



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

Date: Tuesday, 11 August 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

Venue: Zoom Meeting

1. Attendance

Present

- Tony Dowden
- Ronald Bourke
- Matt Gilpin
- Mark C. Stokes
- Iago Roche-Maxwell
- Henry Slater-Jones
- Rohan Pyne
- David Esmonde

Apologies

- Doug Williams
- Gail Young

The meeting was declared open at **7:35 PM**.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes of Council Meeting – 9 June 2026

Motion: That the minutes of the previous Council Meeting be accepted as presented.

Mover	Second	Abstentions	Result
Iago Roche-Maxwell	Henry Slater-Jones		Carried

2.2 Minutes of Council Meeting – 16 June 2026

Motion: That the minutes of the previous Council Meeting be accepted as presented.

Mover	Second	Abstentions	Result
Henry Slater-Jones	Iago Roche-Maxwell		Carried

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

3.1 Renewal Dates and Family Membership

Rohan Pyne provided a progress update. Active member information can be obtained. However, identifying the best way to distribute this information to tournament organisers remains a challenge.

Action: Matter remains in progress. Update to be provided at the next Council Meeting.

3.2 Payments to Isabella Guan and Elaina Qiang

Payment details have been provided and payments have been made.

3.3 Appointment of Treasurer

Motion: That Iago Roche-Maxwell be appointed as CAQ Treasurer.

Mover	Second	Abstentions	Result
Mark C Stokes	David Esmonde		Carried

3.4 Bank Account Access Changes - update.

David Esmonde to proceed with NAB online form when time permits. Donna to be asked to start the process of adding Iago Roche-Maxwell as a signatory

3.5 Executive Committee – Billing procedures.

Discussion to occur at next Executive Committee meeting.

3.6 Gold Coast Inter-Schools Levy

Discussion to occur at item 7.12

4. Reports

4.1 President's Report

Dr Tony Dowden presented a brief verbal report highlighting the success of the Grand Prix events and also noted some challenges that had arisen from recent CAQ leadership transitions.

Motion: That the President's Report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Tony Dowden	Rohan Pyne	Carried

4.2 Treasurer's Report

Mark C Stokes presented the Treasurer's report. Total funds of \$108,831.86 across two accounts, and confirmed various payments including tournament subsidies and Olympiad representative fees had been processed.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Henry Slater-Jones	Ron Bourke	Carried

4.3 Membership Secretary's Report

Rohan Pyne gave the Membership Secretary's Report

- Total active membership now stands at 1,230.
- Progress on the Membership Tournament Tool. Meanwhile Rohan will post out a cut down Active Members list each week or so to a list of selected Club officials and Tournament Organisers.
- Still issue with yearly billing

Motion: That the Membership Secretary's Report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Rohan Pyne	Iago Roche-Maxwell	Carried

4.4 Ratings Officer's Report

Gail Young was an apology for tonight's meeting. Gail provided a written Report

The following Tournaments were submitted for rating...

BCC Tal Memorial, Bundaberg Open, Flood Cup, GC Juniors U18, GC Open Major, GC Open Minor, GC Open Premier, GCCC Autumn Classical, GCCC Coomera King of the Mountain Classic, Gold Cup FIDE Open, Lou Wilkinson Memorial, North Qld Open, Peninsula Open, Queensland Junior Championship U12, Queensland Junior U18 Championship, Suncoast Winter Woolies.

Action: Seek an Assistant Ratings Officer to provide support and succession planning.

4.5 Junior Chess Coordinator's Report

Henry Slater-Jones reported that

- Recent chess tournament results, highlighting strong performances by Queensland junior players including record attendance at the Queensland Juniors event in July.

Queensland Juniors

- 1st U8 = Evan Xia, Yug Patel, Aniya Mao
- 1st U10 = Azaan Bansal
- 1st U12= Zeqi Xing and Yashel Betagoda
- 1st U14= Terrence Li
- 1st U16= Jayden Ooi
- 1st U18 = Joel Leong and Owen Shen

Gold Coast Open

- Lachlan Wang, Atash Iddon and Bryan Yang played incredibly well
- John Stanton won the GCO Minor
- Mike Liu, Neil Fu, Elvis Wu came =2nd in the GCO Major

Other notable efforts

- Matthew Jia and Eleanor Wu played in the Asian Youth Chess Championship in China
- Matthew finished =17th in the U10
- Eleanor finished = 55th

Henry also spoke to a potential format change for future U10 QLD Juniors title events.

Motion: That the Junior Chess Coordinator's report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Rohan Pyne	Mark C Stokes	Carried

4.6 Regional Liaison Officer's Report

Mark C. Stokes reported:

- Good participation at the North Queensland Open
- Grand Prix aim to increase regional players appears to be working.
- Attendance at newly affiliated club Innisfail Chess Club is healthy, with 20-30 players attending club nights.

Motion: That the Regional Liaison Officer's Report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Rohan Pyne	Ronald Bourke	Carried

4.7 Publicity Committee Report

No report – Committee has not met as yet.

4.8 Tournaments Committee Report

No report – Committee has not met as yet. David did report on one minor incident that was informational but not subject to a formal complaint.

4.9 Child Safety and Duty of Care Committee Report

No report – Committee has not met as yet.

4.10 Juniors Committee Report

- Tony suggested considering strategic support for promising young players to help them achieve higher titles like IM and GM, noting that while NZ IM Felix Xie is close to achieving GM status, Australia hasn't produced many new GMs recently.
- The group discussed potentially organizing special clinics featuring elite players to support talented young chess players.

Motion: That the Juniors Committee Report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Ron Bourke	Rohan Pyne	Carried

4.11 ACF Delegate Report

The ACF delegate report was presented by Ronald Bourke, who noted the informal pre-meeting had no significant policy discussions, and Tony mentioned that the subsequent ACF meeting was more streamlined but left some issues unresolved, including support for the Olympiad team.

Motion: That the Membership Secretary's Report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Ronald Bourke	Iago Roche-Maxwell	Carried

5. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

1. Cairns Chess Club clocks request.
 2. Letter from Leonela Fundic re: Shaun Curtis and the AJCC Perth 2025
 3. Gardiner Chess correspondence dated 8 August 2026 regarding Queensland Inter-schools reporting and contracts.
 4. 2026 Qld Juniors Report from Gardiner Chess to be distributed to Council Members.
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6. Ratification of Email Decisions

6.1

Motion1: *That CAQ rescinds its decision to donate \$500 to the 2026 ACF Olympiad Fund and instead donates \$500 directly to each of the Australian team members from Queensland Heather Richards (Bd 4 in Women's team), David Smerdon (Bd 4 in Open Team) and Jack Rodgers (Women's Team Captain). Further, CAQ donates an additional \$250 to Heather Richards to assist with travel from Gladstone-Brisbane and return. **Note:** The total to be donated will therefore be \$1750.*

Mover	Secunder	Result
Tony Dowden	Mark C. Stokes	Carried

6.2

Motion 2: *That CAQ make the 2026 CAQ Secretary David Esmonde a bank signatory.*

Mover	Secunder	Result
Tony Dowden	Mark C. Stokes	Carried

Motion: *That email motions 6.1 and 6.2 above be accepted.*

Mover	Secunder	Result
Mark C Stokes	Henry Slater-Jones	Carried

7. General Business

7.1 CAQ Grand Prix 2027

Discussion deferred to next Council Meeting

7.2 CAQ website Paid Membership Pro – update

David said that responding to PMPro billing was delayed until the outcome of this meeting.

7.3 Membership to Anniversary billing?

Motion: *That the CAQ do all things necessary to move to Anniversary Billing*

Mover	Seconder	Result
Rohan Pyne	Iago Roche-Maxwell	Carried

7.4 CAQ website Calendar – update

Nothing new - Discussion deferred to next Council Meeting

7.5 QJETS – Update

Nothing new - Discussion deferred to next Council Meeting

7.6 40 DGT-3000 Clocks to be sold to Cairns CC

Motion: That the CAQ sell the 40 DGT-3000 used clocks in stock to Cairns CC for \$25.00 each.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Tony Dowden	Mark C Stokes	Carried

7.7 LEAP Clocks – contact by Jane Ding; Pat Byrom research; and Andrew FitzPatrick practical advice.

Jane Ding from LEAP responded to Pat Byrom’s email about which LEAP clocks were “ FIDE Approved”. LEAP have provided clarity and new promotional material.

7.8 Vega Training for Arbiters

Michael D'arcy is providing ad hoc training. Discussion about any formal training has been referred to the Tournaments Committee.

7.9 2027 Tenders

David reported intention to release 2027 Tender documents during September 2026.

7.10 Blue Card 2026 Update

David to urgently write to all Affiliated clubs to ensure that all office holders are Blue Card holders to allow the Public Liability insurance to renew.

7.11 ACF and DGT Clocks

Motion: *That the CAQ purchase 20 DGT-3000 Clocks.*

Mover	Seconder	Result
Iago Roche-Maxwell	Henry Slater-Jones	Carried

7.12 Gardiner Chess and Juniors Contract

The current contract concludes 31st December 2027.

Under the current contract clause 4c, the CAQ receives 7.5% of gross income from monies collected from clause 4a and 4b.

Gardiner Chess applied in writing that the discounted rate of 3.75% from monies collected from the Gold Coast region continue for 2026.

The CAQ Council Meeting of May 20th 2025 motion was ...*That for 2025 the interschool levies on the Gold Coast events only be reduced by 50% to 3.75% for Gardiner Chess.*

Motion: *That for 2026 the Inter-School levies, on the Gold Coast events only, be reduced by 50% to 3.75% for Gardiner Chess.*

Mover	Second	Abstentions	Result
Mark C Stokes	Matt Gilpin	Iago Roche-Maxwell	Carried

8. Other Business

8.1 Meeting Schedule

Council supported fixing meeting dates in advance, with meetings to be held on the second Tuesday of every second month.

- Next Club Presidents Meeting: 6 October 2026 at 7:30 PM
- Next Council Meeting: 13 October 2026 at 7:30 PM

8.2 Junior Committee Motions

The following 2 motions will be presented to the next Council Meeting for consideration.

Motion: *Official Australian players who are Queensland juniors for World and Asian chess events receive a \$750 subsidy in 2027.*

Motion: *Official Australian players who are Queensland juniors for Oceanic Youth chess events receive a \$500 subsidy in 2027.*

8.3 Public Liability

CAQ Public Liability insurance expires 31st August. We may need an extension for a month or so to allow Clubs to respond with Blue Card info and the Blue Card Register to be updated.

9. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at **9:40 PM**.

Minutes prepared by:

David Esmonde

Secretary

Chess Association of Queensland Inc.