

Croydon Chess Club – President’s Report 2024

20th Year Celebrations

After commencing operations in February 2005, the club has now been in operation for a full 20 years. In 2024, we celebrated our 20th year with the 20th Celebrations Cup tournament in August and by commissioning the design and purchase of club T-shirts and hoodies with the motto “Croydon Chess - Making great mates since 2005”. While the designs are still to have their final touches, we expect the garments to be available at a subsidised prices to our members in 2025.

We also commenced the recognition of long term members with **Kyle Gibson** and **Ion Kloprogge** each receiving a memento of their 20 years membership plus a club hoodie for good measure.

Membership and finances

Since the period of Covid lock downs, the club has had a couple of years of record memberships with close to 160 financial members. These membership numbers would not be possible without the work of our volunteer junior coaches who open up the club on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings for our juniors to attend. Many thanks to **Richard, Vivian Lee, Ian, Kyle** and **Garry L.**

Record membership combined with our low rent through the RSL allowed us to lower membership fees and to offer greater prizes and other benefits to our members in 2024. The Committee has been conscious of the need to balance returning benefits to members with the need to reserve funds to mitigate the effects of likely rent increases in the near future. We placed \$13000 in terms deposit earning 4.75% interest for 2024 and we increased it to \$15000 for 2025 (4.5% p.a.).

Tournaments

It is very encouraging to see so many of our juniors coming through to play competitively in our Senior Club tournaments. Playing late on a school night has always been a disincentive, but 12 participated in one or more events this year.

In the Senior Club, the *Croydon Open* tournament had a significant increase in prize-money directed mainly towards rating prizes. The prize-money totalled \$1000. 1st: **IM Guy West**.

Later, we had the *20th Celebrations Cup* with \$640 in prize money. 1st: **IM Guy West**

Then came the *2024 Club Championship* with \$870 in prize-money. 1st: **FM Kai Jie Soo**

In between, were the *President’s Cup* - 1st: **Kyle Gibson**, the *Fischer Random Allegro* - 1st: **Simon Andersson** and the *Frost Winter Warmer* - 1st: **Garry Lycett**.

At the other levels, the main results were

Croydon Junior Open : 1st **Marcus Wei**

Youth Club Champion and therefore the club’s *Junior Champion* : **Jeremy Gu**

Junior A Champions : **Aritha Wanasundera & Chern Jun Kong**

Junior B Champion : **Alannah Mott**

A full list of prize winners can be found on our website in the ‘2024 Tournaments’ section.

2024 Committee

Our Committee began the year a little distracted by the need to fight against the proposed Chess Victoria ‘Competitor Register Fee’ which we saw as an unnecessary imposition on club organisers and their members. After the first CV 2023 AGM descended into chaos, a second meeting was required, where the proposal was

withdrawn and the CV executive belatedly decided to organise a review of the CV Constitution. CV finances remain a mystery. Thanks to those who attended the meetings on behalf of the club and its members – **Garry V., Pearl, Kyle, Ion, Tanya** and **Ian**.

With the high number of returning members, the club was seen to be doing well financially and so the Committee chose to increase funding towards our 20th Year Celebrations. **Jean Watson** kindly agreed to create a design around the 20 years theme that could go on a club T-shirt that could be sold at low cost to members or presented as prizes. **Pearl** organised the production and purchase of a demonstration set of 23 T-shirts and hoodies. Further purchases, depending on demand, are intended for 2025.

Our Presentation Night organised by **Richard** continues to be enjoyed by all who attend, but we would like to see fewer absences when awards are handed out.

2025 Move?

It looks as though the club will need to make the temporary move with the Croydon RSL to the building next door some time after ANZAC Day in 2025. The renovations are still to be completed so we're still not exactly sure how suitable it will be for our club. From the plans, it appears that there may be advantages and disadvantages for our operations. We keep in mind how fortunate we are to be charged low rent through the Croydon RSL and that there is a risk of significantly higher rates in future years.

Additional thanks

We were fortunate to have our application for a Small Equipment Grant accepted by Maroondah Council. We received \$500 to go towards the purchase of a laptop for the use of our coaches and organisers. Our thanks to Maroondah Council.

Thanks to our local Mooroolbark Community Bank (Bendigo Bank) for again providing 5 x \$50 vouchers to be used as junior prizes.

Thanks to **Pearl** and Northern Star Chess for providing access every year to their Coaching Portal which assists in running our Junior & Youth Club tournaments. They also contribute prizes to our Croydon Junior Open every year.

Guy provided all 4 sessions of coaching in our Senior Club in 2024. As always, his sessions are informative, challenging and full of interesting anecdotes about Australian Chess and it's personalities.

Thanks to **Jeff Coldrey**, and others, who digitise our Senior club games for publication on the club website.

Thanks to our **Tim Broome**, Business Manager with Northern Star Chess, for his guidance and his independent review of our finances.

Finally, many thanks to our Committee, our coaches, our arbiters and all our helpers that keep the club running.

Best wishes for 2025!

Secretary: Ian Birchall

on behalf of our 2024 Committee:

President: Kyle Gibson

Vice-President: Richard Goldsmith

Treasurer: Garry Voigt

General Committee Members: Guy West, Pearl Yung, Ion Kloprogge, Garry Lycett, R'jaye Rojas