

Minutes

AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday, June 8, 2008 – 8:00 PM EDT

Meeting called to order by: Roy Laird at 8:04 EDT
Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Attendees:

Roy Laird (At Large) Chairman
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region)
Willard Haynes (Western Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Mike Lash (President)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:
None

Roy Laird called the meeting to order at 8:04 EDT. He then stepped down as Chairman of the Board and suggested the Directors choose a replacement to act until a new Chairman is elected at the annual meeting.

1. Selection of Interim Chair

Willard Haynes nominated Roy Schmidt. Paul Celmer seconded the nomination. Schmidt accepted the nomination.

Gordon Castanza made a motion to close nominations. Haynes seconded the motion. There was no discussion, so a vote was called. Schmidt was unanimously voted Interim Chairman.

2. Approval of Minutes

Castanza moved that the Board approve the minutes from the April 27, 2008 regular monthly conference call. Roy Laird seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Haynes moved that the Board approve the minutes from the special board meeting of May 18. Laura Kolb seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. President's Report

Mike Lash presented his monthly report.

a) Tournaments

United States Youth Go Championship (USYGC)

Lash reported that the finals of the USYGC were held in New Jersey over Memorial Day weekend. Eight players competed in each of the two divisions, and two champions were named. They will travel to China in July for the World Youth Go Championships.

The tournament ran smoothly due to the combined efforts of Paul Matthews, Nicole Castanza, and Paul Barchilon.

World Mind Sports Games (WMSG)

Michael Redmond- Lash had proposed between Board meetings that the Board waive the physical residency requirement for international representation in order to invite Michael Redmond to represent the U.S. in the WMSGs this fall in China. There was discussion and a vote via e-mail. The Board approved Lash's request to invite Redmond. Lash invited Redmond and he has accepted. Lash asked the Board to reaffirm their votes on the record at this Board meeting. Laird made a motion to affirm the decision. Haynes seconded the motion. Schmidt asked the directors to reaffirm their decision to invited Michael Redmond to represent the U.S. in the WMSGs. The vote was five in favor and two opposed (Castanza and Robbins) and the motion passed by majority vote.

Pair Qualifier- Allan Abramson ran an internet pair go qualifier event to choose the U.S. pair go team. That team will compete against the Canadian team and the winning pair will get paid airfare to the WMSGs. Both pairs will play in the WMSG.

Players' Deadline- The deadline for players to earn points and register interest in playing on the U.S. team was June 1. The men's slots were filled, but one vacancy remained for the women. The deadline was therefore extended by one week, and the women's slots are now filled, so we have a complete WMSG team. The WMSG organizers have reported that substitutes will be considered on a case by case basis if someone needs to drop out for any reason. The team coach will be Feng Yun. The AGA will pay her expenses and she will be coaching all of the U.S. players. Allan Abramson and Chris Kirschner will travel as AGA officials.

Fundraising- So far, \$14,900 has been donated to support the U.S. team. The AGA will provide uniforms for the players and will match the donated funds raised. Each player will get about \$1400 for all expenses and the player will cover anything beyond that, with a possible \$200 additional payment if they are flying from an area that costs more.

b) CGA-AGA Reciprocity Agreement

The Board approved a modified version of the plan and it has been adopted by the Canadian Go Association. It will be posted on the website soon.

c) AGA 2009 Budget

At the last Board meeting, Lash asked the Board to provisionally approve the FY09 budget. The main reason for putting off the formal approval was the lack of good numbers on this year's Yearbook budget. The expenses came in and the budget is not complete. The Yearbook was substantially over budget due to higher volume and printing expenses.

Roy Laird moved to approve the budget. Haynes seconded the motion. The budget was unanimously approved.

d) Website

Lash reported that 90% of the content has been moved to the new website. The new website should be operational in July, including an e-commerce section.

e) Elections

Lash reported that nominations had been received for candidates in the Eastern Region (Chuck Robbins), the Western region (Andy Okun and Gordon Castanza), and the At-Large position (Daniel Short and Roy Laird). None has been received yet for the Central Region, but Roy Schmidt said he may run again.

f) Fujitsu Fallout Part I

Six Chapters have confirmed that they are in favor of the petition to remove Roy Laird as a Board member. Lash said that he will proceed according to the By-Laws and get the Chapters to vote.

g) Fujitsu Fallout Part II

Lash presented to the Board options on what to do about the fact that the rules on international representation were violated and Ming jiu Jiang will represent the U.S. three times this year instead of the maximum of two times allowed under the AGA rules. There was discussion, and the Board adopted Lash's recommendation that no new action be taken and the facts be left to stand as they are. Additional measures to redress the imbalance were more likely to cause more problems and disharmony. The best course of action was determined to be to allow the results to stand and allow Ming jiu to proceed with tournaments in 2009 with a clean slate.

4. IGF Director's Report

Thomas Hsiang joined the Board meeting to report on his recent meetings at the International Go Federation. He reported that the World Amateur Go Championships was funded this year by the Nihon Kiin rather than by corporate sponsors. Japan Airlines was the major sponsor before, but had to stop because of financial difficulties. Next year will be the 30th anniversary of the event and the location has been selected and sponsors have been lined up. After that, IGF intends to set up a procedure by which other countries can bid to become host of the event.

In addition to WAGC, the international amateur tournament scene this year includes a new World Businessmen Baduk Forum to be held in September, the details of which are available in the e-Journal and the Korean Prime Minister Cup, which will be held in November.

Hsiang further reported that the preparation for the WMSG is well under way. The technical details have been shared with the AGA's Working Group on WMSG. The next step in the Olympic movement for Go will be to seek recognition of IGF by the International Olympic Committee. As part of this procedure, IGF has approved an anti-doping policy which will be implemented beginning in 2009. Hsiang briefly commented on the Rules and Regulations that will be used for the WMSG, the details of which will be available on the IGF website.

The IGF has changed its Statutes to allow institutional members (Pair Go Association, Ing Foundation, etc.) in addition to national organizations. The new Statutes were passed in this year's IGF General Meeting.

The World Pair Go Association is slated to inaugurate in 2009, on the occasion of the 20th International Pair Go Championship.

At the conclusion of his report, Hsiang asked the Board to consider three recommendations:

- 1) He proposed that the AGA lead an effort to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Taki in 2009 for the 20th anniversary of the Japan Pair Go Association. He would like to use the AGA name to approach other organizations to seek sponsorship. He would like to make two plaques or something similar to recognize their contributions.
- 2) Hsiang urges the AGA to form a position of Vice President for International Affairs. He thinks the person in the position needs to have the full authority of the AGA to back up his/her actions, as well as a direct link with the Board to discuss and share policy matters.
- 3) He strongly recommends that the AGA guest official rules be changed so that it is not a figurehead role. The guest official needs to be able to conduct official business for AGA and the trips should not be used as a perk only.

5. Confidentiality Policy

Gordon Castanza had circulated a draft policy, but the Board chose to table discussion until they have had more time to review it. Haynes proposed tabling the discussion until next Board meeting. Celmer seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to postpone the matter.

6. International Representative Policy

Laird moved to table this agenda item until next meeting. Kolb seconded the motion and all voted in favor of tabling discussion of this topic until July.

7. New Business

Lash reported that he is working closely with Allan Abramson to make the transition to the new AGA President go smoothly. They have already had lengthy discussions about staff and personnel, and will discuss ongoing programs during their next meeting. They have agreed to set up a job fair at the Congress in Portland to recruit new volunteers.

8. Set New Meeting Time and Adjourn

The next regular conference call was scheduled for July 13 at 8:00 EDT.

The AGA Board meeting at the Congress will be Thursday August 7 from 1:30- 3:00.

Laura Kolb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Willard Haynes seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM EDT.