



NZCF PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2019

By Grandmaster
Murray Chandler

2019

It has been a busy & vibrant year for New Zealand chess – indeed we were straight out of the blocks in January with a possibly unprecedented amount of activity.

The **Oceania Junior**, the **George Trundle**, and the **New Zealand Championships** were three major tournaments, all featuring international competitors, and all staged in Auckland within a single month.

Congratulations to the NZ juniors who gained FIDE (World Chess Federation) titles or norms at the Oceania event, and to Wellington's Anthony Ker and Russell Dive, joint New Zealand Champions. Particular thanks go to the **Auckland Chess Centre** and **Howick-Pakuranga Chess Club** for staging the above competitions.

Many volunteers throughout New Zealand work hard organising and promoting chess. In this short summary it is not possible to mention all individuals, but I will try and give an overview of the most significant events.

A NEW RECORD: 11,619 RATED GAMES IN 12 MONTHS

Figures compiled by the NZCF ratings officer Rowan Wood confirm a significant increase in chess activity in New Zealand in recent years. Following an exceptional jump in the past 12 months, for the first time ever in excess of 10,000 games were sent in for NZCF rating. That is a 67% increase on the total from six years ago.

NUMBER OF NZCF RATED GAMES PLAYED 2014-2019

YEAR	STANDARD	RAPID	TOTAL
2014	3877	3056	6,933
2015	3932	2712	6,644
2016	4433	3285	7,718
2017	4868	3091	7,959
2018	4310	3774	8,084
2019	5559	6060	11,619

Statistics by Rowan Wood (year runs 1 Nov- 31 Oct)

It is a similar pattern with the FIDE ratings. From October 2017 – September 2018 there were 3943 games rated from tournaments in New Zealand. In the period October 2018 – September 2019, this increased to 6563 rated games.

ORGANISATION OF NZCF OFFICIAL EVENTS IN 2019

Each year NZCF is responsible for overseeing a number of annual events, some of which, like the NZCF Congress, have a significant history. This coming January (thanks to Chief Organiser Bob Smith) Tauranga will host the 127th edition of this event.

A huge thank you to the Clubs and Officials who staged these below events.

NZCF OFFICIAL EVENTS IN 2019		
EVENT	DATE	ORGANISING CLUB
126 th NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIP	JANUARY 2019	HOWICK-PAKURANGA
MAJOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP	JANUARY 2019	HOWICK-PAKURANGA
NEW ZEALAND RAPID	JANUARY 2019	HOWICK-PAKURANGA
NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR OPEN	JANUARY 2019	HOWICK-PAKURANGA
NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS	APRIL 2019	WELLINGTON
NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR	JULY 2019	HOWICK-PAKURANGA
NEW ZEALAND/OCEANIA SENIOR	JULY 2019	HOWICK-PAKURANGA
INTERSCHOOLS FINALS	SEPTEMBER 2019	MANAWATU KNIGHTS
SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIP	OCTOBER 2019	CANTERBURY
SOUTH ISLAND RAPID	OCTOBER 2019	CANTERBURY
NORTH ISLAND RAPID	DECEMBER 2019	AUCKLAND CHESS CENTRE

SIGNIFICANT OTHER TOURNAMENTS IN 2019

Many member clubs host at least one event of national stature each year. The below list is not fully comprehensive, but it does include most NZCF-rated and FIDE rated events.

EVENT	DATE	ORGANISING CLUB/PERSON
OCEANIA JUNIOR	JANUARY 2019	AUCKLAND CHESS CENTRE
GEORGE TRUNDLE	JANUARY 2019	AUCKLAND CHESS CENTRE
AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY TOURNAMENT	JANUARY 2019	AUCKLAND CHESS CENTRE
HAWKES BAY RAPID	FEBRUARY 2019	HAWKES BAY
BAY OF PLENTY RAPID	FEBRUARY 2019	MOUNT MAUNGANUI RSA
LATVIAN RAPID	MARCH 2019	HOWICK-PAKURANGA
WELLINGTON EASTER (INCL NORTH ISLAND)	APRIL 2019	WELLINGTON
ANZAC SPLIT WEEKENDER	APRIL 2019	AUCKLAND CHESS CENTRE
KAPITI RAPID	MAY 2019	KAPITI
42 nd TRUSTS OPEN	JUNE 2019	WAITAKERE
UPPER HUTT RAPID	JUNE 2019	UPPER HUTT
AUCKLAND GIRLS	JUNE 2019	BOB & VIV SMITH
WAIKATO OPEN	JULY 2019	HAMILTON
PETER STUART MEMORIAL TRAINING	JULY 2019	NORTH SHORE
NEW ZEALAND GIRLS INTERSCHOOL	AUGUST 2019	ERICA HU / KIMBERLEY YUAN
PETER STUART MEMORIAL	AUGUST 2019	NORTH SHORE
WELLINGTON RAPID	SEPTEMBER 2019	WELLINGTON
MERV MORRISON	OCTOBER 2019	AUCKLAND CHESS CENTRE
RICHARD SUTTON TROPHY	OCTOBER 2019	OTAGO
OTAGO WESTPAC TROPHY (4 EVENTS)	DECEMBER 2019	OTAGO

JUNIOR-ONLY EVENTS

In addition to events previously listed, there are many junior events staged throughout New Zealand. Each year the **NZCF INTER SCHOOLS REGIONAL QUALIFICATION EVENTS** involve about 2000 young players - Bob Smith is the National Coordinator. Manawatu Knights (Mark Noble & Jack James) hosted the Finals, 66 teams and over 270 players.

Throughout 2019 Alex Huang continued with his regular **ACC Junior Rapidplays** at the Auckland Chess Centre, while the new **Summit Chess Club** run by Ying Wang is also now hosting multiple tournaments.

The private coaching firm **Chess Power** continues to promote chess to thousands of school pupils players, via tournaments and school competitions. The firm is overseen by Paul MacDonald, while Bruce Pollard acts as a roving organiser throughout New Zealand.

A unique junior training event was staged in July by **North Shore Club** – the **Peter Stuart Memorial Training Tournament**. Organiser Helen Milligan brought in top coaches to tutor players after their games, even obtaining the services of passing Grandmaster/NZ Olympiad coach Dejan Bojkov.

MOST ACTIVE ARBITERS

IA Keong Ang

IA Craig Hall

IA Helen Milligan

IA Bruce Pollard

IA Ying Wang (qualified 2019)

Foreign guests to elite New Zealand tournaments frequently comment on the high standard of organisation. This is in no small part due to the skills & dedication of our International Arbiters. Sometimes a fine balance needs to be struck between enforcing rules and ensuring players have an enjoyable time!

2019 MOST NOTABLE PLAYER RESULTS – PRESIDENT'S PICK

1. MIKE STEADMAN – North Island Champion, first place in South Island Championship, NZ Seniors Champion, leading the Grand Prix...

2. ALPHAEUS ANG - FM title/IM Norm at Oceania Junior, first/first equal in the Latvian Rapid, Peter Stuart Memorial & Auckland Anniversary, winner of the NZ Junior Championships...

3. JOHN DUNEAS – First in Trundle Qualifiers & Anzac Split Weekender, FM title at the Guam Oceania Zonal, third in South Island Championship, 4th = New Caledonia Open...

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Malaysia's **EVAN CAPEL** -1st Trusts Open, 1st equal Peter Stuart Memorial

SCOTT WASTNEY -1st Wellington Rapid, Upper Hutt Rapid, Kapiti Rapid, 2nd North island Championships, 2nd South Island Championships

DANIEL GONG - NZ under-16 Champion, 1st equal North Island Rapid Championships, 2nd equal Bay of Plenty Rapid

BEN HAGUE - 1st equal Peter Stuart Memorial, 1st Waikato Open

JASMINE ZHANG - WIM title/WGM norm for 1st Under-20 girls at Oceania Junior

ISABELLE NING - 3rd U-12 girls Oceania Junior, 1st Under 1500 Auckland Anniversary...

HISTORY PROJECT & NZCF WEBSITE

www.newzealandchess.co.nz

Webmaster (and Candidate Chess Master) Bill Forster is the force behind the comprehensive NZCF website. Especially popular for reference is the up-to-date calendar of forthcoming tournaments.

One of Bill's passions is in the recording of NZ chess history. This year, with the assistance of Philip Hair on scanner, many back issues of historical New Zealand chess magazines have been uploaded – a fascinating read.

POISON PAWN GRAND PRIX IN ASSOCIATION WITH D & D FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS LTD

Once again Michael Freeman (Poison Pawn) and Martin Dreyer (D & D) have generously supported the annual Grand Prix. The event was originally started by Michael in 2014. It has been decided that 2020 will be the final year of this sponsorship, so be warned – your last chance to play for the \$6500 annual prize money is coming up.

For those that don't know, Michael Freeman is also a NZCF selector and our FIDE Delegate. Year after year he devotes hundreds of hours making a quiet but absolutely key contribution to the running of the Federation.

PUB CHARITY \$22,437 GRANT FOR DGT EQUIPMENT

On the last day of October NZCF received news that our sponsorship application to **Pub Charity** had been successful. The state-of-the art DGT game broadcasting equipment was immediately ordered from Holland and has now arrived.

50 x DGT Smart Boards (with wooden pieces and electronic connection materials)
80 x DGT 3000 Game Timers.

This Federation equipment is available for free loan to all NZCF member club requiring extra equipment for a tournament. Fantastic work by **Nigel Metge**, newly appointment NZCF Director Sponsorship, and of course our grateful thanks to **Pub Charity**.

NZCF COUNCIL

As President it has been a pleasure to work with the elected NZCF Councillors during 2019:

PAUL SPILLER, WINSOME STRETCH, HILTON BENNETT, STAN YEE, RUSSELL DIVE, BOB GIBBONS, CRAIG HALL, ROSS JACKSON, QUENTIN JOHNSON, GRANT KERR, MICHAEL STEADMAN, YING WANG (plus Patron & Vice-Patrons JIM BENSON, CHRIS BENSON & TONY BOOTH)

A huge thank you to Secretary/Treasurer Winsome Stretch for her work in 2019, which included registering New Zealand players for multiple official events abroad.

All the Councillors perform other valuable roles within the New Zealand Chess Community as well. For example, Stan Yee runs the NZCF Facebook Page (and looks after Trophies), and Quentin Johnson and Bob Gibbons are both NZCF Selectors.

At the last AGM the following individuals received Life Membership awards for their valuable service over many, many years: **Bob Gibbons, Michael Freeman, Quentin Johnson, Grant Kerr, Craig Hall, Hilton Bennett & Bob Mitchell.**

Finally - especial congratulations to **Paul Spiller**, who in May was awarded a richly deserved **MNZM** for services to chess.

NZCF ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

Following AGM approval last January, NZCF Council duly registered a revised NZCF Constitution which scrapped the unpopular and unwieldy \$20 individual player Registration system. As anticipated, this has massively simplified administration for tournament organisers, players and Federation officials.

This changeover does mean that funds are no longer collected at the start of a year (member clubs now pay in bulk for all members at the end of the year). This has a one-off cash-flow effect on the accounts to y/e 30/6/2019. NZCF retains ample reserves to ensure this is not a problem.

Also thanks to the firm D & D (run by a former New Zealand Champion!) for preparing the annual accounts without charge.

COMING UP IN 2020 – THE MOSCOW OLYMPIAD

As a member of FIDE, the World Chess Federation, New Zealand is invited each two years to send teams to the prestigious World Chess Olympiad. In 2020 the 44th Olympiad will be in Moscow, August 1st-15th.

Olympiads are a fantastic opportunity for our leading players to participate alongside the World's elite, and participation means a busy time for the NZCF Secretariat. After careful selections of an Open team and a Women's Team, NZCF must ensure all documentation for participation of the players and accompanying officials is correctly processed.

In recent years NZCF has made a concerted effort to provide for experienced international coaches to accompany our Olympiad teams. The driving force behind this highly positive step has been Grant Kerr, a former Olympiad player himself. With yet further sponsorship support from Grant, I'm delighted to announce that for Moscow 2020 we have again secured the services of our two outstanding coaches:

Bulgarian Grandmaster Dejan Bojkov (Open Team)
Brazilian International Master Herman van Riemsdijk (Women's team)

CONCLUSION

While there remain challenges to be met (low numbers participating in some traditional events for example), I think we can all be proud of the state of the New Zealand chess scene at the present time.

The tournament calendar is full - a year ahead.

Thousands of games are efficiently processed for rating, entirely by volunteers.

Plus, junior players have unprecedented opportunities, thanks to a dedicated array of coaches and organisers nationwide.

MURRAY CHANDLER
24TH DECEMBER 2019