

2008 Eastern Ontario Open

For the last weekend in May, the forecast called for lots of rain, and that seemed to help turnout, as over 60 players from the Toronto-Montreal corridor congregated in Ottawa for the 2008 Eastern Ontario Open. This event is the final one, and traditionally the biggest, in the annual Grand Prix series run by the EOCA (Eastern Ontario Chess Association).

This growing number of players represents an increase of about 30% from last year's edition, and served to guarantee some chunky cash prizes. In addition, the median rating of the players was high enough for us to consider FIDE rating the top section next event!

Back to the results for this tournament, the top Section A was completely dominated by GM Bator Sambuev, who scored a perfect 5-0 en route to claiming the \$500 first prize!

After that, Nicolas Arsenault, who lost only to Bator, scored 4-1 for clear second place, and claimed the \$300 second prize. Rounding out the top Section A, Armando Valdizon won both games on Sunday, and leapfrogged several competitors on his way to a score of 3.5-1.5, earning himself the \$125 third prize. Of note, Egidijus Zeromskis also scored 3.5-1.5, but was playing as an Amateur. He also enjoyed my manual pairing by cards! ;)

Section B (1999-1600) included class prizes for rating ranges 1999-1800 & 1799-1600.

For 1999-1800, there were many players tied for top spot heading into the 4th round, but then Christopher Pace and Sonja Xiong, who had drawn each other in Round 3, had very successful Sundays, to finish as undefeated co-winners with scores of 4-1, splitting \$300.

For 1799-1600, Gordon Ritchie and Philippe Leveillee both finished with the impressive scores of 3-2, but as Philippe was playing as an Amateur, Gordon won the \$200 prize.

Section C (1599-UNR) was a very friendly section with many family groupings, and most of the players in the section played as Amateur. As had been advertized though, there was still a \$200 prize up for grabs, and young Anthony Pace, brother of Section B co-winner Christopher, finished the tournament with 4 straight wins, for a score of 4-1, and won the cash. Impressively, Stuart Brammall also scored 4-1, but he was playing as an Amateur.

In closing, I would like to thank the various people who brought me food and drink so that I could always be in the playing area. Finally, for the winners who left before prizes were handed out, they are being mailed today, except for RA

club members, who I expect to see at the RA this Thursday evening. Please advise if you need your prize sooner! :)

Yours in chess,

Aris Marghetis, Organizer/TD

<http://www.eoca.org/htm/Tournaments%2007-08.htm>

P.S. My next event will be the RA Fall Open in September. If you might be interested, please send an email to arismarghetis@rogers.com so that I can just email you the info.