a given week, the club would have a serious problem.

**6) Treasurer's Report**

Ken Kurkowski submitted a Financial Report for 2012-2013 (see Appendix B). Ken noted that rent is expected to go up \$36 per night. This increase will mean the club may sustain a small loss in the coming year if there is no adjustment to the membership fees. The Executive recommended that membership fees remain at their current level for 2013-2014 and the financial situation of the club will be re-evaluated at the 2014 AGM. 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. He also discussed an ongoing problem with a small number of club members who habitually forfeited games. Steve recommended new, stronger penalties for forfeits.

**8) Office-at-Large Report**

Hamid Azizi, 2012-2013 Officer-at-Large, focused his report on the finances of the club's coffee and hot chocolate service. Hamid reported that the coffee service is breaking even.

**9) SCC Facebook Page Report**

Bob Armstrong presented a report on the club's Facebook page (see Appendix D).

**10) Decisions**

- a) Currently, the club is using a time control of 1:10 + 10 sec/move. The Executive recommended that the time control be increased to 1:10 + 15 sec/move. This recommendation was unanimously approved.
- b) The Executive proposed that, in the 2014 Club Championship, for the purpose of determining the champion, a maximum of two ½ point byes will be counted. This recommendation was unanimously approved.
- c) The Executive recommended that the 2014 Club Championship be switched from a round robin format to a 8-round Swiss format tournament to avoid problems with rescheduling games in round robin format tournaments. To minimize mismatches in the first two rounds, it was proposed that accelerated pairings be used. It was also proposed that the qualification criterion for the club championship be changed. Previously, only players who had played 10 games prior to the championship could participate. Now, it was proposed that all players from the club can play in the new Swiss format championship, but only those with 10 games played prior can qualify to be declared club champion. These recommendations were unanimously approved.

- d) The Executive proposed that players forfeiting games shall both receive a rated loss and a one-game suspension from the tournament. Re-entry to the tournament would have to be arranged in person by the offending player to the President. This recommendation was approved.
- e) Will Rutherford and Bob Armstrong proposed that the current three section (1800+, 1400-1799, under 1400) structure of the club's Swiss tournaments be replaced with a four section structure (1800+, 1600-1799, 1400-1599 and under 1400). As before, players within 100 rating points of a rating floor could elect to play up a section. The motion passed.

#### **11) Any Other Business for the Outgoing Executive**

None.

#### **12) Elections of the 2013-2014 Executive Committee Members**

- a) Election of President

Maurice Smith was acclaimed as President for 2013-2014.

- b) Election of Vice President

David Krupka was acclaimed as Vice President for 2013-2014.

- c) Election of Treasurer

Ken Kurkowski was acclaimed as Treasurer for 2013-2014.

- d) Election of Secretary

Steve Karpik was acclaimed as Secretary for 2013-2014.

- e) Election of Officer-at-Large

Hamid Azizi was acclaimed as Officer-at-Large for 2013-2014.

#### **13) Appointment of Facebook Page Administrator**

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

#### **14) Any Other Business**

- a) Members at the AGM were asked about the desirability of holding a Quick Chess tournament in 2013-2014. Support for the idea was weak.
- b) Maurice Smith told the AGM that longtime club member Gord Blackman is now resident in Bendale Acres. Maurice suggested that the club should present Gord with one of the old mechanical clocks as a gift. This suggestion was unanimously approved.

#### **15) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m. The next AGM is scheduled for the first Thursday in September 2014 (Thursday, September 4, 2014).

## ***Appendix A: President's Report***

2012/13 was another successful year for the Scarborough Chess Club. Membership has stayed at over 100 throughout the year. Now, Juniors compose about half of our membership, so our future looks bright.

Our financial situation remains strong with a closing balance slightly higher than last year. The main concern is still the rent paid to the Community Centre. It will be over \$8,000 this year. If the dance group that we share the hall with renews their permit, our fee will drop by \$36.00 a night. At this writing, they have not renewed. Our Treasurer can give you other details in his report. The good news is that we will not have to increase membership fees.

We will continue to support our Juniors by providing a one year Scarborough membership extension and a C.F.C. membership extension for our Juniors who participate in the World Youth Chess Championship.

Members and the Juniors teachers said they like the way the Club is being run. Therefore we should avoid making major changes. However, there have been some areas that have needed improvement and the Executive have met and made decisions that will improve procedures at the Club. These items will be discussed with the members later in the meeting.

I have been on many Executives. They include C.F.C., O.C.A., G.T.C.L. as well as the S.C.C. Therefore I can say that our Executive this year has been one of the best that I have ever been part of. The Executive are insightful, knowledgeable, committed to the Club and easy to work with. So thank you David, Steve, Ken and Hamid and all our wonderful volunteers that truly make this Canada's outstanding Chess Club,

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

Maurice Smith  
President

## **Appendix B: Treasurer's Report**

	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>
<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	<b>13,711.69</b>	<b>11,506.09</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Club Memberships	10,430.00	11,119.00
CFC Dues Collected	2,880.00	2,526.00
Coffee & Concession	287.51	229.94
Book & Equipment Sales	120.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>13,717.51</b>	<b>13,874.94</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Rent	6,867.75	5,743.21
CFC Rating Fees	2,156.04	2,027.22
CFC Dues Remitted *	3,030.00	2,556.00
Website Hosting/Domain Name	270.52	270.52
Coffee Supplies	213.18	235.45
Trophies	134.33	127.55
Chess Equipment	437.29	709.39
Miscellaneous Supplies	0.00	0.00
Bank/Misc Charges	168.55	0.00
Adjustment for stale dated cheque	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>13,277.66</b>	<b>11,669.34</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>439.85</b>	<b>2,205.60</b>
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	<b>14,151.54</b>	<b>13,711.69</b>

\*Includes \$120. CFC dues paid by SCC for 4 CYCC winners from SCC (Taylor Zhang, Harmony Zhu, Kajan Thanabalachandran, Varshini Paraparan).

### **Treasurer's Opinion**

The Club continues to maintain its strong financial position. This is the eighth season in a row of continued improved fiscal health for the Club with the 2012/2013 financials showing a significant improvement in performance over 2011/2012. Our cash balance is now over \$14,000.

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.

Hall rental costs have slightly increased- this, along with a slight decrease in membership revenues is the main reason for this year's reduced

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 5, 2013

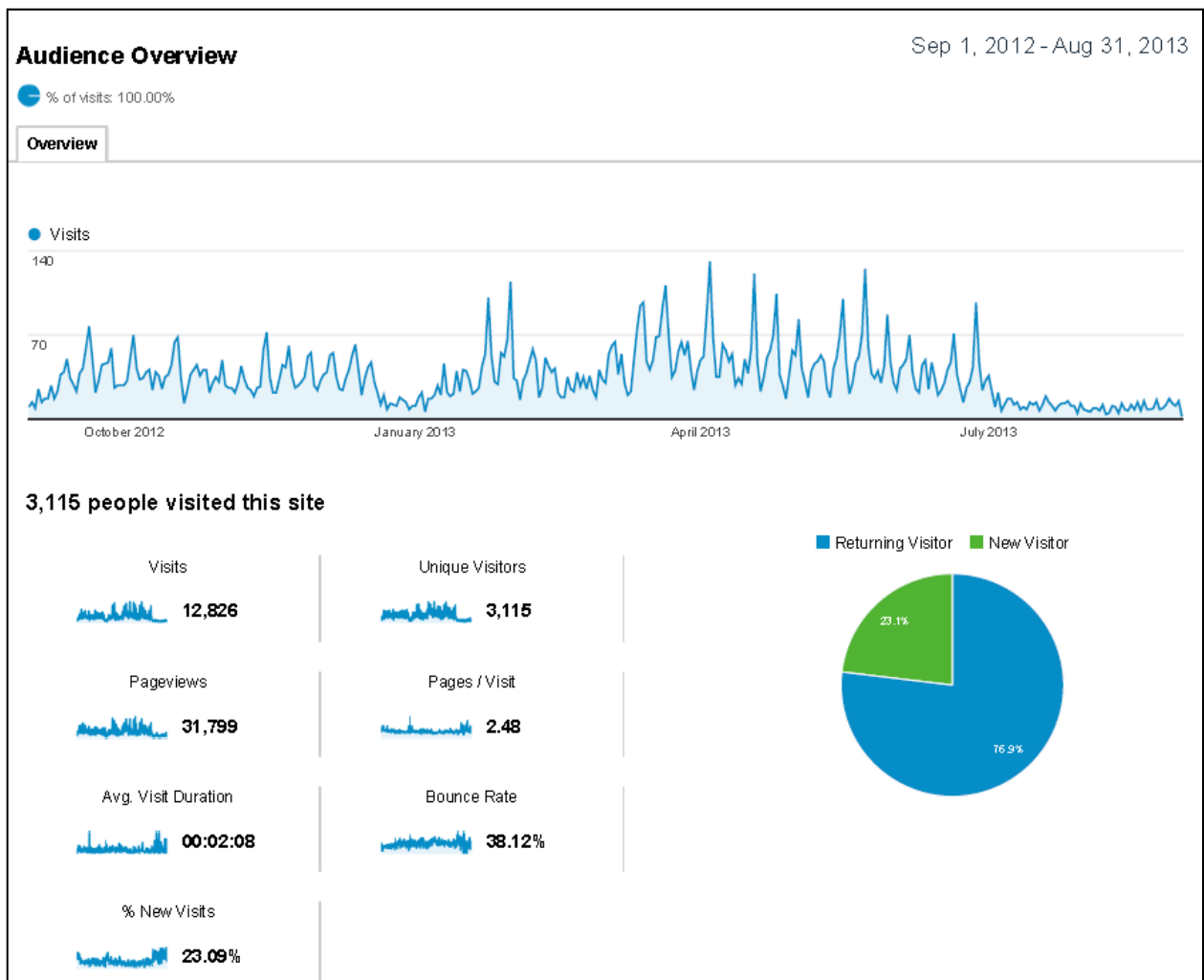
## Appendix C: Secretary's Report

We had another great year at the Scarborough Chess Club. Membership continues to increase and our web site ([www.scarboroughchessclub.ca](http://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 **12,826** visits to the web site between September 1, 2012 and August 31, 2013. Nearly 77% of visitors were returning visitors and 23% new visitors to the site.

We had **1,342** visits on mobile devices (iPhones, Android phones, tablets, etc.).



We've had significant 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%

### Forfeits and No-Shows

In 2012-2013, a new rule was put into place that was supposed to cut down on the number of forfeited games. It was a dismal failure. If anything, forfeits were more of a problem last year than they were in previous years. For the most part, club members are extremely responsible and let me or Maurice know when they cannot make it to a game. A small minority of players, however, are not so courteous. These players tended to miss one game per tournament where they never bothered to notify anyone, thus inconveniencing other club members and making my job as Pairings Secretary miserable. The problem is that the 2012-2013 rule is toothless. The threat of a rated forfeit did not impress on these individuals that their behavior is unacceptable.

The Executive is going to be proposing a new rule for 2013-2014 where **individuals who fail to notify the club that they cannot play on a given night and do not show up will be given a rated forfeit and will not be paired for the next game.** After serving a one-game suspension, these individuals will only be paired on the second week if they show up at the club by no later than 7:15 p.m. to verify that they are available to play that round.

I want to reiterate that the majority of club members are a pleasure to work with and are completely courteous to me and all other club members. It is just a small number of club members that need a stronger message about the inappropriateness of not notifying us prior to game time that they will not be playing.

\* \* \* \* \*

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 2013-2014.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Karpik  
Secretary



## ***Appendix D***

### **Scarborough Chess Club Facebook Page – Report to SCC 2013-4 AGM**

By Bob Armstrong, initial SCC FB Co-administrator (with Steve Karpik)

I am co-administrator of the SCC Facebook page, with Steve Karpik. I am responsible for updating content. Steve is responsible for technical maintenance.

Other than setting up the page initially, Steve has had no issues to deal with.

SCC activated, at my request, its dormant SCC FB Page on or about March 15, 2013. At the same time, I volunteered to become the co-administrator with Steve, the then sole administrator, having set up a while earlier, the shell page. The executive considered opinions pro and con, and it seemed Steve's recommendation to the executive to proceed won the day. Maurice Smith, SCC President, then appointed me co-administrator, and then Steve added me into the SCC FB Page administration.

Already we now have, after 5 months, 56 "Likes". These are people who have visited the page and approved it by "liking" it. In a sense, they then become members of the page, and if they want, can receive an e-mail of every post made on the page. Others can also come and view the posts, without "liking" – we have had up to 90 views of some posts from time to time.

FB is particularly set up to accommodate pictures. So I have used many pictures over the course of the last 5 months. I also edit/publish a chess e-newsletter, Toronto Chess News. So I have arranged with SCC photographer, Dinesh Dattani, that if he has SCC photos, I will store them in the TCN photo-gallery, and then make them available for any SCC uses, such as this FB page. This arrangement has worked well – I have good photos to use on the SCC FB page, and at the same time they have become available for me to use in TCN, especially adding them into the SCC TCN Liaison's news reports (Ken Kurkowski). Here is a sampling of pictures I've used (many taken by Dinesh):

1. Each of the current SCC Executive;
2. The current Club Champion;
3. Some past club champions;
4. The SCC playing hall, outside and inside;
5. An SCC Youth Development Award presentation
6. 1st and sometimes 2nd place finishers in club tournaments in all sections;
7. Pictures of juniors playing in the 2013 Can. Youth Chess Championships, played in Ottawa.

We have received strong support for our SCC FB Page from former members. Many have become "Likes" of our page. Two regular commenters on the page have been former members Randy Moysoski and David Lawless. A current junior parent who has commented is Jeffrey Verman, father of Nicholas Vettese.

Dinesh's photos are of top quality, and when seen on our FB page, he has received requests to forward to people digital copies.

Lastly, this SCC page is great advertising for the club, given the high numbers of people now regularly accessing FB. Our page can be found in FB searches, which further promotes our club.

RECOMMENDATION – that SCC continue operating its SCC FB Page for a further year.

I have advised Maurice that I am willing to be appointed/elected again at the 2013-4 SCC AGM to serve for another year as SCC FB co-administrator.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Armstrong  
August 16, 2013