

# The Ballarat Checkmate Chronicle April 2023

## Who will be the next Classical World Chess Champion? The Classical World



Chess Championship is the most important chess event in the world, it will be held from April 9th to the 27th,

2023. and it is an exciting time for all chess fans, especially junior players. In the upcoming World Championship match between Ian Nepomniachtchi and Ding Liren, we will witness two very different playing styles. The winner of this match will be crowned the new World Chess Champion as current World Champion Magnus Carlson elected not to defend his title.

Ian Nepomniachtchi is known for his aggressive and tactical style of play. He is a very creative player and is not afraid to take risks on the board. He is also known for his excellent endgame skills, which often give him an edge in long, drawn-out games. Nepomniachtchi has been one of the top players in the world for several years now, and he has won many prestigious tournaments, including the 2020/21 Candidates Tournament and the 2022 Candidates Tournament.

On the other hand, Ding Liren is a more solid and positional player. He is very strategic in his play and often makes subtle moves to gain small advantages over his opponents. Ding is also very good at defending difficult positions, and he rarely makes mistakes. His style of play is often compared to that of former World Champion Anatoly Karpov, who was also known for his positional style.

The clash of these two styles is sure to make for an exciting match.

Nepomniachtchi will likely try to play aggressively and force Ding to make mistakes, while Ding will try to keep the game under control and gradually build up an advantage. As club level players, it is important to study the games of both players and learn from their different styles. By understanding the strengths and weaknesses of each style, we can become better players ourselves.

Even if you are not able to watch the championship live, there are still many ways to follow the event online.

Alternatively you can join the analysis with fellow club members on Ballarat Chess Club's Discord Channel.

In the end, the Classical World Chess Championship is not just about the players, but about the game itself. It is a celebration of the beauty and complexity of chess, and we are all lucky to be able to witness it. So, let's enjoy the upcoming match and learn as much as we can from the great players involved.

## From Prodigy to World Champion Challenger: Ian Nepomniachtchi's Remarkable Chess Journey



Ian Nepomniachtchi, also known as "Nepo" in the chess world, is a highly talented chess player from Russia who has been

making waves in the international chess scene. Born on July 14, 1990, in Bryansk, Russia, Nepomniachtchi showed an early aptitude for the game and quickly rose through the ranks to become one of the top players in the world.

# The Ballarat Checkmate Chronicle April 2023



Magnus Carlsen -  
Ian  
Nepomniachtchi  
2011 Tata Steel  
Group A

<https://lichess.org/study/ZIk7iRvU/YhXsJ5h3>

Nepomniachtchi's journey to chess stardom began at a young age when he started playing chess at the age of five. He quickly developed a deep passion for the game and showed incredible talent, especially in rapid and blitz formats. He gained recognition for his exceptional skills and began participating in various youth tournaments in Russia and around the world.

One of his early achievements was winning the U/12 World Youth Chess Championship in 2002, followed by the U/14 World Youth Chess Championship in 2003. These victories served as a testament to his incredible potential and established him as one of the brightest young talents in the chess world.

He almost won the Russian Championship at the age of 12, a feat only achieved by the great Garry Kasparov.

As Nepomniachtchi continued to hone his skills, he made steady progress and soon became a formidable force in the chess world. He earned the title of Grandmaster at the age of 17, and his rise in the ranks was swift and impressive.

In recent years, Nepomniachtchi's achievements have been particularly noteworthy. He has had several notable victories, including winning the FIDE Candidates Tournament in 2019/2020 and again in 2022. The Candidates Tournament is a prestigious event that

brings together the top chess players in the world to determine the challenger for the World Chess Championship title.

Nepomniachtchi's victory in the Candidates Tournament in 2019/2020 earned him the right to challenge the reigning World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen, in a match for the title. The highly anticipated match took place in Dubai in 2021, where Nepomniachtchi gave a valiant effort but ultimately lost to Carlsen.

However, Nepomniachtchi's journey to the World Chess Championship did not end there. In the 2022 Candidates Tournament, Nepomniachtchi once again emerged victorious, earning another chance to challenge for the World Chess Championship title. This time, however, Carlsen has decided not to defend his title, and Nepomniachtchi will be playing against Ding Liren for the coveted title.

Nepomniachtchi will once again have a chance to showcase his exceptional talent and vie for the title of World Chess Champion. Good luck, Nepo! We are all excited to see what the future holds for this star in the world of chess! #GoNepo

## **From Junior Prodigy to World Chess Championship Challenger: Ding Liren's Amazing Chess Journey**



Ding Liren is a Chinese chess player who has risen to prominence as one of the world's top chess players.

Born on October 24, 1992, in Wenzhou, China, Ding Liren showed his talent for

# The Ballarat Checkmate Chronicle April 2023

chess at an early age and quickly gained recognition as a prodigy.

Ding's chess journey began when he was just a young boy, and he quickly made a name for himself by achieving remarkable success in various junior chess competitions. In 2003, at the age of 10, he won the World Youth Chess Championship in the U12 category, showcasing his exceptional talent and potential. He continued to excel in youth competitions, winning the U14 World Youth Chess Championship in 2004 and achieving numerous other successes in international and national junior events.

As he progressed in his chess career, Ding Liren continued to hone his skills and compete in higher-level tournaments. He became China's youngest International Master (IM) at the age of 13 and the youngest Grandmaster (GM) in the country's history at the age of 16. His meteoric rise in the chess world caught the attention of chess enthusiasts and experts alike, and he quickly established himself as one of the brightest talents in Chinese and world chess.

Ding's talent and hard work earned him numerous accolades and titles, including becoming the Chinese Chess Champion in 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2015.

In recent years, Ding Liren has solidified his position as one of the world's top chess players, consistently ranking among the top 2 or 3 players in the world.



**Magnus Carlson –  
Ding Liren  
Sinquefield Cup  
2019 Tiebreaks**

<https://lichess.org/study/9BaVDj8a/i65BU3XD>

His style of play is characterized by his deep understanding of chess principles, exceptional endgame skills, and resourceful play in complex positions.

Ding's impressive results and consistent performances earned him a spot in the prestigious Candidates Tournament, which is the tournament that determines the challenger for the World Chess Championship. In the 2022 Candidates Tournament, Ding Liren finished second behind Ian Nepomniachtchi, earning him the right to challenge for the World Chess Championship title due to the unexpected decision by current World Champions Magnus Carlson not to defend his title.

Ding's upcoming match against Nepomniachtchi for the World Chess Championship is a culmination of his years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. It presents an opportunity for him to showcase his exceptional chess skills and challenge for the highest title in chess.

Ding Liren's chess journey has been nothing short of remarkable. From his early successes as a junior prodigy to his rise as one of the world's top chess players. Whether he emerges as the new World Chess Champion or not, Ding Liren has already left an indelible mark on the history of chess. #GoDing.

# The Ballarat Checkmate Chronicle April 2023

## **Om and Scott tie for 1<sup>st</sup> in the Nathan Spielvogel Memorial**

The Nathan Spielvogel Memorial Chess Tournament was recently held at the Ballarat Chess Club, where players of all ages and levels competed. Among the players were the club's two top junior players, Paul Dao and Om O'Carroll, who had great performances in the tournament.

Paul Dao, a rising star in the club, had a strong start, winning his first three games and taking the lead. However, in round four, he lost to Scott Stewart, the club champion, and he struggled to regain his form in the later rounds, finishing with 4.5 points out of 7.



**Paul Dao – Patrick Cook Round 3 2023 Spielvogel Memorial**

<https://lichess.org/study/ndGFo1yu/rs8GVN8T>

On the other hand, Om O'Carroll had a good start, then drew three games in a row against Scott, Bas and Patrick, but she bounced back with a win in round six. She then won her last game, a crucial victory against Jordan Furlong in the final round, to finish with 5.5 points out of 7, tying for first place with Scott Stewart.



**Om O'Carroll – Scott Stewart Round 3**

<https://lichess.org/study/ndGFo1yu/1aPNkB7j>

Jordan Furlong, a new member of the club who made an impressive debut in the tournament. Although he started with a loss in the second round, he bounced back with three wins in a row, including an upset victory against a veteran 7-time Ballarat Champion and a win against current Club Champion Scott Stewart in round 6. He showed great potential and is definitely a player to watch out for in future tournaments.

Overall, the tournament was a great success, with many players displaying great skill and sportsmanship. It was especially impressive to see young players like Paul and Om compete at such a high level, and they are sure to be a force to be reckoned with in future tournaments.

## **The Junior Chess League Comes to a Close for term 1: Impressive Performances and Medal Winners Announced**

The Junior Chess League has come to a close, and what an exciting season it has been! Over 50 students from all over the city competed in various divisions, showcasing their skills and strategic thinking. The league awarded medals to the best boy and girl in each division, and this year's winners did not disappoint.

In the beginner division, Armaan, Christiana, and Mariana each took home a medal for their impressive performances. These young players showed great potential and determination throughout the season, proving that they have a bright future in chess.

In the pawn division, Gemma and Shane were awarded medals for their outstanding play. Gemma's strategic thinking and Shane's persistence paid off

# The Ballarat Checkmate Chronicle April 2023

as they outmanoeuvred their opponents and secured their spots as the top players in their division.

The knight division saw Declan and Xiatong take home the gold. Their impressive play and strategic thinking kept them ahead of their competitors, and they deservedly earned the title of best boy and girl in their division.

In the bishop division, Ruby and Jacob proved to be formidable opponents. Their skilful and tactical play earned them the top spots in their division and medals for their outstanding performances. But it was Ruby's defeat of Maggie in the Queen division during the final round that truly highlighted her impressive skillset.

In, the rook division saw Rey and Zia take home the medals for their excellent play. They showcased their abilities through careful planning and clever moves, ultimately proving that they are some of the best young chess players in the city.

Finally in the Queen Division Kanishk and Maggie took home the gold. Kanishk with an impressive 9 wins from 9 games.

Overall, term 1 of the Junior Chess League was a great success, with impressive performances from all of the competitors. Congratulations to all of the medal winners and we can't wait to see what the future holds for these talented young players.

## **New Record Set for The Ballarat Begonia Chess Tournament**



The Ballarat Begonia Chess Tournament is one of the biggest events on the Australian chess calendar, and this year

it was bigger and better than ever! Held over the Labor Day long weekend in March, a whopping 223 players entered the tournament, including 21 members of the Ballarat Chess Club.

The tournament featured many strong players, including 3-time winner GM Zong-Yuan Zhao, 14-time winner GM Daryl Johansen, 4 IM's, 5 FM's, and 1 WFM. The tournament was generously sponsored by PPT Finance, Northern Star Chess, Friends of Begonia, and Federation University.

James Watson, a strong player who started as a junior at the Ballarat Chess Club, had a fantastic tournament, winning the prize for the best local player with a score of 5/7. Other Ballarat junior members who played included Paul Dao, Om O'Carroll, Johan Stanley, Kanishk Mahasuar, Patrick Frost, and Justin Goodison.

The tournament was won by IM James Morris, who had an impressive score of 6.5/7. It was his 6th victory overall, and he was followed by IM Igor Bjelobrk, GM Zong-Yuan Zhao, and FM David Cannon.

But it wasn't just about the results - the tournament was a great opportunity for players to catch up with old friends, enjoy some competitive chess, and even learn a thing or two from live in-person commentary by GM Ian Rogers and WFM Cathy Rogers.

Congratulations to all the players who participated in the tournament, and a special shoutout to James Watson and the other members from Ballarat who showed their skills on the chessboard!

# The Ballarat Checkmate Chronicle April 2023

## 58<sup>th</sup> Ballarat Chess Club Championships



Ladies and gentlemen, chess enthusiasts and players, on the 27th of April it's that time of year again! The 2023

Club Championships are upon us, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome you to this prestigious event.

This year's championship promises to be the most thrilling yet, with twelve of the strongest players in the club competing in a round-robin format with 90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move. Each move will be a battle of strategy, cunning, and precision, as these titans of chess fight to claim the ultimate prize.

But the excitement doesn't stop there. For the reserves, we have a 12 player round robin with 60 minutes plus 30 seconds per move, providing a great opportunity for players of all levels to test their skills against a variety of opponents.

And for the C grade championship, we have a nine round Swiss tournament featuring the remaining entries. This is a great chance for players to experience the thrill of competitive chess, make new friends, and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with being part of a vibrant and supportive chess community.

Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, the 2023 Club Championships offer something for everyone. So come along, join in the fun, and witness the drama unfold as the best players in the club battle it out for glory. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Don't miss out! FIDE Master Simon Rutherford will be giving a Simul to the Ballarat Chess Club on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April.**



Get ready for an exciting evening of chess like no other at the Ballarat Chess Club! On 20/04/2023, we

will be hosting an exclusive simultaneous exhibition with (FM) Simon Rutherford. But wait, there's a twist! The games will be played in the chess960 variant, also known as Fischer Random, so all your opening theory goes out the window.

In this unique event, Simon will play white on all boards, and you get to choose the starting position. It's a great opportunity to test your skills against a highly skilled player and try out some unconventional opening strategies. Whether you're a seasoned chess player or a beginner, this event promises to be a lot of fun and a great learning experience.

Don't miss your chance to participate in this one-of-a-kind event! The simultaneous exhibition is open to all interested members of the Ballarat Chess Club. So come along, challenge yourself, and enjoy an evening of chess with fellow enthusiasts.



# The Ballarat Checkmate Chronicle April 2023

## 2023 Junior Chess Club Autumn Cup



We are thrilled to invite you to a special school holiday attraction - the Autumn Cup and Fun Day at the Mechanics

Institute on Thursday, 20th April 10pm to 2pm. Organized by our head coach Scott Stewart, this event promises to be a day filled with excitement and learning.

Open to all children, whether or not they have been part of our previous coaching sessions, the Autumn Cup and Fun Day will feature a 7-round tournament with time controls of 10 minutes + 5 seconds per move. You'll have the opportunity to put your chess skills to the test and compete against other aspiring young chess players in Ballarat.

In addition to the tournament, there will also be engaging lectures on famous games from the past, where you can learn from the strategies and tactics employed by chess legends. It's a great opportunity to expand your chess knowledge and improve your game.

The cost for the event is \$30, with a discounted rate of \$25 for siblings. It's a fantastic value for a day filled with chess fun and excitement.

Don't miss out on this special event during the school holidays! Join us at the Mechanics Institute on Thursday, 20th April for a day of chess, learning, and fun. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Get involved with the Ballarat Chess Club Online

We are pleased to announce that the Ballarat Chess Club now has a team on [lichess.org](https://lichess.org) and a Discord server for our members. By joining these online communities, we can stay connected and continue to build our chess skills even when we're not meeting in person on a Thursday night.

Signing up for [lichess.org](https://lichess.org) is quick and easy. Simply follow this link: <https://lichess.org/signup> to create your account. Once you've created your account, join the Ballarat Chess Club team here: <https://lichess.org/team/ballarat-chess-club>.

In addition to playing chess games online, [lichess.org](https://lichess.org) also offers free puzzles and lessons to help improve your skills. By participating in these activities and practicing regularly, we can improve the quality of our chess and become stronger players.

Our Discord server is a great way to chat with fellow club members, ask for advice, and stay up to date on club news and events.

Download and join Discord here <https://discord.com/>

Then Join the Ballarat Chess Club server here: <https://discord.gg/w4Yqz5TUWf>

I believe that these online communities will only help to strengthen our in-person club. By staying connected and continuing to learn and practice together, we can foster stronger friendships and continue to grow our love for the game of chess.

We encourage all our members to join us on [lichess.org](https://lichess.org) and Discord. We look forward to seeing you there!

# The Ballarat Checkmate Chronicle April 2023

## Final Standing of the Ballarat Junior Chess League

**Beginner** 8.0 Armaan 7.0 Davin 5.5 Liam 3.5 Alexander, Thomas, Yousef 3.0 Christiana, Mariana 2.0 Alan D 0.5 Nina

**Pawn** 6.0 Gemma 5.0 Shane 4.5 Christian 3.5 Aiden 1.5 Angela, Katherine, Adrian, Emily

**Knight** 7.0 Declan 6.0 Johan 5.5 Xiatong 5.0 Vir, Callum 4.5 Anna 3.0 Tiya 2.5 Akain, Nirvani 1.5 Antony 1.0 Lucas W 1.0 William

**Bishop** 6.0 Ruby, Jacob 5.0 Ricky Joshua M 4.5 James, Joshua D 2.5 Venuk, Riley 1.5 Maddy

**Rook** 6.0 Rey 3.0 Lucas Y, Lashen, Zachariah, Jimmy, 2.5 Zia

**Queen** 9.0 Kanishk 7.0 Patrick, Maggie

## Upcoming Events

**9<sup>th</sup> April - 11am – Sunday Rapid 7 Round Swiss**

[lichess.org](https://lichess.org)

Held on lichess server with time controls of 10 minutes plus 5 seconds per move. 7 Rounds or less depending on the number of entries.

**10<sup>th</sup> April - 7:30pm – Monday Night Blitz Arena**

[lichess.org](https://lichess.org)

Held on lichess server with time controls of 5 minutes plus 2 seconds per move. Tournament Runs for 2 hours.

**13<sup>th</sup> April – 7:15pm – Blitz #2**

**Ballarat Chess Club**

7 Round Blitz Tournament with time controls of 5 minutes plus 2 seconds per move. The tournament is part of the 5 tournament Grand-Prix. Best 3 performances go towards the final score.

**16<sup>th</sup> April – 6:30pm – Chess4Fun – Blitz 9 Round Swiss**

Time controls of 6 minutes plus 1 second per move

A fun tournament played on the Tornello Chess Server. It is Organised by a Melbourne junior Michael Ooi and his Father Tim. This event began during the COVID and is ongoing.

**17<sup>th</sup> April - 7:30pm – Monday Night Blitz Arena**

[lichess.org](https://lichess.org)

Held on lichess server with time controls of 5 minutes plus 2 seconds per move. Tournament Runs for 2 hours.

**20<sup>th</sup> April – 10am to 2pm –**

**Ballarat Junior Chess Club Autumn Cup**

**Ballarat Mechanics Institute 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

A 7 round Swiss tournament for Ballarat Junior Players. Time controls 10 minutes + 5 seconds per move and lectures of famous historical games.

Entry Fee \$25 or \$20 each for siblings

**20<sup>th</sup> April – 7pm – Simultaneous Exhibition with Simon Rutherford (FM)**

**Ballarat Chess Club**

Simon will be taking on all players in a chess960 Simul. Simon will be playing white on all boards and Black chooses the starting position.

**23<sup>rd</sup> April - 11am – Sunday Rapid 7 Round Swiss**

[lichess.org](https://lichess.org)

Held on lichess server with time controls of 10 minutes plus 5 seconds per move. 7 Rounds or less depending on the number of entries.

**24<sup>th</sup> April - 7:30pm – Monday Night Blitz Arena**

[lichess.org](https://lichess.org)

Held on lichess server with time controls of 5 minutes plus 2 seconds per move. Tournament Runs for 2 hours.

**27<sup>th</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> June - 7pm – Ballarat Chess Club Championship**

**Ballarat Chess Club**

The Ballarat Chess Club Championship is the major event for the club for 2023. Held in 3 divisions catering for all skill levels and played in the club rooms level 4 of the Ballarat Mechanics Institute. All members welcome.

**For more details on how to get involved in any of these events please**

**email Scott at [ballaratchess@gmail.com](mailto:ballaratchess@gmail.com)**