

Minutes of the St Albans GO club AGM held on Wednesday 16 June 2010
at the White Lion, St Albans.

AGENDA

0. Approval of minutes of previous AGM, these are here:

<http://www.rhodamine.eu/~sagc/admin/Go%20AGM%202009.pdf>

1. Chairman's report

2. Treasurer's report

3. Membership fees.

The treasurer has put forward the motion that existing members will not, for the next year, be required to pay a membership fee; but new members will be asked for #10.

This is because we have some #250 in the kitty.

There has been much discussion about this on the mail list.

4. Election of officers

5. Discuss the following (based on what was talked about on the mail list recently):

a) Richard Mullens says: 'last year we passed a proposal by RN to restrict voting to people who

had paid for the forthcoming year's membership. He regards this as unfortunate.'

b) Should we buy new kit, if so what ?

c) Should we organise lectures/... by invited speakers ?

d) Could we pay a contribution to tournament fees of members ?

e) Publicity - membership drive ?

f) Venue: Are we happy with the White Lion ?

6. AOB

8.30 pm meeting started

Those present:

John Collins - JMC

Roy Nelson - RN

Richard Mullens - RM

Paul Taylor - PT

Alan Thornton - AT

Alain Williams - ADDW

Chris Williams - CW

Everyone present was a paid up member.

0. Approval of minutes of previous AGM.

These were approved without dissent.

1. Chairman's report

RN said that there was nothing to report

2. Treasurer's report

The accounts had been previously circulated and AT had extra paper copies.

Objection was made of use of the word 'profit' which will be change to 'surplus'.

The GO clocks are kept at AT's house because they are too valuable to keep at the White Lion & there was not enough room at the inn. They were not brought in frequently because of the effort & the risk of damage.

In answer to the question about book value: I was agreed previously that assets be

depreciated to 50% of their purchase price after one year and then written off.

The accounts were approved by all.

3. Membership fees.

This motion was withdrawn as this had been discussed in February - and it failed.

4. Election of officers

AT was happy to remain as treasurer unless he were expected to collect fees on a weekly basis (were that to be decided on).

All other officers were happy to remain in their positions.

The position of Social Secretary was vacant since Sam had moved on. The main task being to organise a Christmas Supper; JMC has a suggestion on another event. ADDW agreed to do this.

The meeting approved the above without dissent.

5. Discuss the following (based on what was talked about on the mail list recently):

a) Richard Mullens says: 'last year we passed a proposal by RN to restrict voting to people who had paid for the forthcoming year's membership. He regards this as unfortunate.'

The concern was that people could register just for the AGM and subvert the club. It was agreed that there should be a register of members to be maintained by the secretary and treasurer.

It was asked: what benefits are there of joining other than to vote at the AGM. The purpose of membership was that it allowed the club to buy equipment.

It was decided that the agenda wording was wrong and that the quote should end earlier as in:

Richard Mullens says: 'last year we passed a proposal by RN to restrict voting to people who had paid for the forthcoming year's membership.' He regards this as unfortunate.

There was much discussion on the idea of separating the membership year end from the date of the AGM. CW suggested that the subscription year be extended to September, this went through several revisions to:

The last subscription year be extended to 31 August so that those who were members in 2009/2010 are members until 31 August 2010. Those who have paid this year will be members to 31 August 2011. The membership year will now start in September.

PT proposed an amendment to leave the membership year to the end of April and move the AGM to September. This was later changed to the AGM in February.

ADDW said that there are really 2 proposals and a vote was had:

* Leave things as they are	- 4
* Move the AGM to February	- 1
* Start the membership year in September	- 1
* Abstain	- 1

b) Should we buy new kit, if so what ?

Paul was going to China (on Friday) and would be able to get new bowls. There was discussion as to if we need new bowls, although not pretty the current plastic/tupperware bowls are stackable and the lids

will stay on.

Suggestion that he get books from China. Discuss as to where we keep such books, the pub will not have storage space. JMC is our librarian - although there are, as yet, no books in the library.

PT had a wish list of books that came to some #80.

Motion: PT to have authority to spend up to #50 in China for kit, discussing first on the chat mail list if possible.

for - 6

against - 1

PT argued for a club library. RM commented that when books are lent they don't come back - the library should be at the pub. There were concerns that giving someone new a book might put them off, so we lose a recruit and the book.

There was a suggestion that books only be loaned to paid up members. This would provide a benefit other than voting at the AGM.

ADDW proposed that funds of up to #100 be made available to buy books in the next year; who buys them is not specified.

for - 6

against - 1

c) Should we organise lectures/... by invited speakers ?

Much discussion on the problem that there is no where quiet enough in the White Lion. JMC suggested that we do this where the chess club meets - which is in St Albans.

There was talk of inviting a speaker from China (name XXX). This had been done in Milton Keynes and was successful. This was agreed as too expensive. PT said that he would be willing to talk occasionally.

It was suggested that we have a talk at the start of each meeting in the White Lion; the pub is quieter then. This will have the bonus of encouraging people to arrive earlier.

All agreed this in principle.

d) Could we pay a contribution to tournament fees of members ?

PT - yes if it encourages people to go to tournaments. Others did not see this as an issue as there were no members who were poor enough for this to make a difference.

Motion dismissed

e) Publicity - membership drive ?

RM is in charge of publicity and has not done anything on this because we are unfriendly. He went on to say that we are the most friendly club that he knows.

There are 2 issues:

* publicity of GO - is this our problem or that of the BGA

* publicity of our club

We could put adverts in places like local libraries. We could have cross links with the chess club ? It was agreed that our leaflets

are OK - although it was felt that sometimes we deal with an enquiry by giving a leaflet and then ignoring the enquirer when we should invite them to play a game.

RM talked about contacting local Chinese people; although others felt that we should be taking GO to everyone, not just those who may have heard of it. We should not go to local schools. Maybe we ought to publicise the game in St Albans.

RM given the job to publicise in the local area. He does not want a budget.

f) Venue: Are we happy with the White Lion ?

We seemed happy with the White Lion. No other pub in St Albans seem to have an advantage over the WL. The pub does not allow use of wifi. Maybe we ought to start earlier.

There was a suggestion of moving to another day (eg Tuesday) so as to not clash with the music (although some liked the music) - we could not agree on another evening.

There was a suggestion of having an extra evening. The problem with this is that it will dissipate those who turn up on a Wednesday. If someone wanted to meet another occasional evening they could ask for players on the mail list.

It was agreed to stay in the White Lion on a Wednesday.

g) This was added to the agenda:

ADDW proposed that 2 people produce a constitution by Xmas (or sooner). The purpose is to stop the disagreements on procedure. This was agreed without dissent.

This was agreed by all.

PT and ADDW agreed to do this.

6. AOB

a) #30 was owed to PT for league fees.

It was agreed to reimburse this to him and any similar fees in the future. It was agreed that this only be for those who are BGA members.

b) We should encourage BGA membership.

Possibly by having some BGA literature at meetings.

All committee members should be BGA members - ADDW please note.

c) CW suggested that the oldest members should be given (free) life membership.

It was asked why since no member was so poor that this would make a real difference. There was concern of the risk of assassination by younger members keen to get free membership.

This was not approved.

d) What other benefits can we give to members other than vote at the AGM ?

The only ones that we can think of are:

- 1) Play in the online league team
- 2) Borrow books from the club library - when we have some books

AGM closed at 22.17 - to much relief.

