

U.S. CHESS TRUST REPORT



by **Chairman Harold J. Winston**

The U.S. Chess Trust is a Massachusetts Trust, which is federally tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and it supports chess nationwide. On March 1, 2003, the annual World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Museum dinner was held in Miami; FIDE VP Steve Doyle inducted former World Champion Boris Spassky into the World Hall of Fame. Spassky graciously praised his co-inductees: former World Champions

Mikhail Botvinnik, Vassily Smyslov, Mikhail Tal and Tigran Petrosian. Also present were GMs Lev Alburt and Walter Browne, 2002 inductees to the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame. Madge Byrne, widow of the remaining U.S. inductee, the late Donald Byrne, also spoke. The value of the museum was demonstrated anew by the pride of the players and their families at the museum tour and the dinner. Hall of Fame Executive Director Al Lawrence and Trust President Shane Samole once again organized an exciting weekend commemoration including a live chess game by the Florida Renaissance Society and simuls by GMs. Also present were FIDE Treasurer David Jarrett, USCF Executive Director Frank Niro, Trust Managing Director Barbara DeMaro, and three past USCF Presidents: Steve Doyle, Don Schultz and Harold Winston. I spoke at the dinner on behalf of the Trust, describing Trust activities and introducing Alburt, Browne, and the Byrne family. USCF President John McCrary and USCF Vice President Frank Camaratta also attended the dinner, as did Women's World Champion Susan Polgar, whose activities on behalf of the Trust, including writing the 2002 fund raising letter are greatly appreciated. The Museum has more exhibits and is better than ever.

It was a pleasure for me to speak at the award ceremony of the 2002 Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions. One of my goals is to increase Trust support for this event, conceived by former Trustee and current Executive Board member GM Denker. The Scholar Chessplayer program is another valuable contribution of the Chess Trust and encourages scholastic chess.

At the 2002 annual meetings, the Trustees appointed Barbara DeMaro as Managing Director. She has worked on many Trust projects in the last year, notably in arranging for World Champion Susan Polgar promotions at the National Elementary and the National Junior High Championships in 2003. GM Polgar donated many activities, including a private dinner, group lesson and question-and-answer session, a private clock simul and official photo sessions for participants. Susan Polgar and her manager, Paul Truong, have gone out of their way to assist the Trust and we greatly appreciate their help. Everyone was a winner thanks to the generosity of World Chess Network for sponsoring free memberships.

Barbara also arranged live coverage on ESPN 2 of the Kasparov-Deep Jr. match, yielding great publicity for chess and resulting in donations to the Trust from X3D Technologies and the Kasparov Foundation. Barbara also obtained a donation to the Trust from the David M.C. Ju Foundation.

As a result of discussion at the Trust's 2002 Annual Meeting and at the impetus of Chairman Emeritus Harold Dondis, our longtime leader, the Trust has notified the IRS of its support for events such as the U.S. Teams in the Olympiads. Since the IRS has not objected, we believe such expenditures are proper under the Trust's section 501 (c) (3) exemptions. My thanks to Massachusetts's attorney Michael Donlan who drafted the notification, working with Harold Dondis and myself and with input from Dana Belcher.

Last year also, an important step was taken to diminish friction over selection of future Trustees. Both the Trust and the USCF Executive Board agreed future Trustees would be named only with the support of both the current Trustees and the Executive Board. This was a compromise, which I suggested. In the past a 4-3 Executive Board vote was sufficient to choose a new Trustee, even if the current Trustees did not agree to the choice.

We continue to support providing chess equipment to schools nationwide.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHESS

I want to thank all our Trustees for their help and their work: Harold Dondis (MA), President Shane Samole (FL), Treasurer Steve Doyle (NJ), Scholastic VP Pete Nixon (MI), Myron Lieberman (AZ), Jim Eade (N.CA), Dr. Leroy Dubeck (NJ), Joe Ippolito (NJ), Dana Belcher (NY). Two former Trustees left the Trust because of new positions: Arnold Denker as USCF Executive Board member and Frank Niro as USCF Executive Director. This has been another tough year in the stock market, and the Trust thanks former Trustee Jim Oberweis (IL), who handles our investments. The Trust greatly appreciates the outreach efforts of Rachel and Myron Lieberman. We appreciate the assistance of Secretary Frank Niro and Assistant Secretary Barbara Vandermark. Chairman Emeritus Harold Dondis continues to provide wise counsel.

The Trust works in public and everyone is welcome at our annual meeting during the U.S. Open, held at the Radisson Hotel at the Los Angeles Airport on Thursday afternoon August 7, 2003. Tax-deductible contributions should be made to the U.S. Chess Trust and sent to the USCF office in New Windsor, attention Barbara Vandermark. I thank all our contributors over the last year for their support of chess.



Left to Right: Robert Yalen (ESPN Director of Programming and Acquisitions), Barbara DeMaro (Managing Director, U.S. Chess Trust), Ken Podiziba (NYC Sports Commissioner) at Kasparov vs. Deep Junior