



## Minutes of the AGA Committee meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Present – Neville Smythe (NS), David Mitchell (DGM), Horatio Davis (HD), James Kaaden (JK), Matthew Crossman (MC), Allan Hunt (AH)

Apologies – An Younggil (AYG), Daniel Li (DL), Raphael Shin, Erli Qiu

Guest – Dr Anthony Purcell (AP)

The meeting commenced at 7.03pm (Sydney time)

### Report and proposal from the Constitution sub-committee.

Dr Anthony Purcell was invited to the meeting to discuss the work of the Constitution sub-committee and progress to Incorporation of the association so this agenda item was held ahead of normal business.

The sub-committee decided to modify the existing AGA Constitution, the NSW DFT model constitution would require significant change and it was felt simpler and more efficient to adopt this approach. A copy of the proposed document is attached with these minutes.

Neville Smythe went through the proposed constitution and decisions were made by the committee where appropriate. The key points and decisions in the new document were:

1. Section 1.2 – which acknowledges that the NSW Model Constitution would be invoked if the AGA Constitution is insufficient. It was acknowledged this was the default legal position but making the statement make the document clearer to members. (Agreed)
2. Section 4.2 – the role of membership registrar be included. (Passed with MC & AHD abstaining).
3. Section 4.2 – the role from secretary should be changed to ‘Secretary General’ to reflect current practice. (Agreed)
4. Section 4.2 – the public officer is elected by the committee – this is a legal requirement.
5. Section 4.2 – the role of IGF Director be removed. (Passed with AH and AHD abstaining)
6. Section 4.2 - the role of national coach be included. (Agreed, AH abstained)
7. Section 4.6 – a committee meeting quorum will be three but must include one of the following officers – president, secretary-general, treasurer or vice-president. (Agreed)
8. Somewhere in Section 4 – AP suggest that a statement be included that there will be no limit to the length of time a person can carry out a role. (All roles are subject to vote at an AGM) (Agreed).
9. Section 7.1 – changed to read – that the AGA shall arrange that a national tournament will be held each year to select an Australian Champion.
10. Section 7.2 - the old constitution states that the Australian Go Champion must be an Australian Citizen. The words ‘Australian Citizen’ be removed. (Agreed)
11. Section 8.1 – the register of members must be maintained and be accessible from the Public Officer’s address but the database can be held anywhere. (Noted)



12. Section 8.3 – access to the membership register will be free. (Agreed)
13. Section 9.2 – Include a clause noting the Australian Go Association’s membership of the International Go Federation and the AGA commitment to the IGF’s code of ethics and code breach procedures. (Agreed)
14. New clause in section 5 – The AGA committee reserves the right to cancel a membership application at its own discretion and refund any fee paid. (Agreed).
15. Roles, responsibilities and processes – these are separate from the Constitution and may be subject to change by committees and/or general meetings. (Noted).
16. The disputes process in the model constitution will be included in the AGA Constitution. (Agreed).
17. AP suggest that where a dispute arises between members or groups of members the first level of arbitration is the AGA Committee, after that the dispute process will follow the model constitution. (Agreed).

Neville Smythe was asked to make adjustments to the new constitution in line with the above decisions before the end of January.

David Mitchell will circulate the document to committee members for final review.

David Mitchell will call an EGM to vote on the constitutional changes to coincide with the Hanho Cup to be held in March. Members will be able to vote at the Hanho Cup or email their vote to the Secretary. This complies with the motion passed at the last AGM.

AH proposed a vote of thanks to Dr Anthony Purcell, Neville Smythe and Matthew Crossman for their work changing the constitution and preparing the association of incorporation. This was passed unanimously.

### **Reading & approval of the minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising**

The minutes of the October meeting were read and agreed a true record. Subsequently the date in the heading was corrected by the secretary. (Passed).

### **Proposal to support young kyu players in tournaments**

Version 2 of the proposal was discussed. There was a proposal to change the age limit from 21 to 25 to assist university students. (Passed, NS & AH abstained).

There was a proposal to adjust the payment from a percentage to a fixed amount. This was defeated (AHD and AH abstained).

There was a proposal to run the initiative for 1 year and review it in 2019. (Passed)

DGM proposed the following:

*“That the AGA budget to spend a maximum of \$1000 per annum to support and encourage AGA members 5 kyu and below who are under 25 years of age to play in tournaments.*



# Australian Go Association



*The AGA will pay organizers 80% of the entry fee for any (under 25) AGA member 10kyu or weaker and will pay 50% for any (under 25) AGA member between 9kyu and 5kyu who participate in the tournament.*

*To obtain the subsidy a tournament organizer must apply to the AGA supplying details of the event's costs and prizes at least 2 months ahead of the event.*

*The AGA Committee will consider the application and inform the organizer within 2 weeks (10 working days) of the application and the AGA will set an upper limit for the event.*

*The subsidy is at the discretion of the AGA Committee and the committee's decision is final.*

*Payment of the subsidy will occur when the tournament organizer provides the Agatha file(s) including details of the AGA members eligible for the subsidy."*

This was passed by a majority decision. (AHD against, AH abstained).

DGM will notify clubs and tournament organizers.

## **Proposal to increase the bulk membership rate**

There was discussion on the increase, Neville Smythe observed that the Korean and other communities had not been given a chance to comment and such a change could cause problems. There is not need for the additional funds and current financial situation is stable. The motion was defeated.

Matthew Crossman raised the issue of having bulk memberships at all. That discussion was deferred to a later meeting.

## **Promotions Officer**

The meeting ratified the email vote appointing James Kaaden in the role. James said he was excited by the opportunity. He noted there are many 'free' ways to publicise a club or event, in most cases you need to register first. Apart from the obvious Facebook pages and groups, organizers can register on Google Maps, place an advertisement in TrueLocal, put a listing on Sensis (Yellow Pages), as well as posting on the organizer's city 'What's on' website.

In addition, James plans to strengthen ties between the AGA and other organizations, clubs and people around the world.

## **Player blacklist**

Horatio reported the Queensland Go Society and clubs had banned a player for extreme racist and insulting comments and behaviour. At this time the AGA does not have a mechanism to expel AGA members but once Incorporated that mechanism will exist.

It was agreed that such behaviour was totally unacceptable and that the Queensland Go Society's actions were appropriate.



## Digital Tournament

HD reported that all road-blocks have been overcome and that emails have been sent to previous competitors. A general post and invitation to all AGA members would be sent in the coming days, with the tournament commencing in February.

## Australian Representative selection

HD questioned the need for the Australian Representative to have Australian citizenship and whether Australian residence status would be sufficient. NS told the meeting that the WAGC and KPMC both require representatives to be Australian citizens. Other events such as the Panda Internet tournament do not have that requirement.

## Any other business

HD reported that the National Championships will be in November

JK reported that Wei Zhou will be playing a three round match with the New Zealand champion sponsored by Chinohouse.

There was no further business.

## Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

The meeting closed at 8:39pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018