

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Go Association

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Motions

- 1 The Ladder tournament should become part of the Korea Points system.
- 2 Move the deadline for the top 8 to the end of March.
- 3 Have a preference for digital clocks using byo-yomi over analog clocks using Canadian overtime.
- 4 Change the byo-yomi for the top 8 to 5x30 seconds, and the byo-yomi for the final to 5x45 seconds, unless only a mechanical clock is available.
- 5 Remove the 10 euro charge for the top 8.
- 6 Remove 4kyu barrier for earning Korea points but keep 4kyu minimum limit for travel to Korea.
- 7 Remove the citizenship barrier altogether for earning Korea points but keep the citizenship barrier for travelling to Korea.
- 8 Qualification for the ladder is replaced by some form of qualification tournament.
- 9 Irish Championship completed by August
- 10 Replace Ladder Rule 8 with: In the event that no alternative venue is agreed, matches shall be played in the Ireland room of the KGS Go Server.

Report

The Annual General Meeting was held at Larry Murphy's pub, Baggot Street, Dublin 2. Members present were Rory Wales (President and acting Treasurer), Noel Mitchell (Committee) and Eoghan Barry.

RW called the meeting to order at 8:35. NM noted that the meeting was almost certainly inquorate. It was agreed that motions would be discussed and offices filled on a temporary basis, and an Extraordinary General Meeting held to vote on substantive business. EB queried the validity of votes submitted by email, particularly as votes were solicited only from the Committee, rather than the membership as a whole.

The Treasurer's report was presented orally. The IGA bank balance currently stands at €1555, with a further €5 in unlodged subscriptions. This represents a fall of €69 on the previous year's balance. However five good quality sets and five digital clocks were purchased. The finances of the Association were agreed to be in good health.

The President's report was also presented orally. The current state of clubs and tournaments throughout the country was reviewed and found generally satisfactory, with the prospect of a new club

opening in Limerick and good attendance at all the tournaments. It was agreed that the IGA should strive to support the clubs more actively and to improve communication.

No report was presented by the Secretary.

The motions were discussed, and voted upon as follows.

Motions 1, 6, and 7 were discussed collectively, as part of an overall strategy to increase participation in the Ladder and other tournaments. No objections were raised and all present voted in favour.

Motion 2: Given the success in completing the Top 8 round robin by the weekend of the Irish Go Congress for the past three years, no reason was seen to extend the deadline further to the end of March. All present voted against.

Motion 3: EB objected to the motion on the basis that it was unduly vague, and conflated two separate issues. All agreed that the use of digital clocks was preferable to use of analogue clocks. However preference for byo-yomi over Canadian overtime merited further discussion, which was tabled until the EGM. Against - NM, EB. For - RW.

Motion 4: Much as for motion 3, arguments need to be presented for preferring byo-yomi to Canadian overtime, which has been in use in the Top 8 and Championship for several years. Against - NM, EB. Abstain - RW.

Motion 5: While there are no financial costs currently involved in hosting the Top 8 Kick-Off weekend, there is no guarantee that this situation will continue. The tournament does involve much the same organisation of equipment etc as any other tournament. Therefore it seemed reasonable to retain the €10 entry fee. All present voted against.

Motion 8: Again the motion was deemed unduly vague, with no alternative mechanism for qualification presented. It was agreed that it was better to attempt to improve the running of the Ladder rather than replace it. Against - NM, EB. Abstain - RW.

Motion 9: With the Top 8 round-robin concluded by early March, there seems little reason for the Championship to drag on to the end of the year. EB proposed an amended motion that the Championship should be completed by April 30th, seconded by NM. All present voted in favour of the amended motion.

Motion 10: The motion was agreed to remove a loophole in the Ladder rules which allowed players to avoid challenges. All present voted in favour.

Elections: In the absence of any nominations for any position, RW agreed to continue acting as President and Treasurer, and EB agreed to perform the duties of Secretary. With the departure of Ian Davis and Colin MacSweeney, the need to recruit new members to the committee is pressing. In particular, we need someone to fill the post of Treasurer. Various names were suggested, and we will again seek a representative from each club to serve on committee.

Other business: EB suggested that Gavin Rooney be encouraged to enter the Ladder/Top 8 as a likely contender for the Championship. RW agreed to contact him. NM proposed informal public demonstrations of go - meeting up to play in visible public locations. It was agreed that playing in parks once the weather improves again would be a good idea. Fliers and books should be made available to the clubs.

The meeting came to a close at approximately 9:30.