

Metropolitan Chess Club Annual General Meeting, 13 July 2023
Held at Drabble House, Nedlands
Minutes

Meeting opened 7:55pm.

Present: Craig Kinsman, David Barry, Keegan O'Mahoney, Mike McGregor, Joe Klimczak, Josh Williams, Iker Hernandez Mendez, Garth Fitzmaurice, Gordon Dunlop, Paul Moseley, Sjef de Jong, Peter Roza, Alex de Heer.

Apologies: Yonal De Vas and Senudi De Vas, via Saminda De Vas.

Confirmation of minutes of previous AGM: Moved: David Barry; seconded: Craig Kinsman. Carried.

President's report

- Craig Kinsman gave his report.
- All tournaments ran to schedule this year, with no covid closures.
- The Club Championship had 29 entries, one down on last year. The Bob Pilgrim Open had 35 entries this year (23 last year), with the increase more than offsetting the FIDE rating fees. He hoped that some of these new players would continue as club members.
- Attendance at the shorter time control events is still low: 11 and 18 for the allegro events; 15 and 13 for the blitz.
- Metro had its fifth straight loss in the Bernard Anton Shield; the Perth club now has over 60 members, while Metro struggles to find 12 players for the interclub.
- He thanked the committee for their work during the year: Peter Roza as Vice President and DOP for the round robin tournaments; David Barry as secretary and DOP for the FIDE-rated Swisses; Keegan O'Mahoney as treasurer, who came up with the idea of reducing the hours rented for Drabble House, which will save the club almost \$1000/year; Joe Klimczak as Property Officer, who among other things gets the pieces into homogeneous sets; Gordon Dunlop DOP of the various unrated Swisses; Mike McGregor doing a great job as webmaster; Garth Fitzmaurice as general committee member.
- He also thanked Derek Roebuck for *Patzer* magazine.

Treasurer's report

- Keegan O'Mahoney gave his report. He thanked previous treasurer Joe Klimczak for his continued support.
- The bank balance at 30 June 2023 was \$2,793.77, plus \$969.95 cash in hand, plus \$85 in tournament fees due, less \$1,085 in unpaid prizes, less \$45 in prepaid fees, less \$30 in CAWA membership not yet remitted to CAWA. The total balance is \$2,688.72.
- Total operating income was \$11,914.55; expenses were \$10,506.05, for an apparent profit of \$1,408.50. However, the operating income includes a \$1,500 withdrawal from the term deposit, accounted for separately, so the true figure is a loss of \$91.50. Last year the loss was about \$500.
- This was the first full year of having fully online banking facilities, with no more cheques required. The City of Nedlands has set up direct debit for the rent, making these payments easier.

- The club had 37 members including two life members at 30 June 2023, one less than last year; the current membership is lower than any of the previous five years (June 2020 was 44). Financial stability would be much easier with 40+ members.
- Just under 50% of tournament entry fees went to prize funds.
- Total membership income was about \$550 less than last year, but tournament revenue was up about \$500 in tournament fees, thanks mostly to the increased entries to the Pilgrim Open.
- The main expense for the club is rent, \$6,920 for the year. The cost went up from \$28/hour (\$140/night) to \$30/hour (\$150/night). Another increase is anticipated. Membership fees are not close to covering the rent at present. As of the night of the AGM, the hours rented are being reduced from 7pm-midnight to 7:15pm-11:45pm, which should save \$705 per year at current rates, with some more savings by closing earlier (11pm) on blitz and allegro nights.
- However, some expected expenses were not incurred this year. Only \$56 of rating fees were invoiced; about \$450 should be charged eventually. ACF rating fees are increasing from \$0.80/game to \$1/game, which would increase the total expected fees for a year by about \$80. FIDE-rating the Dick Lilly Swiss will also lead to an extra cost.
- New scoresheets will have to be bought at some point; probably there is a 2-3-year supply, but costs for scoresheets have apparently risen.
- Kitchen and trophy engraving expenses were up on last year. Other minor expenses similar to previous.
- Interest on the term deposit was negligible at \$27.05, having had a locked-in interest rate of 0.40% p.a. The current interest rate is 4.10% p.a., and the club has \$5,260 in the term deposit. Keegan did not think the club was in a position to return the \$1500 that was withdrawn earlier.
- BankWest is in the process of closing its business banking facilities. The club is likely going to open an account with Commonwealth.
- He recommended an increase in membership fees: \$170 senior, \$150 concession, \$120 junior. He said that there has been a 16% increase in CPI since the last increase three years ago.
- He also recommended a \$10/person discount for two members from the same household, and \$20/person for three members of the same household.
- Overall, he believes that the club remains very affordable compared to sports clubs and other similar clubs.
- He thanked everyone who pays their fees on time and makes his life easier. He asked members to promote the club in any way they can, to help get new members.

David Barry moved that the President's and Treasurer's reports be accepted; seconded by Craig Kinsman. Carried.

Election of office bearers

- **President:** Craig Kinsman nominated, seconded by Keegan O'Mahoney. Elected unopposed.
- **Vice-President:** Peter Roza was nominated by Craig Kinsman, seconded by Garth Fitzmaurice. Elected unopposed.
- **Secretary:** David Barry was nominated by Craig Kinsman, seconded by Garth Fitzmaurice. Elected unopposed.
- **Treasurer and Membership Officer:** Keegan O'Mahoney was nominated by Craig Kinsman, seconded by Garth Fitzmaurice. Elected unopposed.

- **Director of Play:** Peter Roza, Gordon Dunlop, and David Barry were nominated by Craig Kinsman, seconded by Keegan O'Mahoney. Elected together.
- **Property Officer:** Joe Klimczak was nominated by Craig Kinsman, seconded by Keegan O'Mahoney. Elected unopposed.
- **Librarian:** Josh Williams nominated, seconded by Keegan O'Mahoney. Elected unopposed.
- **Website administrator:** Mike McGregor was nominated by Craig Kinsman, seconded by Peter Roza. Elected unopposed.
- **Committee member(s):** Garth Fitzmaurice nominated, seconded by Keegan O'Mahoney. Elected.

General business:

- **Annual subscriptions 2023-24**
 - Keegan O'Mahoney in his Treasurer's report had made a recommendation of membership fees of \$170 senior, \$150 concession, \$120 junior, with household discounts of \$10/person for two members, and \$20/person for three members.
 - Garth Fitzmaurice said that it was important for club revenue to keep pace with CPI.
 - Sjef de Jong asked if FIDE rating fees should be recouped through tournament fees, rather than being an argument for increased membership fees. Keegan O'Mahoney acknowledged the point but said that ultimately, all the money goes into and comes out of the same account.
 - Gordon Dunlop moved to accept Keegan O'Mahoney's suggested fees with the household discount; seconded by Craig Kinsman. Carried.
- **FIDE-rating of tournaments**
 - Saminda De Vas, father of club members Yonal and Senudi De Vas, had earlier written to David Barry to request the FIDE-rating of more events. Currently there are not many FIDE-rated events available for a mid-level club player in Perth: two Swisses at the Perth club, now two Swisses at Metro, four tournaments at Southern Suburbs, the Perth Open, and the WA Championship.
 - Cost for FIDE-rating an 8-player round robin would be 8 euros plus 30 Australian dollars, a bit more than \$5 per player.
 - Gordon Dunlop said that it would be reasonable to FIDE-rate the B divisions of the round-robins.
 - Craig Kinsman said that he thought it would be a good idea, which could always be changed later on if deemed necessary.
 - Paul Moseley said that he thought that the Australian Open being held in Perth had made people aware of FIDE ratings.
 - Craig Kinsman moved that the B divisions of the Club Championship and Respini tournaments be FIDE-rated (whether played as round robins or Swisses). Seconded by Gordon Dunlop. Carried.
- **Variants**
 - Josh Williams said that he would like some Chess960 or other variants to be played on some nights. Gordon Dunlop said that the club used to have a novelty night, but it was not well attended. Keegan O'Mahoney said that it could be discussed when the calendar was prepared for 2024.
- **Proposed chess league:**
 - David Barry said that Ian McAteer was attempting to organise a teams-based chess league in 2024, and was hoping to run in mostly at various club nights

through the year. He wanted to know if Metro would be willing to make its venue available for up to three nights.

- Gordon Dunlop said that if a league round was run in parallel with an Allegro tournament, then it would be best to host league rounds on both nights of one tournament, rather than one night on each of two different tournaments, to minimise clashes and avoid players having to give up a chance of winning two tournaments.
- Paul Moseley said that any club members who played in the league would likely be the keener players who are also more likely to play in the Allegro tournaments, so numbers to the Allegro could be smaller.
- Garth Fitzmaurice said that it would be important to know how many teams/players would be expected to be present on the night.
- Keegan O'Mahoney said that he wouldn't want to give up the entire venue for free, but if a league round could be held in parallel with a club event, he was open to the idea. Also, if the league was very popular, then perhaps the club could ask CAWA for a venue hosting fee. For smaller league nights, there would be no problems running in parallel with club games.

Next Annual General Meeting: To be held in July 2024.

Meeting closed 9:05pm.