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**Chess Nova Scotia AGM, November 1, 2020**  
**Report from Vice President - Club Development**

The only thing to say about the year 2020 is that aside from a successful Bluenose Open tournament held in February at Mount Saint Vincent University just three weeks before the COVID 19 virus changed the landscape, 2020 has been a disappointing bust. Club activity was halted in March as the various venues closed their doors to hosting gatherings. Eventually club meetings, tournaments and special events planned for the summer of 2020 had to be postponed or cancelled. While there has been no realistic timeline as to how long we will be affected by this alleged pandemic, organizers have had a wait and see attitude. Aside from online chess which has taken-off since the shut-ins and lockdowns have taken over everywhere, organized chess events have been hampered at the national level and even worldwide.

As an example, the recent U.S. open, normally held at the St Louis Chess Club was done remotely this past week by the 12 players, who all participated presumably at home.

Plans and dreams of this chess enthusiast were rocked to their foundation. It was as if an asteroid suddenly hit and destroyed the planet of everything, and yours truly lost hope that the momentum in chess would be resumed any time soon. But I am somewhat pleased to report the enthusiasm for the game seems to remain as recent efforts to play at regular intervals and venues has taken up since the summer.

Within my own region, the Wolfville area East Kings CC is now meeting regularly on Tuesday evenings at the Church Pub on Main street, and the West Annapolis Club has begun meeting at the Bread and Roses Bed & Breakfast on Victoria St in Annapolis Royal right next door to the AR Legion - our former home. The owner and manager of the Bed & Breakfast is himself a chess player, and his place is a period piece straight out of the 1880s, and lends itself so well to the game.

I have heard no reports from other Clubs in the Province and all inquiries regarding starting new clubs have fallen silent since our hopeful start in January. But we are not officially out of the Pandemic Woods yet, and revival in a post-pandemic "Over-the-Board" game is still in its early days. I will observe what kind of activity towards chess is seen over the coming Winter, but I doubt that there will be much to add before the Spring. At this point, 2021 might be a revival, but it could also be another lost year.

Ian Anderson  
VP CNS  
Club Development