**2019 Queensland U1600 ACF Championship Tournament Report**

The 2019 Queensland U1600 ACF Championship was a tremendous success with a flurry of upsets, and a very peculiar final standing table indeed. Despite 12 of the 63 participating players not having ACF ratings, all managed to hold their ground against fierce opposition. To begin the interesting story of the event is the overall U1600 Champion, Oliver McCarthy, who, despite drawing his first-round to a player rated 700 points lower than him, managed to convincingly win his next six games to finish the event on 6.5/7. Congratulations to Oliver for an impeccable achievement.

Furthermore, congratulations to second place, Baicheng (Thomas) Ren, who, despite only being rated 1323, remained undefeated throughout the event, drawing only to Craig Stewart and Mark Stokes. Likewise, congratulations are also in order for Craig Stewart and especially Chee Seng Lue, who both finished on 5.5/7 and took out equal third. I would also like to acknowledge that this is a major accomplishment for Chee Seng Lue who had upset win after upset win against higher rated players, while only rated 736!

Outstandingly, our other 6 prize recipients all finished on 5/7. Although the 1st Junior trophy fell to Kenny Ming on countback, we also ought to acknowledge both Jacob Chan and Filip Simic, who also finished on 5/7. Furthermore, a massive congratulations to Zerui Xing, finishing on 5/7, and placing first in rating group A. Likewise, despite also coming third place overall, Chee Seng Lue also won rating group B.

Notwithstanding this, I would especially like to acknowledge the tremendous success of both Yang Zhang and Terrence Tang on their major achievement of finishing the tournament on 5/7 despite both being unrated! Although I am never short of breath when bragging about my own students, I am a proud coach, and stunned organiser. In turn, it is far from an exaggeration to claim that the final standings of this event were peculiar.

Likewise, it would be remiss of me not to mention that Mark C Stokes took home a wooden spoon after being the only player, out of 7, to finish the event on 5 points.

A special thanks to our sponsors: BBC Painting, St Joseph’s College Gregory Terrace, the Brisbane Junior Chess League, gardinerchess, and especially AuNix, for their significant contributions which we could not do without. Likewise, a very special thanks to Chief Arbiter Michael D’Arcy; Deputy Arbiter Max Kershaw; Assistant Arbiter and Broadcaster David Esmonde; and Commentator/Canteen Operator Alex Wohl, for their tireless efforts which ensured the best possible event.

**Hughston Parle**