

Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting Australian Go Association

Held on 2 October 2004 at Canberra ACT. Meeting opened at 5.50pm by the President, Devon Bailey. The Secretary, Neville Smythe chaired the meeting.

1 Minutes of the 25th AGM

The minutes had been previously distributed.

*confirmed without amendment
moved T. Purcell / K. Miki*

2 Business arising from the Minutes

— *deferred until later in the meeting*

3 President's Report

Devon Bailey presented his report, which included the following points:
The Melbourne Go Club is to resume holding State Championships, having found a venue. A new Chinese-Australian Go Association has been formed in Sydney, and we look forward to its affiliation with the AGA. Insurance remains an issue unresolved

*Accepted
moved D. Evans /T. Purcell*

4 Secretary's Report

Correspondence was received as usual from the British Go Association and the American Go Association, who send us their Journals and newsletters. The American Go Association made an offer to supply their Journal electronically to our members; Ben Finney was appointed as a contact point, though I have had no further information.

Tony Purcell was the Australian representative at the World Amateur Go Championships. Unfortunately the expected Second Korean World Amateur Championship had to be cancelled this year.

Communication was held with organisers of a proposed Mind Sports Olympiad event to be held in January 2005, to include a Go tournament. It appears this has also had to be cancelled.

The Sydney Korean Baduk Club celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a most successful tournament and party at which leading Korean professionals Cho Hun-hyeon and Yang Jae-ho So were present.

Yi-Ming Guo informs me that a Chinese WeiChi Association has been formed in Sydney.

I held discussions with a representative of Baduk TV on the potential interest Australian players in subscription to an English language version of their service.

Discussion Tony Purcell expanded on the IGF meeting and affiliation with the GAISF, planning to participate in the Intellolympics in Turin 2006-7.

*Accepted
moved D. Bofinger /D. Evans*

5 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer John Hardy presented his report (*attached*) noting the report circulated with the minutes had been amended; the listed income covers only a limited period because of the change in financial year adopted at the previous AGM. A correction to the private members list was noted by K. Miki (*attached report includes the correction*)

*Discussed and accepted
moved N. Smythe / D. Bofinger*

6 IGF Director's Report

Brad Melki was unable to be present but sent a report as follows:

The directors meeting was started by reviewing the application by the IGF to become a member of the GAISF (*attached*). This is seen (in Japan) as being the first step to Olympic recognition — a subject as I have reported in the past which has dominated their thinking for the past four or five years and is something I don't believe will happen. Anyway we have all been encouraged to follow up with our National Olympic Committee and tell them we are now members of the GAISF.

There was also confirmation that the IGF wishes to pursue the idea of the Mind Sports Olympiad with the cooperation of other Federations after GAISF membership is granted to the IGF. This could be interesting because an attempt to

hold a Mind Sports in Melbourne next January has been cancelled. (I think through lack of sponsorship).

One of the most interesting ideas was the proposal from the American director on an international rating system (*attached*). This has been circulated amongst AGA and NZGA committee members previously with some positive comments. It seems like it is destined to fail though as I just can't see everyone (Europe, Korea and China) agreeing.

Accepted
moved N. Smythe /D. Bofinger

7 Editor's Report

Andrew Pullin noted the increased content on the web site, and the very considerable number of hits since moving to broadband, indicating that the web site is performing a useful service. He indicated plans for adding other features such as a tournament package, access to the credit points table, and educational material.

Discussion The Secretary observed that in practical terms the AGA web site together with the Yahoo AusGo site had become the information distribution organs of the AGA and (unless someone wanted to take on the job) production of a printed Journal was unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Accepted
moved D. Bofinger / D. Evans

8 Education Officer's Report

David Evans reported on the practicalities of teaching in schools (gaining access, necessity for a syllabus and cheap equipment). David has a supply of cheap stones and laminated boards for those interested.

Discussion John Hardy commented that the Brisbane club had introduced a second meeting each week offering an introduction to Go to beginners, and this had proved extremely successful in spreading Go and increasing Club membership; it was hoped that a teaching syllabus will be developed to make teaching these classes more organised and efficient. Neville Smythe encouraged other Clubs to take up this idea, and advertise in the Community Events section of the local newspaper.

Accepted
moved D. Bofinger / N. Smythe

9 Rating's Report

Unfortunately Robin Garner has been uncontactable. David Bofinger offered to take on the role of Rating's Officer if Robin could not continue.

10 Business arising from the Minutes

The Secretary re-iterated that Tournament Director's were requested to submit reports on events to the Editor.

Andrew Pullin had investigated the benefits and costs of incorporation. He reported that there was a considerable benefit in that it gives access to very large Government funding grants for cultural and sporting organisations, the criteria for which we appear to be ideally suited; and that therefore the AGA should certainly incorporate at some stage; however we would need to have developed a track record in management, for example in the organisation of inter-Club events before we could succeed in such an application for funding.

The Secretary reported on discussions with Brad Melki on insurance. The Melbourne Club has been offered an insurance policy for an annual premium of approx \$500; this is considerably less than what had been available previously, though still expensive for a single club. The policy could however be taken up by the AGA and cover clubs nationally. In discussion the meeting was generally of the view that a national insurance policy would be desirable; the cost however could only be met by raising the annual dues, which would mean an increase on the order of \$100 per year, a very considerable increase that it was not clear all clubs would accept. It was noted that the dues increase would be lessened if other clubs could be persuaded to join the AGA. It was *agreed* that the details of the policy be sought and a proposal put to the AGA members at the earliest opportunity for decision by postal (email) ballot.

11 Constitution Amendments

The four amendments proposed by John Hardy as detailed in the Agenda were *accepted unanimously*.

The amended Constitution is *attached*.

12 Election of Office Bearers

All positions were declared vacant, and the following elected to the 2004 Committee:

President	Devon Bailey
Vice President	Raphael Shin
Secretary	Neville Smythe
Treasurer and Membership Registrar	John Hardy
IGF Director	Brad Melki
Editor and Webmaster	Andrew Pullin
Committee	David Evans (Education Officer)
	Yi-Ming Guo

David Bofinger (Ratings Officer) * *to be confirmed*

13 28th AGM and Nationals 2005

To be held in Melbourne, with Brian Taylor* as Tournament Director. (Note that the Tournament Director is *ex officio* a member of the Committee.) * *to be confirmed: Brisbane offered to hold the Nationals if Melbourne was unable to confirm.*

14 Other Business

There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 18.30.