

President's Report 2021

Over-the-Board Chess and Covid

We were having a great chess year up to the outbreak of Delta variant 17th August and the resulting lockdown. Many tournaments had record entries and heightened media interest.

Recalling some highlights of the year:

- Manawatu Knights CC successfully held Congress 2021 in Palmerston North under the stewardship of FM Mark Noble and Chief Arbiter IA Craig Hall. Copthorne Hotels was and venue for this event.
FM Nic Croad distinguished himself winning the NZ Open Championship with a decisive 7.5/9 against a strong field including FM Ben Hague and IMs Russell Dive and Anthony Kerr. Clinton Wells won the Major Open and young CM Felix Xie showed himself a force to be reckoned with winning the NZ Rapid Championship 8/9.
- FM Nic Croad subsequently represented NZ in the first FIDE Hybrid Online Oceania Zonal. He came a very creditable 3rd after two grandmasters. (Also, thanks to Arbiters IA Bruce Pollard and NA Ian Sellen who made themselves available at short notice.)
- FM Ewen Green was awarded FIDE Veteran's Support grant (out of 27 for the world!) after persistent lobbying by Council.
- FM Allen Fan was selected to represent NZ in FIDE World Cup for the first time NZ has been invited! Right at the last minute he could not get an MIQ place for his return so had to cancel; to the regret of us all.
- Paul Spiller, President Oceania Chess Confederation, and Howick-Pakuranga Club inaugurated the Bob Wade Memorial Tournament in honour of our first IM. Won by visiting GM Gawain Jones. (Gawain is married to former NZ Women's Champion WIM Sue Maroroa.) This tournament concluded with the Bob Wade Memorial Dinner in which GM Murray Chandler, our Vice-Patron and former Olympiad representative Grant Kerr, CM Bill Forster, our Wellington Regional Councillor Ross Jackson, Peter Weir and Paul Spiller shared their warm reminiscences of Bob -a great New Zealander!
- The Regional Interschools Championships and Auckland Schoolgirls Championship had record turnouts. Literally thousands of schoolchildren are playing competitive chess with clocks all under the watchful eyes of our International, FIDE and National Arbiters.

Unfortunately, many tournaments have been postponed or cancelled due to Covid restrictions. We still hope Congress can proceed as planned in Christchurch, Jan 2022.

Online Chess and Training

- Timothy Ha is doing an excellent job maintaining our international online activity without complaint or payment. He collects entries, supervises games late into the night and solves technical problems. He supervised NZ teams in FIDE Cadets and Youth Rapid World Cup, Online Olympiad team, Asian Women Championship, Eastern Asia Youth Chess Championship, Asian Youth Championship and Asian Amateur Championship. For Club players, weekly events such as rapid and blitz and intercity matches are being held on Lichess.org.
- Online training offered by Asian Chess Federation has been utilized by Richie Christie and Jingbo Wei (FIDE Arbiter training); Evguenia Charomova (Trainers); WCM Isabelle Ning and WIM Jasmine Zhang (Camp for Asian Girls).

- We had an important success in getting significant funding from FIDE to hold an online chess development program that includes Junior coaching, Arbiter training and Trainer development. Further details will be announced on our website soon.
- For the first time NZ Seniors and Veterans Championship will be played online at standard time controls and open to international players. This tournament is played on a trust basis and will build our experience of what is likely to be a permanent part of NZ chess scene.

Annual Performance Report

This year's Annual Performance Report looks different from previous years.

First, the Financial Statements have been generated by Brayden VantVeen, Principal of BVB Managerial Accounting using Xero software which NZCF uses for recording financial transactions. Xero based accounting makes the work of NZCF Treasurer easier, reduces errors and enables direct generation of monthly reports on cashflow and operating income and expenditure and draft annual accounts.

The advantages of this fuller reporting style are:

- Member Clubs are given comprehensive disclosure of NZCF assets, liabilities and cashflow.
- The introduction of cashflow recording enables sales & profits to be recorded in actual month of sale. The previous practise of expensing all purchases in month of purchase and recording sales over subsequent years led to unpredictable fluctuations in annual income and expenditure.
- The Silver Rook is brought formally into our Balance Sheet under 'Heritage Assets' at \$33,000 as this is recommended replacement cover. Other trophies are listed in full for record.
- The Pub Charity grant 2019 was used for 50 DGT boards & clocks and is now clearly identified as a fixed asset & depreciated according to accounting rules. This meets our commitment to Pub Charity that items purchased would be used long-term for promotion of chess.
- Inventory for sale is specifically identified and valued at recent sale price.
- Donors and sponsors are formally recognised, and potential sponsors can see their money is being professionally managed.

Second, we have introduced a Statement of Service Performance or 'metrics summary' to give some quantitative measures of chess activity in New Zealand. FIDE is increasingly requiring such measures for accessing grants for chess development. The metrics data has been supplied to BVB Managerial Accounting from NZCF internal sources.

Finally, I thank our previous accountant FM Martin Dreyer of D & D Financial Consultants Ltd. for his years as NZCF honorary accountant. We appreciate Martin's many contributions to New Zealand chess as a player, as a sponsor and administrator.

Rules Review

IA Craig Hall has done a stunning job on updating and revising our Tournament Rules moving from a prescriptive model to a principle-based model. This defines minimum consistent standards for tournaments while allowing Organisers considerable flexibility.

All Clubs will have received the Review and we look forward to a good discussion at the Review session scheduled before AGM Jan 2022.

Chess Development Plan 2021-23

In 2010, NZCF President Paul Spiller described NZ chess and ambitions in a document *Looking to the Future*. Many important goals have been achieved but of course there is more to do. Our Chess Development Plan 2021-23 outlines where our Federation is now and what we want to achieve over the next two years.

One important principle is to ensure the Federation operates at a core surplus prior to depreciation. Such surplus to be invested in supporting international representatives, chess development projects and invested in reserves.

An ongoing initiative is to increase accessibility to our archives includes development of a website photo gallery for historic chess photographs.

The Plan is a consultation document and Clubs and chess players generally are invited to give feedback on goals and priorities.

People Changes

We say warm farewell and thanks to several long-serving people and welcome to new arrivals:

- Winsome Stretch, our Secretary/Treasurer is retiring and these positions become vacant at AGM. Her contract as Administrator ends 31st Jan 2022.
- NA Richie Christie, well known in the South Island as chess coach and administrator is nominated for Treasurer.
- IA Bob Gibbons, one of our most experienced Arbiters and Organisers is nominated for Secretary.
- CM Bill Forster retires as Webmaster at the end of his contract having transformed our website into our principal communication channel.
- Timothy Ha will replace Bill as they have been working together already on technical improvements and linking to our Facebook page.
- Ross Jackson retires as Wellington Regional Councillor. Ross has encyclopedic knowledge and archives of NZ chess history and his contributions to Council will be missed.

Appreciations for Winsome Stretch and for Bill Forster will be published on our website.

Gratitude to our Patrons, Sponsors and Volunteers

Chess in New Zealand, both at national and club level, relies (too much!) on the voluntary work of a dedicated few and private donors for its development. We publicly thank here our Patron Jim Benson and our Vice-Patrons Grant Kerr, Chris Benson and Dr Tony Booth. These individuals often contribute money and time, often anonymously, to enable projects to go ahead.

We thank FM Martin Dreyer and SIM Michael Freeman for their sponsorship of Grand Prix.

Also, on behalf of NZCF we express gratitude for ongoing support from Kasparov Chess Foundation and Millennium Hotel Group.

We thank the following people for organizing the various regional interschool championships:

- IA Dr Helen Milligan – Auckland, North Shore.
- WIM Vivian and FM Bob Smith - other Auckland Regional Schoolpupil Championships and Auckland Schoolgirl Championship. These two will be retiring from this role but Bob will assist the Auckland regional Clubs in 2022.
- Caleb Wright - Bay of Plenty

- Graham Nolan -Waikato
- Colin Albert – Gisborne
- Brienne Sergeant -Hawkes Bay
- John Ansell -Taranaki
- FM Mark Noble -Whanganui, Manawatu & Wairarapa
- FM Scott Wastney -Wellington
- Dan Dolejs -Nelson
- IA Craig Hall - Canterbury
- NA Quentin Johnson - Otago

We thank Rowan Wood, our indefatigable Rating Officer and SIM Michael Freeman for their combined efforts improving our NZCF rating system and consistency of names with FIDE rating system.

We thank Ron Lanning for his efforts to start new clubs in Northland in addition to founding Counties Club.

Finally, we thank NI Philip Hair for completing the lengthy task of scanning our historical chess magazines.

My apologies if I have missed anyone – please let me know and I will ensure your contribution is recognized.

Honouring GM Murray Chandler

With great pleasure I award President's Award 2022 to GM Murray Chandler with the honorary title: ***New Zealand Chess Ambassador for Life.***

I doubt if anyone has contributed more to NZ chess than Murray -through his international excellence of play, his spectacular sponsorship of innovative Queenstown Championships, and his Presidency marked by quiet diplomacy.

I first met Murray and played him in NZ Championship in Dunedin 1975 -he beat me! I will always remember the long blonde haired and barefoot youth that went off overseas for chess adventure!

Nigel Metge
President NZCF
13th Nov 2021