



North West Hobart Graduates Hockey Club

Life Membership Nomination and Appointment Policy

Background

There was a long period of no life memberships until the two were granted in 1994. This was identified by the 1994 Committee and it was decided to rectify the problem by: identifying any "back-log" of worthy people who had not been considered, and; implement a procedure for identifying and assessing future nominees.

Following much discussion, a meeting was held in October 1994, where four nominees were considered. Rough guidelines were developed and three people were considered worthy of a life membership. However, it was considered inappropriate to give three life memberships in one year. Therefore, the three were ranked, with the top two given life memberships at the Annual Dinner that year as a very special event, with a recommendation that normally only one be granted each year in the future. The 'third person considered as worthy of a life membership was recommended to the 1995 Committee to be considered for a life membership in 1995 before any other nominees were tabled.

Based on discussions of the October 1994 meeting the following principles to determine a life membership nominee, as well as the process for nominating and granting life membership are suggested as a policy to be adopted by the Club. It is suggested this policy be followed by future Committee's, unless they see fit to review the entire policy.

Suggested Procedure

- 1) Any nomination for life membership should be made at least two meetings prior to the Annual Dinner.
- 2) While the nomination can come from any Club member, it must be "sponsored" by a Committee member.
- 3) It will then become the responsibility of that Committee member to present evidence to the Committee regarding the nominee that will allow an informed decision by the Committee, based on the criteria set out below, as to the worthiness of the nominee as a life member of the Club.

The reason for placing the responsibility on the "sponsor" or nominator is to stop the situation arising where little information is provided about a nominee, therefore making it difficult for Committee members to decide on the nomination. It may well be the case that the nominee has not been directly involved with the Club for a number of years, or mainly on the men's or women's side. This could mean that younger Committee members or those from either the men's or women's side may not know much about the nominee.

- 4) Once a nomination has been received by the Committee, the Secretary shall have responsibility of calling a special meeting of all Committee members to decide on the nomination. This should be done in conjunction with the nominator to allow time to gather the relevant information. A second special meeting may be held if necessary.
- 5) While members not on the Committee should be encouraged to provide information to such meetings, only the Committee should be present at the meeting, unless the Committee feels there are special circumstances requiring another person to attend. In such an event, this person/s should not be present when voting is undertaken.
- 6) At the meeting to decide on the nomination/s the Committee shall, in regard to the following criteria, determine if the nomination is worthy. The emphasis in this determination should be heavily on critical appraisal of the level of service to the Club required to be a life member. If there is any doubt of such a level being achieved, or lack of information about the nominee that makes such a conclusion impossible, then Committee members should consider voting in the negative. The criteria for consideration are:

There are four areas of service in the Club

- ❖ ***Playing,***
- ❖ ***Coaching/Managing,***
- ❖ ***Administration, and***
- ❖ ***General contribution (including fund-raising, supporting and other issues that a Committee may see as relevant).***

The nominee must have an outstanding contribution in at least one of these areas and at least some contribution in two of the other three areas or contribution deemed appropriate at the discretion of the Committee. In determining the level of significance, the Committee members should consider this in the light of a very high quality service;

While a reasonable length of time (to be determined by the Committee - approximately 10 years is suggested) of service is important, the overall riding criterion is the quality of service.

- 7) Once the nominator/sponsor has presented the information and all questions and comments have been made, the Committee shall conduct a secret ballot on the worthiness of the nomination.

- 8) Should there be more than one nomination, then each should be considered in turn with a preliminary ballot to be taken (again secret) to determine which nomination is to take precedent. This preliminary ballot is NOT a vote of the worthiness of the nomination/s against the criteria, but merely a way of determining which nomination should be the one to be voted upon.
- 9) It is considered appropriate either the President/Secretary should collect the votes. In the case of the need for a preliminary ballot the President/Secretary should count the votes and announce which nomination will be voted upon.
- 10) In the unusual circumstances where there is a tied preliminary vote or the Committee considers more than one nomination is worthy, the Committee may determine that 2 life memberships are awarded. However, this must be only in extremely special circumstances, and no more than two can be awarded in any year.
- 11) Alternatively should a Committee find it has two possible life members, it may consider setting a recommendation for the following year's Committee that one of the nominations be forwarded to the following year. Such a recommendation should then be considered by the following Committee separately and prior to any other nominations for that year.
- 12) The responsibility should be on the outgoing Secretary to ensure any such recommendation is received by the incoming Secretary for action.
- 13) The President/Secretary should take the final votes and count them. **Life members may only be voted on by a minimum of eight Committee Members or their proxies (who need to be Life Members) with a minimum of 85% agreeing with the nomination.** Given the importance of the decision Committee Members are not allowed to abstain from voting.
- 14) It is considered that changes to the policy should not been done on an ad hoc basis but rather the whole policy should be reviewed.
- 15) All Committee members should be aware that it is not necessary for a Life Membership to be granted each year.