



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

Meeting held over Zoom, on Sunday 29 August 2021, at 4:00 PM

Present: Mark Stokes (Chairman), Michael D'Arcy, David Esmonde, Eliot Soo-Burrowes, Martin Carter, Gail Young, Bryan Moss, Shaun Curtis, Andrew FitzPatrick (joined the meeting at 4:20pm).

Apologies: Hughston Parle.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 4:10pm.

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

A bracketed section was removed from Item 6.4 on the basis that it was unnecessary.

Mark Stokes moved and Bryan Moss seconded, that the minutes for the Council meeting of 27 June 2021 be accepted. Passed unanimously.

ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

ITEM 3 – REPORTS

3.1 President's report

The President delivered a report outlining recent developments in Queensland chess. In light of the most recent down, commiserations were given to all Queensland tournament organisers who have had plans disturbed. The President also issued a special thanks to Bryan Moss for his work on CAQ's Blue Card requirements.

Moved by Mark Stokes, seconded by Gail Young, that the President's report be accepted. Passed unanimously.

3.2 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported a total balance of \$74,189 on 27 August 2021, as opposed to \$71,317 at the time of the previous Council meeting. The only significant expense over the past two months was the renewal of CAQ's Public Liability insurance, and it was noted that CAQ is up to date with invoices from the ACF.

Additionally, given that MYOB increased their monthly fee, the Treasurer will be looking for alternate accounting software, and will provide an update at the next Council meeting.

Moved by Bryan Moss, seconded by Shaun Curtis, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Passed unanimously.

3.3 Membership Secretary's report

The Membership Secretary reported that as of 29 August 2021, CAQ had 886 financial members.

Moved by Gail Young, seconded by Eliot Soo-Burrowes, that the Membership Secretary's report be accepted. Passed unanimously.

3.4 Ratings Officer's report

The Ratings Officer advised that as of 29 August 2021, eleven tournaments had been submitted for the 1 September 2021 ACF rating list.

Moved by Gail Young, seconded by Eliot Soo-Burrowes, that the Ratings Officer's report be accepted. Passed unanimously.

Following this report, Gail Young moved that the 2021 CAQ Grand Prix, which had only had two events to date, be abandoned as a result of the continuing influence of COVID-19, and that there would be no carry-over of prize money to a future year's Grand Prix. The motion was seconded by Andrew FitzPatrick and was passed unanimously.

3.5 IT Officer's Report

The IT Officer discussed the importance of content for website traffic. December 2020, with the Australian Schools Championship Finals, was the month of highest views. The IT Officer noted that cannot be responsible for all content, and that this must be contributed by other sources (for example, the Publicity Officer, affiliated clubs, tournament organisers/officials, etc.).

Moved by David Esmonde, seconded by Martin Carter, that the IT Officer's Report be accepted. Passed unanimously.

ITEM 4 – CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Mathew Smith of the Gold Coast Chess Club

It was agreed that the new Gold Coast Chess Club appeared to be a separate entity, with a separate executive and bank account, from the previous Gold Coast Chess Club. The Treasurer undertook to write to Mathew Smith explaining the current decision, and to ask that, in the event that direct proof of a connection between the two clubs can be found, that such proofs be submitted for further consideration.

ITEM 5 – RATIFICATION OF EMAIL DECISIONS

ITEM 6 – GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Discussion of 2021 Queensland Championship and U1600 Chess Championship.

It was noted that Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie) will not be able to host the event, owing to school restrictions on visitors in relation to COVID-19. The question of whether it is even viable to plan a Championship this year, given all the uncertain variables, was discussed. Mark Stokes offered to run the event at Grace Lutheran College, Rothwell, pending approval from the school (*Note: this was approved by GLC shortly after the meeting, and the tournament flyer has been posted*).

6.2 Update on CAQ Blue Card requirements.

The Treasurer tabled a Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy (August 2021) for the Chess Association of Queensland, and thanked Gardiner Chess for providing the basis of the framework.

It was noted that CAQ would need to obtain Blue Card details from affiliated clubs, as well as known tournament organisers and officials. The requirement to hold an active Blue Card was emphasised. The Treasurer noted that Registered Teachers still need to apply for a Blue Card Exemption, and that this would need to be done as soon as possible.

A question was asked about First Aid Kits. They are needed at chess tournaments, and it may be required for the CAQ to organise First Aid courses at some stage in the future.

The ongoing importance of compliance in relation to Blue Card requirements was emphasised.

The Council thanked the Treasurer for his considerable work towards the Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy.

6.3 Discussion regarding withdrawals of titled players (WIM/IM/WGM/GM) from Open tournaments, and the question of CAQ covering that titled player's entry fee.

It was noted that unauthorised withdrawals are quite separate from approved withdrawals, and that for a withdrawal to be deemed to be "unauthorised", a report must be submitted from the Chief Organiser or Chief Arbiter to the CAQ Secretary. The Secretary stated that as he had received no notices of unauthorised withdrawals in the past year, all tournament withdrawals had therefore been deemed to be approved, and that

until such a notice was received, this topic could be only be discussed in general terms.

It was also noted that obtaining entry fees after the fact would be logistically complicated, and that, in the event that a titled player (WIM/IM/WGM/GM) received an unauthorised withdrawal complaint, CAQ could more easily withhold payment of that titled player's next tournament entry fee.

6.4 Discussion of the possibility of a Joe Tarnawski perpetual trophy.

Andrew FitzPatrick suggested a coaching session for Queensland Women's and Girls' Championship participants as a possible alternative to a perpetual trophy.

6.5 Discussion of the Queensland Junior Chess website, and a proposal for a new website.

The Queensland Junior Chess Website is ready for use and a free period of advertising on the site will be introduced for the remainder of 2021 as a test to determine such things as uptake, traffic and tournament numbers. The IT Officer noted that the website would require content, which has been a consistent challenge thus far.

6.6 Report from Subcommittee regarding criteria for paid advertisements on the CAQ website.

There was discussion around whether CAQ should be charging for advertising certain events, in particular via the Queensland Junior Chess Website. There was then further discussion around other revenue streams in this space and Google Ad Sense was one possibility mentioned. The Treasurer suggested a trial period to get more information prior to the Council making a formal decision moving forwards. There was discussion around the merits and values of utilising different platforms such as Facebook, ChessChat and website and how this may impact the various audiences for different events.

6.7 Discussion of potential change of accounting software.

As discussed in the Treasurer's Report, MYOB have increased their fees to \$50/month. The Treasurer will investigate alternate options, including Xero.

6.8 Discussion of the qualification processes for the 2021 Queensland Inter-School finals, particularly for regions that were unable to hold qualifying events due to COVID-19.

It was noted that some regions had missed their qualification events on account of COVID-19. Shaun Curtis advised that an email would be sent to the Council in the coming days.

6.9 Discussion of "The Knights Tour" proposal from Ralph Jackson.

The Council was open to Ralph providing more information, and was happy to support the proposal. It was noted that at the current stage it was unclear what CAQ was being asked to do, and that Mark Stokes would reply to Ralph Jackson seeking additional clarification.

6.10 Discussion of recent ACF motion regarding guaranteed positions on the Australian Olympiad Team. The motion was:

Subject to the following conditions, a top three placegetter in the Australian Championship (national, classical rate) that concluded in the same year as the next following FIDE Olympiad shall have the option of a place in the Australian open team for that Olympiad -

If more than two players tie for second place, the option is limited to the winner of the tournament.

If there is a tie for third place, the option is limited to the first and second (or two equal first) placegetters.

It was noted that this motion was initially thought to be passed, before an overlooked vote brought it back to 5-5 when it was not passed. In the event that this motion comes before the ACF Council again, the CAQ

Council voted not to endorse three guaranteed positions. If a single guaranteed position was suggested, the CAQ Council members were more open to endorsing the plan.

6.11 2022 Australian Championship. Note that the only bid to run this event has come from Western Australia. The Chess Association of Western Australia has asked to borrow DGT boards from the CAQ.

The Council did not have a problem with the Chess Association of Western Australia making use of Queensland's DGT boards, subject to several conditions: a \$1500 bond would be required; CAWA would be required to pay for the safe transport of the equipment and to take responsibility for any damage caused; and the boards would need to be returned within an appropriate timeline.

Moreover, the Council felt that as a national title event, such arrangements should be coordinated by the Australian Chess Federation.

6.12 Note regarding eligibility of players to enter Seniors Championships – the ACF has recently changed their rules in accordance with the current FIDE regulations. "Players in a Seniors championship must reach the age of 50 or above during the year in which the tournament begins".

Gail Young moved that the Queensland Seniors Championship entry requirements be amended as advised by ACF to comply with current FIDE regulations. The motion was seconded by Michael D'Arcy and was passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 – NEXT MEETING

The next CAQ Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday 31 October at 4pm, via Zoom.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6:38pm.