

2018 QGS Annual General Meeting

The fifth annual general meeting of the Queensland Go Society will be held at lunchtime on the first day of the thirty-eighth Queensland Go Championships. That is, at noon on Saturday the twenty-fourth of March at room -2.11, Glyn Davis Building N72, on the Nathan Campus of Griffith University. The quorum for this meeting is eleven members present and entitled to vote, there being 18 voting members and three life members enrolled as of Friday the twenty-third of March, 2017.

The agenda for the meeting is:

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2017 annual general meeting.
2. Annual report of the general secretary of the Queensland Go Society.
3. Reports, if any, of the chapter convenors.
4. Election of a general secretary of the Queensland Go Society.
5. Election of a convenor for the Brisbane Go Club.
6. Consideration of the National Championships to be held this year in Queensland.
7. General business.
8. Location and date of the next Queensland Open.

There are no items of general business so far. You can notify the general secretary of further items beforehand, or make them as motions on the floor of the meeting. Items that do not come attached to motions will be summarily tabled: less meeting, more lunch.

Apologies so far: Cecil Kuo, Mark Bell, Helmut Loiskandl.

2017 Annual Report – Queensland Go Society

At the last Queensland Open, we had four chapters, Brisbane, Gold Coast, USQ Toowoomba, and SCU Lismore, and gave some discussion to further chapters. As of this year, we have those four chapters plus two nascent university clubs – Griffith University (Nathan and Mount Gravatt) and the University of Queensland (as a division of the UQ Chess Club). The last roster of Queensland players sent to the AGA to be deemed Australian Go Association members boasted 3 life members, 18 voting members and 39 registered players. This year there are still 3 life and 18 voting members, but we have 56 registered players – as a reminder, a registered player didn't pay for voting membership but does play in a chapter somewhere. Mostly this is new players turning up at clubs.

We continue to have a standing invitation from the Critical Mass North board gaming group (who moved from Chermside to Banyo libraries and thus changed name) to turn up with go boards, and have taken them up on it at intervals. I would like to thank Justin Shin for keeping this going for some months. However, with his move back south to pursue the next phase of his medical career, I have had to take this over. The northside go group have been meeting since January at the Conexio Café in Albany Creek on the second Friday evening of each month. If you're within cooee, drop in.

My goals remain somewhat obsessively unchanged: get players into the clubs if they can reach them, get competitors into the tournaments if they can do so, and make some options for the rest. As I give this report, the sixth round of the 3rd Australian Digital tournament should be ticking over, giving Queenslanders such as last year's Gold Coast Champion Cobby Ge from Townsville options to play some go with others in Queensland, Australia and New Zealand. Suggestions to further my quest are welcome.

Allan Hunt continues as Brisbane Go Club convenor, and I have been enjoying the club's meetings at the new place in the basement of Ace Comics and Games, Annerley; they have been splendid hosts for Tuesday nights, and also for the 4th Brisbane Spring in September, for which they busted out the big gaming room.

Yoko Usami continues a splendid job as Gold Coast Go Club secretary, running monthly Sunday afternoon meetings and hosting the 7th Gold Coast Classic at Links Hope Island.

In January, we set out to visit the USQ Toowoomba go players, led by Michael Baczynski; there was a warm reception and we met a very promising double handful of players, and gifted them some equipment as an upgrade. I think next time the road trip to Toowoomba will go faster, as I can now get lost more efficiently.

During the year there was an ongoing effort to get the Ing World Collegiate Go championship hosted at the University of Queensland, and I would like very much to thank Allan Hunt and Mark Bell for their efforts. Alas, it fell through; you will be pleased to know that instead this year it landed in Cambridge University, England and next year will probably be at the University of Sydney. Students from Australia are expected to be included, and I commend the British Go Society's web page on the matter if you want to enter as an Australian university student.

As always, I am closing my report with thanks to the usual suspects: Allan Hunt, Edwin Clarke, Sun Woo Nam, Justin Shin, Erli Qiu, Yoko Usami, Michael Baczynski, Robin Garner, and all of you who play, here today or not. Enjoy the rest of the tournament.

2017 Annual Report – Brisbane Go Club

In the last year, we have changed home to Ace Comics and Games in Annerley, and began gathering revenue for the first time in several years - a trait which is, to my knowledge, unique among Queensland clubs. As a result, we have begun building a financial buffer for new equipment, funding tournaments, advertising material, renting venues and other services. The fact that we share a bank account with the QGS, in combination with the creation of a local business selling go equipment, had allowed them to begin gifting equipment to other clubs, such as the Toowoomba club and the nascent UQ club. This has also helped create closer relationships between other clubs in the South East region.

The Facebook page has also been attracting an audience, which also allows us to advertise event nights, such as our monthly cake and pizza nights. These are intended to encourage attendance, and seems to be a success in that regard. Attendance has been tracking upwards, with an average of 8 people attending in the three months following the move, which has increased to 10 (with periodic increases to 15) in the last two months. In an attempt to capitalise on this increase, as well as establishing a stronger base for rankings, a round robin tournament is planned for next month.

2017-2018 Queensland Go Society Finances

- The March 2017 Queensland Open had a turnover of \$545.20 and made a loss of \$129.18. This includes payment of \$200 to the Australian Go Association for 2017 bulk subscriptions of our players. But now you know why the 2018 registration fees are so high.
- The 2017 Brisbane Spring tournament in September had a turnover of \$737.40 and made a profit of \$222.60. The venue only cost us \$5/head, the rest was catering and prizes.

- The 2017 Gold Coast Classic in October had a turnover of \$892.22 and made a loss of \$502.22. Low turnout due to mass illness, and expensive \$760 catering and venue charge to Links Hope Island.
- Just before the 2018 Queensland Open, the account balance was \$2738.88 compared with \$3185.40 just before the 2017 Queensland Open, \$3868.45 just before the 2016 Queensland Open, and \$4211.30 just before the 2015 Queensland Open.
- We spent \$170 on equipment for USQ Toowoomba and \$60 on equipment for UQ chapters, because frankly they didn't have any boards.
- Brisbane Go Club is depositing approximately \$100/month (\$1174 in the twelve months to March 2018) in surplus meeting fees. This and any profits from the tournaments are the only income the Society has. Adequate for self-insuring the tournament equipment. Just.
- The society's funds are kept in the same ANZ Bank account with Visa debit access as last year. The card holders are myself, Allan Hunt, and Mark Bell.