

Croydon Chess Club – President’s Report 2019

State of the Club

Club membership in 2019 decreased by approximately 6% on the record number of members achieved in 2018 corresponding to a membership base of 22 adults and 95 juniors. To accommodate the high membership of the junior club, the club has maintained its relationship with Swinburne Uni as the primary junior club location whilst the Youth Club remains at the RSL.

A consequence of these large number of juniors is the necessity to ensure sufficient coaches to take the groups. Whilst the availability of particular coaches varies due to other commitments, we were lucky enough to find dedicated coaches to take over coaching duties when necessary without additional cost to our budget.

Talking of the budget, the club is currently in a financially sound position and on track to at least break even again.

Member Achievements

During January, the 2019 Oceania Youth Chess Championships were hosted in Auckland NZ where one of our clubs most capable juniors Tiger Zhao achieved Under 8 Gold & U10 Bronze in the main events and, in the quick play events, U12 Blitz Bronze, U10 Blitz Silver, U8 Blitz & Rapid Gold. Additionally, fine results were achieved by Chengyun Xu =7th in the Under 12s, and Bill Jiang =9th in Under 20.

Also in January, the 2019 Australian Juniors were held in Sydney where 3 juniors from our club participated. They faced strong opposition from other states, however they were the highest placing Victorians in the Under 12 Open. Tiger Zhao finished 2nd in the Under 8 division, whilst Chengyun Xu finished 5th, and both Gavyn Sanusi-Goh and Tiger Zhao finished equal 8th. Gavyn also placed =3rd in the Under 12 Blitz.

The Victorian Championships held from June through to August yielded two particularly notable results from club members. The first from IM Guy West achieving outright second in the open division, and Tanya Kolak finishing equal fourth in the women’s division.

Closer to home I would like to congratulate the winners of our roster of tournaments. To begin the year was the 7 round Croydon Open that was won by aforementioned IM Guy West.

Second term saw an extended President’s Cup now covering 7 rounds of classical play won by myself.

Term 3 instead saw two tournaments, both following conventional play. The Frost Winter Warmer was won by Garry Lycett. Whilst the second tournament; The Spring Cup, was won by Ian Birchall.

Returning to a single 7 round tournament, term 4 saw the Club Championship where IM Guy West once again convincingly won the tournament.

Alongside each of these senior tournaments, Transition Tournaments occurred consisting of up-and-coming juniors keen on playing more chess! These tournaments with a more conservative time control allowed those interested to develop their chess skills further without having to stay out too far past their bed time. Whilst many juniors performed exceptionally in these tournaments, it should be noted that Timothy Brown was consistently sitting near or at the top of the standings. As a club we want to encourage more juniors to take this path as a way to develop and improve their chess skills further.

Not to be forgotten, the numerous groups within the junior club program hold many tournaments throughout the year. The most prestigious event in their roster of tournaments is the Junior Club Championship. A new champion was crowned as Stefan Lee was the latest name to be added to the perpetual plaque.

Another major highlight on the junior program calendar is the Croydon Junior Chess Open held over two days in the July school holidays. This 7 Round Allegro event ended in a tie between our juniors, defending Junior Open champion Jayden Zhang and new Junior Club Champion Stefan Lee.

Thanks

A chess club like ours can't continue to operate without the continued and ongoing support from community groups and their members. In saying that I would like to give particular thanks to our sponsors; Bendigo Community bank continues to support our juniors by awarding five \$50 bank accounts. Northern Star Chess run by our dedicated treasurer Pearl Yung in supplying all we could want in terms of coaching material and sometimes the coaches themselves! And most recently, Swinburne University for continuing to offer the free use of their facilities to operate the junior club.

In addition to these groups, I would like to thank my fellow coaches; Richard Goldsmith, Cameron Yung, Ian Birchall, John Nemeth, Pearl Yung, Emily Lin, Ion Kloprogge and Guy West (Senior Club) for their continual dedication to the well-being of the club.

By operating the club over two different locations, sometimes the setting up and packing up of the club each week is a little shorthanded. So to those who help in these times, notably Ana Kyval, Jimmy Dong, Lucas Cheong, Hayden Goldsmith, John Vergunst, Lindsay Newsome, Garry Lycett, Chris Potter, Hatti Zhao and Timon Xu thank you for helping the club run as smooth as possible.

It goes without saying that the committee members are the people who make the club the welcoming environment that appeals to all our members. I have already thanked many of these people above, but I would like to do so again as they truly are the people to thank for the successful running of all club activities.

In Summary

In 2019 Croydon Chess Club has continued to provide the community with the welcoming space for chess as it has done for so many years before. Whilst membership numbers did not match the all time high of last year, the classrooms were always full of students. Further, development in these juniors has been seen with more juniors progressing upwards through the coaching groups, on towards the transition tournaments and finally participation in the senior tournament roster.

Looking towards 2020, consideration must again be given to ensuring the availability of coaches for our large junior group. Whilst the junior club continues to flourish, the senior membership numbers remain steady and could be an avenue for further developing the club.

I am once again very grateful to have been given the opportunity by the club membership to represent Croydon Chess Club as its President. I look forward to maintaining my involvement with the club to the best of my abilities for many years to come!

Kyle Gibson (President)

Your 2019 Committee: Kyle Gibson (President), Mathew Cooke (Vice President), Pearl Yung (Treasurer), Ian Birchall (Secretary), Richard Goldsmith, Cameron Yung, Ion Kloprogge.