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# CHESS CHATTER



## BALLARAT CHESS CLUB NEWSLETTER



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### WELCOME ALL TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR 2017

*Sue Ryan Ed.*

Welcome back to the Ballarat Chess Club Newsletter. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a happy and relaxing New Year. I enjoyed the break, although I did manage to lose TEN chess games in a row on Gameknot, but we won't go into that...

As you all know, we are now completely and happily resettled in our new Chess Club home – the Ballarat Mechanics Institute. I was very pleased and impressed to read the interesting article in the *Ballarat Courier* by Caleb Cluff covering our relocation. The article was published on 24<sup>th</sup> January and, if you missed it but would still be interested in reading it, you can still do so online at:

<http://www.thecourier.com.au/story/4422257/chess-club-goes-home/?cs=62>

In this month's newsletter we have an engaging review of our inaugural Chess Triathlon, by the winner himself – our very own President. In addition, Jasan Barnett has contributed a carefully compiled lists of our most improved club members for 2016. CONGRATULATIONS to all those who have improved so much so fast – I hope to make the list myself one day – preferably prior to 2050!

As usual, we have our club calendar in this issue and I hope you also enjoy the chess puzzle of the month which is a new idea for a bit of fun for our members. Last but not least, there is a pictorial round-up of our club events for January. Until next time – ENJOY.



### PRESIDENT PATRICK'S BOARD TALK

#### Our inaugural Chess Triathlon!

On Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, Ballarat Chess Club held its 1<sup>st</sup> Triathlon Chess Tournament in the Hooper Room at Ballarat Mechanics Institute. The idea for this unusual event, which combines all three time controls in the one tournament, came from Jasan Barnett, who was also the principal organiser of the event.

The tournament was a 6 round Swiss, with 2 rounds of Blitz (5 minutes), 2 rounds of Rapid (25 minutes + 10 seconds per move), and 2 rounds of Classical (60 minutes + 30 seconds per move). It attracted an excellent entry of 15 players, headed by Ballarat Champion James Watson. It also included no less than 5 juniors.

Round 1 was the first Blitz, giving the youngsters a chance to score an upset early in the day. Most games went according to seeding, but young Leonard Goodison (13) scored a great win, with the Black pieces, against Michael Tausz (6), a sharp and dangerous attacking player.

Round 2 was the first Rapid, and the heavy hitters began meeting each other. Top seed James Watson faced 4<sup>th</sup> seed Rob Loveband, and he seemed on course for a smooth win, until an endgame stumble enabled Rob to escape with a draw. Patrick Cook (5) met the wildly imaginative Harrison Harrison (2), and Patrick appeared to have the better of it; but an oversight in a wild and woolly position gave Harrison the chance to end the game in an instant. He didn't miss! Leonard Goodison continued his good start with a win over Jack Coulter (15),

while Coen Johnson (10), back at the Club after a few years away, heaped more misery on Michael Tausz. Round 3 was the first Classical game, and Harrison taught young Leonard a lesson; Rob Loveband fell to Jamie Brotheridge (2); Patrick Cook beat James Watson after James unwisely declined the Drawmaster's draw offer to become the latest victim of "Patrick's Curse"!; and James Eyre (7) was unable to overcome the tenacious defence of Caitlin Barnett (9).

So at the halfway mark Harrison and Jamie led with a perfect 3/3.

Round 4 was the second Blitz, and the two leaders met each other, with Harrison scoring a surprise win over speed King Jamie to be sole leader. The other games all went according to expectations.

Round 5 was the second Rapid and Harrison was unable to maintain his momentum, falling to James Watson. Patrick joined the lead with a nice technical win over his old rival Jamie, although Jamie's resignation in a rook and pawn ending seemed premature; and Rob kept in range after defeating young Caitlin.

Round 6, the final round, was the second Classical game, and Rob defeated Harrison in a lively and interesting game that featured a "pseudo-blunder", to be in contention for the title, depending on other results. James Watson overcame Michael to join Rob on 4.5/6, leaving Patrick a chance at glory if he could put aside his penchant for draws and defeat Coen with the Black pieces. Patrick's experience and strong endgame technique prevailed in a long game, and so Patrick Cook, to the surprise of many (especially himself!) won the tournament and Gold Medal to become the Club's first Ironman!! Caitlin Barnett, to the surprise of no one, won the Silver Medal for best Reserves player.

Despite the long day, the tournament was deemed a great success, with all the players enjoying the friendly and social atmosphere of the inaugural Ballarat Chess Club Triathlon.

Full results :

Patrick Cook 5

James Watson, Rob Loveband 4.5

Harrison Harrison, Jamie Brotheridge 4

Caitlin Barnett 3.5

Coen Johnson, Michael Tausz 3

Chantelle Barnett, Jasan Barnett, Justin Goodison 2.5

Leonard Goodison, James Eyre 2

Sue Ryan 1.5

Jack Coulter .5

## COEN & PATRICK BATTLE IT OUT



### FINAL POSITION IN THE FINAL GAME

Coen Johnson vs Patrick Cook  
Triathlon | Mechanics Institute | 10 Dec 2016... Chess Microbase

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
								8
								7
							♙	6
				♙	♙		♙	5
	♙			♙			♙	4
						♙		3
				♙	♙			2
				♙				1

38. g3 Kd6  
39. h4 h5  
40. Ke3 Kc5  
41. Ke2 Kc4  
42. Kd2 f5  
43. Kc1 Kxc3  
44. Kd1 d4  
45. Kc1 b4  
46. Kd1 d3  
47. cxd3 Kxd3  
48. Kc1 Ke2

White Resigned

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
26/01/17- 09/03/17	Spielvogel Memorial – Rounds 1-7
11 – 13/03/17	51 <sup>st</sup> Begonia Open
16/03/17	Blitz 1
23/03/17– 30/03/17	Rapid Play Weeks 1&2
06/04/17	School Team Games
13/04/17	Mentor Night
20/04/17- 29/06/17	52 <sup>nd</sup> Club Championship – Rounds 1 - 11
06/07/17	Blitz 2
13/07/17	Chess Variants
20/07/17 – 27/07/17	Rapid Play 2 – Weeks 1& 2
03/08/17 – 14/09/17	Arthur Teters Memorial – Rounds 1-7
21/09/17	Blitz 3
28/09/17	Lecture/Simul
05/10/17	Social chess
12/10/17	AGM
19/10/17 – 30/11/17	Koelle Tournament – Rounds 1-7
07/12/17	Blitz 4
09-10/12/17	Triathlon Weekender
14/12/17	End of Year Function
21/12/17	Christmas/New Year Break



**BCC COMMITTEE 2016**

## BCC-Most Improved 2016

*By Jasan Barnett*



Most club members are familiar with the three main categories of chess club competition:

- The Classic
- The Rapid
- The Blitz

All members should be congratulated on the effort they put into every game they play. The members listed here are particularly notable for their level of achievement over the year just gone. (Ed.)

### IN THE CLASSIC CATEGORY:

1) Caitlin Barnett: Current Rating - 834 Previous Rating - 307 (Up 527 points)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: 2 Classic Reserve titles in 2016 (Teters, Koelle B)

2) Michael Tausz: Current Rating - 1568 Previous Rating - 1433 (Up 135 points)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: Equal 5th (Club Championship A Grade & Teters)

3) Kalen Douglas: Current Rating - 562 Previous Rating - 478 (Up 84 points)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: Victories against Isaac Stolk (Teters), Louis Douglas & Sasha Jacobs (Koelle B)

### IN THE RAPID CATEGORY:

1) Cassandra Barnett: Current Rating - 1164 Previous Rating - 392 (Up 772 points)

BEST RAPID TOURNAMENT PLACING: Equal 3rd (Rapid Play #3)

2) Louis Douglas: Current Rating - 926 Previous Rating - 674 (Up 252 points)

BEST RAPID TOURNAMENT PLACING: Equal 11th (Rapid Play #3)

3) Bas Van Riel: Current Rating - 1624 Previous Rating - 1423 (Up 201 points)

BEST RAPID TOURNAMENT PLACING: 1st (Rapid Play #3)

**IN THE BLITZ CATEGORY:**

1) Isaac Stolk: Current Rating - 1245 Previous Rating - 781 (Up 464 points)

BEST BLITZ TOURNAMENT PLACING: Equal 5th (Blitz #3)

2) Justin Goodison: Current Rating - 731 Previous

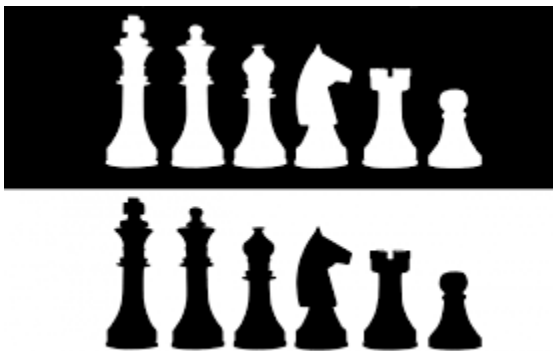
Rating - 462 (Up 269 points)

BEST BLITZ TOURNAMENT PLACING: Equal 11th (Blitz #5)

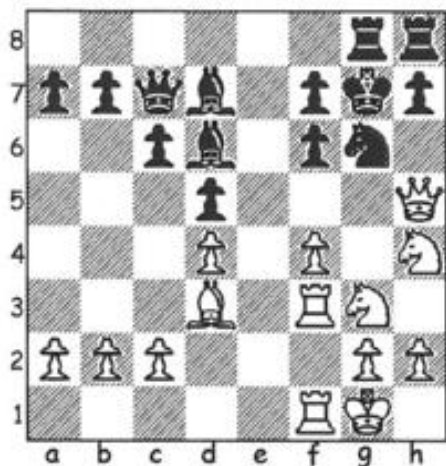
3) Caitlin Barnett: Current Rating - 1157 Previous Rating - 927 (Up 230 points)

BEST BLITZ TOURNAMENT PLACING: Equal 5th - twice (Blitz #2 & #4)

Well done to all. We look forward to another year of sterling competition from all our members. (Ed.)



**CHESS PUZZLE OF THE MONTH – MATE IN SIX MOVES**  
(SOLUTION PROVIDED IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER)



Mate in Six Moves-

White to Move:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

# A PICTORIAL ROUND-UP OF JANUARY 2017

## 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY: CLUB MEMBERS ENJOY SOCIAL GAMES AT OUR NEW VENUE



## 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY: ROUND ONE OF THE SPIELVOGAL MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT.



