

KĀPITI CHESS CLUB

Annual Report 2025

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SUMMARY / HIGHLIGHTS

The Club enjoyed a full and successful programme of events in 2025. Both Open tournaments - the Kāpiti Rapid and the Kāpiti Junior Championship - were held, and the Club also organised and ran the NZCF Interschool Chess Championship (Wellington Region).

The Kāpiti Rapid, held at Paraparaumu College, attracted a strong field of 64 entrants, including 15 players from the Club.

The Kāpiti Junior Championship maintained its position as the most popular junior chess event in the region, with 83 players representing 32 schools from the Wellington, Kāpiti, and Horowhenua regions.

The Junior Club continues to thrive, with members now achieving encouraging results in external competitions.

The Club maintained a strong online presence throughout 2025, posting news and updates regularly.

Financially, the Club recorded a solid surplus of \$976.09. This was achieved while also investing in a number of assets, including seven DGT3000 clocks, a printer, several chess books, and additional stock of medals and NZCF badges and certificates. The Club's bank account has never been healthier, with a balance of \$6,779.68 as at 1 January 2026.

This strong financial position has enabled the Club to provide additional benefits to members including free entry to the Kāpiti Rapid. This initiative has been expanded to include NZCF events, with the Club now contributing 50% of entry fees towards NZCF tournaments and NZCF training courses.

We look forward to building further on the successes of 2025.

SENIOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The senior section of the Club had 14 members at the end of 2025, up one from 2024. We had 11 returning members from 2024, gained 6 new members, and lost three members during the year.

Senior Club Membership	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Number of members	14	13	12	9	13	18
Returning members	11	12	10	7	11	14
New members this year	6	2	2	2	2	4
Left during the year	3	2				
Visitors and casual players (excl. junior club members playing senior club and visiting interclub player)	14	6	18	7	19	15
Who attended 1 night only	8	3	6	3	10	8
Who attended only 2 or 3 nights	4	1	2	3	7	4
Who attended more than 3 nights	2	2	1	2	2	3

SENIOR CLUB MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

The Club met 46 times during the year. Average attendance was 11 per night, up slightly on last year.

Number of Meetings	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Over-the-board – event nights	41	38	39	36	25	25
Non-event nights (casual and seminar nights, AGM, prizegiving)	4	4	5	9	8	2
Interclub events (2 OTB, 1 hybrid)	3	1	2	-	-	-
Online	-	-	-	-	12	15
Total number of meetings		43	46	45	45	42
Average attendance	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Over-the-board – event nights	11	10	10	7	11	12
Non-event nights (casual and seminar nights, AGM, prizegiving)	9	8	5	5	4-6	9
Interclub events (2 OTB, 1 hybrid)	12,6,6					
Online	-	-	-	-	7	7
Total average attendance per night	11	10	9	7	9	12

Our traditional schedule of events was maintained in 2025 (see Events and Results). Some useful refinements were made to the timing and number of rapid-format events in the first half of the year.

The Club ran six rated tournaments during the year: Leo Eicholtz Series 1 and 2, Kington, Winter Cup Series 1 and 2, and the Club Championship. In addition, four unrated tournaments were held: Freebird 10+5 (played over three two-night legs), the Blitz Cup (played over three one-night legs), the Spring “Play Something Different” 25+5 event, and our annual Freestyle (Fischer Random) 10+5 tournament, played over two nights. We also hosted a seminar night and a Hand and Brain evening.

As usual, the year concluded with the Club Championship (90+30), played over eight nights. The event attracted 14 players, with A, B, and C grades all contested.

The Club continued its annual interclub series with Upper Hutt Chess Club, recording a convincing 15½–8½ home victory in May. In addition, we competed in the inaugural NZCF Interclub Bledisloe Cup, facing Canterbury in November (2½–3½) and Wellington in December (½–5½).

The Club also ran its two annual open tournaments: the Kāpiti Open and the Kāpiti Junior Open, which again included the schools championship. Both events attracted large fields and were very successful. The Kāpiti Rapid recorded 64 entries, setting another participation record and comfortably surpassing the previous high of 50 entries in 2023.

SENIOR CLUB EVENTS IN 2025

Club events		Time control	Rounds	Nights	Rated	Field	Winner
Kingston Memorial		55+5	6	6	✓	12	Ross
Freebird	1	10+5	8	2		13	Gordon
	2		8	2		12	Brendan
	3		8	2		16	Gordon
	overall		24	6			David P
Leo Eichholtz	1	25+5	6	3	✓	13	Gordon
	2	25+5	6	3	✓	17	Gordon
	overall	25+5	12	6		21	Gordon
Match v Upper Hutt		25+5	2	1		24	Kāpiti
Blitz Cup	1	3+2	10	1		18	Gordon
	2	3+2	8	1		9	Gordon
	3	3+2	10	1		13	Gordon
	overall	3+2	28	3		21	Gordon
Winter Cup	1	25+5	6	3	✓	14	Gordon
	2	25+5	6	3	✓	12	Ross
	overall	25+5	12	6	✓	16	David P
Freestyle		10+5	8	2		11	Gordon
Spring (play something different)		25+5	6	3		12	Ross
Bledisloe Cup v Canterbury		90+30	1	1		12	Canterbury
Bledisloe Cup v Wellington		90+30	1	1		12	Wellington
Club Championship		90+30	8	8	✓	14	David P (A) Stanley (B) Tim (C)
Grand Prix							Gordon
Open events							
Kāpiti Open		25+5	6	1	✓	64	Anthony Ker, Ollie Archer
Kāpiti Junior Open		15+5	6	1		83	T. Van der Hoorn, Luke Chang

Ratings

A total of 385 games from six Club tournaments were submitted to NZCF for rating.

Ratings	Type	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Games submitted for rating	Standard	145	113	73	47	90	130
	Rapid	240	190	98	72	110	140
Average member rating at end of year	Standard	1630	1620	1723	1764	1697	1537
	Rapid	1575	1545	1609	1696	1635	1528

JUNIOR CLUB

The Junior Chess Club continues to be popular and at year end, there were 32 registered members. This is slightly down on last year, but average attendance per night was up from 26 to 28:

Term	1	2	3	4
Av. attendance 2024	25	27	31	27
Av. attendance 2025	29	30	26	25

The Junior Club ran three internal Swiss competitions, one during term 1, another in term 3 and the Junior Club Championship in term 4. The Junior Club Championship was split into two tiers, the Open for college students and the top primary and intermediate players. All other juniors competed in the Challengers group. The Open Division had 14 players registered, while the Challengers saw 18 players compete.

Our Junior members achieved some good results in external competitions. Some notable mentions:

Jingwei Xu

- 1st Chess Power Horowhenua / Kapiti Regionals (Primary)
- 3rd Chess Power Sarapu Cup
- 3rd= Chess Power Onsite Champions Trophy
- Interschool Wellington Region (Primary Division), 1st = Board 1 prize

Isaiah Heta

- 1st Chess Power Horowhenua / Kapiti Regionals (Intermediate)
- 2nd Chess Power Online Champions Trophy 2025
- Kapiti Junior Rapid, 1st Intermediate Division
- Wellington Junior Rapid, 2nd Intermediate Division

Stanley Fitton

- Kapiti Rapid 1st = under 1300 category & share Flora Paul Trophy

James Patterson

- Kapiti Junior Rapid, 2nd Senior Division

George Moore

- Wellington Junior Rapid, 1st Senior Division

NZCF Badge Scheme tests were run in terms 2 & 3, with 6 students achieving NZCF Level 1 (Pawn Badge), 9 students achieving NZCF Level 2 (Knight Badge), and 4 students achieving level 3 (Knight Badge).

The continued popularity of the Junior section resulted in a significant financial boost to the Club. For the fourth consecutive year, Junior subscriptions were the Club's largest single source of income, totalling \$3,480.00. A portion of this income was reinvested in the Junior programme through the purchase of additional chess books specifically aimed at junior players. The Junior Chess Library assists with the playing development of those juniors who are keen to progress.

OPEN EVENTS

KĀPITI RAPID

The 2025 Kāpiti Rapid Open was held at Paraparaumu College and attracted a field of 64 players, the largest in the tournament's 31-year history.

Tournament honours were shared between former New Zealand Champion Anthony Ker - who played in the inaugural running of the event in 1991 and secured his sixth Kāpiti Rapid title - and former New Zealand Junior Champion Ollie Archer, an emerging talent on the national scene.

Junior Club member Stanley Fitton had an excellent tournament, finishing equal first in the Under-1300 grade with 4 points from 6 games. He also shared the Flora Paul Memorial Trophy for leading Kāpiti player, alongside David Paul and Ross Jackson.

As in previous years, Kāpiti Chess Club members were able to enter the event free of charge, which reduced the tournament's overall profitability. Despite this, the event still returned a significant surplus of \$839.00, driven by the strong turnout and a modest increase in the entry fee.

Expenditure	
Hall Rent	\$300.00
NZCF levy	\$448.00
Prize fund	\$1,470.00
Misc.	\$63.00
Refunds (paid but could not play x 4)	\$240.00
TOTAL	\$2,521.00
Income (\$)	
Entry fees (56 x \$60)	\$3,360.00
Shop	\$-
KCC Members (x15)	\$-
TOTAL	\$3,360.00
Kapiti Rapid – Profit	\$839.00

KĀPITI JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The sixth Kāpiti Junior Open and Schools Championship enjoyed another outstanding turnout, with 83 players, along with parents and caregivers, filling Paraparaumu College. The event created a fantastic atmosphere as students competed both individually and as part of their schools across four divisions, including the contest for the top Kāpiti-Horowhenua school.

Congratulations to Thomas van der Hoorn and Luke Chang, this year's joint Open Junior Championship winners. In the school-age grade events:

- Senior Grade: Jack Gregory
- Intermediate Grade: Isaiah Heta (Kapiti Chess Club)
- Primary Grade: Miriyala Sreenikesh

The School Trophy, awarded to the top-performing Kāpiti or Horowhenua school, was won by Kāpiti College, narrowly ahead of the Kāpiti Home School Team.

NZCF INTERSCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP - WELLINGTON REGIONAL

Several junior members had the honour of representing their schools at the NZCF Wellington Region Interschool Championship. The Kāpiti-Horowhenua region sent nine teams to the event, with 14 of our junior members representing their schools.

Notable performances included Levin School securing third place in the Intermediate Division, the most competitive section with 23 teams. Individually, Jingwei Xu of Raumati Beach School excelled in the Primary Division, sharing the Board 1 prize with 5 points from 6 games.

WEBSITE

While the Club decided to discontinue its use of Facebook this year, it continued to post news and photos and events result regularly on its website. The number of hits and visitors to our Club's website grew significantly this year, with unique visitor number tripling to over 6,700.

The most commonly visited pages were the home page, which has latest news posts, then the events and results page, followed by the about the club page, the photos page, then the Kāpiti Rapid page. The top countries in terms of visitors were New Zealand, Singapore and the United States.

Website	2025	2024	2023	2022
News Posts	32	29	32	38
Website hits	10,233	4,776	5,432	5,400
Unique visitors	6,765	2,200	2,239	2,235
Facebook	2025	2024	2023	2022
Posts	-	32	32	40
Total visits	-	3,986	1,534	1,072
Total reach	-	1,400		
Average reach	-	127	120	70
Followers	-	1,853	1,793	1,250

FINANCIALS

The Club is no longer reliant on a single income stream (Senior Subs) and can boast revenue generation from multiple sources. The main source of income is now the Junior subs but additional revenue is also generated from external events / tournaments.

The key numbers from the financial statement:

- Expenditure \$11,137.54
- Income \$12,113.63
- Profit \$976.09
- Closing balance @ year end 2025 = \$6,779.68 (17% up on previous year)
- Junior subs \$3,480.00
- Senior subs \$1,795.00

Financial breakdown below:

Kapiti Chess Club
2025 Statement of Accounts

Expenditure (\$)	
Rent (44 nights @ \$55/night)	\$2,420.00
Kapiti Rapid	\$2,521.00
Kapiti Jnr Champs	\$20.00
Equipment	\$712.15
Junior Club	\$846.56
Advertising	\$-
Engraving	\$505.00
NZCF (Membership Levy)	\$285.00
Sundries	\$610.57
Tax	\$4.07
Donation Given	\$-
Interschool Wgtn Regionals	\$2,323.19
Tournament fees / Training – Paid	\$890.00
TOTAL	\$11,137.54
Income (\$)	
Subs (Jnr)	\$3,480.00
Kapiti Rapid	\$3,360.00
Subs (Snr)	\$1,745.00
Kapiti Jnr Champs	\$293.60
KCDC Grant	\$-
Interest	\$38.83
Donation Received	\$-
Interschool Wgtn Regionals	\$2,586.20
Tournament fees / Training – received	\$610.00
TOTAL	\$12,113.63
Profit	\$976.09
Opening Balance Jan 1 st 2025	\$5,803.59
2025 Profit	\$976.09
Closing Balance Dec 31st 2025	\$6,779.68

Kapiti Chess Club
2024 Statement of Accounts

Expenditure (\$)	
Rent (44 nights @ \$55/night)	\$2,420.00
Kapiti Rapid	\$2,413.25
Kapiti Jnr Champs	\$914.13
Equipment	\$1,253.06
Junior Club	\$970.84
Advertising	\$-
Engraving	\$395.00
NZCF (Membership Levy)	\$255.00
Sundries	\$351.40
Tax	\$13.15
Donation Given	\$-
Interschool Wgtn Regionals	\$1,498.70
Interschool National Final	\$4,762.44
TOTAL	\$15,246.97
Income (\$)	
Subs (Jnr)	\$3,659.99
Kapiti Rapid	\$2,000.00
Subs (Snr)	\$1,795.00
Kapiti Jnr Champs	\$1,820.00
KCDC Grant (venue hire Kapiti Rapid)	\$517.50
Interest	\$125.28
Donation Received	\$100.00
Interschool Wgtn Regionals	\$2,360.00
Interschool National Final	\$4,750.00
TOTAL	\$17,127.77
Profit	\$1,880.80
Opening Balance Jan 1 st 2024	\$3,922.79
2024 Profit	\$1,880.80
Closing Balance Dec 31st 2024	\$5,803.59

A number of assets were purchased in 2024 including the following:

- DGT3000 chess clocks x 7
- Printer (to replace previous unit which was stolen in 2025)
- Junior Chess books x 4
- Medals (for junior tournaments)
- NZCF certificates & Badges

Current asset list is detailed in the following table:

	Assets Purchased by year						Current Stock
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
PC for pairing software				1			1
Projector					1		1
Printer					1	-1 / +1	1
Pieces (wood)							8
Pieces (plastic)		6	-4	30	6		50
Pieces (plastic large)							2
Balls (wood)							8
Balls (plastic)		8	-4	30	6		50
Clocks (DGT3000)						7	7
Clocks (DGT2010)	-1	0	2	4		-1	19
Clocks (DGT1002)		4					4
Clocks (Saitek)					-8		0
Clocks (Saitek game Clock II)					-3		0