

AGA Board Meeting Minutes  
11/12/2017

**Present:**

Martin Lebl (chair)  
Chris Kirschner  
Gurujeet Khalsa  
Lisa Scott  
Steve Colburn  
Andrew Jackson  
Edward Zhang  
Andy Okun (president)  
Samantha Fede (secretary)

Meeting called to order at 8:06 EST.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Lisa Scott moves to approve, Steve Colburn seconds. Unanimous approval

**President's report:**

Andy Okun: Met with the treasurer. He proposed investing the extra funds that the AGA has in the bank, as the board approved doing some time ago. Danny Ko has found a bank that yields a regular return of 1.25%, so Andy Okun will look into that. In order to open the account, the board will probably have to pass a resolution and the Secretary will probably have to sign off on it.

Regarding the videos that the AGA has been producing. Michael Wanek has been encouraging people to renew their AGA membership, and it seems to have yielded results.

Andrew Jackson: We have almost 10,000 subscribers and almost 1.5 million views. We have been encouraging people to join the AGA if they would like to support the videos. The videos have been picked up by YiKe. We have now been in contact with them, and arranged a partnership with them in which they link back to usgo.org. These videos will largely be shown in China, so it may not lead to AGA memberships, but it's good to be aware of.

Some people are getting memberships with the AGA to support the videos, even if they don't live in the US. Steve is working to get the Donate button fixed on the AGA website.

Andy: We have signed the contract with the University of Wisconsin, Madison and sent off the \$5000 deposit.

Andy recently spoke with Admiral Scott Swift, admiral of the Pacific fleet, who gave an informative talk and expressed an interest in putting go sets on his ships and bases. At this

point, it's not on behalf of the AGA, but he would like to do this on behalf of the AGA. He is thinking two sets and a Way to Go booklet.

Chris: You may want to add into that contact information for nearby clubs.

Andy: Some locations that might have ports with teachers- San Diego, Washington State, etc. With a gift this size we can even make a publicity event of the gift itself.

There was a Nature article about AlphaGo Zero-- Andy Okun and Andrew Jackson discussed in Nature and spoke on the BBC and was quoted financial times about this topic.

**Review progress on evaluation of by-laws (Chris/Lisa):**

We have a group of 5 who went through the by-laws and have highlighted areas of concerns and added comments regarding why. We have not yet worked on wording. Chris doesn't expect much progress this before the December meeting, but by February perhaps. Questions from the board?

Martin: No comments yet, but will write something up.

[Discussed at a later point in the meeting]

Gurujeeet: We should have a master list of appointments and terms

Martin: Particularly constitutional appointments.

Andy: Maybe we should have a fixed agenda item to renew appointments

Steve: We can have a list on our website, with the appointments and the time frames.

Chris: We can also create projected agendas in advance.

Lisa: And as a safeguard, just mention appointments on the agenda for every meeting.

**Action Item: Gurujeeet will generate the list and pass on to Andy.**

**Action Item: Discuss By-Laws at February Meeting (Add to Agenda)**

**Report on progress of ranking system (Chris):**

Jon is still working on the rating system, he's transferring the code to somewhere Andrew Jackson can help with it and is in talks with Chris Kirchner.

**Our policy on recording devices/computers/phones - discuss if our current rules sufficient:**

This has been discussed over email on the Chapters list.

Andy Okun: This is something that should be investigated by a committee rather than deciding as a board. On an ad hoc basis or as a standing rules committee-- maybe we should have such a committee anyway.

Lisa: Sounds good to me.

Chris: A standing committee makes sense to me for this. This group could also deal with issues as they arise (rule interpretation)

Martin: We should decide as a board about how involved they should be, because we don't want to make people unwelcome, but we don't want people cheating.

Chris: Whatever regulations we put together have to be flexible. Different circumstances may need slightly different rules, and TDs should have discretion. Maybe more like guidelines than hard and fast rules.

Martin: The committee should produce a standard announcement that TDs can use so that they know what is and isn't allowed. Right now we don't have this, and there is some confusion about what the actual rules are. Concern over this was expressed to me at the Cotsen.

Edward: This is not a very big issue now (except the very big tournaments), but if there's even one incident we would have a problem. Maybe we should suggest this only for the big tournaments. For the Asian big professional tournaments, cell phones have to be off or the game can be forfeit.

Lisa: This type of policy could be problematic because people have families and may need to be reachable.

[General agreement that rules need to be different for different circumstances.]

Andrew: Maybe we should leave the details for the committee to figure out. I would like to stress to the board the imminence of pro-level AI, on phones.

Chris: Motion to authorize standing committee.

Andrew: Yes, but it needs to produce something very quickly.

Gurujeet: One issue is AI, but there is also a separable issue of setting guidelines for recording games during tournaments.

Andy: They can be separated into "urgent" and "timely". I second the point of urgency Andrew made.

Chris: Andy, could you assemble this committee?

Martin: Anyone for establishing a rules committee on this topic? [Seconded the motion put forward by Chris]

Andy: Clarification, there is a rules committee that existed led by Terry Benson; this would be either a new version, or a rehashed version.

Lisa: Was Keith Arnold involved?

Chris: That was governance.

Board votes on the motion to establish a rules committee for devices and recording at tournaments, Unanimous, motion carries.

**Action Item: Discuss progress on this at the December meeting (Add to Agenda)**

**New Business:**

Edward: AlphaGo / AI have been very popular, and the AGA is in a unique position to capitalize on this, like at past congresses where we've had symposiums on AI and go. People may work in that field, or hope to, so we could work with Universities/Companies as sponsors to come to use these events as a forum. Perhaps for next congress.

Andrew: Since the AlphaGo Zero paper [in Nature], we've had a lot of people implement the paper on their own time to verify the results. A symposium where we could invite those people to come speak might be interesting. Many of them are in Europe, but we as the AGA could try to help or sponsor one of those teams. It's a good idea, but next August is a long time off, and progress is likely to be made much sooner.

Chris: Is there a chance for a computer tournament? AlphaGo vs. Zen Go. It would be popular.

Andrew: Computer tournaments already exist internationally, but it's possible there won't be more Go AI tournaments going forward because this algorithm is so dominant--ends up costing 50-100k to implement and I expect it to get cheaper, so I don't really see the point. That match up is almost certainly not going to happen. It will be like Batman vs. Superman-- a legendary hypothetical battle.

Edward: Well also, if people are in IT or not very serious players, those people may want to come to learn about Go AI.

Andrew: We could direct them to our youtube commentaries on the AlphaGo games.

Martin: We're not opposed to having technical sponsors like that.

Edward: We've looked before but haven't gotten much money. Our initial goal is to have a prize of 25k for the US Open. Regarding the youtube videos, my impression is that the commentary is for stronger players and not accessible to these casual people. I appreciate the timely and great commentary, it's a lot of good work.

Andrew: I will pass it on to our team.

Next meeting was scheduled for December 10, moved to December 17th.

**Action Item: January/February meetings will be discussed at December meeting (Add to Agenda)**

Lisa moves to adjourn, Andrew seconds. Unanimous.

Adjourned at 8:52pm EST

Last Line