2018 has been yet another very busy year for Chess in Queensland – our State has once again led the way with the number of chess weekenders to play in and we have conducted more ACF Grand Prix Events than any other State. Queenslanders will win the lion’s share of the prizes awarded and the CAQ policy of paying 50% of the ACF Grand Prix entry fees will help our CAQ members collect many bonus cash prizes this year. The CAQ’s own Grand Prix, co-ordinated by Gail Young so brilliantly, with regularly updated points on the CAQ Website, will see 6 CAQ Members collect $200 bonus money – Congratulations to Tony Weller, David Lovejoy, Mark C Stokes, Jayden Ooi, Zerui Xing and Cynthia Li! The CAQ is the only State to run their own Grand Prix and we do not charge our tournament organizers one cent to be in it.

The CAQ supported all our Queensland Chess Weekenders by paying the organizer a $400 subsidy if it was held outside South-East Qld or $200 to the organizers of a South-East Qld Event. This sponsorship is paid as soon as the event is up on the CAQ Website under Upcoming Events. This policy has worked well – check the Tournament’s Result page on the CAQ Website to see many events successfully run from Cairns to the Gold Coast.

Many of our events this year have featured virtually live broadcast of the top boards on livechess.aunz.net thanks to the CAQ purchasing DGT boards and thanks to David Esmonde for learning the new technology and telecasting the events. You can now go to livechess.aunz.net and replay the top board games at your leisure from many many events held in Queensland this year. Hats off to David Esmonde!

Thanks to Gail Young, all these events have been promptly sent in for ACF Rating as well and David McKinnon has done another sterling job rating thousands and thousands of Queensland Junior Games and updating the Queensland Junior Ratings on a regular basis. Hats off to Gail and David!

Andrew FitzPatrick has undertaken the big task of compiling a 2019 CAQ Events Calendar and this is not an easy job, with 2019 promising to be just as big or even bigger than this year. We already have our first event of 2019, Gail Young’s FIDE OPEN, at the Lone Star Tavern at the end of January up on the CAQ Website – do not miss this great way to kick off Chess in Queensland in 2019! And hats off to Andrew for compiling the 2019 Calendar for all of us.

We are also looking to train more qualified arbiters. Michael D’Arcy is already a FIDE Arbiter and is very close to the International Arbiter Title. Andrew FitzPatrick is also a FIDE Arbiter. Max Kershaw has met all the requirements to become an FA and so has Shaun Curtis and Martin Harmon. Dusan Stojic is close to becoming an FA – he needs to be the arbiter for one round robin event still, as does Doug Williams. Matt Gilpin needs to be the arbiter of a few more events. Graeme Gardiner and Garvin Gray have the FA title but are both inactive.

Graeme Gardiner is the only Queensland FIDE International Organizer we have at the moment but Andrew FitzPatrick is on the way there, with two of three norms required already achieved. Andrew has one seminar to do too.

As for FIDE Trainers, Andrew FitzPatrick is a FIDE Instructor as is Charith Silva and Nik Stawski.

We have financially supported our Juniors selected by the ACF to represent Australia overseas with financial grants and the most recent recipient of this support, Jasper Moss, had a great time in Spain.

We have financially supported The ACF Olympiad Appeal and legendary Queensland chess figure Ian Murray co-ordinated the most successful Olympiad Appeal in history this year, raising $28 000 to fully fund the travel costs of our Australian Open and Womens Team players for the first time ever. Hats off to Ian Murray!

Our interschool Chess Competitions are the best organized and best run events in all of Australia in my humble opinion and Gardiner Chess has once again done an outstanding job running event after event all over our vast state. A big thank-you to Andrew FitzPatrick, Shaun Curtis, Justine Jule and all who work as arbiters for Gardiner Chess on another outstanding year. Our 4 champion Queensland Junior School Teams are playing in the National Schools Finals in South Australia right now by the way and you can check their progress on the net. ( I have just looked – Queensland’s MacGregor State School were 2nd in the Primary Open, King’s Christian College were 2nd in the Primary Girls, Anglican Church Grammar School were 4th in the Secondary Open and Brisbane Girls Grammar were 2nd in the Secondary Girls – well done one and all! You can view full results on this website - [www.sajuniorchess.org](http://www.sajuniorchess.org) )

We have had a dedicated 2018 CAQ Council meet regularly to look at ways to take Queensland chess ahead and we have worked as a team to do so and I would like to personally thank all of the Council Members of 2018 for volunteering to help Chess in Queensland A big thank-you to Heather Richards, Allan Menham, Scott Dullaway, Gail Young, Shaun Curtis and Andrew FitzPatrick for your wonderful efforts this year.

I would especially like to thank one more CAQ Council Member, our long standing treasurer Jim Rogers, for his years and years of dedicated voluntary service to Queensland Chess. Jim has kept accurate financial records, had them audited every year, ensured our Public Liability Insurance is current and offered wise advice to me personally and to all our Council Members, for too many years to count. Jim is stepping down today and we thank Jim for all he has done and wish him all the best in the future. I will probably still give Jim a call from time to time to seek his advice!

Finally, thank-you to all here today for coming to the CAQ AGM. If you are staying for the 2018 CAQ Blitz Chess Championship after this meeting, I wish you good luck. And thank you one and all for all you do for Queensland Chess. Have a great Christmas and a great 2019.

Best Regards Mark C Stokes CAQ Inc President 0431419136 0732056042