

Auckland Chess Association President's Report 2020

Covid 19 in March brought us together more than ever as players because we could not play over the board with Covid restrictions. The A Grade Interclub had to be called off in April. The B Grade Interclub was hosted by the Auckland Trotting Club in July.

After some discussion it was decided that because of Covid player ratings would be increased to 2000. This would allow some high rated players the opportunity to play. This proved highly successful.

In July we started the B Grade Interclub with six Auckland clubs competing. We managed to play three rounds before going into lock down again, then we had to wait five weeks to finish the last two rounds in August and September. This was won by the Auckland Chess Centre.

Junior Interclub

This was the highlight of the Interclub. Twenty-one teams from six clubs gathered for a total of 84 players, the highest number ever.

Summit Chess held off some very strong challengers to maintain their top seeding by the narrowest possible margin - winning in a tie break by half a game point. Well done Summit Chess Club.

Lightning Teams Interclub

The A and B Grade was hosted by the Auckland Chess Centre.

This was the first time the competition was ever run as A and B Grades and proved highly popular, attracting the new Counties Chess Club run by Ron Lanning.

Bruce Pollard ran the A Grade and the B Grade was run by Chris Joel. The A Grade Lightning was won by the Howick Chess Club.

The inaugural B Grade Lightning was played by five clubs. This proved to be a most interesting contest with the Counties Chess Club ending up the winners. It was then decided that we should have a trophy for this B Grade event, which we did at no cost to the Association as we had a spare trophy available.

Congratulations to all the winners and those who took part over many weeks throughout Covid 19.

Special thanks to the Auckland Trotting Club for the use of the Lyell Creek Room over that period of time. The Auckland Chess Association continues to grow and in 2021 we will have seven clubs in the Auckland area.

President

John McRae

January 2021