

NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF JAMES WILKIN

James "Jimi" Wilkin was the next member in succession, based on years of membership, to have a tournament held in his honor by the club. James joined the club in 1998, and he will probably be the last of the senior members the club will be organizing honorary events for who joined prior to the start of the millennium. Early on in his chess career, James was a class B player; however, he quickly climbed up the ranks to class A, which he has consistently maintained over the last decade. As in the case with the majority of our members, James' strength exceeds his actual rating. Over the years, he has upset many strong experts. I believe that his most momentous club achievement was winning the 2002 New Britain Summer Open Chess Championship. Although, his automatic qualification for the 2015 NBCC Championship for his first place finish in the 2014 NBCC Championship candidates section certainly deserves an honorable mention. For those of you, like me, who have had the pleasure of playing Jimi know that he has a unique opening repertoire. At times, his sharp tactical moves can create cramped positions that can be virtually impenetrable to his opponents, leaving them with less than favorable opening positions. Twenty-one members participated along with Jimi in his special tournament on the night of May 5. Clinching first place in five-round Swiss-system quick chess event was the club's leader in quick chess tournament wins, FM Nelson Castaneda