



# Australian Go Association Inc.

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## AGA 2026 AGM notice to members

Notice is hereby given that the 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Go Association Inc will be held at midday Saturday 28th November 2026 at The Clubhouse, Moorooka, 76 Koala Rd, Moorooka QLD 4105

**All members are encouraged to attend and vote on the following matters at the meeting.**

### Agenda

1. Reading of the minutes of the previous AGM – Document attached with this notice.
2. Reading of the Secretary-General's report (attached).
3. Reading of the Treasurer's report, including P&L and Balance Sheet (spreadsheets attached).
4. Nominations for President – Raphael Shin.
5. Nominations for vice-President & membership registrar – Amy Song.
6. Nominations for Treasurer – James Kaaden.
7. Nominations for Secretary-General – David Mitchell.
9. Nominations for 5 committee members – An Younggil (NSW); Gareth White (NSW), Andre Connell (Qld), Thiago Ramos (Vic) Erli Qiu (Qld).
10. Nominations for National Coach (ex-officio) – An Younggil 8P.
11. Location of 2027 National Championships & AGM.
12. Any other business.



# Australian Go Association Inc.

*ABN 21 578 331 587*

## **Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Go Association Inc.**

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Go Association we held on Saturday 6th December 2025 at the Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, 117 Ryedale Rd, West Ryde, NSW 2114.

The meeting commenced at 12:00pm.

The meeting was chaired by David Mitchell, Secretary General of the AGA who also took the minutes.

Electronic copies of all documents were distributed a month prior to the meeting, and some printed copies were supplied at the meeting.

A list of AGA members at the meeting is in the appendix.

### **Welcome**

David Mitchell welcomed everybody to the meeting.

### **Item 1 – Apologies**

Peter Simpson, Colton Tinkey, and James Kaaden registered their apologies.

### **Item 2 – Minutes of the previous meetings**

The minutes of the previous AGM were read. David Mitchell proposed the documents be accepted as a true record; Neville Smythe seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Item 3 – Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **Item 4 – Officer reports**

The officer reports were distributed with the agenda.



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## Secretary General's report

David Mitchell reported that knowledge and exposure to Go in Australia was improving. This was clearly measurable in the number of kyu players who entered the 2025 Nationals.

The ABC Radio National episode on "God Forbid" had also increased public knowledge and there had been presentations about Go at libraries in North Sydney, Engadine, Cronulla and another is scheduled in 2026 around the Chinese (lunar) new year.

Live lessons continue and are increasing in popularity and the Thursday DDK lesson are also helping people learn and meet fellow Australian Go players.

David Mitchell proposed the report be accepted, Gareth White seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

## IGHF Directors report 2025

The AGA had participated in many international events, including the World Amateur Go Championship, Korean Prime Minister's Cup, World Collegiate Championships, the 2025 Lanke Cup Children's Weiqi tournament and more.

Of note was the Children's team, lead by David Dai. The three Australian children Owen Dai, Leo Chen and William Hu are not yet teenagers but faced team of teenagers with dan rankings. Despite the pressure two of our kyu players beat dan players in even games.

## Treasurer's report

James Kaaden was unable to attend the meeting.

David Mitchell explained the AGA financial policy and the current state reported in the P&L and balance sheet. David also reported the AGA bank balance was \$10,661, this included \$2,500 provision for Live Lessons in 2026. It should be noted that the AGA AGM in 2014 set a lower limit on the AGA bank account of \$7,000.

DGM proposed the Treasurer's report be accepted; Neville Smythe seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

## Item 5 - Election of Office Bearers & Committee members

David Mitchell explained that the AGA Committee was not just a talk fest, everybody on the committee has a role and responsibilities that they fulfil during the year. Anybody taking an



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officer or committee member role must commit to doing something for the Australian Go community.

Election of President - David Mitchell proposed Raphael Shin, seconded by Neville Smythe. There was a call for other nominations but there were none. There being no other candidates Raphael was re-elected unopposed.

Election of Vice-President – David Mitchell proposed Neville Smythe, seconded by David Bofinger. There being no other candidates Neville was re-elected unopposed.

Election of Treasurer – Neville Smythe proposed James Kaaden, seconded by David Mitchell. There was a call for other nominations but there were none. There being no other candidates James was re-elected unopposed.

David Mitchell declared the role of Secretary-General vacant, and Neville Smythe took the chair of the meeting.

Election of Secretary-General – Neville Smythe proposed David Mitchell, seconded by Raphael Shin. There was a call for other nominations but there were none. There being no other candidates David was re-elected unopposed.

David Mitchell resumed as chair of the meeting.

## Election of Membership Registrar

David Mitchell explained that Neville Smythe has been carrying out the role but we need others to take on the role. Amy Song and Gareth White volunteered to take on the role but need Neville's guidance as well as administration access to the Agatha system and database. Subsequent to the meeting, Andrew Fischhoff joined the group.

The function of membership registrar will be carried out by Amy Song, Gareth White and Andrew Fischhoff.



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## Elections of Ordinary Committee Members

The Constitution allows for a committee of nine members including officers. Because of some people holding two officer roles there are five ordinary member vacancies. David Mitchell said there were five nominations so far and called for additional nominations.

There were no additional nominations so Erli Qiu (Qld), Amy Song (NSW), Peter Simpson (WA), Andre Connell (Qld) and An Younggil (NSW) were elected unopposed.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Colton Tinkey for his work over several years to help promote Go in Townsville and northern Queensland. Well done Colton and thank you for doing such a great job. Good luck with your new job and growing family.

## Election of the National Coach

Gareth White proposed An Younggil 8P as the National Coach, seconded by Neville Smythe. There was a call for other nominations but there were none. There being no other candidates Younggil was re-elected unopposed.

## **Item 6 – Location of 2026 Nationals & AGM**

David Mitchell explained that historically the National Championships rotate between NSW, Victoria, and Queensland. The next scheduled state is Queensland.

There was discussion about other locations but the size of clubs and the number of organisers in Tasmania, ACT, Adelaide and WA were too small to run the National Championships. When one or all these states have sufficient members, they will be included in the cycle.

Andre Connell and Erli Qiu from Queensland accepted the nomination and will organise the next National Championships.

## **Item 7 – Any other business**

### **Archivist role**

Bob Watson asked about the Archivist role previously held by Colton Tinkey. DGM explained the appointment was a committee responsibility. Bob said he would be happy to take on the role.



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## **Weiqi.com.au website**

Erli Qiu explained that he registered the domain Weiqi.com.au through his business. It seems some Chinese people cannot not find the AGA website or understand the information. Erli said he would build the website focussing on the Chinese community and would closely link this to the AGA website.

There being no additional matters David Mitchell declared the meeting closed at 12:33pm.



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Those participating in the AGM were:

| Raphael Shin     | Cameron Beard    |  |
|------------------|------------------|--|
| Amy Song         | Patrick Christie |  |
| Neville Smythe   | An Younggil      |  |
| David Mitchell   | David Bofinger   |  |
| Gareth White     | Erli Qiu         |  |
| Billy Sun        | Bob Watson       |  |
| Paul Clay        | Xin Lei          |  |
| Wenjun Wang      |                  |  |
| Xuning Qi        |                  |  |
| Alex Scappa      |                  |  |
| Stephen Webb     |                  |  |
| Andrew Fischhoff |                  |  |
|                  |                  |  |

David Mitchell  
Secretary General



# Australian Go Association Inc.

## Balance Sheet – Year ended 30th June 2026

### ASSETS

#### Current assets

|                                         | 2026                              | 2025                              |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Transaction bank account                | \$ 584.78                         | \$ 2,147.85                       |
| PayPal balance                          | \$ 9,236.34                       | \$ 6,627.66                       |
| Prepaid dues (IGF Fees)                 |                                   |                                   |
| Amounts owed to AGA                     | \$ -                              | \$ -                              |
| <b>Inventory of AGA physical assets</b> |                                   |                                   |
| Go Sets (ING)                           |                                   | \$ 1,920.00 24 sets @ \$80 each   |
| Go Books                                | \$ 600.00 60 books @ \$10 each    | \$ 1,350.00 135 books @ \$10 each |
| AGA lapel pins                          | \$ 1,294.92 436 pins @\$2.97 each | \$ 1,294.92 436 pins @\$2.97 each |
| <b>Total current assets</b>             | <b>\$ 11,716.04</b>               | <b>\$ 13,340.43</b>               |
| Loss on asset disposal                  |                                   |                                   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                     | <b>\$ 11,716.04</b>               | <b>\$ 13,340.43</b>               |

### LIABILITIES

#### Current liabilities

|                                  |             |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Money owed to be paid onwards    |             |             |
| IGF dues owed                    | -           | -           |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |

#### Long-term liabilities

|                                    |                     |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total long-term liabilities</b> | <b>\$ -</b>         | <b>\$ -</b>         |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>           | <b>\$ -</b>         | <b>\$ -</b>         |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                  | <b>\$ 11,716.04</b> | <b>\$ 13,340.43</b> |

### EQUITY

|                  |              |              |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Opening balance  | \$ 13,340.43 | \$ 15,497.01 |
| Change in equity | -\$ 1,624.39 | -\$ 2,156.58 |
| Closing balance  | \$ 11,716.04 | \$ 13,340.43 |



## Australian Go Association Inc.

### Profit and Loss (2 year comparison)

| Expenditure                                 |                               |                     |                     |                    |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| ID                                          | Operating Expenditure Actuals | 2024/25 expenditure | 2025/26 expenditure | Year comparison \$ |
| <i>A' sheets are for actual expenditure</i> |                               |                     |                     |                    |
| A01                                         | IGF Fees                      | \$ 279              | \$ -                | \$ (279)           |
| A02                                         | Bank charges                  | \$ 119.3            | \$ 106.2            | \$ (13.1)          |
| A03                                         | Internet & software           | \$ 533.7            | \$ 568.3            | \$ 34.7            |
| A04                                         | Sponsorships and Bursaries    | \$ -                | \$ -                | \$ -               |
| A05                                         | Write-offs and adjustments    | \$ -                | \$ -                | \$ -               |
| A06                                         | Postage and stationery        | \$ -                | \$ 114              | \$ 114             |
| A07                                         | Tournament & Live Lessons     | \$ 7,023            | \$ 7,423            | \$ 400             |
| A08                                         | Merchandise                   | \$ -                | \$ -                | \$ -               |
| A09                                         | Other                         | \$ 1,553            | \$ 57               | \$ (1,496)         |
|                                             | <b>Total Actual Expenses</b>  | <b>\$ 9,507</b>     | <b>\$ 8,269</b>     | <b>\$ (1,238)</b>  |

Income less expenditure 2024/25      \$      (3,718)  
Income less expenditure 2025/26      \$      (1,055)

| Income                                 |                            |                 |                 |                    |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| ID                                     | Operating Income Actuals   | 2024/25 Income  | 2025/26 Income  | Year comparison \$ |
| <i>I' sheets are for actual income</i> |                            |                 |                 |                    |
| I01                                    | Bulk Membership            |                 |                 |                    |
| I02                                    | Tournament                 | \$ 1,098        | \$ 3,684        | \$ 2,586           |
| I03                                    | Donations                  | \$ 4,690        | \$ 3,230        | \$ (1,460)         |
| I04                                    | Direct Membership          |                 |                 |                    |
| I05                                    | Merchandise                | \$ -            | \$ 300          | \$ 300             |
| I06                                    | Other                      | \$ 1.49         | \$ -            | \$ (1.49)          |
|                                        |                            |                 |                 |                    |
|                                        |                            |                 |                 |                    |
|                                        | <b>Total Actual income</b> | <b>\$ 5,789</b> | <b>\$ 7,214</b> | <b>\$ 1,424</b>    |



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November 2026

## AGA Secretary-General's Report for 2026

This AGM marks the first time since the birth of the Australian Go Association in 1979 that Neville Smythe will not be standing for an officer role or member of the AGA committee. Neville is one of the founders of the AGA and has worked tirelessly over many years for the AGA to promote Go in Australia and around the world. Also, Neville developed, maintained and enhanced the Agatha software which is central to almost every aspect of the AGA. The most common use of Agatha is to run tournaments, but it is central to AGA membership management, mailing list management, player rankings and representative points and much more.

In recognition of Neville's contribution, the AGA Committee have created an annual award called the Neville Smythe Medal. The medal will be presented at the National Championships each year for "Services to Go and the Go Community in Australia". The AGA committee will ask for nominations and prepare a short list. A voting slip will be emailed to all AGA members along with the AGM agenda. Members can then email their vote and the person with the most votes will be awarded the Neville Smythe Medal.

This year the winning recipient will be presented with the inaugural medal at the AGA National Championships in Brisbane at the end of November.

In other AGA news from 2026. Volunteers remain the mainstay of Go activities in Australia. Everything from maintaining our website, registering new/renewed members, teaching DDK players, running clubs, organising tournaments, presenting at Libraries and schools, to player rankings, rep points and the selection of representatives at major international events is done by volunteers.

Some of the key events and activities over the year were:

- The International Team Challenge matches which have been a resounding success. Conceived by Amy Song, the format brings together teams comprising players from kyu through to dan levels to compete against teams from other countries. This innovative approach gives many kyu players a rare opportunity to represent their country, something that was previously available to only a few strong Dan players.

The inaugural match under this format was contested between Australia and New Zealand. Gareth White of the Sydney Go Club played a key role in recruiting players and coordinating the event, while An Younggil provided live commentary via Zoom. The



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contest was closely fought and remained undecided until the final game, with Australia securing victory by the narrowest margin.

The success of the New Zealand match inspired the Philippines to issue a challenge to Australia. That match is still in progress with both teams having three players left. Thailand has also expressed interest in having a match in 2027.

- Live Lessons have continued to be popular. For the second year in a row, we have funded An Younggil's Live lesson through local donations only. A special call out to Raphael Shin, David Mitchell, Des Blackwell, Gareth White, and Andrew Fischhof who made extremely generous contributions during the year.
- Neville Smythe and Des Blackwell continue to teach Go as a subject in the U3A curriculum. The lessons are very popular with some 'graduates' attending the Canberra club. More lessons are planned for 2027.
- Des Blackwell has established Go Clubs at three schools in Canberra, but the education department rules and lack of an enthusiastic teacher is proving to be a hurdle to extending Go education beyond a lunchtime/after-school club.
- The Anime Gaming Convention expanded in 2026 to include Sydney. There were 10 volunteer teachers at the Sydney convention with many people seeing and learning how to play. Both the Sydney and Melbourne events went extremely well.
- Peter Hu has established a new Go Club in Melbourne at The Nunawading Community Hub, 96-106 Springvale Rd, which meets every Sunday. If you live in Melbourne or are visiting and have spare time on a Sunday, contact one of the organisers (details are on the AGA website).
- Presentations at libraries in Sydney continue to generate interest and money. This year there have been two presentations by David Mitchell and Amy Song at Ashfield and Cronulla libraries. The libraries paid the AGA a total of \$750 for the presentations which went towards An Younggil's Live Lessons.



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- Erli Qiu launched his website [weiqi.au](http://weiqi.au) in October. The aim is to engage more closely with the Chinese community in Australia and overseas. It also invites schools to request assistance to include Go in their school.
- Online DDK lessons continue with a thriving online 'club' meeting to discuss games and talk about their experiences. The DDK lessons also triggered the creation of a YouTube channel (Time to Kill) which uses problems as a learning tool. Assisting in reading, shape recognition and tesuji.

All the things mentioned are the result of people taking the bull by the horns and doing things. Nothing happens unless somebody does something.

The demand for activities that stimulate the mind is stronger than ever. As awareness grows around brain-related conditions such as dementia, depression and ADHD, there is increasing recognition of the value of mind sports like Go. Now is the perfect time to start a club, teach others, or simply share your passion for the game. Take inspiration from the examples above, connect with your local library and schools, and help introduce more people to Go. Remember, opportunities rarely appear on their own, so don't be afraid to ask.

If you want to help promote Go, please contact the AGA (email: [secretary@AustralianGo.asn.au](mailto:secretary@AustralianGo.asn.au)) for advice and guidance. You will get an enthusiastic welcome and as much assistance as the AGA can offer.

Enjoy your Go.

David Mitchell,  
Secretary-General,  
AGA Inc



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## AGA 2026 Neville Smythe Medal ballot paper

The Neville Smythe Medal is named after a founder and longest serving member of the AGA management committee with almost 50 years of service. The medal is for "Services to Go and the Go Community in Australia" and will be presented at the National Championships each year.

Candidates can be nominated by one or more AGA members during the year. The AGA committee will consider all nominations and prepare a short list for voting in the month prior to the AGM. All candidates must be AGA members.

The candidates for the 2026 inaugural Neville Smythe Medal (in alphabetic family name sequence) are:

1. **Des Blackwell:** For establishing clubs and teaching children in several schools in Canberra. Establishing Go as a subject at the University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age (U3A) and teaching for 2 years and more in the pipeline.
2. **David Mitchell:** For teaching weekly online DDK lessons for 2 years; publishing over 60 YouTube life and death teaching problems; contacting, organising and presenting Go at Libraries in Sydney; teaching Go to children in primary and high schools including Grose Vale, Kirrawee High & Forest Lodge.
3. **Amy Song:** For establishing and implementing the International Teams Tournament including establishing contact with overseas associations; finding players for the teams and ensuring the matches ran smoothly; continuing to support the Sydney University Go club so it continues to thrive. Assisting with library presentations and other AGA events.
4. **Gareth White:** Establishing and building the Sydney Go Club in the post Covid era; assisting Amy Song with the International Teams Tournament including finding the teams and hosting the game commentaries; tournament Director for all major NSW tournaments.

Please email the name of the person you wish to receive the award including your AGA membership number to [australiangoinc@gmail.com](mailto:australiangoinc@gmail.com) and you will receive an email acknowledging your message.

Please note: there is a problem with the [secretary@australiango.asn.au](mailto:secretary@australiango.asn.au) email address and some emails are not reaching their destination.



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