

NEW ZEALAND CHESS FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

March 2009

- **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM held in Queenstown on January 17th voted in NZCF officials as follows:

President: Paul Spiller , Vice-President : Peter Stuart, Secretary: Edward Tanoi, Treasurer: Anthony Whitehouse, Councillors: Murray Chandler, Helen Milligan, Michael Steadman & Bob Gibbons, Regional Councillors : Hilton Bennett (Waikato), Michael Freeman (Wellington), Ross Jackson (Wellington), Craig Hall (Canterbury), Quentin Johnson (Otago). Patron: Jim Benson, Vice-Patrons: George Trundle, Graham Haase & Bill Poole.

Long-standing secretary Bob Mitchell stood down after serving the Federation for many years. His expertise and experience will be missed. Edward Tanoi is taking up this challenging role and I would urge all club officials to help Edward by expediting requests for information and payment of fees.

- **2009 Queenstown Chess Classic**

The 2009 Queenstown Chess Classic was another tremendous tournament, following on from the 2006 event. Although only attracting 120 players (down from the 193 for the inaugural event) the strength of the field dramatically increased with 14 Grandmasters and Women Grandmasters competing along with numerous International and FIDE Masters. It was perhaps a bit disappointing for the organizers to only get 40 local players in the main event (compared with the 47 or so Australians!) with a very small number of South Island players. The event proved to be hugely successful for the Australian contingent with IM David Smerdon winning the event outright on 8/10 and gaining another GM norm. David's performance gained him around 25 elo points, and now he just requires a few more to reach the 2500 mark and gain his Grandmaster title. In addition, four other Australian players made IM norms. Igor Goldenberg (who now qualifies for the IM title), Andrew Brown, Domagoj Dragecivic and Sam Chow all made their first norms.

International Master Anthony Ker had an outstanding event as well, winning the New Zealand Championship title (his 10th Championship) as well as the NZ Rapid and Blitz Championships in a clean sweep. Young Daniel Shen also had a very good tournament and was contesting for the NZ Championship right until the last round.

- **2009 Club Registration Fees**

This is a reminder that all club registration fees are due for payment by the end of March. Please send these in to the NZCF secretary before the end of the month.

- **NZCF Tournaments**

There are a lot of tournaments on the chess calendar over the next few months. Official NZCF events coming up are:

North Island Rapid Championship

Hamilton on April 5th

North Island Championship

Wellington over Easter from April 10th-13th

New Zealand Women's Championship

Auckland Chess Centre from April 21st – 25th.

New Zealand Seniors Championship

Will be hosted by the Hamilton Chess Club in early May.

New Zealand Junior & Schoolpupil Championship

Will again be hosted by the Howick-Pakuranga Chess Club during the July School holidays

South Island Rapid Championship and **South Island Championship** in Dunedin.

Full details of these and other weekend events can be found on Helen Milligan's regularly updated website:

www.newzealandchess.co.nz .

- **International Events**

NZCF has recently been advised of several Asian Zone events. The 2009 SIO International tournament is being held in Sydney from April 14 – 19th. The Asian Cities Championship for 2009 is being held in Beirut, Lebanon April 15 – 23rd. The Asian Individual Championship is being held in The Philippines in June and the Commonwealth Championship in Ipoh, Malaysia in July. The Oceania Zonal Chess

Championship is being held at Tweed Heads in Queensland, Australia from June 20th – 26th. The New Zealand players that gained automatic qualification to represent New Zealand in the Zonal, after the 2009 Queenstown Chess Classic were Judy Gao for the Women's Championship and Anthony Ker for the Open Championship. Details are listed on www.newzealandchess.co.nz and expressions of interest are now sought for players that might be interested in competing in these events.

- **New Clubs**

NZCF wishes to advise member clubs of the application of several new clubs for associate membership of the Federation. In Auckland Victor Wang has formed a new junior club called the **Chess for Miracle** chess club based in Epsom. Scott Wastney has also applied for associate membership for his School pupil club. There is also a new club being formed in Nelson that will also be applying for associate membership. Assuming that there are no objections from existing clubs, these new clubs will be formally accepted as members at the May NZCF Council meeting.

- **Millennium Hotels Chess Grand Prix**

The NZCF is pleased to acknowledge the continued support of the Millennium Hotels & Resorts hotel group as major sponsors of the Millennium Hotels New Zealand Chess Grand Prix, for the 2009/2010 period. Chess players and organizers are urged to support our sponsors whenever possible.

- **President's Award**

Last year the NZCF Council inaugurated a new award named the "President's Award". The idea behind this was to recognize outstanding service and contribution to the game of chess over a long period of time. The inaugural award was presented to long time chess enthusiast and supporter George Trundle, now aged 91, at the Auckland Chess Centre on February 8th. An article written by George many years ago on his introduction to the game of chess will appear in an upcoming edition of New Zealand Chess magazine.

Paul Spiller
President New Zealand Chess Federation