

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TACOMA CHESS CLUB
January 25, 2002



The meeting was convened at 8:45PM at the American Legion Post 138, 7515 Cirque West, University Place, WA. 98466. Eleven members attended; six were officers. After President Paul Bartron spoke of the necessity to find another site for the club, the meeting was open to the membership. After the several members suggested ideas to improve the club, the officers provided the annual reports.

MEMBERSHIP

There were several votes and no dissensions that the club needs to be located in the downtown Tacoma area. Members want a club that is more easily accessible to visitors traveling from afar and that is close to hotels, motels, restaurants, shops, and public transportation.

Members want more club tournaments. To increase and maintain membership, the club needs activities. Club tournaments with varying time controls and rules are recommended and approved. John Ward volunteers and is approved to be an interim Tournament Director for alternative club tournaments held on Fridays. The tournaments will have varying time controls—Quick, Blitz, 10-Second, etc—and/or pre-made (“Gambit”) openings (also known as Thematic Tournaments). The tournaments will be free for club members and \$5.00 for non-members. Hannigan Pitre recommends that the club offer master instruction so that all who wish to may learn and improve their chess understanding and enjoyment of the game. Although it has been mentioned that Master Neil Salmon may be available to instruct club members, another member could fill this niche should he not be able. Again, this service would be free for club members and cost non-members.

The last major topic of discussion among the membership was in regards to the tournament schedule and style. The Tournament Director, Gary Dorfner, coordinates the club’s tournament schedule annually. He synchronizes his calendar with the Seattle Chess Club and avoids conflict with some of the other major national and regional tournaments. Despite his efforts, however, conflicts are still occurring, and the active club and tournament player has to choose between one tournament and another: he cannot play in both on the same weekend. It is therefore noted that all tournament planning must be coordinated.

Regarding tournament style, several ideas were recommended: (1) for those with a digital clock, an incremental time control, such as the one used in the U.S. Championships; (2) entry fee discounts for those who buy a package of five (or six, etc) tournaments at once (say \$100 for five tournaments); and (3) a no-prize entry fee of \$10 for those who want to play in a rated chess tournament and do not want to compete for the prize money.

After the participation of the membership, the annual reports were given:

ANNUAL REPORTS

Review of 2001's Annual Membership Meeting's Minutes

The Secretary, Mike MacGregor, read highlights from last year's minutes (which were for the year 2000). Of particular note was a brief review of last year's financial report. Between income and expenses last year the club netted a loss of -\$1,131.39 in 2000. Only because of a \$5,000 donation did the club technically achieve a net gain of \$3,868.61. Last year's conclusion that the club needs to do more to increase membership and tournament participation (revenue) and decrease expenses remains in force.

Financial Report

The Treasurer, Robert Allen, provided each attendee with a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ending December 31, 2001. A summary of each will be included herein, for the record:

Balance Sheet

Due primarily to a bequest of \$41,183.28 by Robert Oquist, the club's total liabilities and equity are \$52,880.37. Most of this money is in a month-by-month "rollover" Certificate of Deposit until another and higher interest-yielding alternative is investigated and approved by the Board.

Profit & Loss

Temporarily putting the bequest aside, the total income for the club in 2001 consisted of Contributions (\$25) + Membership Dues (\$1,873) + Miscellaneous Income (\$10) + Tournament Income (\$4,591) = **\$6,499.00**.

Total expenses consisted of Bank Service Charges (\$15.25) + Dues and Subscriptions (\$40) + Licenses and Permits (\$10) + Office Supplies (\$117.58) + Rent (\$2550) + Telephone (\$580.13) + Tournament Expense & Prizes (\$4,147.39) = **\$7,460.35**.

Total Loss for the club was \$961.35. However, due to Other Income (interest) at \$247.31, the net loss was reduced to **-\$714.04**.

The bequest of \$41,183.28 put the club into the *black* by \$40,469.24 for 2001.

Tournament Director's Report

The Tournament Director, Gary Dorfner, read a summary of the money gained or lost on each tournament of the year. The financial figures are included in the financial report. He made mention of upcoming club tournaments and reiterated that the weekend tournaments are postponed indefinitely until further notice since the club cannot afford the \$200 weekend site fee now being charged.

There were no other annual reports.

The Board of Directors (Voting)

With unanimous approval, the following Directors were nominated and elected:

President—Paul Bartron
Vice-President—Steve Buck
Secretary—Mike MacGregor
Treasurer—Robert Allen
Tournament Director—Gary Dorfner
Publicity Director—George Sessions
Sergeant of Arms—Vivi Bartron

With the exception of the Publicity Director, all the officers were approved for consecutive terms.

Other Business

Steve Buck recalled an item of business previously discussed and approved and yet not implemented. The board had approved the Treasurer to provide a quarterly financial report so that the Board of Directors might have a better understanding of the club's financial progress every quarter; yet these reports were not received as approved. It is now recommended and unanimously approved that the Treasurer provides a monthly financial report, due the 15th of the succeeding month. The report is to be emailed either as an attachment or cut and pasted into the email itself. Members with email will make a hard copy for those Directors without email.

Regarding public relations work, Larry Anderson volunteers to help George Sessions in contacting a military liaison at Fort Lewis so that club news and tournament advertisements can be incorporated into the military's circular.¹

¹ Minutes written by Secretary Mike MacGregor, January 27, 2002