

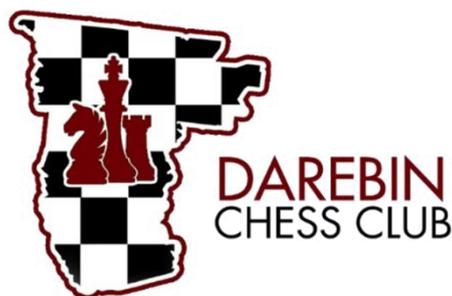
Darebin Chess Club

Annual General Meeting:

13 October 2025

Held in-person at the Preston Library,

Gower Street, Preston VIC. Australia



Present: Alasdair Scott (Chair), Chris Wallis (Deputy Chair), Franco Costa (Secretary), Anthony Cusinato (Treasurer), Bell Foozwell, Tuba Boz, Graeme Nicholas, George Eraclides

Meeting opened at 6:30PM and was initially chaired by Alasdair and chair by Chris after the election of office bearers.

The previous AGM meeting minutes were presented. Anthony Cusinato moved that they be accepted, (Seconded by Bell Foozwell). The motion was accepted unanimously.

Committee Report on Club Activity since the previous AGM:

Franco presented a report of the club activities during the past financial year as follows:

1. Weekly free chess club sessions in the Preston Library on Mondays throughout the FY. Often well attended, with quieter weeks during school holidays. Paused only for January and some school holidays. Grateful for Darebin Libraries ongoing strong support.
2. We received \$1,000 grant funding in FY2025 from Darebin Community Grants program for funding the tournaments and cleaning materials for the weekly sessions all year. (Decreased from \$1,500 the previous year). Also, Venue Hire in-kind funding of \$1364 which funded the Preston Library meeting room hire for coaching and the Shire Hall for only one tournament.
3. Chess tournaments: Held two in-person chess tournaments with 48 participants each: In the Preston Shire Hall on 30 Nov 2024; and in Bridge Darebin Front Hall on 18 May 2025.
4. Chris held Friday evening coaching lessons in the Preston Library meeting room. (Entry Fee \$15). The Friday sessions changed to a Blitz Tournament format in March (Entry Fee \$5). The Venue Hire grant did not cover the meeting room booking in June and July, so we paid for the room booking for those months.
5. The club successfully applied for Darebin Community Grant funding for FY2026. This includes in-kind venue hire value of \$2253.50 being for:
 - a. The Preston library meeting room for Friday sessions.
 - b. The Preston Shire Hall for two chess tournaments.

This is improved from last year's in-kind venue grant of \$1364.

Plus \$650 cash to support our programs throughout the year. (This amount is only just enough to cover our public liability insurance and nothing more)

6. Upcoming large allegro tournaments are scheduled in the Preston Shire Hall on Saturday afternoons on Saturday 29 Nov 2025 and Saturday 16 May 2026.
7. Since the start of the new financial year, we have started holding Sunday Allegro tournaments approximately monthly. (24 August & 5 October)
8. The club has 30 Members currently (although many are lapsed). 3 new members were approved this year.

Finance Report:

The club treasurer, Anthony Cusinato presented the financial report:

Cash Assets as at:	
1 July 2024	\$1403
30 June 2025	\$3217

Most of the club's events have been slightly cash positive. The large part of the gain during the year came from a donation from Franco returning funds received as an arbiter's fee.

Franco moved that the finance report be accepted. Graeme seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted.

Election of Office Bearers & Committee:

Franco Costa was re-elected to the position of club secretary, being the only nomination for the position. Anthony Cusinato was re-elected as treasurer, being the only nomination for the position. Christopher Wallis was elected as Chairperson, being the only nomination for the position. Alasdair Scoot was elected as Deputy Chair, being the only nomination for the position.

Bell Foozwell, George Eraclides and Graeme Nicholas nominated themselves as additional committee members and were accepted to the role by all present.

Chris thanked the retiring committee members: Tuba Boz, Ragavan Thiruchittampalam and Jane Piper

Proposal to Affiliate with Chess Victoria

Chris proposed that the club investigate affiliation with Chess Victoria. This would provide an opportunity to purchase discounted chess equipment and offer connections with other chess clubs in Victoria and the possibility of shared events. Affiliation would require a set annual fee of \$50 plus a fee per adult member of \$2.50 & \$1.25 per junior member. Affiliation would occur at the Chess Victoria AGM in early 2026. Franco moved that the committee continue to investigate the merit of affiliation and to decide if an application is in the best interests of the club. Al seconded the motion, and it was accepted unanimously. This proposal also introduces the need to clean up the member register and remove lapsed members from the register. Franco noted that there is a procedure for this specified in the club's constitution and that he would initiate this procedure.

Plan for Activities for next 12 months:

Franco and Chris proposed continuing with the present structure of the informal weekly Monday chess club in the Preston Library, Friday evening tournament-based sessions, biannual large allegro chess tournaments in the Preston Shire Hall, and the newly initiated Sunday allegro tournaments which will be held six times per year. The large allegro tournaments are scheduled for Saturday 29 Nov 2025 and Saturday 16 May 2026, maintained at the level of 48 participants. Chris suggested applying to ACF rate these large allegro tournaments, and possibly also the Sunday allegro tournaments. The Friday evening sessions will change to a rapid chess tournament starting on 7 November and running until the end of the year.

Membership Fees:

Chris proposed that in line with affiliation with Chess Victoria, we would need to introduce an annual membership fee for members of the Darebin Chess Club but could then offer discounted entry to our tournaments and Friday events for club members. An alternative option discussed was to keep the membership at zero or as low as possible to cover just the Chess Victoria affiliation fee per member

and continue with event fees for each event which cover the full cost of the event. Chris proposed that the committee be tasked with deciding on the fee and discount structure with the membership period coinciding with the calendar year. Bell seconded the motion, and it was accepted unanimously.

Child Safety Policy

The chess club's existing Child Safety Policy was discussed and determined not to require changes at this time. The new committee members (Graeme and George) are required to register the club as an organization at which they volunteer in their Working with Children Check (WWCC) profiles. All other committee members are reminded to keep their WWCC's current. Franco will check that all re-elected committee member's WWCC are current.

Grant Funding Applications:

The FY26 Darebin Community Cash Grant is only just enough to cover the club's annual public liability insurance cost. The Darebin Facilities Hire Grant provides the venue for our large biannual allegro chess tournaments and Friday evening chess events. Franco proposed applying again in April next year for a Darebin Council grant to help with the costs of tournaments and use of council facilities in FY26. Graeme will seek additional funding support from the offices of the local members of state and federal parliament. Chris will investigate if an equipment grant is available from Chess Victoria.

Meeting Ended: 7:37PM