

The Gap Chess Club Incorporated Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Date: 18 December, 2015

Place: The Gap Tavern, 21 Glenquarie Place, The Gap

The meeting commenced at 8:15pm.

Present

In person: Andrew Robinson, James Hiller, Cameron De Vere, John Ryland, Ray Adams

By proxy: Tony Howes, Shane Mather, Martin Laizans, Tony Morris, Nicholas Petrie

Apologies

Nil

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous annual general meeting were accepted.

Proposed: Andrew Robinson. Seconded: John Ryland. Accepted with no objections.

Voting

It was agreed that all present at the meeting were current financial members of the club and therefore eligible to vote on matters at this AGM. Five proxies were accepted, all made in favour of the chairman. With a quorum achieved the meeting could proceed.

Management committee reports

President's report / DOP Report

Andrew Robinson gave verbal report, as set out below.

Participation in club tournaments

Participation rates in club tournaments has reached an all time high, with the aggregate totals of entries for the club's four main tournaments surpassing the previous record set in 2006. The figures for the past 21 years (1995 to 2016) are set out in **Appendix A**.

Reasons for increased membership and participation

It was noted that the club has benefited from the participation of family groups, including multiple members from the Morris, Petrie, Mather and Hiller families. It is important therefore to continue to make our club attractive for these people so they will want to remain part of our club. Thanks was given to the rest of our membership for doing their best to make this happen.

New players to our club

To increase, or even just maintain our current membership levels, it is important to provide a welcoming environment for new players. Because of the club's heavy load of tournament play, particularly during the Flood Cup and Stuart Wilson Trophy, it is not possible for the Club President to always be available to introduce new players to our club and explain what we have to offer. Therefore, it has been pleasing to see others stepping in and providing this welcome. It is to be encouraged for a wide variety of players to be involved in this, to give new players a representative view of the club's membership and playing skills.

It is also useful if we can try to discern what the new player is seeking from the club. Some players come seeking instruction and coaching to improve their game. Others just want to come and play, appreciate the social atmosphere of the club, and are not bothered to learn chess theory. So if we can tailor how we manage new players depending on what they are after, they will be more likely to come back.

At this point Ray said he felt our club players should play below strength in games with new players, because he felt that a heavy loss would turn off the new player. Andrew disagreed, and said that all players should feel free to play at whatever playing strength they wished, and should not be criticised for playing strong or skilful chess, even against a novice. Because the club has a wide variety of playing strength in its ranks, it is desirable for new players to play a wide variety of club members, both strong players and less skilled or experienced, as this is more likely to lead to new players feeling a part of the club, and this therefore leads to the retention of new players.

Western Echo

Andrew mentioned the contribution of Tony Howes in preparing monthly chess columns promoting our club in *The Western Echo*. This remains a fine channel for the club to project its voice into the local community, and the club thanks Tony for his contribution

Catering

Andrew thanked Ray for his sterling efforts continuing to provide the catering each Friday night. Andrew added that this job is not Ray's sole responsibility and it will be appreciated if others assist Ray, in particular with the cleaning up at the end of the evening.

Report to be accepted: Proposed: John Ryland. Seconded: James Hiller. Accepted. Carried unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer's report

John Ryland gave a verbal summary and presented the financial statements. Cameron De Vere pointed out a few inaccuracies in the statements and John corrected these during the meeting and the revised statements were discussed. John drew the members' attention to a few key points:

- Income for 2014-15 was \$2184.40, which nearly covered the club's expenses of \$3071.69, after allowing for \$581.60 depreciation, plus the exception expense of purchasing DGTs and batteries amounting to a further \$391.50.
- Therefore the fee structure seems adequate to cover expenses into the next year

Report to be accepted: Proposed: Cameron De Vere. Seconded: Andrew Robinson. Accepted. Carried unanimously.

Election of office bearers for 2016

All positions were declared vacant and the following office bearers were elected.

President: Andrew Robinson
Vice-President: Ray Adams
Secretary: John Ryland
Treasurer: John Ryland
Tournament Director/Arbiter: Andrew Robinson
Publicity Officer: Tony Howes
Equipment Officer: James Hiller
CAQ Delegate: Andrew Robinson

Candidates for all positions were elected unanimously and unopposed.

General business

Digital Game Timers

Andrew advised of an audit he conducted of equipment just prior to the Marcus Porter Memorial Tournament. At present there are ten working DGTs in the possession of the club, five original DGTs and the five new DGTs purchased by the club in May 2015.

Should any further DGTs fail then it is recommended the club should consider purchasing more DGTs due to the recent higher membership levels.

Meeting closed at 8:41pm.

Appendix A

Year	Flood Cup	SW Trophy	Allegro	Lightning	Participation
1995	11	10	9	10	40
1996	14	17	14	10	55
1997	21	16	13	12	62
1998	20	9	17	15	61
1999	10	13	13	9	45
2000	13	16	11	9	49
2001	9	10	8	4	31
2002	10	11	10	9	40
2003	16	14	11	9	50
2004	16	14	15	11	56
2005	17	16	13	10	56
2006	19	18	15	11	63
2007	13	12	9	9	43
2008	16	13	11	11	51
2009	10	11	9	11	41
2010	11	14	9	7	41
2011	10	14	8	8	40
2012	9	9	9	12	39
2013	8	12	9	10	39
2014	13	12	13	11	49
2015	18	18	15	15	66