

IM VETTESE WINS

IN TCC'S WRAP-UP EVENT!



Story by Alex Ferreira

As the winter creeps closer, the pace slows down. Time again for some more thoroughly-thought chess, in Rapid time control.

Youngster **Dharsan Satish Alwar**, with the blitz now gone and warmed up, took the U1600 prize with 3.0/5.

At the top, history writes itself. The usual university suspects were led by **IM Nicholas Vettese** who won the tournament convincingly with 4.5/5. Playing and scoring against his three main rivals. Sharing the podium were **Fengxi Mao, Bingfei Wang**, and in-coming **Daniel Zhang**, able to hold his own in the mix, all with 4.0/5. Bingfei took the top U2000 while slotted in the overall podium, not conceding a loss.



Top lady prize was convincingly taken by **WFM Cindy Qiao**, with 3.0/5.

Coming down the arena stands, Grace Taylor courageously joined the action at the board, having been a staunch supporter of this initiative from Day 1. A rare appearance made by the ever-elusive character known only as Rob, Rolled onto the vacant seat, filling a gap-for-a-game, rounding up the odd field.

By now a must, after the official event, the reason why some of us fools, bother to come up the 31 st floor of the Manulife Centre. The unofficial event! Players mingled over some more chess, a winded-down conversation over a drink, and evolving pizza selection, as we learn people's preferences.

And for those of us mindless of the fact that the work-



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week is encroaching on our day-dream, the philosophical discourse continuously unfolds under Toronto’s artifice-al illuminated skyline.

That’s a Wrap!

And that was 2024, made magical at the core of downtown Toronto.

Over the four events at the Manulife Centre, about 100 different people joined our new initiative, 84 of them at the board. Many of whom, traveling quite the distances across Ontario, was the way for them

to end the week on Sunday evening. An incredibly balanced blend between youth, the older-guard, university students, chess enthusiasts of any age, gender or skill-level all joined us for the same reasons. Play some chess, meet people, have a good time!

Perhaps most humbling for us, each tournament edition welcomed first-time over-the-board players, choosing the Toronto Chess Centre as their own inaugural event.

What’s next? Who knows!

Tell us your experience; with nothing specifically planned at the Manulife, we may just go from there!

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