

Information Sheet for prospective members

Membership

You may apply to join the Ballarat Chess Club either as a Full member or an Associate member. Each category has different rights and privileges and different levels of fees. Full members can vote at meetings and participate in all events held at the BMI. Associate members can participate in all online events and attend the BMI but not compete in formal competitions. There is an application form for membership available online at www.ballaratchess.com or ask the Treasurer for one.

Membership Fees

Full membership cost is \$125 per year, \$75 concessional rate and \$50 for juniors under 18. Associate membership is \$20 per year. Further details of membership fees are shown on the club website at www.ballaratchess.com/fees.html where you can pay membership fees via PayPal or by EFT.

Thursday evening meetings at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute (BMI)

Regular club meetings are held each Thursday night from 7.00pm in the Humffray Room at the BMI. The Humffray Room is located on level 4 at the BMI and is accessed up the stairs or by the lift. There are a variety of activities organised on most Thursdays.

The full programme of events can be found on the club website. Participation in any of these events is optional. You are welcome to play casual games against other available players or just watch how the competitions unfold. There is no formal finishing time, play continues until games are complete often around 10.30pm. Competitions start promptly at 7.30pm and you need to register in advance to participate.

Occasionally there are events on other days or on a weekend. These include inter-city matches against Bendigo and Geelong, the Begonia Open chess tournament over the Labour Day weekend in March and a Triathlon on a Saturday in early December.

Monday evening meetings Online

All Full members and Associate members are welcome to participate in the online activities conducted over the chess.com platform. To participate you need to register with chess.com and then request to join the Ballarat Chess Club. Provided that you are a current Full or Associate financial member you will be accepted as an online member. You may use any 'Handle' or 'Nickname' you wish on chess.com but you must show at least your given name and the first letter of your surname in your profile. This is so other members know who they are playing and can identify you for the purposes of making a game challenge. We also require an email address and telephone number for administration purposes.

This night is usually reserved for Blitz and Rapid Play events. The format uses chess.com's Arena format and runs for 2 hours. Whilst it is possible to play someone more than once in an Arena event, it provides scope to join, leave or take a break even after it has started. Every Arena is a stand-alone event complete with chess.com virtual trophies. Each event also forms part of the Monday Night League where a fun handicapped ladder is maintained accumulating points each week.

Website

Full details about the Ballarat Chess Club, our program of events and our history can be found on the club website which is located at www.ballaratchess.com. Our webmaster posts regular news updates and links to events and activities. We encourage you to become familiar with the various sections of the website. Apart from being informative, some sections are instructional and there is a large library of games played by members and by others at club events.

Facebook

The Ballarat Chess Club also runs a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ballaratchess/> and all events are also posted there for those who prefer to use that social media to stay up to date.

International League – During the League season we have online matches on a weekend. Keep an eye on the club website for details. 10 or more players are chosen based on chess.com ratings.

Individual Challenge – Players are welcome to issue challenges to other members for Classic, Rapid or Blitz games on chess.com at any time. You may of course challenge any other non-Ballaratchess Club members of chess.com as well.

Friends and Viewing Games – Members are encouraged to make each other a ‘Friend’ online. This makes watching live games online possible when events are being played. You can watch multiple games even whilst your game is in progress or just be a casual observer.

Etiquette and Expectations – Members are expected to treat each other with respect and care, both at the BMI and online. If a member is found to have violated club expectations or the chess.com fair play rules by receiving external help they will be excluded as a member of the Ballarat Chess Club and the chess.com platform.

Further Information:

President Patrick Cook: email President@ballaratchess.com or telephone 0499 255 240

Treasurer Kevin Perrin: email Treasurer@ballaratchess.com or telephone 0418 533 517