

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
TACOMA CHESS CLUB  
January 31, 2003

The meeting commenced at 9:35 with about a dozen members in attendance. As occurred the year before, President Paul Bartron began the meeting by explaining the need to find a new location for the club. All attendees were in agreement since the club is spending \$200 to host two-day open tournaments. The club hosted seven such tournaments last year and subsequently paid out \$1400 in addition to rent to host those tournaments. Considering the club had a deficit of \$1100 for 2002, the tournament site expense was significant. Moreover, Paul added that a second key was needed.

After Paul finished speaking, the remainder of the time was divided between the open membership, officer reports, and the election of officers.

Open Membership

Bill Rogers recommended the club directors should participate in the Gig Harbor Renaissance Fair this August. He offered to bring a brochure from last year's fair and said that planning for the event would be finalized in February; hence the directors should convene soon to pursue and secure the club's participation for one day.

Bill also suggested that a master should play a simultaneous exhibition at the club. A small fee would be charged, and scholastic chess players would be specifically targeted for the event, although anyone could participate. Members recommended Master Neil Salmon's name more than any other.

Bill moreover expressed a desire for interclub play. Our club should play the Seattle Chess Club, Boeing Chess Club, and any other that is willing. Matches could be hosted in Tacoma and by the other clubs.

Robert Karch explained that a productive method for retaining and encouraging membership is to include the names of all the members in the periodical bulletins of the club. When the bulletin or recent news of the club is emailed, a small list of active members could be included at the bottom. This would remind members that they are remembered and appreciated, and also perhaps increase conscientiousness for renewal in those members whose memberships are about to expire or that have expired. For those without email, a "hard copy" of the bulletin should be mailed to them at least once a year.

Robert Karch was recognized and awarded the Life Achievement Award by the club, which included a certificate and free life membership in the club.

## Annual Reports

Secretary Michael MacGregor simply paraphrased some of the pertinent points from last year's membership meeting. First was the fact the president began the meeting emphasizing the need for a new site for the club. Second was that monthly financial reports were to be made available to the directors. The pertinence of this information is that one year later the club still meets in the same location and, per Vice-President Steve Buck, only one financial report was provided last year.

Tournament Director Gary Dorfner summarized last year's tournament success by stating that the club lost \$1173 in seven tournaments last year. Part of this was due to \$500 being guaranteed for the Oquist Memorial Open. And as was later mentioned by the treasurer, the club lost about \$150 per tournament. If it weren't for the \$200 tournament site fee, the club could have netted \$50 per tournament.

Treasurer Robert Allen provided detailed balance sheets and financial reports to all the attendees. In summary, the \$40,000 CD's earned \$1500 in interest last year, with another \$500 gain to be deposited this February 2003. Although the club donated \$500 for a scholastic tournament, not one student joined the club because of that donation. The club had a deficit of approximately \$1100. If the club hadn't made the donation and didn't have to spend \$200 per tournament, the club would have netted \$800 last year, including the interest on the CDs.

## Election of Officers

After President Paul Bartron announced he would be driving trucks for his employment and therefore would not be a practical candidate for president, speculation arose as to who would be the next president. Moreover, who were going to be the officers this year? The following elections occurred parliamentary style and are as follows:

- President—Steve Buck
- Vice-President—Robert Karch
- Tournament Director—Gary Dorfner
- Treasurer—Michael MacGregor
- Secretary—Vivi Bartron
- Publicity Director—George Sessions
- Sergeant of Arms—Bill Rogers

Both Robert Karch and Bill Rogers are newly elected—welcome and congratulations! Both Steve Buck and Michael MacGregor were voted for different positions: Steve and Mike were last year's vice-president and secretary, respectively.