

TASMANIAN CHESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL 2023

Meeting held online, 23rd of March 2023

OPENED:

1930h

PRESENT:

- Christopher Shepherd (Acting President, Webmaster)
- Christian Duboudin (Treasurer)
- Andrew Martini (Secretary)
- Kevin Bonham (Ratings Officer)
- James Briant (Junior Officer)
- Fabian Ivancic (LCC Delegate)
- Scott Cohen (HCC Delegate)
- Thomas Powell-Davies
- Kam Lee

APOLOGIES:

- Denis McMahon (DCC Delegate)
- Ian Little

MINUTES:

OPENING & PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chris opened the meeting and thanked everyone for joining.

The minutes of the previous AGM and subsequent Executive Meetings in 2022 and 2023 had been sent for comment to Executive members prior to the meeting and posted online.

MOTION – That the 2022 AGM and all subsequent Executive Meeting minutes be accepted – Passed

ACTIONS

Actions from 2022 AGM closed previously:

- a) Ian Little, in his capacity as Treasurer, to investigate the cost of purchasing a new Tasmanian Chess Champions trophy and/or modifying the existing trophy and report to TCA executive with options before the next Tasmanian Championships. – CLOSED.*
- b) Kevin Bonham to speak with Maria Gibbs to resolve the matter of the 2018-2021 Glen Gibbs award monies – CLOSED.*
- c) Denis McMahon to send Christian Duboudin the Glen Gibbs Memorial Award Deed of Gift – CLOSED.*

Open Actions from 2022 AGM and subsequent Executive Meetings:

- a) *Andrew Martini – Finalisation of 2021 Treasurer's Report with update of clerical error relating to \$220 Glen Gibbs awards. – OPEN: Kevin will check if the 2021 treasurer's report can be resubmitted to CBOS, otherwise this action may be irrelevant with the Glen Gibbs funding issues being resolved and documented.*
- b) *James Briant – Discuss with Christine Rumley on the existence of any junior trophies that are inscribed with the winner's name and should not be held onto for more than one year. – OPEN: Andrew has confirmed that the Glen Gibbs trophy is with Oscar Breslin and will be picking it up next week for engraving, before passing onto James for presentation to Himash. James spoke with Christine Rumley, and she believes she has one trophy won previously by Will (Interschool U18 trophy?). James also has the U12 State Champ trophy that had previously been awarded at the Interschool finals. James can deliver the Glen Gibbs trophy next week if it is ready in time.*
- c) *Andrew Martini – Send 2022 AGM minutes and Sep '22 and Feb '23 Exec meeting minutes to Chris for publication on website. - CLOSED*
- d) *Andrew Martini – Liaise with Reg Harvey to confirm Burnie's ability to host the Tasmanian Rapid and Lightning this year and set a date. – CLOSED: BCC has confirmed their ability to hold the tournaments, though did not confirm the date. The website will be updated with the date of August 19 unless BCC notifies otherwise.*
- e) *Christian Duboudin – Follow up with Maria Gibbs as best as possible, to determine catch up funding. – CLOSED: Christian has concluded discussions with the amount owing to the TCA for the Glen Gibbs fund. Maria Gibbs believes this amount to be \$500, which we have accepted as the outstanding amount, without entering further debate or financial analysis on this matter. See further in minutes on resolving this matter fully.*
- f) *Kevin Bonham – Update CSBOS with current officer positions, and track after possible 2023 AGM changes as well. – OPEN: Kevin has updated the details of the President and needs outstanding details from the Treasurer and Secretary.*
 - a. *ACTION – Andrew Martini – Send through address details to Kevin.*
- g) *Christian Duboudin – Follow up with HCC's insurance broker on possibility for insurance to be held at TCA level rather than club level. – CLOSED: The need for public liability insurance at the TCA level was deemed void following negotiations by LCC for a venue for the Tasmanian Championships. LCC was able to use Carrick Hall under the Hall's insurance, and similarly has coverage at their current regular weekly venue. Whilst investigating future Tas Champs venues, Fabian determined that a cost-effective public liability insurance could be taken out for one-time activities as required. Therefore, the need for LCC to do anything at the TCA level for insurance was deemed unnecessary.*
- h) *Andrew Martini – Review both the Chess Victoria Constitution and Tasmania Association Incorporation Model Rules and draft a revised constitution for consideration in the future, with the intent to adopt this model for the financial year starting 1 Jan 2024. – OPEN*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's report was taken as read. Chris noted the major tournament TCA and junior tournament winners, and that the junior awards were split into several categories which was a break from previous years. Chris also noted that the Huon festival was even greater this year and quite successful. No questions were asked of Chris.

MOTION – That the President's report be accepted – PASSED

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was received in its current state, though not accepted. Christian noted that the report covered the financial period of Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022, the first to do so since the change in financial year. The accounts of the TCA increased by around \$695 for the year, and that the income of the TCA over 2022 was from proceeds of the Tony Sturgess Memorial, Tasmanian Rapid and Huon Chess Festival events, and that levies from clubs for club-based members had not yet been received from HCC, LCC or BCC.

It was queried that the Huon Chess Festival was intended to be cost neutral to the TCA, with all monies received flowing through to tournament organisers, and that the costs to the TCA of rating the tournament and using the TCA's payment systems was intended to be covered by donations to the TCA. Christian is unaware if all proceeds for the tournament have been paid out correctly, as by his accounting the tournament shows a profit for the TCA of \$xxx.

Denis McMahon also sent queries through on the report prior to the meeting. Christian acknowledged that errors were present, and it was decided collectively not to work through these in the meeting, but that the report would be corrected before acceptance later. Later in the meeting it was agreed that the report would need to be submitted for review a week before the next meeting of the Executive, for acceptance at that meeting.

The need to approve the Treasurer's Report at the AGM was discussed. It was understood by those present reading our requirements that the TCA must lodge an approved report to CBOS by the lodgement deadline (30 June 2023), but that the approval process of the report was not dictated. A motion was put forward to allow the Executive to approve an amended report before the lodgement deadline.

MOTION – That the Treasurer's Report will be amended and approved later at an Executive meeting before submission to CBOS. – PASSED

ACTION – Christian Duboudin – Update the Treasurer's Report and submit for review a week before the next Executive Meeting, addressing comments received already and following up with Ian Little on the Huon Chess Festival.

JUNIOR OFFICER'S REPORT

The Junior Officer's report was taken as read. James noted the impressive performances at the National Schools finals of Waimea Heights and Mt Nelson Primary, who finished 1st and 3rd respectively in the Primary Division. Launceston Church Grammar and Scotch Oakburn came 4th and 6th respectively in the Middle Years comp. 120 juniors entered the State Junior Championships in October. Himash's

performances in multiple state and interschool tournaments was also noted, culminating in his awarding of the Glen Gibbs trophy for the year.

MOTION – That the Junior Officer’s report be accepted – PASSED

TCA MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM & 2024 ANNUAL FEES

Andrew gave a summary of recent Executive Meeting discussions on reforming the membership and funding mechanisms of the TCA and called for volunteers to a working party on reforming the system. Christian, Kevin and Ian Little (proxied through Andrew) volunteered, with Kevin noting that the members had no set obligations regarding this working party.

The setting of annual fees for 2024 was discussed, with a reiteration that it is the intent of the Executive to scrap TCA-based fees all together. For now, it is a constitutional requirement to set the fees at the AGM. It was noted that the Executive had not endorsed a fee structure to present for vote at the AGM. Two suggestions for fees were given.

Option 1 (Christian) - \$20 flat fee for both Club-based and individual levies, with a reduction to \$10 on July 1.

Option 2 (Chris) – keep fees the same as 2023.

Option 1 was passed with a vote of 4 to 2, with several abstentions. 2024 Fees are set at \$20 for club-based and individual members, with a reduction to \$10 from July 1, 2024, noting again that it is the TCA’s ambition to scrap these fees before they are initiated.

VOTE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The following constitutional amendment (special resolution) was tabled, having been endorsed at the Executive meeting of 16th February 2023:

That clause 15.4 of the TCA Constitution change from:

"Multiple offices, excepting the position of President, may be held by the same person."

to:

"Multiple offices may be held by the same person."

The constitutional amendment was passed by a vote of 7 members, with 1 abstention.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

No nominations were received before the 10 day deadline. The following people were all elected unopposed.

- Andrew Martini for the office of President (nominated by Chris Shepherd)
- Ian Little for the office of Vice-President (nominated by Chris Shepherd)
- Andrew Martini for the office of Secretary (nominated by Christian Duboudin)
- Ian Little for the office of Treasurer (nominated by Andrew Martini)
- Kevin Bonham for the office of Ratings Officer (nominated by Andrew Martini)
- Christopher Shepherd for the office of Webmaster (nominated by Kam Lee)
- James Bryant for the office of Junior Chess Officer (nominated by Andrew Martini)

REVIEW OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES

The 2022 tournament fees were:

Event	Funds	Adults	Juniors	Early Bird
Tony Sturges	TCA	30	30	0
Tasmanian Open	90% Prize Money, 10% costs	60	30	10
Tasmanian Rapid	TCA	30	30	0
Tasmanian Lightning	100% Prize Money	10	10	0
Tasmanian Championship	100% Prize Money	60	30	10

Tournament fees have remained the same for some time. Christian proposed scrapping the early bird fees for simplification. Chris noted that coming into the Webmaster role new, it was easy to miss changing the fees on the website at the correct date for early bird, but that he now has this under control. Andrew noted that the Tony Sturges seems proportionally higher than other tournaments and whether it should be reduced; this was contended by James whose view was that the publicity of the event is what has held back higher rates of participation in the past. Andrew suggested that we might attract more juniors with prizes attached to the event.

It was confirmed that these are the fees for this year's tournaments, which need to be set at the AGM, however that as part of the financial and levy review of the TCA, the Executive did have the option of changing them in the future. To conclude the broad discussion, it was proposed to leave fees unchanged.

MOTION: That 2023 fees remain unchanged from 2022 – PASSED

The way that small fees for tournaments are covered, and what the prize pool is, was delayed for a future conversation of the Executive. It was noted that internal rules on how we address items such as this should be noted in policies or by-laws, such that meeting minutes (sometimes very old) are not used for figuring out how we treat certain events. The reform working party will also look at this issue.

LODGEMENT OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION / CONFIRMATION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Kevin raised that there was an issue that the constitutional amendment may not be considered current until a lodgement with CBOS of the special resolution is made. Kevin then proceeded to lodge the notice online with CBOS. There is a requirement to lodge the amended constitution with CBOS within one month of notification.

There was another call for nominations for both President and Secretary, with only Andrew Martini again nominated for both roles, and thus elected unopposed.

ACTION: Kevin Bonham – lodge the constitutional amendment with CBOS before April 23, 2024.

CHANGE TO TASMANIAN OPEN RULES

Kevin noted before the meeting that:

The number of half-point byes available per player in the Open was set at two for the 2016 Open in Launceston. In 2014 and 2015 (six rounds) it had been one. The Championship does not allow half-point byes. The 2016 Open was a seven-round event with an experimental schedule running over four days with the first game on Friday night; as such there was a high chance in theory that a player might

have to miss two rounds for work or family reasons and allowing two half point byes was a good idea. However subsequent Opens have been six rounds and held entirely on a long weekend, but two half point byes have continued to be offered (I have not yet found any record of any formal decision to do so). No player took a half-point bye in the 2016 event as it turned out. In the six years since there have been four cases of a player taking one half-point bye and none yet of a player taking two.

Even though the option for two half-point byes has never been used so far, I think we should remove it. I feel that allowing one half-point bye in the Open is reasonable on the whole, but that allowing two in a six-round event (based on what should have been a once-off arrangement for a seven-round event) is at least a little bit embarrassing and suggests that players need not be committed to playing chess. A strong player could potentially even win or tie for the tournament after playing in only four rounds. A player might even win a ratings prize after getting a pairing-allocated full point bye then taking two half-point byes and as such playing only three games (or two given the COVID-driven increase in forfeits). Allowing multiple half-point byes for the same player when there isn't a good reason to do it is also not good pairing practice (and was even at one stage disallowed in the FIDE pairing rules, though it is not currently prohibited) because it means a player's score conveys less information about how well a player is playing.

MOTION: That for the Tasmanian Open, until decided otherwise, a maximum of one half point bye be available per player, limited to rounds 1-4 only. Half point byes for rounds 2-4 must be requested before the start of the previous round. - PASSED

GLEN GIBBS FUNDING RESOLUTION

Christian informed the meeting that Maria Gibbs would be writing a check for the \$500 as prescribed above to the TCA shortly. Andrew proposed a motion to settle all differences on the funding of the Glen Gibbs Memorial Award now without further time and effort spent.

MOTION: That all previous discrepancies be written off, including previous payments from the TCA for the award. The \$500 recovered from Maria Gibbs shortly will be deposited directly into the Glen Gibbs Trust account, and all future award payments will be made from the Trust funds until the funds are exhausted. – PASSED

This resolution settles all obligations from the Gibbs family regarding funding the Glen Gibbs Memorial Award. Christian confirmed that the Trust should have \$2851 in it after these final funds are deposited, extending the Award past the original intended end date.

FIDE RATED TOURNAMENTS IN TASMANIA / TOURNAMENT FUNDING / CHESS PROMOTION

The subject of FIDE rating the classical tournaments held by the TCA was discussed at length, based on the push in early 2023 by Zach Lim and others to get more players FIDE rated before the Tas Champs. It was noted that one Candidate Master came over from Canberra only due to the Tas Champs being FIDE rated.

Other barriers to entry were noted, such as ensuring we have sufficient National Arbiters trained, and that increased ratings costs are sufficiently covered. Currently only Kevin Bonham, Zach Lim and Thomas Powell-Davies are National Arbiters. (Note: after the meeting, conversations with Peter Tsai indicate that an arbiter training session in Tasmania is a possibility, more info to come).

The mention of increased ratings fees led to further discussions on our tournament fees, with Kevin noting that we had not substantially changed tournament fees for around 15 years. Andrew raised that we do not want to hold fees flat for years only to have to sharply jump them in the future if/when they are out of sync with what is needed, but that gradual increases in line with CPI should be considered (with appropriate rounding). However, currently the TCA (and some clubs) do not have a funding problem but an expenditure problem. There was commentary from Andrew, James and Christian centred around spending money wisely in promoting chess and converting more junior players into senior players, which was agreed.

Concluding this discussion, there was near unanimous support for all four of the major tournaments held by the TCA to be FIDE rated, and not just the classical tournaments. Thomas noted that players would not need to spend additional time getting rapid and blitz ratings, but that classical ratings get used as the basis for rapid and blitz. Further endorsement for rating all four major tournaments came from Scott and Fabian.

MOTION: That the TCA will attempt to have all four major tournaments (Tasmanian Championship, Open, Rapid and Lightning) FIDE rated from now on. – PASSED

WEBSITE CHANGES

Kam mentioned the possibility of the TCA website having more Tasmanian chess history on it. Christian has primary source material on Tasmanian chess history from Neville Ledger that he will pass on. Andrew noted that website changes are still an item for future discussion within the Executive.

ACTION – Christian Duboudin – Send a summary of Neville Ledger’s Tasmanian chess history to Chris Shepherd for inclusion on the website.

ACTION – Andrew Martini – Send out email to TCA Clubs on what website changes they would like to see in the future.

MEETINGS AND EMAIL USAGE

The lack of meetings through the year was raised by James, with a push to meet more regularly and progress many of the improvement items that have been flagged. Andrew stated that it was his intention to meet more regularly, especially to cut down on discussion and debate via email rather than in meetings where it should reside. Andrew asked that the Executive use email for coordination and delivery of information, but that robust discussion amongst the Executive needs to happen at Exec meetings.

Christian raised that the Exec should make sure we meet again in a timely manner to approve the Treasurer’s Report with time to finalise and lodge with CBOS. Andrew expressed his desire to make sure the Executive met several weeks before the Tasmanian Open to close out any loose ends on organisation. The new Exec agreed to meet every 2 months, with the next meeting scheduled for 18th May.

CLOSED:

2135h