



KAPITI CHESS CLUB

CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT 2018

First, a few acknowledgments:

Rose Kingston, whose legacy in the club cannot be overstated.
Alan Winfield, who has been a very visionary and exceptional president.
David Paul, who along with Rose and Ian Liddell, convinced me to join this club.
All our supporters who have come along today – thank you!

Let me list off what positive achievements we have made this year:

Our tournaments are now nationally rated.
We had a very fun ladder tournament.
We had Russel Dive and Anthony Ker teach us better chess.
We had a big increase in membership, especially juniors.
We had a chess variants night.
We had a very successful rapid tournament, the Kapiti 2000.
We switched the club championships to accelerated swiss pairing, to ensure matches were more competitive than they had been in the past, while allowing new players to join later in the year.
We had a very competitive series of tournaments with a very high standard of play.
We had over 30,000 unique visitors to our website.

A few things for the future:

Review bye points. No tournament should allow byes for absence in every round, but juniors should get byes if they attend, but games run past their bedtimes.
Rules for the ladder tournament could be tweaked to ensure all members have a good number of opponents on every ladder night.
More training, perhaps bring back what we did on the first ladder night more regularly, if we allow more members to be involved at a time.
We need to get more girls into chess. Young girls are more social than boys and need other girls to stick around.
The junior representative role should mean something. Right now, it's completely tokenistic as committee meetings are held at times when juniors cannot realistically attend.
We need to avoid copying Alan's updates to our website. Google will penalise us for plagiarism if we do that. I think the club secretary should a position that takes responsibility for reporting this kind of thing.
Despite the increase in revenue due to increased membership, we would still be running at a loss this year despite the concerns raised at the previous AGM, if not for Alan bailing us out so we can break even. I suggest the committees of the near future avoid capital expenses like the new chess clocks we purchased this year.
With respect to fees, we had several members not participate in the club this year because they could not afford our fees. I think a potential solution to this might be to have an unwaged option for casual fees, perhaps by allowing unwaged adults to pay the same as the junior casual fee on nights they attend.
Alan has suggested a review of the club constitution, which I support. I think it important that procedures are followed, but that the committee are all on the same page too.
As a focus, I think it's important we don't limit ourselves to the serious, professional chess player only, but the casual player who just wants to have some fun and be social while playing.

Overall, I hope that members feel they have enjoyed being a part of the club and having me as captain. It has been a privilege. Thank you all so much both as captain, and as chess competitor - I know I'll miss you all when I leave.

Lars Dobbertin-King
Club Captain