



Kāpiti Chess Club A.G.M

Presidents Report – 2nd March 2021

It has been a challenging year not only for Kāpiti Chess Club, but all chess clubs throughout New Zealand due to the impact of COVID-19. In line with NZCF policy, over the board play was suspended during NZ Government COVID-19 Alert level 2 or higher. This resulted in a reduction in Club nights of 17 weeks (40%) during the 2020 season.

Despite the challenges, there were a number of highlights over the past year:

- Kāpiti Chess Club online
- Kāpiti Rapid
- Kāpiti Junior Chess Championship
- KCC Grant
- Vega Software successfully introduced
- Additional material added to the website

The establishment of the Kāpiti Chess Club online site helped to fill the void created by COVID-19. Although the online format does not suit all members, it has proved to be successful in maintaining Club spirit with 19 players registered online.

The 24th playing of the Kāpiti Rapid, played on Saturday 21st November 2020, drew one of the largest number of entrants in the tournaments history and attracted players from as far afield as Auckland. The Open boasted a strong line up with an average grading of almost 2100, with 5 titled players, including current New Zealand Champion and top seed, FM Ben Hague. The Open was won by FM Nic Croad, who went on to win the NZ Open in January. Former Kāpiti Chess Club Captain, Lars Dobbertin-King, took a share of 1st in the B-Grade. The Flora Paul Memorial Trophy for best performing Kāpiti Club members went to David Paul and Ross Jackson. The flagship event produced a \$567.53 profit for the Club.

With the large number of entrants for the Kāpiti Rapid, it was decided to run a separate Junior Event. The inaugural Kāpiti Junior Chess Championship, played on Saturday 12th December, saw players representing 22 schools from Wellington to Levin, compete across 4 divisions. Club member Hamish Lester came second in the Secondary School Grade. The Kāpiti Chess Club School Trophy, awarded to the top performing school in the Kāpiti Horowhenua region, went to Levin Intermediate. The event generated a profit of \$ \$247.66 for the Club.

The Club was successful in receiving a \$500 grant from the Kāpiti / Raumati Community Board. The money was used to acquire a custom cabinet to safely house the Clubs main assets (chess sets & clocks).



Club Captain, David Scott, successfully introduced Vega Chess Tournament software. This software is endorsed by NZCF and will enable the Club to support FIDE rated tournaments going forward. One of the strong features of Vega is the ability to produce web-ready HTML pages for direct publishing to websites. The software was used on all Club events last year and also for the Kāpiti Rapid and Kāpiti Junior Championship.

Club Captain, David Scott, has also been regularly updating the web and Facebook sites. Additionally, he has done a tremendous job adding significant new content to the website.

In this challenging year, membership was down slightly, from 19 to 18 over the previous year.

Year	Membership Category			Total
	Senior	Unwaged	Junior	
2018	12	NA	6	18
2019	10	1	8	19
2020	11	1	6	18

One concern is the drop in junior playing members, which reduced significantly after lock-down.

Increasing Club membership is challenging but remains our main strategic goal. The Netflix documentary, the Queens Gambit, has raised the profile of chess globally and the Club can hopefully benefit from this. I believe that junior chess is not well served within our community and this is an area which we hope to contribute further going forward.

The Club's only investment was the new storage cabinet which was paid 100% by the PRCB Grant. With no additional investment in assets and Club fees bolstered by profit from the two tournaments, it has enabled the Club to increase opening bank balance for the year from \$937.36 to \$1,429.23, representing a 52% increase. The Club would not have achieved these results without the great support from our landlord, the Salvation Army, who did not charge the Club for days we did not run over-the-board club nights. It is also satisfying that the rent we do pay goes to such a great organisation, who help our community in so many ways. Further financial prudence is recommended going forward to build up Club reserves and to keep Club fees at appropriate levels.

I would like to thank the Committee members, David Scott (Captain & Secretary), Brandon Holman (Treasurer), Guy Burns (Vice President), Ross Jackson (Committee Member) and David Paul (Committee Member) who's hard work and support has contributed to a successful year despite the challenges presented.

The Club has made great strides in the last year despite the challenges, 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
Kāpiti Chess Club