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DECEMBER 2006 RATINGS

The latest Australian Chess Federation ratings list was released on Friday, 1st December 2006.

A notable feature of this ratings list is that the method used for calculating ratings for rapidly-improving juniors (and adults!) has been modified.

When players go through periods of rapid improvement, their actual playing strength often far exceeds their rated strength, as the ratings calculations of their performances "lag" behind by some months. But with the new system the negative impact of this lag is now minimised.

The ACF have also recalculated all player ratings, quarter by quarter, right back to the year 2000 and have applied the new formula to all those calculations.

Following the recalculations and the results from recent tournaments (including the

Croydon Club Championship), a number of notable increases in Croydon player ratings have occurred:

- N.Y.Wong (over 2200!)
- Douglas Stones (+94)
- Stephen Frost (+84)
- Ion Klopogge (+81)
- Peter Braham (+75)

We'd also like to mention a few of the more notable performances achieved by Croydon players throughout the year.

Douglas Stones has been active in playing at non-Croydon tournaments, performing well above his rating consistently at those events, picking up some great scalps along the way and bringing their rating points back to us.

Peter Braham also managed a draw during the year with IM David Smerdon (likely to become Australia's next grandmaster) ... well done Peter!

Rating Name.....

2218	Wong, Ngiam Yee
2173	Anderson, Tim
2047	Guy, Wayne G
1779	Stones, Douglas
1750	Waller, A (Tony)
1720	Braham, Peter
1689	Lacey, David
1566	Frost, Stephen
1458	Smith, Mike
1398	Jaske, Jan
1391	Frost, Jared
1370	Klopogge, Ion
1234	Gabrys, Marek
921	Sawkins, Cliff
661	Young, Jack
523	Christensen, Jared
280	Gibson, Kyle

NEW CLUB CHAMPIONS

In a tightly contested round-robin tournament, Peter Braham and Douglas Stones drew their individual round 7 game to both finish on 5.5 pts.

Because their individual game was drawn, the committee have decided to award the title of Club Champion jointly to both players.

There was a similar tussle for third place, which has been jointly awarded to Tony Waller and Stephen Frost who finished on 4.5 pts and who also tied their individual game.

Here's the game between the eventual winners:

White: Douglas Stones

Black: Peter Braham

Ruy Lopez — Open Variation

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 O-O 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Ng5 Bxb3 13.axb3 e3 14.Bxe3 Bxe3 15.Qxd8 Bxf2+ 16.Rxf2 Raxd8 17.e6 f6 18.e7 Nxe7 19.Ne6 Rd6 20.Nxf8 Kxf8 21.Re2 Kf7 22.Kf1 Ng6 23.g3 Ne5 24.Rae1 h6 25.Re3 Rd2 26.R1e2 Rd1+ 27.Re1 Rd2 28.R1e2 **drawn**

Final Results:

1st	Peter Braham Douglas Stones	5.5
3rd	Tony Waller Stephen Frost	4.5
5th	Ion Klopogge	3
6th	Mike Smith Jan Jaske	2
8th	Marek Gabrys	1

Our junior champion for 2007 is Jack Young, with Jared Frost in 2nd place and Kyle Gibson in 3rd place.

address:

Croydon Christian Church
2 / 34 Research Drive
Croydon South VIC 3136

directions:

Melways ref: 51 C9
on right hand side of street
look for the black+white sign
loads of parking available

website:

www.croydonchess.com

email:

enquiries@croydonchess.com

director of play:

Douglas Stones
(m) 0413 423 659

president:

Stephen Frost
(m) 0413 537 817

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF JUNIOR PLAYERS

Parents of junior players should be aware that the club takes very seriously its responsibilities to care for our junior players.

We believe that its important for parents to have confidence when leaving their children in the care of the club (e.g. during junior coaching sessions) so we have now implemented a policy for all activities that involve junior players.

Junior players MUST be signed in and out by their parent or guardian

From next year, we request that parents no longer just "drop off" their children at the club, but rather, we would like

you to bring your child in and sign an attendance register, so the date and time you left your child in our care is recorded.

The book will also record the details of the person nominated to pick up the child (e.g. when Mum drops junior off and Dad is doing the pick-up).

Similarly, when collecting your child, please come in and sign the book, recording the time that your child was returned to your care.

Police Checks

Parents should be aware that Croydon Chess requires all club members who hold an official position with the club

(such as members of our committee, our junior coach, our director of play, etc) to provide us with a current police record check.

These checks are repeated every couple of years to keep them current.

In Conclusion

We hope you agree that these measures are appropriate and we ask that you help us by supporting the sign-in and sign-out process next year.



REVISED ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR 2007 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

For the past two years (2005 and 2006) we have structured our club championship as an 8-player "round robin" event.

The eight players eligible to compete were selected based on a points system which rewarded a combination of participation in multiple events and their chess capability.

We now recognise that this system unfairly excluded some committed club members from participating in the event, so

for 2007 and onwards we will be changing the format of the championship:

- all club members will be eligible to play in the event
- only members who join before 1st July are eligible to win the title of Club Champion (but they can still play in the event)
- the event will be structured as a 7-round Swiss

We hope you will agree that this new structure makes the rules much easier to understand, by doing away with the complicated points system and by making it possible for all members to play in the tournament.

"The 2007 Club Championship will be a Swiss format event open to all club members"

MIKE SMITH'S 2006 "BEAUTIFUL GAME" AWARD

At the end of every year, Mike Smith (our Vice-President and Webmaster) selects one game from the hundreds played for his "Beautiful Game Award".

Last years worthy winner was Warren Whitham for his 11-move brevity in dispatching Jared Frost (2006 Club Junior Champion).

This year the award goes to Douglas Stones for this lovely attack:

White: Tony Waller

Black: Douglas Stones

Uncommon Opening

1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 e5 3.d3 Nf6
4.Nf3 Bd6 5.O-O Bf5 6.Nbd2
O-O 7.c4 c6 8.b3 e4 9.dxe4
dxe4 10.Nh4 Be5 11.Rb1 Qd7
12.Nxf5 Qxf5 13.Qc2 Nbd7
14.Bxe4 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Qh5
16.Nf3 Rfe8 17.Qc2 Nf6
18.Bb2 Ng4 19.Rbd1 Re6
20.Kg2 Rh6 21.Rh1 Qh3+
22.Kg1

(see diagram)



22..Bxg3!! 23.Bd4 Bf4 24.Qf5
Rg6! 25.Qxf4 Ne3+! 0-1

(checkmate follows)

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP AND COACHING FOR 2007

For the 2007 calendar year, the committee have decided to make some reductions to junior membership and coaching fees, in order to make chess more affordable and accessible for parents.

The new schedule of membership fees for juniors are:

- \$40/year for club membership (20% reduction on last year)
- \$25/year for club membership for a second child in the same family (50% reduction on last year)
- Free club membership for a third or subsequent child in the same family (100% reduction on last year)

The new schedule of coaching fees for juniors are as follows:

- \$120/year (covers terms 1, 2, 3 and 4)

OR

- \$32/term for Term 1 (7 weeks)
- \$36/term for Term 2 (8 weeks)
- \$36/term for Term 3 (8 weeks)
- \$32/term for Term 4 (7 weeks)

OR

- \$6/session pay as you go

*** Please note that all junior games next year will be rated in the ACF Rapid Rating system.

"Membership fees for juniors have been reduced!"

"All junior games next year will be rated in the ACF Rapid Rating system."

ADULT MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2007

For the 2007 calendar year, the committee have decided to keep adult membership fees unchanged at \$50/year (which is the same as for 2005 and 2006).

2007 CALENDAR

A number of changes have been implemented in our calendar for 2007. Notable dates and changes include:

- Club Championship will be a 7-round Swiss format (as previously noted)
- New CROYDON OPEN tournament to be held during August and September, will be open for players outside our club to compete ... prizes will be offered if sponsorship can be secured
- We have reduced the number of "casual" and "chess variant" nights in order to increase the number of rated-play tournaments
- Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 1st February 2007
- "King of the Mountain" junior tournament, held in conjunction with Ranges Chess Club, will be on Saturday, 24th March 2007 (Croydon junior Jared Frost won last year's event)
- "Ranges Challenge" dates will be Thursday, 24th May 2007 and Thursday, 20th September 2007 for the "home" and "away" matches respectively



NOTE: The club is sometimes open for casual play during school holidays, even if no scheduled activities are on the calendar. For more information, please contact Tony Waller on 9729 8609.

SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO OUR COACHES

I would like to extend a very special "thank you" to our coaching team who have contributed so much over the past year.

N.Y.Wong, Tony Waller and Douglas Stones took over responsibility for running the junior program during 2006 (it was previously

outsourced to a commercial coaching provider) and have done a really outstanding job!

Many of our adult players have also significantly benefited from N.Y.'s chess wisdom, as some rapidly increasing ACF ratings will attest!

Thanks guys for a wonderful job this year!