

## **Croydon Chess - Junior Club Report 2016**

### **1. Junior Club Aims.**

No-one can expect to become an expert player with just a few minutes instruction and a game or two per week. Our aims are far more modest. We aim to introduce the game to new players, provide basic instruction to demonstrate some of the depth of the game and also provide an environment for fun competition. We try to provide coaching appropriate to the strength of the player. We try to assist the development of a player's thinking from the beginner's impulsiveness, through the novice player's setting of traps, to the club player's development of strategy and planning. If, as a result of our efforts, some players decide to pursue their interest in the game through their own study or private coaching then that's fantastic and we encourage and applaud them. Over the years, we have been delighted to see a number of our juniors develop into strong club players.

### **2. Junior Coaching Staff.**

Many thanks to the coaches and assistants who regularly give their time and expertise to provide a fun, friendly and educational experience for our juniors. Special thanks to Garry for setting up the club each week before anyone else gets there!

Regular Coaches: Cameron Yung, Garry Lycett and Ian Birchall with Kerry Stead, from Northern Star Chess, filling in for Cameron in Term 4.

Occasional coaches or assistants: Chris Najim, Taleigha Najim, Darcy Osborne, Jamie Yung, Pearl Yung, Lindsay Newsome.

### **3. Junior Club Membership.**

Junior numbers have exploded in recent years. If this growth continues then it may become necessary to either restrict numbers or reorganise the club to accommodate the greater interest.

Club membership numbers:

Year	Juniors	Adults	Total
2014	29	25	54
2015	67	24	91
2016	83	24	107

### **4. Resources.**

Thanks to the Club Committee for providing extra resources to the junior club.

The senior club has passed down 19 DGT clocks for use in the junior club this year. This has helped accommodate the numbers of players in our competitions.

We have been able to provide some book prizes in our main tournaments this year. Chess books, of

course! Hopefully, this will assist our stronger players to improve their game. Our thanks to Pearl Yung (Northern Star Chess) for providing many of the books.

We have also begun accumulating new books for our chess library which can be borrowed free-of-charge by any member. Many thanks to those who have regularly contributed to our coaching donations box. The proceeds have gone to providing more resources for our junior club!

## **5. Remarkable Performances.**

While the successes of many of our juniors will be celebrated on Presentation Night, it is worthwhile highlighting here a few juniors who have excelled.

8 year old Gavyn Sanusi-Goh came 4<sup>th</sup> overall, and top Under 9, in the Croydon Junior Open held earlier in this year. Since joining the club in July, Gavyn won the Junior Club Championship with 7/7 and has competed strongly in our Senior tournaments.

5 year old Tiger Zhao started the year in our Beginners' group and has made remarkable progress to be equal winner of the B-Division Junior Championship.

Chantal Arthur, Julie Wu, Emily Wu and Derek Qian have also made wonderful progress after commencing the year in the Beginners.

It has also been great to see a number of young juniors participate competitively in our senior Thursday night tournaments this year, including Gavyn, Chloe Fan, Jonathan Ng, Stanley Ang, Winson Ang, Sophie Chang (=1<sup>st</sup> U10 Vic Girls), Emma Chang (=1<sup>st</sup> U8 Vic Girls) and Chris Fox. These players are gaining great experience and achieving a number of successes at the higher level.

Best wishes for the holiday period! We hope to see you all again in the new year.

Junior club restarts Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.

**Ian Birchall**

**Junior Club Organiser.**