

NEW BRITAIN CHESS CLUB

Annual Business Meeting – Minutes (Draft)

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 | Armenian Church

Called to Order: 7:20 PM | Adjourned: 9:10 PM | Members in Attendance: 34

1. Approval of Prior Year Minutes

- President Suhas Kodali and Secretary Mario Guevara Rodriguez reviewed the minutes of the 2025 Annual Business Meeting.
- Following a brief deliberation, all 34 members present voted unanimously in favor of approval.

2. Historian's Report – Bob Cyr

- BOB delivered a succinct report covering the major highlights of 2026, including:
 - Club Championship
 - Winners' Keepers Chess Championship
 - Strazdins Cup–Stein Tournament
- He provided an update on the Grand Prix Contest and Best Game of the Year awards, both of which will be presented at the Christmas Party in December.
- Bob announced the publication of the 22nd edition of the NBCC Annual Newsletter and expressed his personal goal of authoring 40 editions before stepping down as Club Historian.
- He presented historical graphs illustrating membership trends, demographics, and Summer Open tournament attendance.
- Members extended their appreciation and congratulations to Bob for his thorough and informative report.

3. President's Report – Suhas Kodali

- President Kodali recognized the indispensable role of club volunteers, with special acknowledgment to:
 - Yonathan & Estee Axelrad – for consistently opening the club every Tuesday.
 - Roger Bessette – for ensuring optimal playing conditions for every Tuesday tournament and for serving as Tournament Director (TD) Coordinator.
- The President expressed gratitude to volunteers supporting outreach programs at local Town Libraries. Several members exchanged ideas on expanding the club's community presence.
- The President raised the matter of CSCA membership renewal for a vote later in the meeting.
- President Kodali announced that he will not seek re-election for the 2026–2027 club calendar year and thanked the membership for their support throughout his tenure.

4. Vice President's Report – David Fusco

- Vice President Fusco reported no new items at this time.

5. Treasurer's Report – NM David Herscovici

- NM Herscovici presented a detailed and comprehensive financial report for 2026.
- Key financial highlights included:
 - A positive change in Unrestricted Net Worth, reflecting strong financial health.
 - Generous donations received from members and supporters throughout the year.
 - Club financial net worth of approximately \$29,000 as of June 2026.
 - Prompt and consistent rent payments to the Armenian Church.
- Members thanked NM Herscovici for his diligent stewardship of club finances.

6. Election of Officers – September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027

The following officers were elected to serve for the 2026–2027 club year:

Position	Officer	Vote
President	David Fusco	Unanimous (32 members)
Vice President	Roger Bessette	Unanimous (32 members)
Treasurer	NM David Herscovici (re-elected)	Unanimous (32 members)
Secretary	Mario Guevara Rodriguez (re-elected)	Unanimous (32 members)

Prior to the vote for President, Norman Burtness asked incoming President-elect Fusco to share his vision for the NBCC. Mr. Fusco expressed his intent to maintain continuity, remain in the role long-term, and take a deliberate approach to reviewing the Club's mission before introducing any significant changes.

7. New Business

- **CSCA Membership Renewal:**
 - Multiple members including Gert Hilhorst and David Maskoff spoke to the benefits of maintaining CSCA membership.
 - A vote was held; 30 members voted in favor of renewal.
- **Social Media & Club Visibility:**
 - A motion was raised to increase the NBCC's presence on social media. Members agreed to recruit volunteers for this initiative.
 - Additional suggestions included distributing branded NBCC merchandise (T-shirts, pens) to promote club identity.

- **Additional Programming:**
 - Nelson Castañeda proposed the addition of a second weekly club session dedicated to training. He also suggested using DGI boards to broadcast live coverage of top tournament games. President-elect Fusco volunteered to follow up on this proposal.
- **TD Compensation:**
 - President Kodali raised the possibility of providing compensation to Tournament Directors. A rich exchange of input from current TDs followed. The incoming Executive Board will determine whether and how to implement this practice.
- **Annual Membership Fees:**
 - Following discussion, President Kodali recommended maintaining current fee levels with no increase. All 32 members present voted in favor.
- **Skittles Room Setup:**
 - President Kodali, Roger Bessette, and Estee Axelrad noted the positive impact of relocating tables and boards to the foyer area for informal play, reducing disruption in the main tournament room.

8. Recognition of Outgoing President

NM David Herscovici offered warm and heartfelt recognition of President Kodali's eight years of service on the Executive Board, including his tenure as President. Under his leadership:

- The Club's financial resources grew substantially.
- Weekly lectures and training sessions were introduced every Tuesday.
- Youth participation and the number of young players increased.
- Support for community outreach programs expanded.
- Volunteer engagement across all club activities grew significantly.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM with 32 members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Mario Guevara Rodriguez

Secretary, New Britain Chess Club