

# Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting Australian Go Association

Held on 5 October 2002 at Griffith University, Brisbane Queensland. Meeting opened at 17.50.

## 1 Minutes of the 24th AGM

The minutes had been previously distributed.

*The minutes were confirmed.*

## 2 President's Report

Devon Bailey presented his report as follows:

We have had the usual run of AGA activities again this year.

Congratulations are in order for quite a few people again this year:

- The Brisbane team for their magnificent effort in organising the Inaugural Toyota-Denso Cup Qualifying Competition and now backing up with the Australian Open Championships.
- The Melbourne Club has once again inspired the NEC people to support the NEC Cup.
- Shelley Mo and Tony Purcell have represented Australia in the World Pairs Go.
- Yiming Guo has represented Australia well in the WAGC, being slightly unlucky with the SOS system of deciding contested positions.
- The Canberra Club put on their usual ACT Championships under the slightly muddled aegis of the ANU Chess Club.
- Sydney saw a mighty tussle between Messrs Chi, Wang, Shin and Guo for the major honours.
- There are many KGS players appearing online from non-capital city areas. Anyone meeting one such is requested to suggest that AGA membership may be a good idea.
- Neville Smythe has been doing battle with the potential spammers of the Ausgo Group.

- Robin Garner has brought the official rankings to a useable level. I hope that everyone who could has already reported approvals and anomalies already.
- Brad Melki has maintained his role with the IGF and at home has been doing serious battle with the insurance companies.

*The report was accepted.*

### 3 Secretary's Report

Neville Smythe reported on correspondence received as usual from overseas Go associations: American Go Association, Koreans, Japanese, BGA etc., and requests for Australian contacts from prospective visitors to Australia.

*The report was accepted.*

### 4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report (*attached*) was presented. Robin Garner was unable to attend the AGM and so could not speak to the report. It was noted that only two clubs were listed as having paid dues and some clubs were in arrears for two years (and so those clubs were technically no longer members) leading to the writing off of debts; the need to regularise collection of dues was noted. *With this note and the expectation that the incoming Treasurer will amend the financial report for 2002 to include late payments*

*the report was accepted.*

*added by the Secretary after the meeting:* dues were received from the Brisbane Club for 2002 and from the Sydney Korean Club for 2001 and 2002; the Melbourne Club is expected to remit its arrears in due course.

### 5 IGF Director's Report

Brad Melki reported as follows:

My apologies to the meeting for not being present.

There really is not much to report on this year as the main thrust of the whole meeting was geared at making go an olympic "sport". This has been bubbling along for a few years now and I can't see it ever coming to fruition but the Japanese seem particularly determined. Below is the relevant excerpt for your reference.

The only other thing worthy of note was that for the first time during the WAGC the computer draw also decided colours for the players. It was worked out (by a better mathematician than I) that once every second WAGC someone would play all eight games with the same colour. It will be a permanent feature of this tournament (and quite a few in Europe) from now on.

The IOC question

(i) The Netherlands, Italy, China and Korea already have ideal relationships with their National Olympic Committee (NOCs). We are informed that in some parts of central Europe there is a tendency to regard go as a sport. However, according to the results of the survey conducted by the IGF Office, in accordance with a decision made at last year's Directors Meeting, of relations between member countries and their NOCs, no specific new progress could be confirmed, and it is the judgement of the office that no success can be expected along these lines in the near future. The results of a European survey are scheduled to be reported to the office by the end of this year.

Examples of the answers received by the office are given below:

- India: Go is considered a sport, but branches of the association would have to be established in 11 or more provinces to qualify for affiliation with the National Sports Federation. Financially, this will require a considerable period of time.
- Central and South America: not one answer confirming a relationship between the go organization and the NOC.
- U.K.: Legally, mind sports cannot be recognized as sports. However, chess is flourishing in the U.K., and FIDE (the international chess federation) is affiliated with GAISF and is seeking to achieve IOC recognition.

(ii) Concerning the possibility of affiliation with GAISF (the General Association of International Sports Federations), an exchange of opinions between Erik Puyt, the original proposer of this measure and the IGF Office has been carried out, and it was decided at the 23rd Directors Meeting to recommend applying for affiliation. If affiliation was approved, a budgetary measure of just under 300, 000 yen would become necessary, which would have to be handled in some way. The significance of GAISF affiliation is that it would assist not only pursuing relations with NOCs but also in seeking recognition of go as a sport by international sports organizations. Also, on the staff level, there are many connections between GAISF and the IOC, so GAISF membership would also help in obtaining information related to the IOC in the future.

*The report was accepted.*

## 6 Editor's Report

Andrew Pullin reported on the ongoing difficulties in getting material for the Newsletter and appealed to all Clubs to send any information on Club activities which would be of interest to the wider Go community. As Webmaster for the AGA he reported that the new AGA web site has successfully obtained a domain name — AustralianGo.asn.au — and it should be operational very shortly.

*The report was accepted.*

## 7 Promotions Committee

Robin Garner supplied an analysis of Tournament results for the year with recommendations for promotions and Encouragement Awards. It was agreed the Committee will make a determination on these recommendations.

*The report was accepted.*

## 8 Election of Office Bearers

All office bearers were elected unopposed.

President	Devon Bailey
Vice President	Raphael Shin
Secretary	Neville Smythe
Treasurer and Membership Registrar	David Evans
IGF Director	Brad Melki
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster	Andrew Pullin
Committee	John Hardy
	Miki Kazuya
	Robin Garner

## 9 Nationals 2003

To be held in Sydney, in the (NSW) October long weekend, with Devon Bailey as Tournament Director.

## 10 Other Business

A motion to have fixed dates for the State Championships was discussed. While thought desirable, the inherent difficulties probably make this impossible; however Clubs should make every attempt to arrange their tournaments according to the following timetable:

- Victoria late January
- NEC March
- Queensland late May/ early April
- NSW June long weekend
- ACT late July

The Melbourne Club has experienced difficulty in obtaining public liability insurance, necessary for hiring many venues; they raised the possibility of a national insurance cover. This matter had been raised before when the Adelaide Club had the problem. The meeting felt that under present conditions and the financial position of the AGA, we could not afford national coverage without a large increase in dues which was not to the benefit of most members. The meeting however agreed that the Treasurer should make enquiries about the

cost of coverage, and keep a watching brief on this issue reporting to the next AGM. It was pointed out that national insurance coverage may require incorporation of the Association; the Treasurer was asked to also report on this issue.

Meeting closed at 19.00.