

Chess Nova Scotia

2021 AGM March 28th 2021

On Line 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Report from Vice President - Club Development

Many clubs Have Stayed Active this past winter.

It has only been five months since our last AGM. Yet despite that short time I am able to report that our contact in Liverpool, John Simmonds has made important progress in establishing a chess club to meet in Liverpool at the Astor Theatre on Thursdays in the afternoon. His first meeting was on March 11th. He tells us that 16 attended that meeting, many of whom were children.

Also on the South Shore, Steve Saunders' Bridgewater Chess Club continues to meet on Wednesday nights 6 PM at the Margaret Hennigar Public Library at the LCLC in Bridgewater. He tells me they have a small but consistent membership.

Elsewhere, the Wolfville's East King Chess Club has been meeting at the Farmers Golf club house behind Hennigar's Farm Market in Greenwich (Route 1) on most Wednesday Evenings. We are kept warm there by a cozy wood stove and there is ample space for 5 or six boards to be set up. We have been currently operating on a 10-person capacity but the mailing list is considerably larger, so anyone who has intentions to appear is asked to put their name on the list.

The Annapolis Royal Club continues to meet at the Bread and Roses Bed & Breakfast on Victoria St in Annapolis Royal. This is a lovely late 19th century period home in the heart of the town in which most of the original interior appointments are true to the era. If you have a wooden board and 19th C period Staunton wood chess pieces, this is the place to play with them. The plastic sets and vinyl roll-ups are fine for the classrooms and church basements. But here, you could imagine Lasker or Pillsbury checking in at almost any time. Our ranks there have swelled recently. And we typically get 6 to 8 players in Joe's dining room to play on our Thursday meeting nights. I hope Joe is able to host us there for a long time.

I have not heard any reports from the small group in Weymouth who were meeting on Mondays at the general store there. I suspect since the pandemic, things have been subdued. I hope to touch base with them now that the weather is warmer.

I was approached in the late autumn by a fellow at the West Kings Highschool in Auburn about starting a club there for high school students. It has been meeting at Lunch hour on

Wednesdays. Although I have not heard from him since the Christmas season.

And we have a new contact in the city who wishes to get chess on the waterfront during the summer evenings this year. We are hopeful that starts in May or June. I think Kevin was thinking of setting up on the Dartmouth side near the Ferry Terminal, but perhaps he has the Halifax side in mind.

I am still hoping to get the Truro area up and running, I invite people there to contact me but even since last November, I have not been approached.

Supply Issues:

It has been during this past five months that the boredom of being locked inside from the pandemic, and most particularly the very successful Netflix series "The Queen's Gambit" has piqued interest in the game.

I know that getting chess equipment is becoming difficult. The meteoric growth in interest has been countered by a general slowdown of worldwide shipping, and many of the chess specialty shops this side of the oceans are just plain out of stock. A happy circumstance for some, but not for those of us who are trying to keep clubs stocked with sets and clocks. We hope this issue becomes sorted out as well.

I believe 2021 should be a revival year, but it could be a slow recovery if we do not know what or when the "New Normal" sets in. There are head winds, and it would be a shame if interest subsides before the "all clear" sign is sounded.

Ian Anderson
VP CNS
Club Development.