

Kapiti Chess Club
Club Captains Report - 1996

Once again the club has had a very busy year with a number of internal competitions.

Blitz Championship

This was the first of the competitions of the year, and the tournament attracted back for at least the night two old club members, defending champion Earl Roberts and blitz expert Andrew Stanton. Earl, who was out of practise at over-the-board play, had to concede his title to Andrew, who won every game. Alvaro was second and John Whibley, Glenys and myself picked up third equal.

60/60

The serious play then got underway with the annual 60/60 event which competed for over eight rounds. Finishing in first place with a picket fence (eight straight wins) was Andrew Stanton. Reuben Healey put a very fine performance to come in second on 6 points, a whole point clear of third place getters; Alvaro Lacunza, John Whibley and Alistair McGowan.

Club Championship

The "Champs" were again held in grades; A, B, and C and were played as a double round robins i.e. everyone plays everyone twice.

The C Grade was won very convincingly by new member Jo Claessen who won every game except one which was drawn. Chris Hurring (our youngest player) was runner up with five wins, 1 draw and two losses. In third place was a past C grade champ, John Holland.

The B Grade was once again a very close affair with only one point separating the first three players. Alistair McGowan was first with 6 wins, 3 draws and 1 loss. Guy Burns was second with 6 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses. Glenys Mills (the only unbeaten player) was third with 3 wins, 7 draws and no losses.

The A grade was also an interesting competition, with a couple of surprises. Andrew Stanton was first and unbeaten with 8 wins and (the first surprise) 4 draws. In second place was the next surprise Earl Roberts (who was making his come-back) and still rusty after a long lay-off. Earl also went through unbeaten to finish with 6 wins and 6 draws. Alvaro finishing in third place with 6 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses.

30/30

This is one of the clubs favourite competitions and features two rounds per night. After three weeks of rapid chess, Andrew Stanton completed a clean sweep taking the last of the trophies with another unbeaten display, 4 wins and 2 draws. Alvaro and Earl were second equal, Earl also going through unbeaten.

Jonathon Sarfati

Jonathon Sarfati, a past NZ Champion and a popular visitor to the club came out on three occasions during the year before departing to take up a job in Brisbane. He also made a

surprise visit to our club on the first night of this year, again playing a simil and again going through unbeaten.

Interclub Competition

There was no interclub competition, with the Wellington Chess Association's activity wounding down to virtually nothing after the departure of Ted Frost to the NZ Chess Federation presidency. We can only hope for some activity this year.

Kapiti Rapid (DEBO's Direct Liquor Drive-in)

Another great team effort saw the club stage a very successful one day open event. The continued support from Debo's Direct Liquor saw the prize fund rise to \$1,650 and this coupled with the excellent venue at Coastlands helped to attract the 42 players from all over the North Island. After a very tense last three rounds, Jonathon Sarfati, Bob Smith (Auckland) and Mark Sinclair emerged as joints winners to take the lions share of the prize fund. Our own John Whibley coming second equal in the c grade also pocketed some of the prize money.

Membership

Overall our numbers remained at around 20. We lost some, but gained two new and very active members in Jacobus (Ko) Goedhart and Jo Claessen. 1996 also saw the return of Andrew Stanton and Earl Roberts who have provided a much welcome increase in strength at the top end.

Looking Forward

Although Kapiti is a small club, it is one of the most active in the Wellington region. The future of the club is in good hands, now that Andrew has agreed to take over the role of club captain. He will ensure that the this year's program is full and enjoyable, and has plans to introduce a regular and structured training program, to help improve everyone's understanding of the game and therefore their performances.

Good luck for the future.

Les Jones.