

## 2011 Ottawa Spring Open

One of the good things about inclement weather, is when you have a passion about something special indoors! Over 60 people thought the same way on the first weekend of March, to come together for the Ottawa Spring Open. The weather was a little strange at times, but no one was more than just a few minutes late to any of their games. Also, once you were onsite, you were all set: the RA Centre in Ottawa provides many rec options, and a full resto/bar.

The players were split up quite evenly across 5 sections: Masters-U2200-U2000-U1800-U1600. All of them are being rated CFC, and the top 3 (formerly 2) sections are also being rated FIDE. The CFC crosstables are being separated along the lines of the top 3 sections vs. the last 2 sections. By sheer luck, there was dramatically low need this tournament for floating Amateur players up, nor even using odd-numbers floaters. For the next Ottawa event, the section rating cutoffs will be shaken up, not just for opponent variety, but also to help inject more FIDE rating performances, especially by U2000 players.

To the results, we started with 63 players, and ended with \$2600 in prizes! The Masters Section started with 2 FIDE title players: GM Bator Sambuev and IM Tom O'Donnell, and by the end, young Roman Sapozhnikov was within reach of the FM title! Bator and Roman clearly owned this tournament, only losing a half-point to each other, en route to identical scores of 4.5-0.5, thus sharing the 1st and 2nd place prizes, to the tune of \$400 each. A full point behind them, for \$200, was Tom, who battled back very professionally from a loss and a draw in his first 2 games, to finish with a score of 3.5-1.5, which was another full point ahead of the rest of the section. All 3 of these top section winners continually demonstrated the grinding edge that makes them elite!

In the U2200 Section, veteran local player William Doubleday took the clear lead by the 3rd round, and virtually never looked back. Bill earned \$300 for finishing with a score of 4-1. Right behind him at 3.5-1.5, was another experienced local player, Saeid Sadeghi, who grabbed \$200 for his results. For the first time with these particular section rating cutoffs (U2200, U2000, etc), we also had a \$100 U2200 3rd place prize. A 50% score was enough to get a piece of this, which was split by yet another veteran local player, Halldor Palsson, and by the very young, and very impressive, Olivier-Kenta Chiku-Ratte.

The U2000 Section was a very friendly collection of good players playing battling chess, and it also ended with by far the closest results of any section. 4 out of the 14 players scored 3.5-1.5 to tie for all \$500 in section prizes. In rating order, congratulations are in order for Emil Smilovici, Danail Donev, Stuart Brammall (Amateur, no prize), and Robert Laszlo. This was a wonderfully close section, with many final round games impacting the distribution of prizes.

Moving along to the sections that are being rated CFC only, the U1800 section also

wrapped up dramatically across several boards in the last round. Both Luc Villeneuve and Francesco Dunne finished very strongly, to leapfrog into a tie at the top with scores of 4-1. They thus split the \$300 in U1800 prizes.

Finishing off with the U1600 Section, 2 young lads, Emil Levkovsky and David Zhang, scored 3.5-1.5 to top everyone else. However, Emil was playing as an Amateur, and so David grabbed the \$200 prize all for himself. David, and his brother Kevin, were briefly students of mine a few years ago, and it is great to see both of them rising up the chess ranks. Their parents are also the nicest chess parents, always very appreciative of efforts of Organizers, TDs, etc.

Finally, I would like to thank some key people, without whom this tournament just would not have been the same. It is very often the same names, but I believe very deeply that these people deserve our appreciation for making these events so enjoyable. First up, Billy Carroll went out at his own expense, and purchased hundreds of carbon copy scoresheets to donate to my Ottawa events. John Upper also donated some, and he collected the submitted ones to write an article for the CFC newsletter. In addition, John is PGNing all of the captured games, to be forwarded to Hugh Brodie for his database.

John also volunteered to be our FIDE sections floater, ensuring no forced byes for anyone. and even though he was nursing a bad cold, he posted a phenomenal performance rating over 2600! Norman Devine also volunteered as a floater, for the CFC-only sections. Guys, thank you so very much! :)

Even though the floaters are so critical, often on very short notice, the hard-working guys who help me set-up and wrap-up, save me hours of time. So special thanks to Billy Carroll and Halldor Palsson, especially in cleaning up, which helped me make it home not too late for a mini family reunion. In other words, my wife says thanks too, LOL! Finally, it was great to see Stuart Brammall and Michael VonKeitz. These young men seem to know everything that is happening in our chess community, we could just talk for hours! It really is impressive how engaged Michael is at so many levels of chess governance, and for a relatively youthful arbiter, Stuart is remarkably insightful, demonstrating very clear thinking when evaluating/comparing pairing system variations.

To all of you named in the previous 3 paragraphs, I tip my hat to you! Thanks!

Please visit the weblink below for a PDF of the wall chart. It should be up there in a day or so, followed by links to the CFC crosstables later this week.

Yours in chess,

Aris Marghetis, FIDE Arbiter  
Organizer/TD, EOCA President  
[http://www.eoca.org/htm/tournaments\\_2010-11.html](http://www.eoca.org/htm/tournaments_2010-11.html)

**My next event will be the Eastern Ontario Open, which will hopefully become the start of a fun chess tradition. We are expanding it to 6 rounds (for the same price as the 5 rounds last weekend), and still including the multiple early registration discounts that people love taking advantage of. Even more special, is that are moving to the Canada Day long weekend. The highlight day will be the 2nd round, being planned for 10am on Canada Day. After that, everyone is free for the rest of the afternoon and evening to enjoy Canada Day in Ottawa. There is absolutely no better day all year to spend in Ottawa, than on Canada Day! All the celebration events in the National Capital area (Ottawa & Gatineau, Quebec) are free. Canadians stream in from across the country, and it also seems to be a popular tourist attraction. There are dozens and dozens of activities for couples and families to check out, culminating with great fireworks. In case you keep partying even after that, our next round will be at only 1pm the next day, providing plenty of time to get back in form!**

**P.S. To book budget accommodations near the playing site, go to the EOCA Tournaments page (above), for the link to Carleton University Residences.**

**If you would like to receive details about this next event directly by email, please email [arismarghetis@rogers.com](mailto:arismarghetis@rogers.com) to be added to my private email list.**