

Early History of the City of Redcliffe Chess Club.

Chess in the wilderness of the Redcliffe Peninsula was hampered by the presence of Bramble Bay, the Pine River and mangrove swamps which cut off Redcliffe from civilized Brisbane where chess clubs abounded. There was a long way via Petrie that was subject to closure by flooding. To make the boat trip you boarded the Olivine at Sandgate or used smoke and mirrors to whistle up Charles and Martha Cutts to row you across.

A Pleasant Outing for the Brisbane City Chess club 1922.

“Another of those enjoyable little outings of the City Club took place on Monday at Seacamp, Redcliffe when the B Grade team were the guests of Mr Thomas Podmore. (CAQ President in 1917) A scratch match was played, “Seacamp” v “Freenezy” the team representing the former winning by 2½ games to ½

After dinner, motoring, bathing, cricket and sundry other sports were indulged in. The voyage home per Olivine was somewhat adventurous by reason of a small mishap in the shape of a rope fouling the propeller of the boat. However, Sandgate was eventually reached, although a trifle late.”

From Trove The Queenslander, Saturday 7 January 1922.

Early History taken from the CRCC Monthly Minutes Book

AGM	President	Secretary Treasurer	Captain	Venue
1960				
1961				
1962				
1963	Fred Ward	Mike Dyer	Mike Dyer	Redcliffe Youth Club Hall
1964	Fred Ward	G R Pevitt	Mike Dyer	Redcliffe Youth Club Hall
1965	Fred Ward	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	Humpy Bong Yacht Club
Jul 1966	Fred Ward	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	Humpy Bong Yacht Club
Jul 1967	Fred Ward	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	Humpy Bong Yacht Club
Jul 1968	Fred Ward	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	R.S.L Hall Dressing Rooms
Jul 1969	Fred Ward	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	R.S.L Hall Dressing Rooms
Jul 1970	Norm Braybrooke	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	R.S.L Hall Dressing Rooms
Jul 1971	Norm Braybrooke	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	R.S.L Hall Dressing Rooms
Aug 1972	Norm Braybrooke	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	R.S.L Hall Dressing Rooms
Aug 1973	Lou Wilkinson	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	R.S.L Hall Dressing Rooms
Sept 1974	A Bettons	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	Senior Citizens Centre
Oct 1975	Lou Wilkinson	Viv Greenelsh	Mike Dyer	Senior Citizens Centre
Oct 1976	Lou Wilkinson	C Belton	G Sigel	Senior Citizens Centre
Oct 1977	Lou Wilkinson	Mr Harris Sec' Mr Devine Trea'	Mike Dyer	Senior Citizens Centre
Sept 1978	Lou Wilkinson	Mr Harris Sec' Mr Devine Trea'	Mike Dyer	Senior Citizens Centre

On completion of the Hornibrook bridge in 1935, progress was “rapid” with the formation of the Redcliffe Chess Club in 1960, according to their website.

By 1963, Mike Dyer was the Secretary, Treasurer and Controller of Play and Fred Ward was the President. It is probable that Dyer and Ward were foundation members of the club in 1960 but, as yet, we have found no record of that time. Ron Pevitt took over as Secretary and Treasurer in December 1963 and retained those positions until the AGM of July 1965 when he advised that he was leaving the area and Viv Greenelsh replaced him. In 1964, they were meeting at the Redcliffe Youth Club in Anzac Ave but by 1965 they had moved to the Humpy Bong Yacht Club Rooms.

Redcliffe held monthly council meetings to discuss their strategy, recording their decisions in the Minutes Book on which this account is based. They organized matches with Brisbane and with a combined team from Maroochydore, Maleny and Beerwah played at Beerwah. Within the club they held handicap tournaments, Club Championships and President versus Captain’s team matches. They played chess with prisoners from Boggo Rd Gaol, with the boys from the Boy’s Home at Kallangur and financially assisted their star junior player, Paul Wyeth, to participate in the Under 16 Schoolboys Championship.

In 1964, a Mr Adcoke donated a perpetual trophy for an inter secondary schools teams chess competition. They approached Redcliffe High School, Clontarf Beach High School and De La Salle college to organize an inter school teams championship. The inaugural event was won by De La Salle. Later, Fred Ward and Viv Greenelsh attended a Chess Association of Queensland meeting to discuss the formation of a school’s team’s chess competition. It seems that Redcliffe may have played a part in the establishment of the inter school's team’s competition in Brisbane.

At the February 1, 1967 meeting of the council it was decided to promote a Peninsula Championship of six rounds and to ask the business houses to provide prize money. The mayor, Mr Kroll was to be asked to provide the RSL Hall for a venue. The event was a success and made a profit for the club. Every year since then, Redcliffe has held at least one Peninsula Open.

Of the five Redcliffe players who played the visiting Russian grandmaster Yuri Averbakh in Brisbane in 1967, Mike Dyer was the only one to manage a draw. Averbakh and Bagirov also played in the Australian Chess Championships in 1960 held in Adelaide and in 1967 Averbakh played in New Zealand.

From The Gap Chess Club Archives maintained by Andrew Robinson.

REDCLIFFE CHESS CLUB 1966 <https://old.thegapchessclub.org.au/interclub/singer66.htm>

“Redcliffe Club has commenced its championship with 13 entrants. The first round produced some surprises when young Paul Wyeth defeated N. Athousis in a fast moving game and A. Gemmell defeated H. Denschell.

First round results: M. Dyer d. V. Greenelsh; J. Waters d. H. Morgan; A. Gemmell d. H. Denschell; Dr. Channon d. F. Ward; P. Wyeth d. N. Athousis; M. Brown drew with M. Treveton.”

ENGLISH ELECTRIC CHESS CLUB 1966

The 1250 class locomotives were built by the English Electric Company of Australia at Rocklea, Brisbane for the Queensland Railways between 1959 and 1963.

“The English Electric Club entertained players from Brisbane and Redcliffe at a recent friendly match. Score 3½ - 6½.

K. Holland 0, M. Dyer (Redcliffe) 1	J. Hardy 0, F. Ward (Redcliffe) 1
P. de Haas 1, I. Gillies (Brisbane) 0	D. Eyles 1, C. Judd (Brisbane) 0
A. Morris 0, H. Denscheel (Redcliffe) 1	D. Grabham ½, W. Chalker (Brisbane) ½
T. Summers 0, J. Jones (Brisbane) 1	D. Woods 0, A. Gemmell (Brisbane) 1
G. Grant 0, J. Myers (Brisbane) 1	R. Clarke 1, V. Greenelsh (Redcliffe) 0

Chess in Prison 1966

“About two years ago some Brisbane players went to Brisbane Prison for a match, at the request of the Welfare Officer. They met some good players and the event was conducted in an impeccable manner. Play took place in the morning and in the Officers’ Mess in the afternoon.

Some beautiful boards, made in the prison, were used and the friendly atmosphere and spirited games made the visit very enjoyable. Since then, Redcliffe have joined Brisbane players in making the visit a feature every month or so.”

Club Championship 1967 <https://old.thegapchessclub.org.au/interclub/singer67.htm>

“The club championship resulted in a tie for top place – Dr. Channon and young Paul Wyeth scoring 10 points. A play-off of two games in an attempt to resolve the tie for the Club Championship resulted in Dr. Channon winning the first game and Paul Wyeth the second game.

They will share the title 10 points each, with M. Dyer, former champion 9½. The Peninsula Championship is being arranged as a six round Swiss, to be played Sundays, April 2, 9 and 16. The first prize will be \$60 and entries are invited.”

Dr Channon was an interesting character. In 1948, Dr J E G Channon helped establish an Ambulance station at Mundubbera. A mountain peak in Antarctica was named after Dr Channon, who had become medical officer at Mawson in 1958. He was also responsible for the formation of the Redcliffe branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers and became their first President in 1960.

AGM 1967

“The go-ahead City of Redcliffe Club held their AGM on July 5, and produced a very satisfactory annual report and balance sheet for the year to June 30 last.

The name of the Mayor, Alderman C. Kroll, (Kroll Gardens in Clontarf) was added to that of Dr. J.E.G. Channon as Patrons and the following officers were re-elected:

President, F. Ward; Captain, M. Dyer; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, V.H. Greenelsh; Auditor, Mrs S. Cornish, A.A.U.Q.”

1968

Redcliffe players participated in the City Of Brisbane Championships.

John Myers won the title from Max Salm by $\frac{1}{2}$ point. Salm was unexpectedly beaten by Ian Gillies, which was his only loss, and he also conceded a draw to C.H. Lucovich. Myers lost to Salm and won the rest.

Full results: J. Myers 8; M Salm $7\frac{1}{2}$; I. Gillies $6\frac{1}{2}$; C. Lucovich $5\frac{1}{2}$; A. Vilums 5; M. Dyer $4\frac{1}{2}$; I. Case 4; M. Craven 3.

1969

Redcliffe fielded a team in the Singer Cup inter club competition doing battle with:

Brisbane, The Gap, Brisbane Prison C.C. Queensland University, Waterloo, Alekhine C.C, Ipswich and BPCC. Brisbane won with The Gap second.

From Mark Stokes, the current president of the City of Redcliffe Chess Club.

Mark started going to the RCC on Wednesday nights in 1974. The Secretary of the Club, Viv Greenelsh, used to come and picked him up! Mark's family did not own a car and Zillmere is a long way from Redcliffe. "But Viv never missed a night and I was so lucky to get a lift! I have always been happy to give other players a lift to the club myself since then. I have been going to the RCC just about every Wednesday night between 1974 and now and that's a long, long time. But I love it and think I always will."

Viv Greenelsh, Norm Braybrook and Fred Ward were made life members of the Redcliffe Chess Club in recognition of their efforts in establishing the club and the Peninsula Open.