

2019 Annual General Meeting

Queensland Go Society

The sixth annual general meeting of the Queensland Go Society will be held at lunchtime on the first day of the thirty-ninth Queensland Go Championships. That is, at noon on Saturday the ninth of February at the major gaming room of the Magic Vault, 9 South Pine Road, Alderley. The quorum for this meeting is 10 members present and entitled to vote, there being 13 voting members, three other members with like privileges and three life members enrolled as of Friday the eighth of February, 2018.

The agenda for the meeting is:

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2018 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 librarian for the Queensland Go Society.
6. Election of a convenor for the Brisbane Go Club.
7. Consideration, and if thought fit, adoption of changes to the QGS constitution.
8. General business.
9. 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: Edwin Clarke, Matt Watson, Erli Qiu, Yoko Usami, Michael Baczynski.

2018-2019 Annual Report – Queensland Go Society – Horatio Davis

On the third of May in 2014, the Queensland Go Society was born from the last general meeting of the Brisbane Go Club. The experiment with incorporation had run its course, and we were looking for a new way forward. The consensus among the senior players left standing was to split the club's responsibilities between a state federation to carry the money and assets and the state tournament calendar; and two chapters, who would meet and play go at street level.

The Queensland Go Society is my problem now, but we were lucky enough to have Mark Bell as our first general secretary. He earned his life membership booting up the organisation with his trademark style and panache. The new, leaner Brisbane Go Club managed to survive having me at the helm for its first year, then Jason Mackay-Dwyer (who pioneered the job title of Supreme High Overlord), and then Allan Hunt perma-volunteered. The Gold Coast Go Club, on the other hand, has had Yoko Usami and Erli Qiu leading it since time immemorial; after it became a peer of the Brisbane Go Club, they just kept on trucking.

Five annual general meetings later, here we are. And it's appropriate to look back at how the last five years went, then look forward to the next five years. And, later on, I'll propose a few course corrections.

It's traditional to have slides, or at least a whiteboard. Happily, the only visual aid I actually need is our banner. On it are insignia of six go clubs, which is four more chapters than we started with:

- Lismore in 2016, being essentially the Southern Cross University lunchtime go crowd and the indefatigable Pache family; since then they've more migrated around than expanded, acquiring Keith Trevett but losing Yanis to university in Melbourne, so the monthly play covers northern New South Wales but the numbers aren't any bigger.
- The Bun Bu Ryu Do, which sounds like the kind of dedicated martial artists you'd find at the Toowoomba campus of the University of Southern Queensland. By coincidence, they are; it's just that they regard go as the game of the samurai, so they have a weekly playing meeting during semester, and we affiliated them in 2016.
- Griffith Go Club, which we actually started on purpose at the Nathan campus of Griffith University in 2017. At present it's tiny, ragged, irregular and has yet to start a proper expansion phase, at least partly because what passes for a student union at Nathan doesn't like the idea of chess or go clubs, and has not been cooperative. Yet.
- The University of Queensland Chess Club, which we, um, liberated from only playing chess in 2018. Now they're playing 60% chess, 30% go, and are staring thoughtfully at shogi and xiangqi, at the request of the UQ Student Life office. I am looking forward to see how things kick off on market day during O Week this month. So are they.

In sum, the society is still anchored by the two flagship chapters at Brisbane and the Gold Coast, which are operating like proper go clubs, Sydney- and Melbourne-style. Brisbane I'll leave to Allan to talk about. The Gold Coast is in a steady state with strong players, beginners, a monthly meeting full of all the strengths in between at a posh resort golf club, and an annual city championship in its ninth episode this year. Two chapters are in a holding pattern until more volunteer time can be applied to wring a critical mass out of their catchment populations, and the last two, UQ Saint Lucia and USQ Toowoomba, hold out the prospect of growth.

Growth is planned, to the extent we are planning, on three axes:

1. Building a presence in the major universities, to harvest the population of international students and long-term aficionados of the game lurking in the depths of the big campuses
2. organic growth in the flagship chapters, both encouraging returning members from elder days and growing fresh players from scratch, recruited at Learn To Play Go events
3. ramping up to six tournaments a year, to give strong and senior players an excuse for days full of challenging go, and a place socialise with their peers, and the rest of the go community a chance to come out of the woodwork and rise to the challenge thus presented.

UQ is a valuable first step on the first axis, and the challenge is to consolidate the initial burst of growth into something sustainable. If we can get inside the regular life cycle of recruiting in O Week and retaining through the semester, and then keeping one or two of the most active players as local volunteers so it doesn't require airdrops of resources from the state level, we're golden. Then we can figure out how to debug Griffith.

Brisbane is the big push on the second axis, which might explain why it now meets twice a week, on Tuesday nights and Friday nights. Because it's not even half the drive and has more juniors to play with, I'm sitting in on Friday night go here at the Magic Vault, while Allan and Matt between them are carrying Tuesday nights with style.

The third axis, well. This is the Queensland Open; then there will be the Australian Digital from March, the Jenny Yang Realty Cup in May, the rebooted MCSQ Cup in June, the Brisbane Spring in September, and the Gold Coast Classic in October. The University of Queensland has asked for

details about how we would partner with them for a university championship tournament, so that will be seven.

As you can see, the choke point on growth is not paths forward, nor ideas about ways to walk them. It's volunteer man-hours. At present I'm holding down a vice-presidency at the UQ Chess and Go club, wrangling one of the meetings at the Brisbane Go Club, the general secretaryship of the Queensland Go Society, and about half the tournament director duties. Allan Hunt likes to pretend he isn't holding down another thirty percent of the tournament direction, a majority of the non-tournament events, the supreme high overlordship of the Brisbane Go Club, and backup on the UQ and Griffith clubs. Matt Watson is Allan's second at the Brisbane Go Club, the inaugural librarian of the Queensland Go Society, and carries most of the remaining tournament work. Yoko and Erli together have been carrying the majority of the diplomatic duties, guests from interstate and overseas, in addition to holding down the Gold Coast club. Just the five of us.

It's getting better. After Mark Bell's retirement it was just the two of us. Now we have more volunteers, and can sustain. All we need to do is triple the numbers, and we'll have enough to thrive.

This year will be the year of ravelling all the loose ends, putting all the events on a sustainable basis, and putting systems in place to build future capacity and lower barriers to volunteering. Later on this meeting, I will be asking for some changes to our constitution.

Here's to another five years.

2018-2019 Annual Report – Brisbane Go Club – Allan Hunt

Over the last year we have started many new projects that will be continued and expanded this year.

First, our northside meetings found a home at The Magic Vault in Alderley. Initially held fortnightly, they are now weekly following the success of our Learn to Play Go events (more about them below). These meetings are on Friday nights, allowing more flexibility for attending, as well as expanding our geographical reach for players. They have a small but dedicated group of attendees, and I hope to see that expand over this year.

Second, our Learn to Play Go events have been probably the most successful outreach we've attempted yet. The latest drew 26 attendees (maybe more, depending on whose count you believe), actually crowding out the Magic: the Gathering players. By all accounts it was widely enjoyed, and although the long-term impact remains to be seen, it has already increased the Magic Vault group size by around 50%. This means that on an average night, they rival a quiet night at our Tuesday meetings, with only a little overlap.

Related to the above, a large amount of the sheer audience was due to an experiment using paid Facebook ads, which resulted in roughly 4,900 people seeing the event, over 110 responding. While the long-term impact, as stated, remains to be seen, I considered the \$110 (or roughly \$4 per attendee) it cost to be money well spent. Whether this is something we repeat will depend on whether we can make the finances work – between the ad cost and the pizza cost, the night ended up costing roughly \$200. Which, if it brings people in, is money well spent. But if not, then that is harder to justify, although I welcome suggestions and alternative viewpoints on this.

In addition to the Learn events, we have begun attending festivals, including the Matsuri festival in September, the Japanese festival in August, and 6 more events this year. These allow for much greater general cultural recognition of the game, so even if they don't increase attendees or players

directly, they help to chip away at the “what’s that weird game?” response. Go will have equal recognition to chess in Australia, one way or another.

Looking forward, we have 9 general exposure events this year, including four Learn events, and 5 festivals. One of these is the SportAccord summit in May, to which we were invited by the Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport, a sub-body of the International Olympic Committee. A lot of information and decisions are still processing, but this is truly an exciting opportunity to promote the game, and will require many hands to make this happen. So I shall be liberally conscripting people.

Tournaments have been continuing apace, and generally enjoyed by all involved. We were approached by Jimmy Zhong of Jenny Yang Realty to hold the first annual Jenny Yang Realty Cup, which was a rollicking success, hopefully to be repeated in May for many years to come. In addition, the Mainland Chinese Society of Queensland (MCSQ) has also approached us to hold the MCSQ Cup in June. If you prefer Chinese rules, then I strongly encourage you to attend these tournaments. As usual, details will be sent out via Facebook and e-mail, so if we don’t have one of those means of contacting you, give them to Horatio.

In addition, we, in collaboration with the Gold Coast Go Club, hosted the National Championship this year, with An Younggil acting as celebrity referee. Many players attended, much tension right up until the last round, I’m sure due to the inclusion of the UQ Taiko drummers opening us up, as well as the tireless efforts of Horatio, Matt, Michael Hyde and everyone else who helped make it a success. My thanks to all, even if you just showed up and played.

Lastly, the QGS library has emerged from the shadows, and has found a home in the trunk at Ace. Matt Watson has been kind enough to handle the logistics of borrowing and managing the library, so many thanks to him. Books are available to any member of any club under the QGS banner, although we have yet to work out the logistics of postage borrowing. The catalogue can be seen online.

2018/19 Annual Report – Gold Coast Go Club – Yoko Usami

Nothing to report.

There continue to be monthly Sunday afternoon meetings at Links Hope Island, well attended by a good spread of players. The 8th Gold Coast Classic at Griffith University was a good tournament.

2018 Queensland Go Society Finances

- Brisbane Go Club is depositing approximately \$100/month (\$1260 in the twelve months to February 2019) in surplus meeting fees. This and any profits from the tournaments are the only income the Society has.
- We spent several hundred dollars in capital goods, notably a banner and marquee for festival and outdoor event work, and some sets for the UQ and Alderley meetings. For the rest of the year’s events, two festivals and five tournaments, we made a modest profit which was counterbalanced by a mild bath on the Nationals.
- Just before the 2019 Queensland Open, the account balance was \$2333.72 compared with \$2738.88 just before the 2018 Queensland Open, \$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.
- The society’s funds are kept in the same ANZ Bank account with Visa debit access as last year. The card holders are myself and Allan Hunt.

2019 Constitutional Changes

Motion: that the constitution of the Queensland Go Society be amended as follows:

- add a corresponding membership category for voting members who did not attend the state championship – has library privileges
- quorum for the state council be two-thirds of members
- add an elected Librarian as an officer with a voting seat on the state council
- delete “There is no petty cash” from 9b
- modify 9c to read: “the general secretary as a single signatory, and such other signatories as they may designate”
- add 9d: chapters may have petty cash or other arrangements for their funds as determined by the chapter convenor