

# 2020 Annual General Meeting

Queensland Go Society

The seventh 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 twenty-second of February at the major gaming room of Ace Comics and Games, 18/478 Ipswich Road, Annerley. The quorum for this meeting is 11 members present and entitled to vote, there being 14 voting members, five other members with like privileges and three life members enrolled as of Sunday the tenth of February, 2019.

The agenda for the meeting is:

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2019 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. Consideration of, and if thought fit, election to other offices of the Society.
  - a. Treasurer
  - b. Librarian
6. Election of a supreme high overlord as coordinator of the Brisbane Go Club.
7. Proposals and suggestions to encourage the participation of Queensland players in state, national and international competition
  - a. Alan Guerin Memorial
  - b. Australian Digital
  - c. Queensland Digital
  - d. Representative Travel Subsidy
  - e. Tournament Entry Subsidy
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, Carlos Alperin, Andrew Lewis, Bill Leveritt

## 2019-2020 Annual Report – Queensland Go Society – Horatio Davis

2019 was year six, and counting. Last year, from my report, I quote:

“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.

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.”

In 2019, instead, we maintained. Mostly. Too many things happened for anything else.

We started the year right, with a Learn To Play Go night at the Magic Vault gaming venue on January 18 and then the state championships in the same venue on February 9. We were invited to the BrisAsia Festival’s summer party event at Musgrave Park on 16 February, and duly manned a marquee full of goban for the day. We were invited to be one of the gaming stalls at the same festival’s Get Your Geek On! Event on 27 February at the Saint Lucia campus of the University of Queensland, and we went and duly manned a table for the afternoon and evening, in partnership with the UQ Chess Club.

After the adjudication incident in 2018 we assumed complete jurisdiction over the Australian Digital Championship from 2019, and it was duly held in seven rounds from 15 April to 7 June. Nine players from Brisbane and one from the UQ club competed, and I am pleased at how highly they placed against a class field from Australia and New Zealand.

SportAccord, the federation of international sports federations, reached out to us to partner with them and present the sport of go at their annual convention, which had rotated to the Gold Coast. After due consideration, we declined.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Jenny Yang Cup happened in five rounds on 18 May, and we duly thank Jenny Yang Realty, the sponsors. It was held at their premises on Charlotte Street and we look forward to this year’s.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Mainland Chinese Society of Queensland Cup continued its renaissance in five rounds on 15 June; it was completely sponsored by the MCSQ with our veteran player Larry Wen as liaison, and we duly thank them for this, and look forward to this year’s.

We had another Learn To Play Go night at the Magic Vault on 19 July.

August was mixed. The 14<sup>th</sup> Toowoomba Languages and Culture Festival happened on 11 August, and the Bun Bu Ryo Do, whose go players function as our Toowoomba chapter, were kind enough to invite us to exhibit. I spent a pleasant day under the shade of the Japanese gardens, watching a martial arts show by the rest of the BBRD, teaching and exhibiting go, and I plan to hit the next one this year.

On the other hand, we lost Cecil Kuo; and started an annual tournament in his memory. The first Cecil Kuo Memorial was held on 24<sup>th</sup> August, where the club’s veterans and elders spoke of his many years in and around the club as first its only dan player and then its living memory. The late Cecil Kuo was deeply passionate about go and teaching throughout his life, and was instrumental in the growth of go in Queensland. To honour his memory and passion, the prizes were two free lessons with An Younggil 8P in Sydney. We will make it an annual.

September was also crowded; on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, we hit the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds and spent a pleasant day at the 9<sup>th</sup> Matsuri Festival under our banner. Go equipment was exhibited for sale, the game itself was taught and played, and the many players crowded in and around our marquee wandered off to sample the food and music and other culture. Mostly I could hear the taiko from where we were, though, so I spent most of the day playing. Barring mishap, we will definitely be going back to the Matsuri.

On the 14<sup>th</sup>, the very next week, was the 6<sup>th</sup> Brisbane Spring tournament, which is the club and city championship for Brisbane. I consider this event stable now, and together with the 9<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast Classic (the Gold Coast Go Club and city championship at Links Hope Island on the last Sunday in October), they bring our regular tournament calendar to six, plus the Digital.

That, and two festivals (we will be keeping the Matsuri and the Toowoomba) are enough. Suggestions for a Korean festival in Brisbane and an Asian festival in the Gold Coast will be entertained, but we cannot really sustain much more than that without additional volunteers. You need to be able to set up a marquee and sit behind a table and play go.

In terms of the clubs goal, we have a stable partnership with UQ Chess now; among other things, they are dividing out the games in their scope amongst a VP for Chess and VP for go, for the moment the latter is me; they and the Griffith (University) Go Club have just had their O Week events. The Magic Go club is a thing, under Elizabeth, and the Port Macquarie Go Club is a thing under Keith, as distinct from Lismore Go Club at SCU. With BBRD at Toowoomba, we are now eight. And I swear the coalescing blob of players on the Sunshine Coast, while very welcome, are not my fault.

Money is making a recovery, thanks to sterling efforts by Allan Hunt and accomplices to run tournaments at not a loss, and of course the absence of the Nationals from our balance sheet, which for 2019 was in Melbourne. Sydney this year, and I suspect we get to host it again in 2021.

Numbers are where we have issues. Suggestions welcome. Volunteers, yes, but players too. We have however recovered to the point where I feel comfortable starting to hand off control to an actual committee.

## 2019-2020 Annual Report – Brisbane Go Club – Allan Hunt

The last year has been a busy one. Magic Go began as a northside meeting for those on that side of the river on a different night, then split off as its own independent group run by Elizabeth Patrick. It ran with a small but dedicated group of players until the closing of the Magic Vault deprived them of a meeting place, with a new one not having been found as yet. In addition, Go in the Park has begun, to provide a much-requested, if inconsistently-attended, weekend diurnal alternative to the existing options.

It was also the end of an era with the passing of Cecil Kuo after a short illness in a hospital in Taiwan. He has been a fixture in the Brisbane Go Club for longer than most of the current members have been playing, let alone remember. He was always a smiling and patient teacher for all comers, and is sorely missed.

In terms of attendance, the last few months of last year was plagued by a small but persistent downturn, with rarely more than 8 or 9 in attendance. However, this seems to have reversed itself this year. Hopefully this is continued, but addressing/averting these issues is a major concern for the coming year – albeit one without much in the way of concrete plans.

We had an unprecedented number of promotional activities last year. Between the Japanese Festival, two BrisAsia events, Matsuri, three Learn to Play Go events and Toowoomba Languages and Cultural Festival, on top of a half-dozen tournaments, we were quite run off our feet. Many and eternal thanks to those who took time out of their schedule to help out – without events such as these, go would remain even more unknown than it currently is, and without helpers these events simply cannot occur.

The priorities for the coming year, in no particular order, are as follows:

- Solidify, if not increase, average attendance at BGC, ideally to between 10 to 12 per week.
- Improve gender ratio to at least 25% female at meetings.
- Secure at least two (although ideally more) individuals capable of covering the duty of opening, paying rent and closing meetings, as well as securing cake and/or pizza on appropriate nights, in case of Supreme High Overlord illness or incapacitation

Suggestions and/or assistance in achieving these goals are sought and appreciated.

## 2019-2020 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 9<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast Classic at Links Hope Island was a good tournament. There was one surprise visit by a 1d female professional, organised at very short notice by Yoko.

## 2020 Queensland Go Society Finances

- Brisbane Go Club is depositing approximately \$80/month (\$980 in the twelve months to February 2020) in surplus meeting fees. This and any profits from the tournaments are the only income the Society has. Suggestions welcome.
- We spent much less on boards and capital goods. For the rest of the year's events, three festivals and six tournaments, we made a modest profit.
- Just before the 2020 Queensland Open, the account balance was \$3128.60 compared with \$2333.72 just before the 2019 Queensland Open, \$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.