



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022
NOMINATION FOR
LIFE MEMBERSHIP of NZCF
INTERNATIONAL GRAND MASTER
MURRAY CHANDLER

Grandmaster Murray Chandler has made many outstanding contributions to New Zealand chess. He has been a remarkable player, a national representative, an author, a publisher, an organiser, an administrator, and a philanthropist.

As a player, Murray's IM title was achieved in 1977 by winning the first Asian Junior Chess Championship.

Murray won the New Zealand Championship three times – in 1975/6 (shared), 2006, and 2008 .

Murray represented New Zealand at Olympiads in 1976,1978,1980 and 2008.

In 1978 Murray organised the Burroughs Computers Grandmasters tournament in Wellington as part of the Asian Grandmaster Circuit. Remarkably, Murray was then aged only 18.

In the late 1970s Murray emigrated to England to try life as a chess professional. He represented England in six Olympiads and was a successful Bundesliga player. He was Commonwealth Champion twice and won a number of major tournaments.

Murray achieved the title of Grandmaster in 1983, New Zealand's first and only over the board chess grandmaster.

On a visit home, celebrating this success to promote chess, he toured New Zealand and participated in a nationwide series of simultaneous exhibitions and lectures coordinated by Paul Spiller and Brian Foster. This included a match against Ortvin Sarapu. Murray also played a match against Australian GM Ian Rogers with two games in Wellington and two in Auckland. He won by 3-1 (two wins and two draws).

From England, Murray was a significant help behind the scenes when Grant Kerr organised the Plaza International tournament in 1988. He provided reassurance to the Grandmasters considering participation.

Murray has contributed to chess also as an author and publisher.

His first book, "A White Pawn in Europe", 1976, was a self-published personal account of his games at the World Junior Championship in Yugoslavia. It was penned at the age of 15. This made him the youngest chess author until a 14 year old, Daniel Naroditsky, wrote a book on positional chess in 2010.

Three of Murray's books have been highly successful promoters of chess for children. They are "How to Beat Your Dad at Chess" 1998, "Chess Tactics for Kids" 2003, and, co-authored with Helen Milligan, "Chess for Children" in 2004.

Murray wrote a Listener chess column for 12 years (1976-1988). He has contributed to chess newspaper columns. He became a Reuters chess reporter starting during the World Championship in Baguio in the Philippines in 1978.

Murray was editor of the British Chess Magazine 1991-1999 and became owner and managing director of that magazine.

In 1997, together with Batsford chess editor Graham Burgess, and occasional Batsford typesetter GM John Nunn, Murray founded Gambit Publications. He grew it to be the world's leading chess book publisher.

While still resident in England Murray sponsored and co-organised with Paul Spiller, the 2006 Queenstown Chess Classic. This major tournament attracted the largest number of international titled chess players in the country's history. It established New Zealand as a venue for chess on the world stage. Murray also won the tournament. He brought back for participation Bob Wade, New Zealand's first chess professional.

Together with organisation by Paul Spiller, Murray would fund and organise five major chess competitions. These were the 2006, 2009, 2012 Queenstown Chess Classics, and the 2015 and 2016 New Zealand Chess Open tournaments at St Paul's Church, Devonport, Auckland.

With appearance fees and prize money the amount of Murray's sponsorship is undisclosed, but the Queenstown tournaments totalled over \$100,000. Murray purchased the St Paul's Church in 2013 where it served as a chess coaching venue, with a view to it being a National Chess Centre.

Murray returned to live in New Zealand in 2007, serving on NZCF Council for several years. He was President from Dec. 2015 – January 2021. He served on NZCF as Auckland Councillor in 2015, and was an observer on Council during the latter half of 2014. He enacted many reforms, for example the system of club fee collection was simplified, and he led New Zealand chess through the difficult time of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Murray's contributions to New Zealand Chess were recognised by him receiving the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2017 Queen's New Year's Honours.

His contributions have involved countless hours of work and leadership working from within a small organisation.

Murray's many exceptional services deserve the recognition and gratitude of the nation's clubs by honouring him as a Life Member of the New Zealand Chess Federation.

Wellington Chess Club, seconded by Otago Chess Club, would like to nominate GM Murray Chandler for Life Membership of the New Zealand Chess Federation at the AGM at the 129th NZ Chess Congress, Christchurch, January 2nd-12th 2022.