



KĀPITI CHESS CLUB

2026 AGM Minutes

Tuesday 3rd February 2026

MEETING STARTED:

8:00 pm

PRESENT:

John Wibley, Guy Burns, Brandon Holman, Gordon Lyall, Ross Jackson, David Paul, Stanley Fitton, Tim Sharpe, Chris Moses & Duncan Turnbull.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT:

Gordon presented the Club's annual report for 2025.

Key points:

- Full and successful programme: **Kāpiti Rapid, Kāpiti Junior Championship, and NZCF Interschool Wellington Region.**
- **Kāpiti Rapid** attracted **64 entrants**, including 15 Club members.
- **Kāpiti Junior Championship** drew **83 players from 32 schools**, remaining the region's most popular junior event.
- **Junior Club thriving**, with members achieving strong results in external competitions.
- Maintained a **strong online presence**, posting regular news and updates.
- The number of hits and visitors to our Club's **website grew significantly** last year, with unique visitor numbers tripling to over 6,700.
- Financially strong: **surplus of \$976.09**, bank balance **\$6,779.68**, invested in **DGT3000 clocks, printer, chess books, medals, badges, and certificates.**
- **Member benefits expanded**: free entry to Kāpiti Rapid and 50% contribution towards NZCF tournaments and training courses.

The report can be read in full on the Club's website at [Kāpiti Chess Club AGM reports](#).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The following officers were elected for 2026:

President & Treasurer:	Gordon Lyall
Club Captain:	Stanley Fitton
Secretary:	Brandon Holman
Committee:	Ross Jackson

FEES:

A proposal was tabled to retain the Senior Club fee schedule with no increases.

Fee Schedule for 2026

Adults	\$150 pa
Unwaged	\$100 pa
Juniors (under 20 as at 1/1/2026)	\$90 pa
Casuals & Visitors - Adult	\$10 per night
Casuals & Visitors - Juniors & Students (including tertiary)	\$5 per night

2026 CALENDAR:

Some good suggestions were received from Member David Paul, namely:

- “After a significant public Holiday which falls on a Monday, it may be a good idea to run a social evening or a themed event that doesn't interfere with a current tournament ...”
- “Tournaments should have no more than 2 series an example was the Freebird which had 3 series.”

These suggestions were agreed, and will be incorporated into the new Calendar of Events for 2026, which will be prepared by the new Club Captain, Stanley Fitton, in the coming weeks.

Members agreed to start with the Kingston Memorial on Tuesday, 10th February.

KĀPITI RAPID

The event is scheduled for Saturday 30th May, and planned venue is Paraparaumu College.

WEBSITE

Last years Captain, Lars Dobbartin-King, was the Club's website administrator. With his departure from the Club to take up a new teaching role, we decided to update and refresh the website, and move it onto a local NZ Server. This will ensure added reliability with increased speed and functionality.

All historic data has been retained and transfer to the new site is ongoing. It is anticipated that the new site will be up and running within February.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Tournament House Rules

In order to facilitate smoother running of internal events, and to avoid any confusion, a set of Tournament House Rules has been established.

In short, these rules cover, but are not limited to:

- **Register or notify** Tournament Director if absent.
- **Start time:** 8:00 pm; **late = 30-minute default.**
- **Byes:** Limited, must be requested in advance; not allowed in last round or Blitz nights.
- **Grand Prix points:** Awarded for rated events and Blitz Cup only.
- **Ratings:** Rated events submitted to NZCF; Blitz events not rated but count for GP points.
- **Behaviour:** Respect all players; mobile phones/devices off or away.
- **Tournament Directors:** Stanley Fitton & Gordon Lyall; decisions are final.

A full version of the rules is appended to these Minutes.

Coaching

Coaching will be available online via Zoom, through the NZCF Online School. These courses are subsidised 50% by the Club.

Additional in-house online coaching will be provided to support our Juniors competing in National events. Any courses will also be available to adult members.

Increasing Player Numbers

A constructive discussion was held on the perennial issue of increasing adult membership.

- Adult attendance has averaged **around 10 players per club night** for the past six years, reflecting a long-standing pattern.
- The Club attracts strong players but is **not well suited to casual or online-only players**, who can struggle to adapt to over-the-board play.
- The priority is to **increase adult playing numbers** to maintain standards, energy, and interest — not to raise subscriptions, as the Club's finances are already strong.
- **Agreed actions:**
 - Members of **NZCF-affiliated clubs** (e.g. Wellington, Upper Hutt, Whitby) may play in Kapiti internal tournaments **free of charge**; events will be NZCF-rated, with prizes awarded to the **highest-placed Kapiti Club member**.
 - **7:30–8:00 pm** will be designated for **casual chess** to encourage newer players and juniors.
 - Additional **online events (Friday Night Fight Club)** will be scheduled to increase interaction between juniors and seniors and attract online players to the Club.

MEETING CLOSED:

The meeting closed around 9:15pm and was followed by some casual chess.