



# CHESS CHATTER

## BALLARAT CHESS CLUB NEWSLETTER



### OUR CLUB COMMITTEE

**President:** Patrick Cook  
**Vice President:** Rob Bailey  
**Publicity Officer:** Rodney Jacobs  
**Treasurer:** Kevin Perrin  
**Webmaster:** Rob Loveband  
**Secretary:** Anna Yates

**Tournament Director Committee:**  
Bas Van Riel; Rob Loveband; Rob Bailey;  
Jasan Barnett; Ben Naughton  
**Club Captain:** Rodney Jacobs  
**Committee Members:** Tom Oppenheim

Volume 3, Issue 3 - September 2018

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### MORE CHAMPIONS - OLD AND NEW

*Cassandra Barnett Ed.*

#### One Clock – Two Winners

The final round of the Teters Memorial held a reasonable measure of excitement. Rob Loveband – a whole point clear of the rest of the field, was already guaranteed the title; the question was whether or not he shared it with Bas van Riel who was right behind him.

Bas vs Rodney Jacobs was a Scandinavian that got lively pretty quickly. As both players vied for an advantage, Rodney let slip an important pawn, allowing Bas to triple fork his queen and rooks. Bas gladly took up the extra material and went on to win the game.

Rob Loveband met Jamie Brotheridge in a Reti, and Jamie, who was in top fighting condition, launched a full attack on Rob's kingside. After the smoke had cleared, Jamie finished off the resulting endgame to score a great victory.

Our top performing juniors, Sean Macak and Chantelle Barnett, both on four points, faced off for the reserves title. The first few moves were played without much drama, until Chantelle, on an oversight, dropped her queen for a bishop. Sean took up the advantage and a few clever tactics on his part ended the issue without further ado.

So, Sean Macak takes his first ever club title with an excellent score of 5/7, while Bas and Rob tie as the Teters Champions, each on 6/7, making it the second time a joint win has happened in the history of the tournament.



Bas and Rob share the Teters clock for 2018

#### Chocolate for Patrick?

"... coffee for Bas; chocolate for Patrick..." Rob writes in the intro for this year's third Blitz tournament. Well, Bas didn't end up playing but Patrick sure did... and he brought along a box of Favourites! The veteran must have felt quite happy about having a nice supply of treats to munch on while facing his opponents. But, a group of young people thought that the tasty looking goodies were a great idea, so by the time Patrick went to get his first for the night, the box was... **empty**. That could



President Patrick loses his 'secret weapon' to hungry juniors

have been a rather big 'disaster', but thankfully our bereaved president had brought along a 'secret stash', though, he probably got a few less treats than he had originally hoped to have.

Despite his 'choco crisis', Patrick's night was made when he came out victorious against the blitz king, Jamie Brotheridge. Fighting back after losing his queen, he procured an elegant looking mate with his knight and rook. From then on, the other results began to fall more in his favour, and after runaway leader, Harrison, dropped a few points, Patrick emerged as the winner for the night on 8/9, his only loss being against Sean Macak.



Final position in Patrick's game against Jamie

### Best In The West

We had only two members representing the Ballarat Chess Club for this year's Best in the West: Patrick Cook and Caitlin Barnett, though, it was good to see former member and club champion, James Watson, among the competitors.

There were many upsets but probably the most notable ones for the tournament were made by junior Sophie Davis, who not only won her first game against one of last year's Victorian Country Champions, Geoffrey Gill, but went on to defeat another strong opponent in the following round! A truly remarkable performance coming from her. As far as our two club members go, Patrick won his round one game and got to play on board three against the third seed in round two! As expected, he didn't win but it would have been a fun experience nonetheless. All-together, he finished on three points and Caitlin finished on two and a half; both of them having drawn against reasonably stronger opponents in the final round.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
04/10/18	Social night/Variant Chess
11/10/18	Annual General Meeting All members welcome
13 - 14/10/18	Victorian Country Championships Held in Geelong
18/10/18 - 29/11/18	Koelle Tournament - Rounds 1-7
06/12/18	Blitz 4
08/12/18	Chess Triathlon Day
13/12/18	End of Year Function
20/12/18	Christmas/New Year Break
27 - 31/12/18	Australian Championships held in Melbourne
17/01/19	Social night



Game 5) Caitlin (as black) wisely repeated 44. ...Rd3, 45. Rf3, Rd7, 46. R3f2, when her opponent failed to come up with a better option. He accepted the draw with less than three minutes on his clock.

They were quite happy with how the results turned out for them in the end; it's not easy to get many points in a tournament with only five rounds. There was a five-way tie for first place: Kannan Izzat, Mark Berkovich, Luis Chan, Domagoj Draicevic and Ray Yang all finished on 4.5 points.



## THE BALLARAT JUNIORS

*By the Editor*

### Meet Sean Macak

Look out club members – a champion is on the rise! Chess is fifteen-year-old Sean Macak's favourite activity and he is obviously serious about it. His ACF rating took a massive 174 point leap to 873 and, after taking out the Teters Memorial reserves title with only one loss, it is clear that this speedily improving junior cannot be ignored.

Sean was taught to play chess by his dad when he was six and was coached afterwards by Rob Bailey while in primary school.

Swimming and playing the viola are a couple of activities Sean is involved in besides chess.

Sean says chess is a very fun game which involves a lot of things that he finds interesting to study... like openings, tactics and history.

Capablanca is Sean's favourite chess player; he said that he likes his solid playing style.

Sean likes the knight best of all the chess pieces, mainly because it has the most unique movement.

"It's sorta like the joker of the deck... it's not meant to be there," he told me.

When Sean said that he liked the Ballarat Chess Club best for its calm and friendly atmosphere, I looked around at all of the tension-free, pre-game commotion in the clubroom. "You call this calm?" Sean smirked with a muffled chuckle. "At least you can play rapid games here in relative silence," he summed up.

I get what he means: when you want to take your more important chess games seriously, you usually don't have to worry about having a lot of distracting background noise. A big thank-you to all those who help make this achievable.



Sean tied for fourth place in the Teters Memorial. Feeling intimidated yet?

## Puzzle Of The Month Solution – Promote To Win



### Promote to win-

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.

### White to Move

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

## Puzzle Of This Month – Mate in Seven (see next issue for solution)



### Mate in Seven -

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

### White to Move

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.



# A PICTORIAL ROUND-UP OF SEPTEMBER 2018

## 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER: AN EXCITING NIGHT OF BLITZ CHESS

