

NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH BIHLMAYER

The day after USATE back at the club, the administrators hosted the first member tournament of 2017 in honor of Joseph "Joe" Bihlmeyer. This was the club's thirtieth special membership event since 2010. With the exception of a hiatus between 2006 and 2010, Joe has been a continuous member since 2002. Joe is an extremely active chess player and is widely known for his competitive style at the chess board. Those of you who have had the pleasure of playing Joe are well aware of his in-depth knowledge of all aspects of the game, especially opening theory. Joe is a studious chess trainer and prepares hard before any chess event, which he has competed in 450 since learning the game in 1993. In addition, Joe's confident attitude at this game has excelled him to near master level, which he came within a mere forty points of achieving in 2016. Joe often participates in a variety of club activities and is one of the most active members in the last six years. One of Joe's most memorable club achievements was tying for first place in the 2005 New Britain City Chess Championship, although he has come close to clinching other major tournaments. Even after difficult games or events, Joe is resilient, often returning to the chess board without dwelling too much on his losses. He frequently encourages his friends to emulate his approach to dealing with poor performances, motivating them to become better chess players. Joe's tournament, a four-round Swiss system in two sections, drew twenty-one members. The competition was strong in both sections, and there were a few upsets. After an evening of spirited competition, three players tied for first place in the open section: FM Nelson Castaneda, USCF NM Dennis Prawira, and Immad Sadiq. Alexander Ruth, who continues to climb the rankings in overall club wins in quick chess events, took first place in the reserve section.