

## AGA Board Meeting Minutes 6/24/2018

### **Present**

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

### Guests:

Thomas Hsiang  
Karoline Li

Meeting called to order at 8:05pm EDT

### **AGA Volunteer Reports:**

Karoline Li: Thanks for the invitation. I'd like to talk about the archives that was transferred to my custody from David Doucette. I'm completing the inventory right now. I'd like to bring up a second thing, which is creating a records retention schedule for the organization. Basically, what documents we as an organization create and how long we should keep them. I have a basic template based on what most non-profits use, but since we're a niche organization, we have documentation that's specific to us. So, I would like you to think about what documentation you as board members create and would like to keep.

Steve: Are emails that go through usgo.org records we have to keep track of? That sort of thing?

Karoline: Most day to day communication only needs to be kept 2 years or so, it isn't that important to include in archival records. But if there are important communications I would encourage you to keep them past the couple of years. And I can set up an email archiving system for the future.

Martin: What about keeping everything that goes through the board account?

Karoline: Is there a centrally accessible place for that account?

Steve: Yes, but it's a private system that is not supposed to be publicly accessible.

Karoline: That comes to the question of what we as an organization want to keep.

Andy: How about setting up an email that is just for the purpose of archiving, and then we can keep important emails sent to that account?

Steve: That's hard, it's easier to just set up archiving of the individual accounts.

Karoline: If you do have important documents that you think should be saved, you should send it to [archives@usgo.org](mailto:archives@usgo.org) so the archivist has access to it?

Andrew: How should we balance this with not keeping emails unnecessarily long; for example, unless emails are marked as historically, some companies I've seen in the past intentionally delete over a period of time, particularly for the purpose of legal discovery things. Is there a way we can balance that with what is good for our organization?

Karoline: I think that sort of system would take a lot of upkeep. I think we can set up sorting system in gmail.

Steve: My experience is a standard policy of keeping things for 7 years. But that's a record retention policy, not personal retention policy.

Karoline: It's hard with email given our system and implementing it.

Steve: There is a system, but we'd have to pay for it.

Karoline: I think the best way to deal with it is to identify important emails (like the [board@usgo.org](mailto:board@usgo.org) email) and have the archivist go through it after 7 years or whatnot. I'm not trying to add extra work, but just asking if we want a system to automatically deal with emails.

Chris: I don't think we have a strong central email system, because a lot of our communication goes through personal email accounts (not usgo.org account). So I'm not sure if it'll be useful to archive those account. Companies mandate use of corporate accounts, and I don't know if we should implement that system. Another concern I have is that emails that are forwarded to the system will only be a partial representation of the email conversations.

Steve: It sounds like we might want to have a bigger conversation about this at a later date.

Karoline: Yes, but what I have done is mocked up a document retention schedule that you can look at after the meeting today, and we can continue to discuss going forward.

Edward: I think we can start with simple classification of proposals/results versus discussions only.

Karoline: Yes, email as correspondence are classified different but important organization documents can exist within email and those are important to keep. Outside of emails, we just need to create a list of the types of documents we need to keep, and how long we need them.

[Cross-talk]

[Karoline departs the meeting]

Thomas Hsiang: I've sent a summary of my report out to everyone on the board.

[Included in the minutes almost entirely below]

*In my role as the AGA VP (international):*

**Europe** – I am in frequent collaboration with EGF. Andy and I have good relationship with EGF president Martin Stiassny and his co-workers. We have done many projects together in the past dozen years or so, such as the pro system, the city leagues, the CEGO project, etc.

**Japan** – Nihon Kiin has historically been the most important organization in promoting Go to the world. After JAL and Fujitsu withdrew their support in the mid-2000's, NK was in a withdrawn state for several years. The current president Mr. Dan and his predecessor Mr. Wada brought in much better marketing people – therefore more resources – that allowed the Kiin to re-engage with their international partners. There is a lot more exchange now between AGA and NK. The establishment of the Iwamoto North America Foundation, or INAF, is the most notable example of our strong relationship. Another important Japanese friend of AGA is the World Pair Go Association, or WPGA. WPGA is primarily supported by Taki Hisao, a very successful businessman. He owns a number of companies, including Pandanet, an online Go server, which is currently AGA's largest sponsor, including pair-go and the city league.

**China** – We are also in very good relationship with China. China Qiyuan has been key in finding sponsors for many new worldwide events for Go and other mind sports. I will talk more about these events later. Currently China Qiyuan is undergoing a major shift in its mode of operation to become less dependent on government support. There is significant personnel turnover and operational change. I will keep an eye on it and share any relevant development with you via Andy.

**Korea** – The Korean Baduk scene is in a bit of turmoil. The organization we have dealt exclusively with in the past, the Korean Baduk Association or KBA, now has strong competition from KBF, formerly KABA. KBF is recognized by their government to represent Korea in international go. It receives significant funding to sponsor the KPMC, the AGF, and many school and college Baduk projects. KBA used to share some of the funds, but that has stopped. It looks like this will take a few years to sort out.

Gurjeet: Is this an issue we need to be aware of for Go Congress? Where are our korean pros coming from?

Thomas: Our pros are coming from the KBA.

**Other countries** – I have also worked with a few other countries on collaborative projects: Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, Thailand, etc. One of my near-term projects is to work with IMSA to bring mind sports to less developed areas such as Latin America, South Asia, and Africa.

*In my role as IGF Vice President:*

I have been sitting on the IGF board since 2004 at the recommendation of Roy Laird and Chris Kirschner. In 2008, I was elected IGF VP.

IGF was formed in 1982 for one purpose only: to run the annual World Amateur Go Championship. It has now grown to include many other activities: it runs many more international events and represents Go world in dealing with international mind-sport and Olympic organizations.

The IGF Board includes people from all over the Go world. The president Dan Hiroaki is NK's president. The VP's include China Qiyuan's president, Luo Chaoyi (soon to change) and KBA's CEO, Yoo Changhuh. Others sitting on the Board include Mrs. Taki Hiroko from pair go; Tanioka Ichiro, a major Kansai-area Go supporter and president of Osaka Commerce University; Ying Minghaw, president of Ing Foundation; Korsak Chairasmisak, president of Thai Go Association and a famous Asian businessman; plus representatives from Europe, Latin America, and Oceania. Andy attends IGF Board Meetings as well. Putting this group under one roof a couple of times a year has become a very effective way to reach major decisions and understanding among all parties. In this sense, IGF has served a very useful function.

IGF for many years was supported entirely by Nihon Kiin. It ran WAGC and later added the professional Fujitsu Cup, the two biggest international events. This all changed when JAL and Fujitsu stopped their support.

In 2007, I proposed to then IGF president Okabe Hiromu, president of Toyota-Dansu, to open up IGF for international support. He rejected it outright. By the time Okabe stepped down, however, the writings were on the wall. His successor, the famous Meijin Otake Hideo, was a more practical man and he welcomed the suggestion. Otake gathered Korean and Chinese leaders and adopted a format whereby the three countries would share leadership as well as financial responsibilities to allow IGF and WAGC to continue. Mr. Chang Zhenming, CEO of Shanghai CITIC Company, stepped forward to be the first non-Japanese president of IGF.

Interestingly, the Korean problems have actually further helped the opening-up of IGF. A few years ago, Mr. Chairasmisak from Thai Go Association expressed his wish to host WAGC in his country. In 2015 when Korea was the president country of IGF, we convinced them that it was a win-win situation to let Thailand host the WAGC, with KBA benefiting from reduced financial burden. This worked out wonderfully and we had one the best WAGC ever in beautiful Bangkok!

Last year, Russian Go Federation made a full presentation to bring WAGC to Russia, including strong commercial support. Well, China and Japan would not let go their

share of the hosting right. Again, the difficulty in Korea helped resolve a difficult situation and I worked with KBA and Russian Federation reps to open up KBA's 2020 slot. So, in that year, we will have WAGC in Vladivostok!

IGF currently is going through more changes. The new activities are bringing new income to IGF. Last year was the first time IGF's outside income exceeded the members' contributions. Hopefully this trend will continue and one day IGF will become an independent NPO just like FIDE and WBF.

*In my role as IMSA Secretary General:*

IMSA, or International Mind Sport Association, was formed in 2005 by Chess, Bridge, Go, and Draughts. The top goal at the time was to run a quadrennial "Olympic like" event, known as the World Mind Sport Games, or WMSG. IMSA's first president was World Bridge Federation President, José Damiani, who pushed aggressively to convince Beijing to hold the event shortly after the 2008 Summer Olympics. That event was a great success, attended by more than 3,500 players from five sports and all continents, using the same facilities and volunteer force as the Summer Olympics. Mike Lash and Chris Kirschner led a large North American contingent to attend.

A few months before the actual event, I was asked to represent IGF to deal with IMSA and the WMSG. In 2009 José Damiani invited me to be IMSA's Secretary General, a position I have held since. My main job is to organize the IMSA meetings, to attend to the IMSA legal and operational matters, and, most importantly, to help the IMSA President develop external sponsorships.

In 2012, IMSA ran the second WMSG in parallel to the London Summer Olympics. The event was held across the English Channel in Lille, France. It was somewhat smaller in scale, with about 2,000 players, but still a resounding success.

We were scheduled to hold the third version in 2016 in Brazil under the new IMSA president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. But Brazil had such financial difficulties that they backed out of their commitment. IMSA withdrew the event but could not find a new sponsor and vacated WMSG for one round. In 2020, Japan will host the Summer Olympics and in 2022, China will host the Winter Olympics. These are much more promising venues for the next WMSG.

In 2010, Go joined force with Chess to participate in the Asian Games. I attended the event. It was a very impressive experience living in the Asian Games Village and watching our Go players donning uniforms and mix with the physical athletes.

For the Asian Games and the two WMSG's, Korean government did us a big favor by agreeing to waive the military service requirement for the gold medalists. So, their best and brightest came out to compete even though there was no prize money. This in turn forced China and Japan to send out their best as well, making the event unforgettably exciting. There were many interesting side stories, maybe one day when I retire, I will write them all down.

IMSA has benefited from a few very smart and aggressive people. Besides Damiani, Ilyumzhinov, and the third president Chen Zelan, our first manager was a Brit named David Jarret, a key figure who led the organization of the first two WMSG's. He was followed by FIDE's Cyprian CEO Geoffrey Borg, who has pushed hard to add new events onto the IMSA calendar.

From 2011 to 2014, IMSA held a new, invitational, annual event, the SportAccord World Mind Games. This was changed in 2016 and renamed IMSA Elite Mind Games. These events provided IMSA and its members with sponsorship fees and management fees, plus generous prizes that IMSA could tax. This has changed the financial status of IMSA and its mode of operation.

As many as 5 or 6 more events may be added in the near future. In addition, we have started to lease out the IMSA brand with some significant initial successes. The hope is for IMSA to become financially strong that we can take on large international promotional projects for mind sports in less-developed areas

*In my role as INAF Executive Director:*

I am INAF's Executive Director, responsible for its routine operations.

The Iwamoto North American Foundation was formed in late-2014. It is built on some of the proceeds from the sale of the NY Iwamoto Go Center, previously an NK property. INAF is now an independent American corporation built on American laws and residing in American territory. Its Board of Directors includes three American Directors, Andy Okun, Dave Weimer, and myself; plus three Japanese Directors, Dan Hiroaki, Yamashiro Hiroshi pro-9 dan, and Ito Yasunari, NK CEO. Our treasurer is Terri Schurter and our endowment is managed by the First Republic Private Client Group in LA.

INAF's main job is to fund the National Go Center and a number of NA-Japan exchange programs. These are well reported on AGA's e-journal.

Recently I have initiated a new project to seek IOC recognition of IGF, a project jointly funded by IMSA and IGF. Having IOC recognition has many benefits. Most importantly it will help IGF members win government support, particularly those in Europe and Africa, and in some Asian and Mideastern countries. The IOC recognition would also bring Go to a comparable status as Bridge and Chess in the Olympic hierarchy. I am responsible for dealing with IOC and preparing the recognition dossier. Both are proceeding well.

*Recommendations:*

I have worked for AGA since 1990 mostly sporadically. This changed in 2004 when I started to take on a larger role on AGA's developmental and international operations. I have benefited from support of AGA presidents, particularly Allan Abramson and Andy Okun that made my tenure successful and enjoyable. I am glad to have given you an insight to what I do.

- I urge you to put a top priority on the recruitment, build-up, and cultivation of the AGA volunteer force. We could definitely use stable leaderships on tournament coordination, on pair go, on the AGA pro systems, and on rating.
- Find a way to revive the CEGO project.
- Strengthen our pro system and engage the AGA pros to actively represent AGA in international functions.
  - o Some international sources were concerned about the lack of representation from our pros, and wanted to meet about it.

- Take an active and consistent role in leading the developmental work of AGA.

Chris: I have a question about the WMS. You said it'd be a good change in 2022 . When will we know when we can prepare for this?

Thomas: I will let you know.

[brief break from call due to sound issues]

President's report:

1. Investing our financial reserves: I sent information out about options for management of our investments. Since I have an interest in one of the options, I'd like to give you the chance to look at it and discuss without me. This way we can have some additional revenue for the organization and growth in our investment.

Steve: I had heard from Pinkerton regarding our investments, but I didn't have anything to add at the time, maybe we should ask him about that.

2. At Chris' request.... Are we okay with posting teacher workshop sessions from 2013?

Chris: Brian at the go center is able to take the videos and put them on youtube. The go center would like to do it. Ownership would remain with the AGA.

Martin: Does the video contain shots of the participants? Do we have permission from them to use it?

Chris: Yes, there are some shots of the participants. Everyone knew they were being filmed.

Martin: We probably should have releases.

Andrew: It's the back of their heads.

Andy: We're talking about the presenters more than anything. We should ask them if its okay. I don't know if its a legal issue, but as a courtesy.

Gurujeet: I agree, it's a good idea to post.

Chris: Is this a board issue or something that can be taken care of by Andy?

Andy: It's an administrative issue now. That's all I have.

Martin: Do you have an ETA on the budget?

Andy: I will do it by Friday.

Martin: Can we discuss by email and approve by email so we can have it by the end of the fiscal year.

Steve: What is defined as the end of the fiscal year?

Chris: June 30th.

Lisa: We're unlikely to have it done by then.

Edward: Regarding the investments, do they do a buy-and-hold strategy or change it regularly?

Andy: For a group like ours, it wouldn't be frequent changes, it would be a long term time horizon.

Edward: Both groups have more than 10 years of experience. They have good groups and research teams.

> Steve motions to approve the May meeting minutes, Lisa seconds, unanimous.

Next meeting is at congress.

Lisa: An issue that I have is that the amount we approved going forward for prize money at congress isn't the exact amount that will be needed necessarily. So we should amend our statement to allow it to be flexible.

I move we amend our statement from last month from 12k/year to a varying amount as needed from 10-15k for each of the next 3 Congresses.

Steve seconds, Unanimous approval.

Lisa: Another issue from Bob Gilman- Should we do something at the congress to recognize the political climate and issues? I think probably we don't.

Martin: I think in general we don't take a position on politics.

Chris: Unless there's a direct relationship to AGA activities, it isn't appropriate for us to make a direct action. But Lisa, I agree, it's good when membership brings things like that up to address it.

Andrew moves to adjourn, Edward seconds, unanimous, meeting adjourned at 9:32pm EDT.