

Minutes of the Board Meeting of Sunday, November 14, 2004, 7:00 PM EST:

Present: Mike Bull, Mike Lash, Harold Lloyd, Roy Laird, Bill Cobb, Allan Abramson

1. Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve by Harold; seconded by Mike; unanimously approved

2. President's report (Including status of Bylaw revisions, Edge TV proposal, development of annual list of special tournaments abroad and domestic)

O Mike will send memo to Board on ideas to stimulate membership, before the holidays

O He expects to roll out a marketing plan by April

O Internet league will use the AGA web site as a clearinghouse

O Expect the league to begin in January

O Go Congress 2005 - Spoke with Steve Stringfellow

O Still working on contract language; want financial arrangements well in advance

O Budget estimated at \$100-150,000; AGA to pay \$10,000 deposit

O Treasurer Ben Bernstein will set up the financial structure

O Question: if the local club is not incorporated, can they sign a contract? Mike will check.

O Go Congress 2004 - Spoke with Greg Lefler this week

O Money is being held by RIT; they just paid the hotel bill (which was too high: Greg now challenging the charges)

O Gross income was about \$250,000

O Still working on a full accounting for the Congress

O Motion by Roy that from now on, registrations for the Congresses should be paid directly to the AGA or its subsidiary; seconded by Harold; unanimously approved

O Allan noted that we probably needed a subsidiary corporation for each Congress; Mike Lash will follow up with Counsel

O Selection of non-playing representatives to international events

O Bill and Jeff will draft a policy for this, for Board review

O Selection of players for international events

O Allan would like to refer this to the about-to-be-established "strong player committee" for recommendations; also still need a strong player liaison

O Concept: Top leagues for pros/strong players

O Top league: each year, bottom bracket drops to second league, which promotes its top bracket to the top league

O Allan to ask Sam Zimmerman for a ratings readout, to determine the "strong players" - this is expected to be those over seven dan, but need to look at those close to seven dan, too

O Concept: System to certify strong players as professionals

O This will take about a year to develop, with input from a committee of pros and strong players

O Bill and Roy noted their strong support for these two concepts

O The Board agreed to initiate an email discussion of how to find appropriate liaisons for these committees

O Tournament coordination

O Fujitsu is coming up

O Still need to put together an annual list of major events, with schedules:
URGENT

O Roy noted that Mary Laird has a pretty good list we can start with

O AGA Organizational Structure

O Mike proposed to send it to the Board next month

O Allan requested that he send it first to the Chapters, for two-three weeks comment period

O International Rules

O The international committee will begin work on a process to unify the rules

O We will play an active role on this committee (Chris Kirschner and Terry Benson)

O AGA Financial Status

O First half of year report from the Treasurer

O Total assets down about \$4500; reserves still over \$260,000

O Edge TV Contract

O Mike needs Board feedback on the last version of the contract

O The channel is expected to start in 2005, with contracts in place in 2006

O Mike will send it around again for Board review

3. Old Business

a. Leadership Development Committee

O Bill suggested that we explore Pete Schumer's interest in contributing to the AGA

O Allan will follow up on this suggestion

b. Vendor Liaison

O While not on the agenda, Mike Lash noted at this point that he would be willing to take on the role of vendor liaison, which the Board supported

O We will invite the vendors to join us, list the issues, and recommend options

O Bill will send Mike a vendor contact list, to start this process

c. Marketing Funds (Allan will provide some ideas for discussion at the meeting)

O Agenda item superseded by Mike's pending list of ideas to stimulate membership

O Still need to work on guidelines for applications for the dedicated marketing funds

d. Initial discussion of creating highest level leagues, and a system to promote strong players to professional level (See discussion in President's Report section above)

e. Discussion of role of Board members on committees (Email thread...)

O Postponed

f. Focus on children: None's suggestion for early school year involvement

O Postponed

4. New Business

a. Need for annual calendar of invitational/foreign events, for planning purposes; need for an overall tournament coordinator (discussed above)

b. Discussion of means to stimulate membership growth activities (discussed above)

c. Concept of setting up a pilot Tournament Director's school

O Postponed

5. Open Discussion

O None

6. Adjournment

O Moved by Roy; seconded by Harold; passed unanimously and meeting adjourned