

# Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting Australian Go Association

Held on 4 October 2003 at Ashfield, NSW. Meeting opened at 17.17 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

No action was reported on the ongoing question of insurance and incorporation. Andrew Pullin volunteered to look into this.

## 3 President's Report

Devon Bailey presented his report, which included the following points:  
The President noted that Andrew Chi was seriously ill; the members of the AGA sent their very best wishes for his recovery. *Added later by the Secretary: With great sadness we note that Andrew died of cancer in November 2003.* Mr Wu SongShen (AGA National Coach) is currently resident in Sydney and has expressed a willingness to travel to interstate tournaments and events. The 2003 WAGC, originally postponed due to the SARS epidemic, was cancelled; the Hankuk Ki-won (the Korean Go Association) offered a substitute event, in which our representative was Raphael Shin; there is a possibility that the Ki-won will continue to stage a similar event, in which case the AGA may need to select two representatives each year.

*Discussed and accepted  
moved A. Pullin /T. Purcell*

## 4 Secretary's Report

Neville Smythe reported on correspondence received as usual from overseas Go associations: American Go Association and British Go Association (both of which send copies of their Journals), Korean, Japanese, etc., and requests for

Australian contacts from prospective visitors to Australia. Because of the cancellation of the WAGC, the IGF general meeting was not held, but a postal ballot was conducted on the necessary items of business. An increase of IGF dues by 20% was approved, partly required by the costs involved pursuing the IGF's aim of making Go an Olympic sport; an unofficial enquiry to the Australian Olympic Committee made it clear that there is no prospect that AOC would support this however. The Secretary commented that Go in Australia was still languishing, with most State associations and the national committee in need of new blood willing to help on the organisational side of promoting the game; he welcomed the initiative of John Hardy in trying to identify our strengths and weaknesses, threats and opportunities.

*Discussed and accepted  
moved D. Bofinger /K. Miki*

## 5 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer David Evans could not be present; moreover he had difficulty in preparing a report as there had been problems in the transfer of accounts. An interim report was provided, with a complete report to be distributed on his return to Australia.

In summary, the AGA bank account shows an (estimated) balance of \$1564.03, plus \$282.70 cash in hand. Income from membership (\$125 per club, \$25 private members): Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra clubs are financial, Melbourne and the Sydney Korean Club dues not yet received; in addition there are 2 private members. Expenses for the year include IGF affiliation \$318.31, PO Box and stationary etc \$104, supplements for professional visits for NEC Cup and Toyota Cups tournaments \$200, Domain name registration \$64 plus re-imburement for running the web page.

The Webmaster Andrew Pullin lead a detailed discussion of the benefits and costs of the AGA web page. Due to an unexpectedly large number of hits, the data transfer costs were considerably larger than expected and a supplement in addition to the budgetted support was requested. It was agreed that the Webmaster be reimbursed for 2003 expenses, but that Andrew be asked to investigate alternative ISP's and other ways to cap the costs, with the Treasurer to keep a control on continuing expenses.

The situation of small unaffiliated clubs was raised (eg Adelaide, CAS in Sydney, Perth). The Secretary noted that clubs of less than 5 players would not be expected to pay the AGA dues, but may wish to have one member join as a private member as a form of "small club" affiliation. It was suggested that membership be encouraged by advertising on the email list.

The Agenda item, a motion to increase AGA dues, was postponed until other reports had been received *see Other Business*.

## 6 IGF Director's Report

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

"As there was no WAGC this year due to the SARS outbreak and there no Directors meeting (except by correspondence) there is not much to report. However

I would like to touch on a couple of items that we should be aware of. As I have mentioned at previous AGMs the powers that be in the go world seem obsessed with the idea of go becoming an Olympic sport (something I believe will never happen). To this end it has been decided that the IGF should be affiliated with the GAISF (the General Association of International Sports Federations) which will have very little direct effect on us, except that there will be a slight increase in our IGF fees. Accordingly I think we should have a look at our fees and perhaps a slight increase is in order. Speaking of the WAGC - Korea are holding a "wagc" this year with the cancellation of the IGF run event. There is the possibility that this will continue so that we will have two tournaments per year - details as soon as they are available."

*Discussed and accepted  
moved J. Hardy /D. Bofinger*

## 7 Editor's Report

Andrew Pullin reported that there was insufficient material submitted to compose a newsletter. He proposed that Tournament Directors be required to provide a tournament report (not just game results).

## 8 Promotions Committee

Robin Garner was unable to be present due to pressures of a very busy year, but pledged increased availability and attention to ratings matters next year. The committee was pleased to announce the following promotions of official Australian Tournament ranks:

Devon Bailey	2 dan
Gordon Sutton	2 dan
Michael Su	4 dan
Carl Jiang	5 dan
Tony Purcell	5 dan

## 9 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
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster	Andrew Pullin
Committee	David Evans (Education Officer)
	Miki Kazuya
	Robin Garner (Ratings Officer)

## 10 27th AGM and Nationals 2004

To be held in Canberra, in the (NSW) October long weekend, with Tony Purcell as Tournament Director. (Note that the Tournament Director is *ex officio* a member of the Committee.)

## 11 Other Business

1. The Secretary noted that David Evans has arranged a bulk purchase of Go stones from Taiwan for teaching purposes. He proposed that the AGA could usefully acquire 40000 stones in the same way and commission the production of small boards to provide sets at low or no cost to clubs for teaching and promotion; although a major expenditure of AGA funds the meeting was in general agreement this could be a useful initiative. It was agreed that the Secretary and Treasurer investigate the matter with David Evans, having regard to quality and costs.

2. Andrew Pullin presented a proposal that National Go camps be organised at every National Championships, with a Professional in attendance who would then also undertake a tour of Australian Clubs. Andrew has prepared costings for this, assuming 10 to 15 attendees at Pro teaching events each of the 4 major clubs @ a cost of \$80 per person. The possibility of obtaining sponsorship from an Asian airline was also mooted. It was agreed the proposal will be forwarded to Clubs for consideration.

3. John Hardy has prepared a SWOT analysis to be forwarded to Clubs, as the first step in addressing the demonstrable need for a more proactive approach in advancing Go in Australia.

4. John Hardy proposed that the incoming Treasurer adopt an official financial year for the collection of dues.

*carried*  
*moved J. Hardy /T. Purcell*

5. In the light of increased IGF fees and other expected increases in expenditure, the Secretary proposed an increase in AGA dues to \$150 for clubs, \$30 for private members.

*carried*  
*moved N. Smythe /T. Purcell*

Meeting closed at 19.30.