

Napier Chess Club

To all Members

25 June 2009

- 1 There have recently been suggestions that a regular Club night should be reinstated. In the past the Club has shared premises with the radio boffins in Latham Street and before that at the old Starving Artist and before that a series of school libraries. Regular Club nights fell away because so few people were attending (after initial efforts to drum up enthusiasm there were sometimes only 3 people attending and on the odd occasion none).
- 2 The Hastings Chess Club has expressed interest in supporting Napier, although not adopting the suggestion I had made that the two clubs should join and become "Hawke's Bay". I think this is partly driven by an altruistic view of the Napier Club's significance as the oldest sporting club in New Zealand (that status currently being questionable given that the incorporated version of it no longer exists as a matter of law).
- 3 There have been suggestions from one former member on two occasions that perhaps the Club members might meet and play at the McCafe on a Wednesday evening. Those premises are suitable for informal chess but could not accommodate formal meetings or competitions.
- 4 If there is the possibility of sufficient and more regular interest for Club nights and some commitment from others to help with organising and perhaps encouraging younger members to play then it will be worth trying to reinstate those Club nights again. Chris Smith at the Hastings Club has suggested that support from Hastings would, if the right days in the week were chosen, consist of perhaps up to 4 of their members coming and playing on a relatively regular basis. He pointed out that at least 4 of their members who are playing regularly now come from Napier.
- 5 I will be away until 22 July and have asked that this flyer to be distributed both through the Hastings Club and by handout at the Starving Artist on Saturdays.
- 6 Chris Smith told me that his website is worth a visit particularly with regard to the history of the Clubs, some work on which is currently being done by a former member who now plays in Palmerston North, Justin Davis. I was pleased to hear Chris tell me that Justin has a number of items which belong to the Napier Club and which I thought had been lost. Chris' email address is xrissmith@me.com, his website address is web.mac.com/xrissmith/Chess/Home.html

Magnus Macfarlane