

Summary: AGA president Andy Okun reports on international activities, changes in executive volunteers/staffing, and possible changes in board meeting schedules/how the board interacts with the president. The board discussed Okun's proposed budget for the next fiscal year, and approved it.

**AGA Board Meeting Minutes
06/09/2019**

In Attendance:

Lisa Scott
Gurujeet Khalsa
Steve Colburn
Chris Kirschner
Paul Celmer
Samantha Fede
Andy Okun

Missing:

Chris Saenz

Called to order 8:09pm

Approve minutes:

Lisa moves to approve the minutes for May, Gurujeet seconds. Approved by all.

Presidents report

1. International

a. Thomas Hsiang update

b. SportAccord Convention

i. IMSA events (fairly uncertain)

1. WMSG – tentatively proposed for Oct. 2020 in Qingdao, at level of detailed sponsor and host proposal. Amateur, 2,000 to participate. Five usual sports plus demos of card games, e-games, duplicate mahjong.

Chris: Does this mean that China is the sponsor of this?

Andy: I don't know but not necessarily. There are many different levels and organizations in which it can be organized.

Chris: But it's less likely to be up in the air, like with previous iterations?

Andy: Well, hopefully.

2. IMSA masters. First happened in Hengshui, Hebei province.

Agreement is for four more, with sponsors in place but cities may change. This will probably happen next year.

3. IEMG. Currently proposed for Nov. or Dec. of this year. If it is held, it will probably be the last one and will probably have very low budget, low prizes, and few players.

4. World Mind Games. This would be successor event of SAWMG. GAISF, formerly SportAccord, would be in charge. Targeted for Winter 2020 but very uncertain.

5. IMSA World Youth Mind Games. Small event for U16 in August 2020 in Tianjin. Travel allowance but no prizes.

Chris: Will we have a process for selecting who we send to these events?

Andy: Yes, but unfortunately we're likely to have short notice. We're aware of this.

Steve: Have you heard of the MAMA international tournament? Part of the Thailand Princess cup.

Andy: I'm aware of some informal information from Facebook, but no further info. Thailand has a big go community related to the Thai owner of 7-11.

Steve: I will follow-up with you offline.

ii. IOC Recognition:

IGF is ready for IOC recognition, and wanted to submit application and materials in October of 2018, but could not get IOC response. Turns out IOC called a halt to new recognitions to take a "step back" to reassess the meaning and process of recognition. They claim we should be patient and unconcerned, with process likely to be made public in 2020 and reopened in 2021. Disappointment for IGF and Thomas, but not so much for Chinese officials, who believe recognition to be both impossible and unimportant. IOC recognition would be very useful for Go inside and outside of Asia. For example, it might better position the AGA as a C3 organization.

c. Anti-doping

i. I was officially appointed IGF anti-doping officer at the WAGC in Matsue, and helped contract for and supervise the sample collections there

ii. Having been working on a draft risk assessment for IGF to justify the scope and nature of our anti-doping efforts.

iii. Likely will seek IGF permission to file a request for a WADA exemption from out of competition testing. Will do so, likely, in coordination with other mind sports organizations.

Steve: Will/when will this be applied to our events?

Andy: It probably won't be applied in American events for a long while, because we don't have the high stakes events. We want to be part of the world of clean sports, but we'll probably focus more on other measures to stop cheating. For example, we had individuals check in phones. But, playing in the tournament is the main prize here and we don't have many problems with it right now.

Chris: Will we need Therapeutic Use Exemptions on file?

Andy: We did discuss with top players prescription drug use, and we only tested the top players. It can be done retroactively. It's not ideal, but our sport has no history of doping.

d. Misc.

i. At SportAccord, I learned of a top level domain, .sport, that GAISF operates. I will be prodding them to make use of it, paying the higher fee to GAISF to secure a wide range of Go related domains. Could maybe get usgo.sport and some others.

2. Budget

a. Draft distributed. Let me know questions. Obviously it is hard for you to approve it at this meeting, but you could agree to approve by e-mail should questions be appropriately answered.

b. Plan is to spend the portion of the reserve we have for pro matches going forward. Otherwise not a dramatic budget. We have ample funds for things we want to try.

c. No substantial changes in dues, no changes in tournament functions, adding more to the treasurer budget to hire an accountant to do a 990. Broadcast money is still high as it is something that sets us as the AGA apart. I increased the pair go budget to cover travel funds, in addition to the regular pair go. We increased the item for chapter rewards, because we had a big response that went over budget last year.

Paul: Are we dipping into the reserves more than last year?

Andy: Yes, but mostly from the Google grant money allotted for pro go. But, I think if we have good programming to spend on, we have a big reserve (partially because we've had a surplus in past years) so we should be willing to spend.

3. Events

a. Pandanet season winding to successful close.

Steve: Greater Washington and NYC playing in the finals again, 1st Saturday of congress. There were two instances of possible cheating; it is very difficult to investigate, so we'll make changes for next year. We will probably require face-to-face via video.

b. Transatlantic Tournament end at 3-3. Viewership up in fifth game, not sure this time.

i. In order to address cheating, as this is an online game, we have an assistant referee with each player.

ii. 4th Game disputed end. European player lost on time, but said there was a computer server connection issue. There were not strong rules for the situation, but the referee ruled that Eric Lui won on time; there were unhappy people. We have, going forward, changed it so that there are regulations for this type of circumstance, including an appeals board and a process for a "sealed" move if the game lags.

c. Congress sign ups in 360 range so pleased to report that Dave Weimer has recommenced breathing.

4. Staff, admin and other

- a. Jonathan Bresler submitted his resignation, having done the job for many years. As it is a tricky job to fill, EVP Andrew Jackson, who understands the technical side of it far better than I do, is taking the opportunity of parental leave to fill the post until we find a replacement.
- b. Server migration went well. Steve reports things are looking good.
- c. I have a personal project to donate Go boards and maybe some teaching by pros to the US Pacific Fleet. I have a new volunteer, Navy vet Doug Wilkinson, who is helping me organize it. He found a magnetic cloth board that is awesome and not too pricey. I can do it in AGA/AGF's name, with the respective boards' approvals, but funding by me and others who might be interested, through AGF if the donation is 501(c)3 appropriate. I will bring it back to y'all when the time is right.

5. President/Board Interaction

I am sending around a memo about the way the board functions. Let's discuss it a bit, but with the idea that we have a structured conversation at the Congress meeting. The principal point is, I am recommending a significant change in the way the board and president interact, and the way the board operates. If the board is amenable to some version of the change, I could serve a 5th and last term seeing it through, at the board's option of course.

- a. By the way, the Russian Go Federation is becoming very big, and profitable, and will be hosting next year's World Amateur Go Tournament (the first non-asian country to host).
- b. I have drafted a memo, which I will send out to all. We can discuss via email and finalize at congress.
- c. This could be a great role for a part-time paid staffer. Making sure the machinery works and runs smoothly.

Paul, Lisa, Gurujeet support this direction and look forward to seeing the memo.

Chris emphasizes that seeing written reports in advance would be very helpful.

Gurjeet: Do we have a budget in mind for a staffer?

Andy: Not yet.

6. Discussed representation in international tournaments

Discuss and approve budget

Martin: We are not ready to do this as we just received it this morning. Thoughts so far?

Lisa: I looked through it and it seems straightforward. I have no objections.

Martin: Yes, it doesn't seem like there are many changes.

Gurjeet: It generally looks good, but we need to make sure the pro-funds get spent properly this year.

Andy: How about this- take the week to review it and send comments or concerns. Or you can approve and amend later.

Steve: We can also use slack to discuss.

Lisa motions to approve budget with a 7 day grace period to make changes to approval, Chris seconds. Unanimous.

New business

1. Andy received two boomerangs as official gifts from his Australia travel.
2. Next meeting is at US Go Congress.
3. Steve: The AGF has blind go boards. Would the Seattle and National Go Centers host a blind go board? [Chris and Gurujeet agree]. There will also be one at the go congress.
4. Steve: We should discuss the sigma for ratings in the future.

Steve motions to adjourn, Lisa seconds, unanimous. Adjourned at 9:27edt