



Kapiti Chess Club A.G.M

Presidents Report – 18 February 2020

It has been a busy and vibrant year for Kapiti Chess Club.

The Kapiti Rapid was reinstated as a Grand Prix category 3 rapid play event. The tournament attracted 32 entrants from as far afield as Auckland. The tournament was the strongest ever held in the region with 3 IM's participating, Scott Wasney and joint NZ Champions Anthony Ker and Russell Dive. The event had an average rating of 1848 and the open was won by IM Scott Wasney. Congratulation to Guy Burns and David Paul who shared the Flora Paul Memorial Trophy for the top Kapiti players at the event.

The tournament received great praise from those who attended and is now considered a significant event on the NZCF calendar. I would like to thank Club Member Neels du Plesis, who's \$500.00 donation to the event, made a significant contribution to its success.

Running alongside the Kapiti Rapid, we held the Kapiti Horowhenua School Chess Championship. This is a Club initiative to raise the profile of chess at school level within our region. The inaugural event attracted participants from Levin to Wellington, and a total of 11 schools were represented. The event was won by Kapiti College.

Support and development of junior chess has been a key focus of the Club over the last year. Regular structured junior coaching is now available at the Club. In addition, the Club runs the NZCF Badge Scheme, which awards juniors with Certificates and Badges for achieving set standards in chess. Two tests were successfully completed in April and October by all juniors participating. The Club's encouragement of junior chess is supported by the growing number of junior members. Special mention to Club Member Geoffrey Gunawan, who took top honours at the Wellington Junior Chess Open held at Johnsonville.

Membership took a dip at the start of the year, however quickly rebounded.

| Year | Membership Category | | | Total |
|------|---------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| | Senior | Unwaged | Junior | |
| 2018 | 12 | NA | 6 | 18 |
| 2019 | 11 | 1 | 8 | 20 |

Increasing the membership is challenging within our region which has a traditionally low number of graded players. However, if we continue to offer a fun and friendly environment for playing and socialising, then I would hope that numbers will steadily increase. It is significant that junior membership is now 40% of total membership, and I expect the junior contingent to exceed Seniors



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this year for the first time ever. This will be a worthy goal which underscores the potential and support for junior chess in our region.

To enhance the playing experience and to support growing membership, the Club has made significant additions to Club equipment. Over the last year the Club has added the following:

- 2 x laptop PC's (used for tournament pairing software & coaching)
- 1 x Overhead projector (for coaching)
- 2 x Trophies (Winter Cup / Kapiti Horowhenua School Championship)
- 5 x Wooden chess pieces
- 5 x Wooden chess boards
- 10 x DGT 1020 chess clocks
- 10 x plastic storage boxes for plastic pieces

The Club took advantage of a special offer from NZCF to acquire 10 new chess clocks, provided at a significantly discounted price by FIDE, the chess world governing body. Special thanks to Committee Member and Regional NZCF Representative, Ross Jackson, for facilitating this transaction.

The Club was successful in the award of the maximum eligible grant of \$500.00 from Kapiti District Council. The money was used to purchase some of the assets highlighted above.

The total investment in new equipment was \$1,290.80, which represents 27% of total income for the year, had a negative impact on the Closing Balance at year-end of \$499.15. However, the investment puts the Club in a good position to strengthen the financial position next year as there is no major capex required.

We had a couple of special nights during the season, with a casual visit to the Club in March by GM Timur Gareyev, following his win at the NZ Open. Timur's superpower is blindfold chess, and he is in the Guinness Book of Records for the most simultaneous games (48) played blindfold! We also had a Chess Master Class with IM's Russell Dive & Anthony Ker, who came back to the Club in April to share some of their games and experiences from the recent Chess Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia.

I would like to thank the Committee members Guy Burns (Vice President), David Paul (Captain), David Scott (Secretary), Brendon Holman (Treasurer), Ross Jackson (Committee Member) and Mark Summers (Junior Representative), who's hard work and support has contributed to a successful year. Special thanks to David Scott, who has done a fantastic job managing and updating the website and Facebook sites.

The Club has made great strides in the last year and I am excited about the Club's potential to grow and to deliver the benefits of chess to our wider community.

Gordon Lyall

President
Kapiti Chess Club