

**DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED**
Registration No. A0029615P

2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held 19/04/03 at Melbourne Boys High School, Melbourne, Victoria.

1. Opening

The Secretary, Mr. Craig Sedgwick (chairing the meeting as nominated by the President who was unable to attend) opened the meeting at 12:20pm and welcomed all members present (10 members were present at the meeting and the secretary held proxy votes for Shane Cubis and Sean Colman).

2. Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Sean Colman and Shane Cubis.

3. Minutes of the 2001 DAANZ AGM

Frank Meerbach proposed that the minutes of the 2002 DAANZ AGM be accepted without amendment. Seconded by Geoff Kerr. The motion was carried.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2002 DAANZ AGM

No matters arising.

5. President's Report

Craig Sedgwick read a report prepared by Shane Cubis:

Afternoon all.

Once again it is time for the DAANZ AGM. A time when we look back in reflection over the year that was, and forward to the year that will be. We face similar problems as last year, with dwindling participants at tournaments and general apathy towards organisation. It is sad to see so many of us with less and less time to dedicate to the hobby, but it is understandable, as our members grow older with very little in the way of fresh blood to replace and rejuvenate them. The lure of email Diplomacy and other, more fast-paced games is strong. Sad but true.

However, in my opinion - and I believe this view is shared by Craig A. Sedgwick - as long as there are seven people willing to meet over a map of Europe and fight for the spoils there is hope. Poorly attended tournaments can become a self-perpetuating cycle, and I think we need to foster the belief that any tournament is worth attending, even if expected numbers are low. In terms of social games, one reason for the lack of games in Wollongong is the 'if you get six, call me' syndrome. Perhaps we should play up the social side of the tournaments as well.

Now I feel all depressed. There are plusses. We have good people willing to help out. Craig has been a bastion of the hobby for ages, and I really feel he holds the DAANZ together. Seanbaby has really put in, in terms of recruitment, promotion and simple attendance. Of course, there are plenty of other people who keep the machinery of Australian Diplomacy running through the Rag, organising tournaments, Bismark, Masterpoints etc.

I feel we still have a strong core of good people and good players. To belabor a point, we need new recruits for the game. We have the theory - we know what sort of stuff works in terms of finding new players. We just need someone with the energy and time to implement them. This is the main obstacle to continued growth of our fine hobby. Aside from that, I think everything is going swimmingly in Antipodean Diplomacy, and I commend all members of the DAANZ for making the game so much fun to play and the tournaments so worthwhile to attend.

Thank you.

Frank Meerbach proposed that the report be accepted and this was seconded by Dugal Ure. The motion was carried.

6. Finances / Secretary's Report

The financial position of the hobby is reasonably strong. There do not seem to be any money issues. Total incomings last year were \$2118 and outgoings were \$2474.50. So there was an amount extra on outgoings above incomings. This was mainly due to the fact that the year before we had received extra income towards WDC, some of which was used in the last financial year. So in the budget that I have prepared my expectation is that for the current year we will have an income of approximately \$600 and outgoings of approximately \$470. That is allowing a couple of hundred dollars for advertising. I've bumped up our expected income from tournaments because there are additional tournaments planned for this year, even without the Nationals being held. Expected cash-on-hand at the end of 2003 should be about \$1900. As has been said before, if someone can come up with a good idea for us to spend the money on we will consider it. If there is something that will increase our membership or do good for the hobby then that is what the money is for.

Robert Stephenson proposed that the report be accepted and this was seconded by Dugal Ure. The motion was carried.

7. Election of Officers

President – Geoff Kerr – nominated by David Currell and seconded by Frank Meerbach

Secretary – Craig Sedgwick – nominated by Brett Chatterton and seconded by Robert Stephenson

Returning Officer – Sean Colman – nominated by Craig Sedgwick and seconded by Brett Chatterton

Public Officer – Tristan Lee – nominated by Dugal Ure and seconded by Frank Meerbach

All officers were elected un-opposed.

8. Agenda Items:

- (a) Review of affiliation fee's – proposed by Craig Sedgwick that they remain as they were prior to the last Executive meeting – that is AU\$1 per player per round to a maximum of \$3 per player per tournament.

Discussion on why Executive made change. Meeting of DAANZ executive at Wollongong end of 2002. At that meeting it was decided that the fees would be increased. Since that meeting it has been questioned why this decision was made. And with no clear reason for doing it, it seems logical to leave things as they were. There was some discussion as to the use of funds – including the DAANZ subsidizing tournaments that run at a loss. It was pointed out that the DAANZ has done this in the past, and will continue to do so on a case-by-case basis – i.e. when it can be shown the tournament was run in an honest attempt to break even or to run at a profit.

This motion was proposed by Craig Sedgwick and seconded by Tony Collins. Carried unanimously.

9. General Business:

- (a) Will the Australian National Championships be run this year?

The Secretaries thoughts on this matter are that the Executive does not stop people from running tournaments and that if someone wants to run a tournament and there is a spot in the calendar for it and it receives enough notice then there is a reasonable chance that it will go ahead. At this stage I do not expect it to go ahead as there does not appear to be anyone willing to run it – certainly not a tournament based in Canberra.

Rob Stephenson thought a problem with this could be that with the calendar not being definitely set at the start of the year a person thinking of Bismark Cup points may decide at some point late in the year to hold the tournament, and that this may disadvantage other people contending for the Bismark.

Craig suggested that it is not the current policy to not allow a tournament proposed during the year.

Rob suggested that this should be a policy – that tournament running for the first time not be eligible for Bismark Cup points.

Rob asked what should be done with the perpetual trophy for the Nationals – in regard to it not being held this year. It was agreed that if it is not held, then a plaque is to be added indicating it was not held due to the bushfires in Canberra in January.

Frank Meerbach asked whether the Nationals could be attached to another tournament, say Sydney.

Tristan suggested that we could have the Nationals associated with a tournament that is not a state championships as well. The two suggestions were either Gong Con or a Don Challenge.

Craig advised that the executive would wait to hear from any organizer that might want to hold a tournament in Australia as the Nationals this year. He suggested that those people interested in seeing this happen should use the Ozdip forum or speak directly to the tournament organizers to make this happen. Rob Hadley advised he and James Bounsall would like to host a tournament late in the year, with Nationals status. The executive requested he email with details of the proposed tournament for them to review.

- (b) David Norman requested we raise as an item for discussion:
“Following the ratification of the WDC Charter in Canberra last year, every Diplomacy Organisation which meets a small set of criteria, is allowed to nominate one person as their representative on the WDC members committee. This committee has two main roles:

- (1) To propose changes to the WDC Charter.
- (2) To select a replacement site for WDC, should a successful bid subsequently fall through and be unable to host WDC.

The DAANZ clearly meets the criteria for an organisation, which can nominate a committee member. Therefore, has the DAANZ nominated a WDC Committee member already?

- If they have, please can you confirm who it is (I expect if they have, it will be Sean Colman).

- If they haven't, I'd like to suggest that they do so. In this case, it may be done by any method that the DAANZ feels appropriate (e.g. the executive selects someone, the AGM selects someone, etc). I'd also like to suggest that as the person who does the most traveling to intercontinental events from Downunder, Sean Colman would be the best candidate for the job.

The other thing you should be aware of is each WDC TD can either be a WDC member, or designate someone to act in his or her place. So from Downunder, this is Ken Sproat and John Cain. I will be mailing them shortly to ask if they wish to nominate someone.

If the same person becomes a WDC Member through two different methods, it doesn't give them twice the say!”

The executive asked whether there was anybody in the room that would like to stand for that position? There was not.

After some short discussion it was agreed the executive would approach Sean Colman, John Cain and Ken Sproat and get an indication from them of their interest in the position, and what their level of commitment (travel?) would be.

10. Close of Meeting

As there was no further business the Secretary declared the meeting closed at 12:50pm.