



CHESS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC

Affiliated with the Australian Chess Federation Inc
Member of the Sports Federation of Queensland Inc
ABN 95 728 873 325

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held over Zoom on Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7.00 PM

Present: Chairman Vice President Ronald Bourke, **Acting Secretary** David Esmonde, Iago Roche-Maxwell, Mark C Stokes, Henry Slater-Jones, and Gail Young.

Apologies: Tony Dowden, Matt Gilpin, Doug Williams and Donna McGettigan.

The meeting opened at 7.01 pm.

ITEM 1 – ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

1.1 Acceptance of the minutes of the 24th February 2026 Council Meeting.

Motion: *Move that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as presented.*

Mover: Gail Young

Second: Iago Roche-Maxwell

Abstain: nil

CARRIED

1.2 Acceptance of the minutes of the 17 March 2026 Special Council Meeting.

Motion: *Move that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as presented.*

Mover: Mark C Stokes

Second: Iago Roche-Maxwell

Abstain: nil

CARRIED

ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Renewal Dates and Family Membership appear to be working well.

2.2 Progress of setting up caq.org.au emails for Committee Members. David mentioned medium Australian ISPs are now using TMC or The Message Company to manage email and that one of our shared IP addresses is on one of their mail server block-lists and that TMC has no de-listing function at the moment.

Action Item: David to contact office holders who want or need to access generic email addresses to configure and activate.

2.3 **QJETS** – Henry has much info in Junior Report and General Business

Action Item: in progress for an email discussion between Mark C Stokes, Henry Slater-Jones and Sam Buckley as soon as possible.

2.4 Bank Account Access - Tony Dowden, Samantha Buckley and Donna McGettigan are signatories.

2.5 Executive Members – Secretary and Treasurer. Donna McGettigan happy to continue to act in her previous role as Treasurer and CAQ Bank signatory. Sam Buckley happy to continue to act in her previous role as Secretary and as a CAQ bank account signatory. David Esmonde will apply for the Secretary position once President Tony Dowden is back in Australia.

Action Item: *Still canvassing for candidates for the Treasurer position.*

2.6 2026 ASTC proposal letter of interest was emailed to ACF Secretary and Deputy President on the 18th March 2026.
ACF Deputy President Bill Gletsos advised via phone on 14th April 2026 to send another email to all ACF executive and ask that the issue and bids be researched before the ACF Council May Meeting

Action Item: *David Esmonde to email ACF Executive.*

ITEM 3 – REPORTS

3.1 President's Report – Tony has provided a written report that was emailed to

Council and is attached to these minutes.

Motion: Moved that the President's Report be accepted as presented.

Mover: Ron Bourke

Second: Mark C Stokes

CARRIED

3.2 Treasurer's Report – written provided by Donna McGettigan shows balance of ~\$119,000.00 and expenses of ~\$3,000.00 Report is attached.

Motion: Moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented.

Mover: David Esmonde

Second: Henry Slater-Jones

CARRIED

3.3 Membership Secretary's Report – A power point presentation was provided by Rohan Pyne. He spoke on learning the new system and his report provided interesting figures when compared with the declared Membership as of the AGM 2025..

Action Item: *Look into renewal figures – use Suncoast as an example because they had 126 Members as of December 2025 and 80 as of this CAQ Council Meeting.*

Motion: That the Membership Secretary's report be accepted as presented.

Mover: Rohan Pyne

Second: Henry Slater-Jones

CARRIED

3.4 Rating Officer's Report

The Rating Officer's written Report was presented. 13 events rated this period. Gail has spent much of the last 3 months in hospital.

Action Item: *Understudy for Ratings ...Assistant Ratings Officer to be sought needed to learn the ratings system.*

Motion: *Moved that the Rating Officer's report be accepted as presented.*

Mover: Gail Young

Second: Ron Bourke

CARRIED

3.5 Junior Chess Coordinator's Report – Henry Slater-Jones written Report

Motion: *Moved that the Junior Officer's report be accepted as presented.*

Mover: Henry Slater-Jones

Seconder: David Esmonde

CARRIED

Action Item: *Women's and Girls Championships 2026 ideas and recommendations?*

Womens Officer Matt Gilpin to report to Council at next meeting.

ITEM 4 – CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 Kings and Queens Chess have provided written advice of their Child Safe Compliance.
- 4.2 Endorsed AO title application for Max Condon sent to ACF and reply received.
- 4.3 Affiliation documents received from Innisfail Chess Club. Payment for affiliation received. Innisfail Chess Club added to website advertising and software.

ITEM 5 – RATIFICATION OF EMAIL DECISIONS

- 5.1 Payment of ACF and FIDE rating fees for 2025 Queensland Championships has been made. Payment ratified by Council.

ITEM 6 – GENERAL BUSINESS

- 6.1 CAQ Grand Prix proposal finalised – details <https://caq.org.au/dav/2026-Grand-Prix/>
- 6.2 CAQ website Paid Membership Pro – update next meeting once status of plugin updates becomes known.
- 6.3 CAQ website Calendar – update next meeting
- 6.4 QJETS – Junior Coordinator's proposal – Hold QJETS in Toowoomba in the school holiday week before the Byron Capital Darling Downs Open
Henry Slater-Jones to liaise with Mark C Stokes Redcliffe Chess Club and Sam Buckley Toowoomba Chess Club. Proposed dates for QJETS are Tuesday and Wednesday 28th and 29th September 2026

6.5 **Motion:** *That the QWCL be confirmed as running the Queensland Seniors 2026*

Mover: Gail Young
Seconded: Mark C Stokes
CARRIED

6.6 **Motion:** *That CAQ extends Yi Liu (IM-elect and current Australian Champion) the rights of an IM for the purposes of tournament conditions.*

Mover: Ron Bourke
Seconded: Mark C Stokes
CARRIED

6.7 **Motion:** *That CAQ grants Cairns CC \$1000 to help defray arbiter expenses for the 2026 Great Barrier Reef Open.*

Mover: Mark C Stokes
Seconded: Gail Young
CARRIED

6.8 **Motion:** *That CAQ amend the existing by-law that prevents a person from simultaneously playing and acting as an arbiter in a CAQ Grand Prix event. This is done by removing the "ACF" from the first sentence of Section 13; and then remove the second sentence completely; which did read "If this condition is not satisfied, no events from that club will be accepted by the CAQ for the next ACF Grand Prix."*

Mover: Mark C Stokes
Seconded: Ron Bourke
CARRIED

6.9 **Motion:** *That CAQ grants \$2,500 to the organisers of Swiss classical Norm events run in Queensland in 2026 – to be paid once the flyer is on the CAQ website.*

Mover: Mark C Stokes
Seconded: Ron Bourke
Abstain: Henry Slater-Jones, Iago Roche-Maxwell
CARRIED

ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 6 Council Meetings per year - Next Council Meeting is Tuesday 9th June 2026.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 8:59 pm.

Minutes prepared by Acting CAQ Assistant Secretary David Esmonde

Addenda:

President's Report to CAQ Committee meeting (April 14, 2026)

2026 Grand Prix

I am delighted that this important initiative to support regional chess and encourage greater participation across the state has been approved and implemented. Many thanks to the sub-committee of Mark Stokes (Chair), Rohan Pyne and Matt Gilpin.

Innisfail Chess Club

In another good news story, Innisfail CC has affiliated with CAQ. This is excellent timing with 2026 GP events scheduled nearby in Townsville and Cairns.

IM (elect) Yi Liu

Following his impressive win in the Australian Championship, which resulted in a third IM norm, Yi Liu has passed a 'live' rating of 2400 which, subject to ratification by FIDE, clinches his IM title.

Communications

Mark Stokes and I have resumed meetings with Qld Club Presidents and plan to continue to do so on a regular basis. In addition, I have had conversations (by phone, email or in person) with Andrew Fitzpatrick (Gardiner Chess), Dusan Stojic (School of Chess), Peter Xing (KQ Chess), and Max Condon (Churchie). Obviously, other stakeholders in our chess community are also very welcome to contact me to arrange conversations.

Looking ahead

I am mulling over three issues, each of which seem important and worthy of our attention.

1. Regional chess

We should continue to liaise with regional chess communities and consider what CAQ could do to promote and strengthen chess in the regions. One possibility could be to implement some group coaching. This could be online or, where feasible, in-person.

2. Child safety

We should most likely check to see that businesses and clubs in our chess community are aware of their statutory obligations to child safety. Depending on needs, we could consider providing/ accessing relevant education in the space and/ or upskilling key personnel.



3. Committee member roles

We could conduct an 'audit' of each our roles to ensure we each know what we are doing (or meant to be doing), get input on what we could do, and work out if each role is 'doable' and therefore sustainable in the longer run.

Thank you

Finally, I have greatly appreciated the expressions of goodwill and support extended to me by so many in our chess community. Thank you also to our fabulous 2026 CAQ Committee.

Treasurers Report 2026 04 14

Account ▲	Current balance*	Available balance	Currency
CAQ Main Acct xx5302 	+ 65,018.37	+ 65,018.37	AUD
CAQ Savings Acct xx5794 	+ 54,515.73	+ 54,515.73	AUD

I've attached a spreadsheet of the payables that's due for payment, but here's a quick snap show below:

* list of bills awaiting payment (all to the ACF) - plan to have done on the weekend:

From	Reference	Date	Due date ↑	Planned date	Paid	Due
Australian Chess Federation Incorporated	INV-1609 (FIDE) Forwarded Bill	Mar 21, 2026	 Apr 04, 2026	Apr 19, 2026	0.00	178.00
Australian Chess Federation Incorporated	INV-1578 (FIDE)	Mar 21, 2026	 Apr 04, 2026	Apr 19, 2026	0.00	149.00
Australian Chess Federation Incorporated	INV-1646 (ACF FIDE) Forwarded Bill	Mar 23, 2026	 Apr 06, 2026	Apr 19, 2026	0.00	110.70
Australian Chess Federation Incorporated	INV-1620 (ACF FIDE)	Mar 23, 2026	 Apr 06, 2026	Apr 19, 2026	0.00	48.20

* bill from the ACF in drafts, which is yet to be checked and on-billed to clubs/tournament organisers (March Rating Fees):

From	Reference	Date ↓	Due date	Due	Files
Australian Chess Federation Incorporated	INV-1653 (Mar Rating)	Mar 30, 2026	 Apr 13, 2026	2,627.45	

CAQ Junior Coordinator's Report 2026 04 14

Queensland juniors continue to denominate interstate and internationally.

I think this has occurred due to the following reasons:

1. Strong junior culture
 - I think we are lucky to have so many good coaches, such as Jack, Dusan, Yi
2. CAQ's generosity and support of junior chess
 - Looking throughout Australia, there is quite a lot of dysfunction. For one I know NSWCA has over 1,000,000 but they spend very little on NSW junior chess. They have little to no connection with the NSWCA
 - CV, another one of our competitors, doesn't have a good link between themselves and their clubs

CAQ in the last couple of years has really impressed me

- Their generosity to support big juniors has been crucial
 - 1 QLD juniors, QLD interschool state finals and QJETS (which I know didn't work out well last year)
 - 2 On a personal note, CAQ gave us money for the Youth Zonal which I am still incredibly grateful for
- We needed that money to run the tournament, and it has now shown every place in Oceania that QLD in my opinion is the only viable place to run youth zonal's and to make it a large title event

In light of what I have said about QLD's great results, I wanted to tell you all about them. These are all of the results from Doeberl, SIO and the youth zonal in Christchurch
19 year old Alex Devin (a previous Sunshine Coast junior) came 4th in Doeberl Major
Shaurya Jain, a Bundaberg junior, got 4.5/7 but was on the top boards going into the last round

Ernest Bashirov, Zeqi Xing and ChengYi Xia especially also did well

Brett Oakley did great at Doeberl coming 21st in the minor and gained 60+ FIDE points in the SIO Contenders

Kalista Liu won the best girl in the Under 1200 division

In the Youth Zonal :

Read the results

Matthew Jia came 1st in the U12 Open

Jayden Ooi came equal 1st in the U20 open

Charlotte Ong came 2nd in the Under 10 girls division

Aniya Mao came 2nd in the Under 8 girls

Derek Li came 3rd in the Under 8 Open

What are the current weak points for QLD junior chess:

- How are we expecting QLD regional players to get better?
- There are no opportunities for them to get better
- I think it is good what we are doing with the grand prix but what about coaching?
Tony is starting to do some coaching, could we possibly liaise with Gardiner Chess about getting some of the contact for some of the best juniors in regional QLD and get them connected to Tony for group chess lessons?
- Tony should obviously be paid, or what about if Gardiner could give them some online coaching subsidized by the CAQ?

- We need more FIDE events

If we are expected to compete with VIC and NSW, we need more FIDE events so the juniors can practice playing with 60+30 or 90+30

- We can especially do this if we can get FIDE rated clubs going
- The amount of people that are shocked interstate that we don't have FIDE clubs is ridiculous

Could I encourage the CAQ to look into providing money for clubs to do FIDE rated events (now I am not referring to Strategic Minds), but what about the Gold Coast chess club or the Brisbane Chess Club, the UQ Chess Club, or Bundaberg.

- I have personally seen the benefit of FIDE rating things at my own club, and I would love to see the CAQ help in giving juniors the opportunity to play more meaningful games to practice for big events like youth zonal, Australian Juniors

I think QLD juniors are about to take over Australian juniors. It is time to take advantage of this and give them more of an opportunity

QJETS

- It struggled last year (I don't know as to why personally)

Why don't we host QJETS before Darling Downs Open this year?

- It provides a reason for our strongest juniors to go there while giving our regional players an opportunity

Additionally, the coaches that we get can also come to play too
Maybe make this a condition of coaches coming to the event

- We should liaise with TGS about using their venue there

Subject **Rating Officer's Report**

Tournaments submitted for rating 14 April 2026.

Normal

BCC Summer Swiss
GCCC Challenger
Linglong Cup Term 1
Redcliffe Summer Swiss

Blitz / Rapid

Suncoast Queen's Gambit Rapid
GCCC March Rapid
Strategic Minds February Rapid
Strategic Minds March Rapid
Suncoast Champions Enclave Rapid
Suncoast Dragon's Gambit Rapid
Suncoast Excalibur Sword Rapid
Suncoast Holoknight Championship Rapid
Suncoast Kings Reign Rapid