



## **Kāpiti Chess Club**

### **Club Captain & Secretary Report 2021**

David Scott, December 2021

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#### **SUMMARY**

- Another year significantly impacted by COVID-19.
  - Just 25 nights of over-the-board (OTB) tournament play until the mid-August change in COVID Alert Levels. The balance of the year made up of 15 nights of online Club play, and 8 nights of casual OTB play.
  - This had a noticeable impact on membership and attendance. Membership was down from 18 in 2020 to 13 in 2021 (not counting those in the new Junior Club). Average attendance was down from 12 to 9 (11 before the mid-August Alert Level change, around 6 after).
  - The Club's scheduled calendar of events was also significantly impacted. The Club Champs were not held, with a decision pending on whether to run a delayed Championship in early 2022. The Kāpiti Junior Open & Schools Championship was also cancelled. Most other internal tournaments were either completed or decided based on part-series played.
  - But another very successful Kāpiti Rapid was run in May, with the second highest attendance over its 30-year history.
  - The establishment of the new Junior Chess Programme was also very successful, with around 10 or 11 regular attendees - the highest level of junior participation in the Club's history.
  - And good further progress was made on content and technical running of the Club's website.
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#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Club had 13 paid members at the end of the year, five less than in 2020. We lost 7 members from 2020 and gained 2 new members. Of our 6 junior members from 2019, 3 renewed their membership in 2021. All three were of secondary or tertiary age.

The new Junior Chess programme began in March this year – meeting during School term time from 6:30 to 7:30 before the main Club meetings. The programme had 10 paid up regularly attending juniors at the end of year, and 2-4 additional casuals. Ages ranged from 4 to 13. The programme, organised and run by the Club President, looks to have been very successful in attracting and promoting Chess to juniors in the region. The level of participation from both juniors and parents is the highest in the Club's history.

In addition to returning and new members, there were 19 visitors to the Club during 2021, a little up from 2019 and 2020 visitors. 16 came to an (OTB) meeting (pre-August), while 3 visited during an online meeting. Just over half of visitors attended one night only, similar to previous years.

## Membership

	2021	2020	2019
Number of paid-up members	13	18	19
adults	10	12	11
juniors	3	6	8
Number from previous year who didn't return	7	5	6
Returning members	11	14	15
New members this year	2	4	4
Junior Chess Programme (paid members)	10	-	-
Total (Main Club + Junior Club)	23		
Of which adults	10	12	11
Of which juniors	13	6	8

## Visitors

	2021	2020	2019
Total number of visitors (online or OTB)	19	15	14
Who attended 1 night only	10	8	7
Who attended only 2 or 3 nights	7	4	6
Who attended more than 3 nights	2*	3	1

\* Includes 1 former member who joined many of our online meetings, and one who attended 6 weeks on a casual pay as you go basis.

## MEETINGS & ATTENDANCE

This year was again significantly impacted by COVID-19. Following NZCF policy, over-the-board play was suspended from mid-August while the region was at Alert Level 2 or above. The Club met online over the period from mid-August to mid-October. As in 2020, the impact of extended online play on attendance was marked. Average attendance for OTB nights up to mid-August was 11. Average attendance for online nights was 7 per night, similar to 2020 online numbers.

In mid-October, the Club membership voted to return to OTB play, for those that wanted to. (NZCF policy was subsequently revised in early November to support OTB Club play for those Clubs choosing to). However, the COVID situation had a significant divided effect on attendance, with only about half of members returning for OTB play for the remainder of the year.

The new Junior Chess Programme began in March this year and met 25 times during the year. It did not meet while the region was at Covid Alert Level 2 but began again in October when members and parents voted to resume OTB play.

Number of Meetings	2021*	2020	2019
Over-the-board – normal competition meeting	25	25	45
Online – Covid alert level 2 or higher	12	15	-
Over-the-board – casual play	8	2	2
Total (excluding Junior Chess Programme)	45	42	47
Junior Chess Programme (OTB)	25	-	-
Average attendance	2021*	2020	2019
Over-the-board – normal competition meeting	11	12	14
Online – Covid alert level 2 or higher	7	7	-
Over-the-board – casual play	4-6	9	14
Total (excluding Junior Chess Programme)	9	12	14
Junior Chess Programme	10	-	-

\*Online nights ran from mid-August to mid-October, with OTB casual play running for remainder of the year.

## EVENTS

The extended change to COVID Alert Levels in August had a significant impact on the Club's Calendar of events for 2021.

The main casualty was the Club Championship. This was scheduled to start in mid-October, around the time members voted to return to OTB play. Committee members were split on whether this should run or not. Some felt this should continue, while others felt it should not, with around half of members likely not to be attending any OTB play for the remainder of the year. It was narrowly voted in the end not to hold it this year, with a decision pending on whether to run a delayed championship tournament in early 2022.

Other tournament casualties included the final series of both the Leo Eichholtz Rapid and the Blitz Cup tournaments, with winners of these instead decided on the series that were played. A new Spring Cup tournament (three weeks of 15m+5s) was also not held. The scheduled third running of the Kāpiti Junior Open & Schools Championship was also cancelled. Remaining tournaments, however, were played – as shown below – including a the annual open Kāpiti Rapid, and an interesting first-time night of Fischer-Random.

Another successful Kāpiti Rapid Open was held again in May this year. With 45 entries, it was the second highest attendance in the 27 times it's been run. The field included 4 titled players, 4 past NZ champions, 16 juniors – and ratings ranged from unrated to over 2400. The tournament got good coverage on the NZCF website and in the local community press, returned a good financial profit for the club, and was again well organised and run by the Club President.

Events	2021	2020
Freebird (10+5)	✓	✓
Kingston Memorial (55+5)	✓	abandoned
Fischer-Random Night	✓	-
Leo Eichholtz (25 + 5)	1 of 2 series played	1 of 2 series played
Blitz Cup (3+2)	2 of 3 nights played	2 of 3 nights played
Winter Cup (25+5)	✓	✓
Spring Cup (New 15+5)	Not held	-
Club Championships (A, B, C grades) (90+30)	Not held	✓
Kāpiti Rapid Open (25+5)	✓	✓
Kāpiti Junior Open & Schools Championship	Not held	✓

## RATINGS

The impacts of COVID-19 also resulted in a significant reduction in rateable Club games in 2021. Nevertheless, around 200 games were submitted to the NZCF for rating (around 110 rapid time format and 90 standard time format). In addition to Club games, a further 130 games from the Kāpiti Rapid were submitted to NZCF for rating.

Ratings	Standard		Rapid	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Rateable games submitted to NZCF	90	130	110	140
Average member rating at end of year	1697	1537	1635	1528

## WEBSITE

The Club posted 36 website news posts in 2021 (compared with 33 in 2020, 45 in 2019, 29 in 2018, 39 in 2017). All website news posts were also posted on Facebook, with an average reach around 40, slightly up from last year, and significantly up from earlier years.

The number of Club Facebook followers increased significantly from 188 in 2020 to over 570 in 2021, one of the highest for any NZ Chess Club Facebook site (only Canterbury CC and NZCF site were higher).

Significant behind the scenes development continued this year on the website. We completed the scanning and uploading of all historical photos and known Club news clippings and articles, as well as historical governance documents. Several hundred broken links were fixed. There was a major technical overhaul of the site in September, shifting the site to a secure https protocol, and adding significant speed efficiencies. Big thanks to Lars Dobbertin-King for his massive help with this.

Website statistics	2021	2020
Website hits	24,500*	43,200
Unique visitors	7,300*	17,900
Top Facebook post	Rick Lowe	Kāpiti Rapid
Most popular website page	Home Page (News) Games Photos Links Events and Results	Home Page (News) Games Photos Links Events and Results
Top visitor countries	US (23%) New Zealand (23%) Germany (7%) France (7%) China (6%)	China (30%) Hong Kong (26%) US (9%) New Zealand (8%) Ukraine (6%)

\* The entire decline is due to China & Hong Kong – where the number of visitors dropped from 10,000 in 2020 to just 450 in 2021. All other countries had increased hits and visitor numbers in 2021.