



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 24 February 2026 at 7.30 PM

Present: Tony Dowden, Ronald Bourke, Iago Roche-Maxwell, Matt Gilpin, Mark C Stokes, Doug Williams, Henry Slater-Jones, Gail Young and David Esmonde

Apologies: Michael D'arcy

The meeting opened at 7.33 pm.

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

1.1 Acceptance of the minutes of the 2 December 2025 Council Meeting.

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

Mover: Iago Roche-Maxwell

Second: Matt Gilpin

Abstain: nil

CARRIED

ITEM 2 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Renewal Dates and Family Membership – This is work in progress. A verbal explanation on how Rohan, Patrick, Rebecca Bleney and David have spent time to learn the ins and outs of the system and various patches especially the code for the Family membership and the setting of expiry dates. Patrick especially has taken a leading role in understanding how the code works and what adjustments have been necessary.

Action Item: Work in progress. Update Council next meeting.

2.2 Progress of setting up caq.org.au emails for Committee Members.

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

2.3 **QJETS** GM Mitrabha Guha will be in QLD from April 20th and GM Johan-Sebastian Christiansen from April 29th 2026 .

Action Item: in progress for an email discussion as soon as possible

2.4 Executive Members – Secretary and Treasurer. Donna McGettigan happy to continue to act in her role as Treasurer and CAQ Bank signatory. Sam Buckley happy to continue to act in her role as Secretary and as a CAQ bank account signatory.

Action Item: *Still canvassing for suitable candidates for both executive positions.*

2.5 Bank Account Access Changes – Removal and Additions

Action Item: *As in 2.4 – Michael D’arcy to be asked about his willingness to continue as a signatory or a time to be arranged for another executive member to join as a signatory.*

ITEM 3 – REPORTS

3.1 President’s Report – Tony gave a verbal report on his first 2 months in the Presidential role. He spoke on regional chess; officers fulfilling roles; ACF February Council meeting of 20th February; Australian Schools Teams Championships for 2026 unable to be run by the TCA and now accepted by the CAQ; DGT clocks and boards again on discount; ACF Annual Conference and the ACF Council response to Marks motions.

Action Item: *David to notify all Clubs and Chess Businesses to seek tenderer for the ASTC to be held in early December 2026*

Motion: Moved that the president’s report be accepted as presented.

Mover: Tony Dowden

Secunder: Mark C Stokes

CARRIED

3.2 Treasurer's Report

Verbal from Donna – 2 minor invoices paid and Donna and Sam will pay the latest ACF invoice this week. There has been no major spending since the 2025 AGM - Approx ~\$114k in bank.

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

Mover: David Esmonde

Seconded: Henry Slater-Jones

CARRIED

3.3 Membership Secretary's Report

Rohan spoke on the learning experience of the new system.

***Action Item:** Look into renewal dates and family memberships to fix. Rohan and Patrick to continue their work on this and report to next CAQ Council Meeting.*

Motion: That the membership secretary's report be accepted as presented.

Mover: Rohan Pyne

Seconded: Ronnie Bourke

CARRIED

3.4 Rating Officer's Report

The Rating Officer's Report was presented. 14 events rated this quarter. 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

Seconded: Doug Williams

CARRIED

ITEM 4 – CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Doug Williams has requested to be removed from CAQ ACF Delegate list.

Tony informed the meeting that this had been coordinated with the ACF.

ITEM 5 – RATIFICATION OF EMAIL DECISIONS

5.1 ACF - Update Register of CAQ authorised delegates for ACF National Conference has been completed by email vote just prior to the ACF National Conference.

ITEM 6 – GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 CAQ Grand Prix proposal.

Motion: Moved by Mark C Stokes

That the CAQ Inc run a 2026 CAQ Inc Grand Prix with \$2000 in total prize money with no entry fee :

1. All ACF Classically Rated Open Week Enders held in Queensland be included.
2. All Events that have Premier Only Sections be included as long as all players excluded have another section they may enter too.
3. Events in the Regional Areas to receive Bonus Points to encourage players in south east Queensland to travel to Regional Events.
Eg For events in Redcliffe, Brisbane, Toowoomba and Gold Coast areas, players receive 10 points plus their score in the event.
For players in a Bundaberg Weekender, 25 points each plus their score in the event. (367 km from Brisbane)
For players in a Mackay Weekender, 40 points each plus their score in the event. (968 km from Brisbane)
For players in a Townsville to Cairns Weekender, 50 points each plus their score in the event. (1351km & 1697 km from B.)

PRIZES: Rating Group Prizes based on the players December 2025 ACF Rating.

1st: \$400

Best U 2000 ACF: \$300

Best U 1600 ACF: \$300

Best U 1200 ACF: \$300

Best U 800 ACF: \$300

Best Senior 50 Years of age or older on 01/01/2026: \$200

Best Female: \$200

Note: It is vital for the success of the 2026 CAQ Inc Grand Prix that up to date points

after each event are promptly displayed on the CAQ Inc Website.

Matt Gilpin raised many good points.

David raised the perennial issue of Toowoomba being classed as Regional in some motions and as SE Queensland in others.

Action Item: – moved into sub-committee Mark, Matt and Rohan and Tony Sub-Committee to report March 15th 2026. Mark C Stokes to chair sub-committee.

6.2 CAQ website Paid Membership Pro

David spoke of the need to determine by the middle of the year of whether to buy a full license, or a yearly license, or go with free version.

Action Item: *David to report back June CAQ Council Meeting*

6.3 CAQ website Calendar

Sam has repaired the layout using Divi pages. Further learning by Rohan, David and Patrick needed on how to best manage the updating and new additions to the Calendar.

6.4 Direct tournament grant esp for Norm tournaments.

David spoke on his experience of being involved with the Norm tournaments over the last 4 years, and the need for the CAQ to look at initial financial support in the early planning stages of these events.

Action Item: *David to submit a funding proposal re: 2026 Churchie International*

6.5 Motion: The 2026 CAQ Inc Council that it supports CAQ Inc Affiliated Clubs and approved Individual Organisers with a \$500 subsidy to run regional weekend classically rated Open Chess Tournaments OR with a \$300 subsidy to run weekend classically rated Open Chess Tournaments in South- East Queensland. That this subsidy may be paid once the Tournament Entry Form is placed on the CAQ Inc Website and an application is made to the CAQ Inc Treasurer OR after the event has been run and an application is then made to the CAQ Inc Treasurer For the purposes of this motion, Redcliffe, Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich and the Gold Coast will be considered South-East Queensland Events and be entitled to a \$300 CAQ Inc subsidy and all other regions be considered Regional Events and be entitled to a \$500 subsidy.

Mover: Mark C Stokes

Secunder: Gail Young

CARRIED

6.6 Motion: The 2026 CAQ Inc Council that it subsidise the CAQ Inc affiliated Club OR approved Individual Organizer that organises and runs the 2026 CAQ Inc Queensland Open with an extra \$500 subsidy, on top of any other subsidy they are entitled to, and that this subsidy may be paid once the 2026 Queensland Open entry form is placed on the CAQ Inc Website and application is then made to the CAQ Inc Treasurer OR after this event has been run and an application is then made to the CAQ Inc Treasurer.

Mover: Mark C Stokes

Seconder: Ronnie Bourke

CARRIED

6.7 Motion: That this 2025 CAQ Inc AGM recommends to the 2026 CAQ Inc Council that it continues its current policy to reimburse the entry fee of Grandmasters, Women Grandmasters, International Masters and Women International Masters to CAQ Inc affiliated Clubs or approved Individual Organisers for any CAQ approved classically rated Open Chess Tournaments held in Queensland in 2026 contingent on completion of the event to the satisfaction of the organisers.

Mover: Mark C Stokes

Seconder: Henry Slater-Jones

CARRIED

6.8 Motion: To reimburse the entry fee of FIDE Masters and Womens FIDE Masters, who are members of the CAQ and registered to Queensland; to CAQ Inc affiliated Clubs or approved Individual Organisers for any CAQ approved classically rated Open Chess Tournaments held in Queensland in 2026 contingent on completion of the event to the satisfaction of the organisers.

Mover: David Esmonde

Seconder: Henry Slater-Jones

CARRIED

6.9 Club Presidents Informal Zoom meetings

This was spoken to by Mark. He told of our first informal Club Presidents meeting held via Zoom at 6:00pm earlier tonight. Mark, Tony and David will continue to schedule these meetings in the 2 week period before the CAQ Council meetings to encourage input and gain feedback from Affiliated Clubs.

6.10 CAQ email addresses and take note of Mail Poet and Gravity Forms collection and distribution of inquiries.

David spoke on Mark's request that email addresses be advertised on the CAQ website to allow people to contact office holders. Mail Poet allows bulk email to be

sent for CAQ purposes. Gravity Forms collects and directs inquiries to selected office holders. The need to investigate the use of instant messenger apps was raised.

Action Item: David to report back on instant messaging apps and their potential use.

6.11 CAQ support for Micah Young both financial and ACF selection.

Donna McGettigan has requested support from the CAQ as per attached emails and documents sent to all CAQ Councilors.

Motion: That Micah Young be supported in his travel expenses to the World Youth Chess Championships to be held in Montesilvano, Italy – 14 to 27 June 2026 with a direct grant of \$1,500.00

Mover: Tony Dowden

Secunder: David Esmonde

Abstain: Doug Williams

CARRIED

ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Motion: That the CAQ give a guarantee against prize money won to Grand-masters and Women's Grand-masters of \$500; and International Masters and Women's International Masters of \$250; after playing in any CAQ approved classically rated Open Chess Tournaments held in Queensland in 2026 contingent on completion of the event to the satisfaction of the organisers.

Mover: Mark Stokes

Secunder: Ronnie Bourke

CARRIED

7.2 There are 6 Council Meetings per year – It is suggested that these meeting times and dates be fixed in advance - so the 2nd Tuesday of each second Month be designated. Next Council Meeting is the 14th April 2026

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9:03 pm.

Minutes prepared by Acting CAQ Assistant Secretary David Esmonde