

# Approved Minutes for AGA Board Meeting

## Sunday, 13 February 2005

### 7:00 – 9:00 PM EST

Attending: Roy Laird, Harold Lloyd, Mike Bull, Allan Abramson, Mike Lash

#### 1. Approval of Minutes:

Not all members had received the draft minutes. Approval held over to next meeting.

#### 2. Welcome Board members starting new terms (Roy and Mike)

#### 3. Election of Board Chairman:

Harold moved, seconded by Mike, that Allan be re-elected as Board Chairman. No other nominations. Approved.

#### 4. Acceptance of Bill Cobb's resignation, and discussion of filling this vacancy:

While the bylaws call for the Board to appoint a successor, sense of the discussion was a Board desire to open the process for a Chapter election, followed by appointment of the winner. Roy moved, seconded by Mike, and approved, to follow this path.

#### 5. President's report

##### a. 2004 Congress finances:

The facts of the finances still are not clear. Currently, it appears that there is a deficit of nearly \$16,000. Discussed sending a representative to Rochester, to gather more information, before trying to make a decision. The Board agreed to have Mike Lash call Terry Benson, to ask him to represent us on a fact-finding trip.

At next meeting, discuss arrangements for fiscal controls in future Congresses.

##### b. Policy for selecting non-playing representatives to foreign events:

Moved by Roy, seconded by Harold, and approved policy that the Board would approve such selections, case-by-case.

##### c. National Tournament Coordinator:

Bill Cobb has volunteered for this position. Mike Lash and Bill are drafting a program description. Joe Carl will be the National Tournament Director. Discussion agreed that

Bill and Joe should involve the strong player group in developing the procedures and schedules for the major tournaments.

d. Status of Ing funding:

Still have not received 2004 contribution, with no indication of when it might come. George Zhou has encouraged Mike Lash to write a letter. For now, Mike has suspended commitment of Ing funds, pending receipt of new funds. Roy had contacted Tony Atkins (European Go Federation) and learned that they, too, had not yet received funding. Mike Bull volunteered to check status informally. Mike Lash then would send a letter, if needed, explaining our budget situation.

e. Treasurer's position:

Ben Bernstein would like to transition out of this position, in the next year. Ulo Tamm is willing to take over as Treasurer. Discussion of Ulo's transition beginning in June, to allow both to work during a transition. Also, Board desire for the Treasurer to have accounting support. Agreed too that establishing a Finance Committee to support the Treasurer would be a good idea.

f. Pro tournament

Mike Lash reported that a pro tournament could be held this year. Consistent with our policy, strong players would be able to participate. Consider having a qualifying tournament to select the strong players to participate. Agreed on urgent need to get planning for this event in place, and need for volunteers to do the work.

## 6. Old Business

a. Subsidy for children to attend the Congress : Immediate issue is request for \$5000 for this Congress

Roy asked if this should be included in the Congress Budget, or perhaps be supported by AGF funds. Discussion suggested that Mike Lash work with the Congress organizers on a sliding scale for the subsidy, based upon age, and assuming no Ing funds. Would it be feasible to arrange for reimbursement if the Congress had a surplus? It might be worthwhile to consider a variety of options, for longer-term policy. The Board approved a subsidy of up to \$10,000, on a sliding scale, to be worked out by the President.

b. General policy for transportation subsidies, including guest officials to Asia:

Allan noted that these are not now included in the annual budget. Mike Lash would like to have this as a budget item, to support guest official travel. Reminder that the Board has approved funding for IGF travel every other year already. Lacking a current budget, the Board agreed to defer this issue for this year.

c. Selection of pros for tournaments: status with Korean Baduk Association

The KBA has communicated with Allan, stating its desire to continue its current practice of consulting the APGA for US professional representatives, and the AGA for US amateur representatives.

d. Tournament coordination: continued lack of calendar and early notice to potential participants (progress noted under President's report above)

e. Leadership Development Committee:

Allan proposes to assume chair of this committee, through Congress. Propose assignment for each member to find one person who will commit to active AGA work, within two months. Board approved this approach.

(Current membership includes Sam Zimmerman, Bob Barber, Ernest Brown, Duane Burns, Steve Burrall, Robert Cordingly, None Redmond, Eric Wainwright, Larry Gross)

f. Vendor relations: Current status:

We need some volunteer to take over this function. Mike Lash agreed to send the Board a draft policy, for comment.

g. Marketing funds: Second draft of guidelines attached.

Some members had not received the draft, so it was agreed that Board members would send comments to Allan within ten days.

h. Status of highest level leagues, and a system to promote strong players to professional level:

We do not have a volunteer for the role of strong player liaison yet. Harold volunteered to lead on the issue of developing procedures to promote strong players to professional status. Agreed that Harold, Mike Lash, and Allan would consult on the next steps. On the issue of highest level leagues, still need a leader: Allan and Mike Lash would discuss a notice to the membership soliciting a volunteer.

7. New Business

a. TD's school, to produce more qualified people: deferred to next meeting.

b. Tournament calendar: Board member volunteer to produce it? Not needed, per progress noted in President's report.

8. Open discussion

a. How to better focus on results?

Sense of those present that good progress is happening, so no action needed.

b. Bylaw revisions on director selection issues:

Roy suggested folding this into the total bylaw revision process. Not sure of the overall timetable. Mike Lash suggested moving this piece to a vote soon, and the Board agreed.

c. Edge TV status:

Mike Lash reported receiving an email from Chris Kirschner on this. They indicated that there would be no action on working with us this year, with prospects for next year.

d. Terry Benson's idea to place GO on airline games DVD's/systems:

Agreed that this was a great idea, and that the Leadership Development Committee should consider how to get it adopted by the airlines.

9. Adjourn: Moved by Roy, seconded by Harold, and agreed.

Submitted by Allan Abramson, 24 February, 2005

ATTACHMENT : Draft guidelines for the use of AGA marketing funds, V2

The AGA has established a significant set-aside of funds (approximately \$28,000) for marketing efforts in the coming fiscal year, to help achieve its goal of 5,000 members within five years. The purpose is to focus on activities which will promote membership growth, especially among youth in the U.S. The funds are intended for AGA clubs. Proposals will be solicited by the AGA President.

1. The AGA's marketing fund is dedicated to projects and activities which promise to deliver long-term AGA membership growth, especially among youth.

2. Proposals may be single or multi-year, but will be limited to a maximum of \$2000/year if approved.

3. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, advertising campaigns, promotional material (radio and TV ads, brochures, exhibits, and so on), internet sites, and special events (other than tournaments). Creative and unusual proposals, which serve the goal of membership growth, are especially welcome.

4. Proposals which offer the greatest potential for AGA membership growth will be favored.

5. Process:

- a. President to issue solicitation letter by mid-February; standard format for proposals.
- b. Deadline for submittal of proposals end of March.
- c. President sets up review committee, for recommendations to President by mid-April.
- d. Discussion and Board approval (if needed) at May meeting.
- e. Consider starting this cycle in Fall, rather than Winter, next year.