

Croydon Chess Club President's Report 2022

State of the Club

After the tumultuous end to 2021 involving alternating between lockdowns and release from them due to the still ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, Croydon Chess Club started off the 2022 calendar year cautiously as vaccination doses were still being distributed. After navigating the senior club for the first term and having allowed ample time for all our members to receive their vaccinations, Croydon Chess Club returned to full junior and senior club operations as of term two. To maintain social distancing however, club membership numbers have not reached the highs that we have seen in previous years. Despite this, the current membership numbers of 25 Youth Club members, 35 Junior Club members and 26 Senior Club members for a total of 86 active members is indicative that the chess community is still going strong and have been eagerly awaiting the full return to over the board chess.

Member Achievements

In the first term with only the senior club in operation, the Croydon Open was jointly won by myself and Ian Birchall on 6.5/7 followed by Peter Clark in outright third with a stellar performance. The return of the Fischer Random Allegro saw myself winning on 7/7, followed by Ian Birchall in second and Ion Klopogge in third.

During the school holidays between terms one and two, the Croydon Junior Open was held over two days. This event saw over 30 players competing for the title however it was Michael Ooi who scored a perfect 7/7 to win the event with Ananya Bremchandar second.

Term two saw the return of the youth and junior clubs, where the Autumn Allegro saw victories from Haoran Huang and Thomas Mohr in their respective divisions. Whilst the senior club continued on with their operations with Guy West taking down the President's Cup, only conceding a draw to Ian Birchall who finished equal second tied with myself.

Guy West continued his winning streak into term three where he again won the Frost Winter Warmer, only preventing himself from a perfect score by taking a bye. Michael Molnar followed close behind in second place, with Ian Birchall, Garry Lycett and Christopher Potter vying for third place. The spring cup to follow again saw good performances from Ian and Garry, taking out the first and second places respectively, and a fine performance from Bryce Mott resulting in outright third. In the meantime, the youth and junior clubs held the prestigious club championship, where Elijah Rojas was the junior club victor on a perfect 7/7. The youth club saw a tie between Vivian Lee and Haoran Huang, where after a playoff match Vivian emerged the victor and thus became our 2022 Junior (U18) Champion.

The final events for the year taking place in term four included the Senior Club Championship where Guy West retained his title with a perfect score after the event was last held in 2019 prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Following him was Ian Birchall in outright second, and Garry Lycett, Jean Watson and Richard Goldsmith in equal third. The junior and youth clubs held their Christmas Cracker Allegro where Yee Yang and Isaac Lockwood won their respective divisions.

Thanks

Unfortunately I was unable to play a bigger role in the coaching of the juniors this year, which makes my thanks even greater to the coaches who were able to keep up with the influx of new interested members. So thank you to Ian Birchall and Richard Goldsmith for your continued dedication to the well-being of the club. Also to Parsa Heydari, who took time from his VCE studies to coach our Thursday night beginners for two terms. I would also like to thank Guy West and NY Wong for their dedication to the senior coaching nights which were appreciated by all who attended.

Once again navigating the uncertainty of how the Covid-19 Pandemic would affect the goings on of the club, the committee showed their commitment to the wellbeing and running of the club and are deserving of an immense amount of thanks.

In Summary

In 2022 Croydon Chess Club provided its community with a welcoming space for chess players of various strengths to develop their skills where responsible to do so. Whilst we saw a slow start to the year, I believe that all members are happy with what we have achieved after another difficult year.

Despite my lesser availability to help with the everyday running of the club, I am grateful to have been given the opportunity 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 2022 Committee: Kyle Gibson (President), Ion Kloprogge (Vice President), Pearl Yung (Treasurer), Ian Birchall (Secretary), Richard Goldsmith, Cameron Yung, Luke Cutting, Jason Tate.