

FOLIE À TRENTÉ-HUIT

IM ATANASOV WINS TCC INAUGURAL BLITZ



Story by Alex Ferreira

The new club on the block set out to do something a little different. The venue, modest in capacity, welcomed 38 players and socialites for what turned out to be quite the competitive Blitz tournament. A blend of up and coming juniors, university trouble-makers, and those who like to scope out the new scene, including a couple of new faces in Toronto Chess. It also was a pleasure to preside over so many of my arbiter and organizer colleagues, who can and do enjoy playing chess, if only so seldom.

The inaugural event was largely successful due to International Master (turned scourge telemarketer) Mark Plotkin, who lobbied the community to ascend to the 31st floor of the Manulife Centre.



The view from our humble hall is unlike any other club. Facing south, largely unobstructed by neighbouring skyscrapers, one can enjoy the sunset hovering over much of Toronto's downtown and its landmarks.

A blitz 7 double-rounder, the tournament provided plenty of exciting chess, each participant playing 14 games in total. At the top, players swapped positions as the competition progressed.

IM Anthony Atanasov emerged victorious with a very respectable 11.5/14, ahead of second-place **FM Eilia Zomorrodian** with 10.5 points. Rounding up the top with 10 points each were **IM Nicholas Vettese**, **Geordie Derraugh**, **Fengxi Mao** and **CM Koosha Jaferian**. Although competing all in one section, the class-prize winners all had to steal points from stronger favourites to get their name on the scoreboard.



Bingfei Wang and **Justin Huang** swept the U2000 & U1600 (shared) honours , with **WFM Cindy Qiao** taking top lady stop.

Some strange discrepancy between Quick / FIDE Blitz ratings and players' classical ratings, a testament that more of these speed events are long overdue.

Across the floor from the playing venue, the Club Lounge was a place to relax between rounds, where parents, fans, and friends could socialize throughout the event.

After the tournament, the **social component** was welcomed by just about every participant, friend and fan who came to check out the Toronto Chess Centre. Off the street even came two strange characters, Jimmy and Michael, sporting polo-t-shirts and short shorts, as if they were at a tennis club. Adequately dressed in black and white, it was their way of making it clear that chess was the theme, as they came specifically for the TCC's deuce: a drink and a slice.

The tournament ended around 9:00 pm, and it became abundantly clear that for some, it just wasn't enough. During the eternal social, food, drinks, blitz, bughouse, colourful banter were the order of the day. Never too late for another good story and a laugh. And never early enough either...

On **October 20th**, there we go again, this time in Rapid format!

Photo Credits: John Upper

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