

7/11/2014

The Annual General Meeting of the Canterbury Schools Debating Council opened at 6:30 pm on 7 November 2014. The Agenda for the Meeting was as follows:

1. President's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Constitutional Amendments
4. Elections
5. General Business

1. President's Report

The President's Report was delivered by 2014 President Tim Bain. The report is attached.

Motion: That the Council accept the President's Report. Moved by Megan Dickie; seconded by Sean Maskill. Motion carried.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was delivered by 2014 Treasurer Bill Dieckermann. The report is attached.

It was highlighted that the incoming Executive should consider only waiving the \$100 base fee for host schools, not the \$25 excess team fee. There was general agreement that this recommendation should be passed on.

Motion: That the Council accept the Treasurer's Report. Moved by Sean Maskill; seconded by Megan Dickie. Motion carried.

3. Constitutional Amendments

Sean Maskill's proposed amendment was considered. The amendment is attached. The amendment consisted of two alternatives (serious amendment + pirate names; serious amendment without pirate names). The alternatives were considered in turn.

Motion: That the Council amend the constitution according to the first alternative proposed by Sean Maskill. Moved by Sean Maskill; seconded by Megan Dickie. Motion carried.

The first alternative having passed, the second alternative was not put to the Meeting.

4. Elections

The proposed amendment having passed, elections were conducted in accordance with it. The following candidates were considered:

- **Captain (formerly President)**
Ashleigh Ooi (nominated by Sean Maskill; seconded by Megan Dickie); Bill Dieckermann (nominated by Sean Maskill; seconded by Megan Dickie). Ashleigh Ooi was elected.

- **First Mate (formerly Vice-President)**

Bill Dieckermann (nominated by Ashleigh Ooi; seconded by Megan Dickie). Bill Dieckermann was elected.

Motion: That Tim Bain be removed as Returning Officer and replaced by Sean Maskill. Moved by Megan Dickie; seconded by Tom O'Brien. Motion carried.

- **Treasure Map (formerly Treasurer)**

Tim Bain (nominated by Megan Dickie; seconded by Ashleigh Ooi). Tim Bain was elected.

- **Pieces O' Eight (formerly General Members) (2 positions)**

Natalija Petrovic (nominated by Tim Bain; seconded by Isabella Walsh). Natalija Petrovic was elected. The second position remains vacant.

Motion: That the Council instruct the incoming Executive to hold a Special General Meeting in Term 1 of 2015 to elect a second Piece O' Eight (General Member). Moved from the Chair. Motion carried.

5. General Business

Motion: That the Council thank the 2014 Executive for their service. Moved by Sean Maskill; seconded by Megan Dickie. Motion carried.

The Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 7:36 pm on 7 November 2014.

Tim Bain

7/11/2014

Overall, this has been a very successful year for CSDC. Numbers of participants have remained steady from the slight increase last year, and in general everything has run smoothly. We have also made a few changes to the competitions which we run this year, and they have generally been a success. There are a few things which I wish to highlight in this report.

1. Changes to Annual Competition Format

This year we abolished the Intermediate Championships and instead ran just a Junior Championships and a Senior Championships. We also introduced a novice break into the Junior Championships, which was designed for teams consisting entirely of students in their first year of debating. We ran semi-finals for both Championships on one day, with the Junior Open and Junior Novice semi-finals running simultaneously on the same topic, followed by the Senior semi-finals. We then ran the grand finals the next day in a similar format. The winners of the Junior Novice and Junior Open grand finals were not announced until after the Senior grand final, meaning that the younger debaters and their supporters provided a boost to the audience of the Senior final. We acquired trophies for each winner.

The changes to formatting was intended to allow a greater frequency of debates for each competition (from 5 debates + break rounds to 7 debates + break rounds). Unfortunately, due to the late Easter and consequent misalignment of the school and university calendars, we were only able to have 6 debates + break rounds in each competition. There were also some improvements in retention of debaters towards the later of the year, but not nearly as much as had been hoped. Nevertheless, I think that the change in format should be retained, as it did allow for more frequent debates than otherwise would have been possible. In particular, I think that the novice break was hugely successful at motivating new debaters to keep attending later rounds. The finals format was also fantastic and we had a great audience (helped along by the incredible venue at Christ's College).

Recommendations:

I recommend that the changes to the format and finals which were made this year are continued into the future.

2. Weekend Tournaments

This year, we added a third weekend tournament to our normal rotation: Platform Debate. Platform Debate was run in conjunction with UC DebSoc and the UC College of Arts, and took the format of mix-and-match debates where students were sorted into random teams for each round. The six best-performing speakers were then selected for a final debate, which took place in the UC Undercroft. The College of Arts supplied prizes for the winners and the finalists.

Platform Debate was a logistical challenge to organise, and I was initially sceptical if it had been worth it. However, the feedback which I have received from debaters who attended was overwhelmingly positive – they enjoyed the more informal nature of the day but still felt challenged. The College of Arts were also very happy with the day, and expressed interest in running it in later years. One thing

that has been noted is that it would perhaps be better off as an “intro-to-debating” weekend at the start of the year.

Because of Platform Debate and the mismatched calendars, Senior Impromptu Championships and Junior Regionals were scheduled to take place on the same weekend (the first weekend of Term 4). Turnout for Senior Impromptu was on par with last year, but unfortunately only five teams confirmed their attendance for Junior Regionals and thus it had to be cancelled at the last minute. The primary reason given for the low turnout was how late in the year the competitions were. All students (especially Seniors) were preparing for exams, and a number of other extra-curricular activities had started up.

Recommendations:

I recommend that Platform Debate ought to be run again in partnership with the College of Arts, but that it be organised for early in the year – perhaps as early as Term One – so that it can function as a more informal introduction to debating.

I also recommend that Junior Regionals and Senior Impromptu be moved to earlier in the year – sometime in Terms 2/3 (depending on other scheduling conflicts). I think that particularly it might be a good idea to make sure that they run before the finals of the Annual Competition – once that competition has finished people tend to feel like debating is done for the year. Though a more condensed calendar may be hard to organise, I think that it should be the goal as it improves the likelihood that debaters will prioritise CSDC.

3. Succession Planning

At the end of this year, we are losing a number of stalwart CSDC adjudicators (including Tom and Megan, who have had leadership roles for a long time). I have done my best to try to encourage new blood – both to get newer adjudicators along to rounds and to encourage as many Year 13 students as possible to attend the AGM and consider getting on board. In hindsight, I am not sure whether this is enough to continue recruiting people in – it is not ideal that the Executive have to bear the brunt of adjudicating throughout the year. Other regional competitions (e.g. ASD, DSD), offer incentives to adjudicators to attend rounds. If the budget allows for it (which it should if we are able to reconnect with past funders like the ESU Trust) I think that CSDC should consider this going forward.

Recommendations:

I recommend that CSDC investigate offering incentives to adjudicators to attend rounds with the aim of increasing overall adjudicator numbers.

4. Use of the Website

This year, we made some efforts to increase the use of the website, including by adding a Moot Bank. However, we weren't able to consistently update the results of the Annual Competition, which I think was a shame and which should have been rectified. Having updated results on the website makes it easier to catch mistakes and makes the whole process seem more formal and competitive.

Recommendations:

I recommend that next year the Executive put in a process to make sure that the motions and results for each round are updated onto the website that night (before records are lost/forgotten), and that this is shared on the Facebook page (hopefully increasing its reach).

5. Thanks

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as President of CSDC. I would like to thank Tom, Bill, Sophie and Ashleigh for all of their hard work and support over the year. I would also like to thank Megan for continuing her massive contribution to CSDC even after stepping down as President. Thanks also go out to everyone who gave up their time to adjudicate at CSDC this year. Finally, I would like to thank all of the teachers and debaters who are involved for making this work so rewarding.

Bill Dieckermann

7/11/2014

This year has been a financially unremarkable year. Although we have made a loss it is smaller than last years and is largely due to the increase in revenues. However, expenditures carried over from last year and large one off capital expenses have contributed to overall loss.

1. Income Statement

	2014	2013
Opening Balance	5,772.52	6,768.82
Income		
School Fees	2,025.00	1,550.00
Interest	<u>20.04</u>	<u>23.11</u>
Total Income	2,045.04	1,573.11
Expenses		
Nationals	1,061.40	1,515.41
New Trophies	675.10	0.00
Certificates	12.98	0.00
Coaching	225.00	675.00
Website	419.11	138.00
Regionals and Impromptu	<u>214.40</u>	<u>241.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2,607.99</u>	<u>2,569.41</u>
Loss	-562.95	-996.30
Closing Balance	5,209.57	5,772.52

As can be seen the loss for 2014 is less than that of 2013 mostly due to the increase in revenues. However, as can be seen expenses slightly rose in 2014. The main reasons for increases in expenditure were new trophies and updating the website (\$89.11). Both of these were one off expenses. Furthermore, one of last year's payments for the upkeep of the website (\$100) was paid this year which further contributed to the increase in website expenses.

Nationals' expenses were down this year, although the large difference is partly because 2013's expenses include expenses for Nationals in 2012. Coaching costs are also down due to the decrease in the hourly rate for coaches for town schools from \$25 to \$20 and a large decrease in the number of hours of coaching given this year.

Due to the nature of this year's expenses being one-off, if next year's executive do not engage in any extravagant one-off spending it is very likely that a budget surplus will be made in 2015. If trophies

had not been bought this year, the website was not updated and last year's payment for the website had been made last year we would have made a surplus of \$301.

2. Financial Position

Financial position as at 7/11/2014

Assets

Bank Balance (as at 7/11/2014)	6094.87
Novice Trophy	165.4
Junior Trophy	234.5
Senior Trophy	275.2
Senior Impromptu Trophy	50
Junior Regionals Trophy	50
Accounts Receivable	250

Total Assets 7119.97

Liabilities

Unbanked Cheques	887
School Fee Credit	275

Total Liabilities 1162

Net Financial Position 5957.97

Appendix to Financial Position

Accounts Receivable

Unlimited Discovery Merged School	100
Cashmere High School	150

Unbanked Cheques

NZSDC	887
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School Fee Credit

Christ's College (Overpayment)	75
St Andrew's College (Host)	200

As can be seen we have a healthy financial position. Note that the reason why liabilities are so high is because NZSDC has not banked the cheque for nationals.

Credit is owed to Christ's College and St Andrew's College for fees. Christ's College is owed because they overpaid. St Andrew's is owed because they volunteered to host the second half of the Junior Championship after they had paid.

Unlimited now owe us as they pulled out of hosting at the last minute. Cashmere are also still to pay. They will be sent passive aggressive e-mails.

A debt from last year's financial position from the ESU has been left off as it is very unlikely that we will collect it.

The two older trophies have been given a nominal value of \$50.

3. Recommendations

I would recommend that the hosting incentives be changed from a total waiver to waiving just the school fee but still charging for additional teams. This is partly to discourage hosting schools from entering obscene number of teams for free thus overwhelming the competitions and partly to increase revenues to pay for other expenses. This would make it possible to afford more coaching and adjudicator incentives.

Constitutional Amendments

I propose the following amendments to the CSDC constitution (additions in italics):

1. Amend clause 2 to read:

"2. Executive

- a) The Executive of the Council shall be the Council's governing body and is responsible for its management and administration.*
- b) The Executive may conduct Executive meetings and may determine its own meeting procedures for these meetings.*
- c) The Executive shall consist of:*
 - i) A Captain, who shall oversee all activities of the Council, act as the chief liaison between the Council and schools, preside at Council meetings, and act as the Council's spokesperson; and*
 - ii) A First Mate, who shall assist the President in his or her role; and*
 - iii) A Treasure Map, who shall collect and account for all subscriptions and other monies received by the Council, disposing of them according to Council decisions; keep proper books; and furnish a Financial Report, including a Statement and Expenditure for the year, and a Statement of the Council's Assets and Liabilities, to the Annual General Meeting; and*
 - iv) Two Pieces o' Eight, who shall be assigned duties as required for the furtherance of the Council's business; and*
 - v) The Convenor of the Canterbury Regional Championships, who, if not elected to another position, shall hold an ex-officio position on the Council for the duration of his or her appointment. The Convenor shall hold speaking rights at Council meetings, but may not cast votes. He or she shall have the sole discretion over matters delegated to him or her by the New Zealand Schools' Debating Council, including the organisation of the Regional Championships and the selection and coaching of representative teams; however he or she shall be advised and assisted by the Council in these matters*
- d) With the exception of the Convenor, no individual who already holds a position on the Executive will be eligible for election to another position.*
- e) All Executive members apart from the Convenor shall be elected at General Meetings, and shall hold office for no more than one calendar year from the General Meeting at which they were elected. The Convenor shall be appointed by the New Zealand Schools' Debating Council and shall hold office at that organisation's discretion.*
- f) An Executive member may only be removed from office during his or her period of tenure for cause and by a unanimous resolution of the other members of the Council. If an office holder is removed in this way then a Special General Meeting must be called as soon as practicable in order to elect a replacement.*
- g) An Executive member may resign by delivering notice in writing to the President; or if the President wishes to resign he or she may do so by delivering notice in writing to the Vice President. If a Council member resigns:*
 - i) The remaining members of the Executive may appoint a non-voting member to carry out the duties of the resigned member until the next General Meeting.*
 - ii) If the Captain resigns then the First Mate will act as Captain until the next General Meeting of the Society. The First Mate's first action as Captain must be to send an email from the presidential gmail account titled "I am the Captain now."*

iii) If the resignation results in there being fewer than four voting members on the *Executive*, then a Special General Meeting must be called as soon as is practicable to elect replacements to the vacant positions.”

Alternatively, the amendment could be considered with the names of executive positions unchanged, and omitting the sentence beginning “The First Mate’s first action as Captain”. The rationale of this change is to constitutionally distinguish between the executive and the council. The constitution currently implies that the council is solely made up of the president, vice president, treasurer and two general members. This is problematic on two fronts: first, the constitution is currently unable to distinguish between the executive as a group and the council as a broader institution; second, it seems unnecessarily exclusionary. It seems strange that people who contribute to the purposes of the Council are entitled to vote, but are not members of CSDC.

It may be that there is a broader discussion to have about constitutionally defining ‘membership’ of CSDC. In my view the criteria for eligibility to vote are very well designed and could be easily adapted to create types of members — for example executive members, adjudicator and coach members, student members, and life members. I haven’t submitted an amendment making this change because in my view the status quo is sufficient.

2. Amend the following clauses to read:

“3) Powers

The Executive shall have the power to do anything necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes set out in Section 1, so long as it acts in accordance with this Constitution.

4) Terms and Handover

The term of each new *Executive* will begin twenty days after the Annual General Meeting, at which date the incumbent *Executive’s* term will cease.

5) Meetings

- a) *Executive* meetings shall be notified in advance to each *executive* member electronically unless the member has requested otherwise. No binding decisions shall be made except after all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that all members are able to attend.
- b) Quorum for meetings shall be four voting *executive* members (as specified in Section 2), including either the President or Vice President. Decisions may be made through electronic communication; however this shall require all voting Council members to respond to the motion.
- c) All *Executive* decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the voting members. If done in person votes shall be by voice; and if done via communication in an open poll that is visible to all voting members.

7) Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings

- a) Annual General Meetings shall be held each year on a date to be specified by the *Executive*, but that is to be no earlier than the First of September, and no later than the Thirtieth of November.
- b) Special General Meetings may be called from time to time by the Executive by giving notice as set out in Section 8.

8) Attendance, Speaking, and Voting Rights

- a) At any General Meeting, voting rights shall be confined to eligible electors, who meet at least one of the following criteria – namely, that they must:

- i) Have held an elected position on the *Executive* within the twenty-four months prior to the General Meeting; or
 - ii) Have adjudicated (including as a trainee adjudicator) on behalf of the Council at a secondary school debating tournament (organised by the Council or not) in Canterbury within the twelve months prior to the General Meeting; or
 - iii) Have coached a secondary school team in a Council organised or facilitated tournament within the twelve months prior to the General Meeting ; or
 - iv) Have debated as a secondary school student at a tournament in Canterbury within the twelve months prior to the General Meeting; or
 - v) Be a life member of the Council as specified in Section 7.
- b) Members of the public may attend General Meetings, but shall not have speaking rights granted to them without the assent of either the Chair or the majority of the eligible electors present.

9) Life Members

- a) Life Members of the Council are those individuals set out in Subsection (b) of this Section who have been recognised for their exceptional contribution to secondary schools' debating in Canterbury. *Unless duly elected*, they shall hold no position on the *Executive* and *they* may not act for or carry out any duties on behalf of *the Council* in their capacity as a Life Member.
- b) The Life Members of the Council are Jeremy Johnson, Rose Austen, Hayden Ryan and Erin Jackson.
- c) Life Members may be elected at General Meetings by a secret ballot. They require the same threshold of votes for election as the passage of amendments to this Constitution (as specified in Section 9). Nominations for Life Members must include a description of why the individual meets the criteria in Subsection (a).

10) Notice and Procedural Requirements

- a) Notice of General Meetings must be given by the *Executive* at least three weeks prior to the date of the General Meeting. All reasonable steps must be taken to give notice to all eligible electors of the General Meeting and of who is eligible to participate, including by posting on the website and notifying all registered schools.
- b) Notice must include the contact details for the Returning Officer, who shall be appointed by the *Executive* to oversee the voting procedures at the General Meeting. The Returning Officer is ineligible for election to the *Executive* at the General Meeting for which he or she is appointed, and may not put forward any amendments to this Constitution to be voted on at that General Meeting.
- c) Nominations for the election of persons to the *Executive* and of proposed amendments to this Constitution must be communicated to the Returning Officer no fewer than ten days prior to the General Meeting.
- d) At a date at least one week prior to the General Meeting, the Returning Officer will make available proxy voting forms, which may be used by eligible electors who are unable to attend the General Meeting. These forms must:
 - i) Set out all nominations that meet the requirements of Subsection (c), including a brief description of the candidate (which shall be provided by the nominee); and
 - ii) Set out all proposed amendments to this Constitution that meet the requirements of Subsection (c), as well as a brief rationale provided by their sponsor; and
 - iii) Require the person filling out the form to demonstrate why they are an eligible elector.
- e) Only proxy votes by eligible electors that are received by the Returning Officer (prior to the General Meeting) on the form described in Subsection (d) shall be valid. The Returning

Officer shall have sole discretion to determine the validity of proxy votes according to the criteria set out in this Constitution.

f) The incumbent President of the Council shall chair General Meetings at all times except during the elections of new Council members and votes on Constitutional amendments, at which time the Returning Officer shall chair the meeting.

11) Interpretation

This Constitution will be interpreted at first instance by the *Executive*, and ought to be interpreted so *as to confer* validity rather than *invalidity to actions.*”

These amendments have been proposed so as to distinguish between the executive, as a group, and the Council, as an organisation.