

Double Trouble (Simultaneous Madness) Report

After the unexpectedly successful 24-Hour Marathon in August, I decided to try out more mad ideas. I thought players may want to imitate the Igor Ivanov / Brian Hartman simultaneous exhibition in the 1985 Canadian Open & Closed. I therefore guaranteed a \$380 prize fund for a 5 double round swiss. The players would play one game with white and one game with black against the same opponent in each round. Eighteen brave souls, including four masters and four experts, decided to take up the challenge on Dec. 30. Among the participants was Ontario organizer Frank Dixon.

The simuls were quite amusing to the spectators. Many players had trouble dealing with simultaneous time scrambles. At the end, FM Gary 'Bobby' Basanta scored a 'Fischer-like' 10-0 to claim the \$200 first prize! This may possibly be the only 10-0 score in an open swiss in Canada! Finishing in second place with 7 was BC Co-Champion Dragoljub Milicevic. Nick Beqo was third and took the expert prize with 6.5. James Kerry won top 'A' with 5.5. Neil Hamanishi took top 'B' with 5. Because of the low turnout, I had to subsidize the guaranteed prize fund by \$250.

The day of madness ended with an unusual blitz tournament. Black moved first in every game for the 7 double-round swiss! I read somewhere that masters in the former Soviet Union used to play such games for practice. Predictably, this took a toll on many players' well-memorized opening knowledge! A total of 19 players, including four masters and five experts, took up the challenge. The surprise winner was newcomer John Villamin, who took the \$100 first prize with 10.5-3.5. Gary Basanta and Sergei Sokourinski were second with 10. Bottom-rated Graham Sadoway, 1391, scored an amazing 5.5!

TD, Organizer and Report: NTD Henry Chiu