



KĀPITI CHESS CLUB 2021 AGM Minutes

Tuesday 2 March 2021

MEETING STARTED:

7:45 pm

PRESENT:

Members: Brandon Holman, Gordon Lyall, Guy Burns, Hamish Lester, John Whibley, David Paul, David Scott, Ross Jackson

Visitors: Brendan Lester, Tim Mills

APOLOGIES:

Geoffrey Gunawan, Mike O'Rorke

**MINUTES OF LAST
YEAR'S MEETING:**

Confirmed. These can be found on the Club's website at <http://kapitichess.club/about-the-club/governance/>.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Tabled and read. The full report can be found on the Club's website at the link above. There was acknowledgment of the challenges in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted on the ability of the Club to meet physically, and hence on membership and attendance. But despite this, key positives included:

- Establishment of an online Kāpiti Chess Club
- A well-attended and successful Kāpiti Rapid
- A successful Kāpiti Junior Chess Championship
- A grant of \$500 from KCC for the purchase of a custom-made cabinet for improved storage and protection of Club assets.
- Vega Software successfully introduced
- Additional material added to the website

**CLUB CAPTAIN'S
& SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Tabled and read. The full report can be found on the Club's website at the link above. Main points:

- A year significantly impacted by COVID-19. Over the Board physical meetings reduced by 40% (by 17 weeks).
- A new online Club successfully set up.
- 2020 membership at 18, down 1 from 2019.
- Active attendance also down, in particular amongst juniors. From 14 per night, on average, in 2019 to 12.
- But despite COVID impacts, all tournaments, apart from the Kingston Memorial, were successfully run. Including the very well-attended Kāpiti Rapid, and Kāpiti Junior tournaments.
- Vega tournament software was successfully adopted.
- An improved system was implemented for the Club's Grand Prix competition.
- A lot of new content added to website, including news posts, annotated Club games, photos, Vega-generated web pages for all 2020 tournaments, and the addition of a large amount of Club history (photos, articles, records etc.).

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Statement of Accounts for 2020 was tabled and read. It can be found on the Club's website at the link above.

Key highlights (with all dollars rounded here to nearest \$5):

- Spent \$3,855, got \$4,345, a surplus of \$490.
- Bank balance up from \$940 at year start to \$1,430 at year end.
- Profits of \$570 from the Kāpiti Rapid, and \$250 from the Junior event.
- \$500 Grant from KCC for further upgrades to Club capital assets.

This year also saw the move to full online banking, with online bill payment and the end of cheques.

Following a question raised by one of the members, a minor change was made to the statement of accounts tabled at the meeting. The line for income from subs was split into two lines, to separately reflect donations in lieu of subs.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The following officers were re-elected uncontested:

President: Gordon Lyall
 Club Captain & Secretary: David Scott
 Treasurer: Brandon Holman
 Committee: Guy Burns, Ross Jackson

It was agreed not to fill the offices of Vice-President or Junior Captain this year, given the size of our membership.

FEES:

It was agreed to reduce adult annual fees by \$20 to \$150, and to increase junior annual fees by \$20 to \$90, and to retain the unwaged fee at \$100. The first 3 nights to the Club would remain free of charge, and members who join the Club during the year can pay pro-rata for the remainder of the year, as in previous years.

It was also agreed to trial a pay as you go subscription whereby people can secure membership for \$10, and then pay \$10 per night attended up to the applicable annual fee for that person. Anyone becoming a member continues to be registered with the New Zealand Chess Federation as in previous years. But if visitors did not want to become members or to be registered with the NZCF after their first three free nights, then they can still elect to pay on a casual basis at \$10 per night.

Fee Schedule for 2021

Annual - Adults	\$150 pa
Annual - Juniors	\$90 pa
Unwaged	\$100 pa
Pay as you go membership \$10 per night attended up to the annual fee	\$10 pn
Casual non-member option	\$10 pn

The main financial constraint for setting of fees remains the cost of hall hire which has to be supported by a small membership base. A reduction of the adult fee is one of the tools available aiming to increase membership. A reduction of \$20 is still economically sustainable if current membership levels don't reduce, and hall rental remain at 2020 levels (which has been agreed with the Salvation Army for this year).

The previous fee for Juniors was considered very good value, and hence a \$20 increase is supported here, and will act to offset some of the income reduction from reduced adult fees. Fees for the proposed Junior Club are discussed later under the Junior club item below.

The pay as you go option is aimed at retaining visitors who might otherwise have not committed themselves to paying the full annual fee after their first few free nights. It will be trialled for 2021 and reviewed again in 2022.

2021 CALENDAR:

The provisional calendar of events, prepared by the Club Captain, and posted on the Club website, was confirmed and adopted. This year sees a shift towards more rapid-time-format events aimed at providing a broader appeal to prospective visitors and members.

It was again acknowledged that the Club will continue with a flexible and adaptive approach to the calendar of events given the ongoing uncertainty COVID impacts. We will continue to follow NZCF policy, and look to provide events via our online Club for any nights we are unable to meet over the board.

CLUB CONSTITUTION:

Proposed changes to the existing Club Constitution, as circulated to members by the Club President prior to the meeting, were tabled. The existing document was written over 30 years ago, to meet the requirements of an incorporated society, which the Club has not been for some time. Language has been updated into plainer more modern English, and some sections updated to reflect technological and cultural changes over the last 30 years.

The proposed changes make the document more current and relevant, without substantially changing the fundamental governing rules and principles for the Club.

These proposed changes were fully approved by the membership, and the constitution will be revised accordingly and published on the governance section of the Club's website at <http://kapitichess.club/about-the-club/governance/>.

KĀPITI RAPID & JUNIOR SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENTS:

The proposal to run the annual Kāpiti Rapid on 29th May was approved, subject to confirmation of hall availability from the Salvation Army. It was also approved to repeat the separate successful

Kāpiti Junior & Schools Chess tournament this year at a later date to be confirmed.

David Paul proposed that junior entry fees should be raised to match entry fees for adults, as this is a typical practice for tournaments, and likely not to affect the level of entries given the amounts involved. This was supported and approved by the membership.

JUNIOR CLUB:

It was proposed by the Club President Gordon Lyall and Club Captain David Scott to start a Junior section of the Chess Club. The existing Club model does not often work well for many younger kids and parents. The current start time for the Club, 7.30 is too late for most juniors. The Junior Club would start at least one hour earlier than the main Club and will run during school term. It would still include opportunities for instruction, but there would also be more of a focus on fun, faster format games and events amongst kids of a similar age. This is an initiative to encourage more junior chess in the community, and an opportunity to benefit from the large growth in interest generated from the “Queen’s Gambit” Netflix series.

Club President Gordon Lyall has kindly offered to organise and run this. Indicative costs might be around \$30 per term, which would also give kids access to the main Club night events following. Anyone paying the full annual Junior fee of \$90 would have access to both Junior Club night, and main Club night events.

MEETING CLOSED:

8:55 pm.