

MINUTES OF THE AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sunday, 10 July 2005

Attending: Allan Abramson, Yuan Zhou, Roy Laird, Harold Lloyd, Jeff Shaevel, Mike Bull, Willard Haynes, plus President Mike Lash

1. Approved Minutes of 12 June Meeting have been sent out, and will be posted soon
2. President's report

- Budget approval
 - Issue of funds for equipment: lacking new Ing funds, decided to continue to spend down current funds, and consider in Fall whether to use reserve funds

(NOTE: Roy Laird lost his connection and was absent for the rest of the call)

- Details of the items for publications, administration, and wages will be added to the budget document before distribution
- Yuan has not received a number of documents, since switching to new email address, so he will have the opportunity to review them this week, and raise any substantive issues for the Board
- Moved by Jeff, seconded by Mike B, Budget approved by all, with Yuan abstaining, pending his review
- Assembly Agenda approval
 - Amended to include discussion of a Congress registration fee for youth
 - Willard moved, seconded by Harold, Agenda approved by all, with Yuan abstaining, pending his review
- 2004 Congress Finances update
 - Terry will lead a conference call with RIT this week, intended to settle this
 - RIT apparently cannot account for \$6-8,000 in refunds they issued to attendees
 - Following the call, Terry and Mike will consider final steps to closure
 - Bylaws revisions status
 - Counsel has advised that electronic voting is legal in New York, so we are ok
 - Bylaws say "mail," which we could interpret to include email; revising the bylaws to keep up with changes in technology may not be cost-effective
- Youth tournament in Spain will have an AGA player; Todd Heidenreich will attend, representing AGA
- Chris Kirschner and Terry Benson were in Japan this week, on international rules

- Role of Assembly in voting: Rick Mott graciously withdrew his comments this week; we all agree that the Assembly role will not be changed by the bylaw revisions

3. Old Business

a. AGA membership categories: continue discussion; consider President's paper

- Concept is to reduce to two categories, youth at \$10 and AGA at \$30 (both for domestic and foreign members)
 - Willard - The limited member category is of value, and should be kept
 - It encourages tournament participation
 - Would be ok with him to drop the one day playing fee of \$5
 - Yuan - Why not consider dropping the full member fee to \$20? This would encourage people both to join and to renew
 - Mike Bull - Suggest piloting this for one year? Willing to reduce it
 - Mike Lash - Would prefer a two year pilot, to give it time to work
 - Harold - \$20 is too cheap for AGA membership; the issue is the value of membership
 - Jeff - Agree with Harold; new members at the lower fee may not participate actively, so would have a net loss
 - Board asked Mike Lash to rewrite the paper, reflecting the divergence of opinion and options, to stimulate discussion at the Congress/Assembly
 - He will submit the revision to the Board before distribution

b. Invitational tournaments - Discussion of Bill Cobb/Mike Lash paper

- Willard - Concern for clear procedures for deciding whom to send
- Issues include whether one person would be limited to one trip every two years or so, or whether we should just send the strongest player, even if that means the same player multiple times
- Mike Lash - Use a series of rating tournaments?
- Mike Bull - Prefer to keep the WAGC process as is
- Yuan - The WAGC system works, but is not transparent
- The Board agreed to provide time at the Congress for open discussion on this one

c. Minigrant operation - Continued discussion - Willard

- Willard - In favor of consolidating the various grant processes
 - People don't care about the source of the funds; just give them a simple process

- Mike Lash - Clarification: Would consolidation move the \$6,000 now in Ing budget into the current marketing budget as an add-on?
 - Allan - Suggest adding it, even if this means spending some reserves
 - Mike L - Prefer to keep it in Ing budget for now, and revisit question of using reserves in about six months
 - Board agreed with Mike's approach

5. New Business

- Pro policy discussion, Jeff lead (paper)
 - Jeff - His paper is intended as a framework for detailed procedures
 - Allan - Suggested a few minor editorial changes
 - Board approved the paper, as amended, with Yuan abstaining, pending his review
- Invitation to Chinese tournament in Fall
 - Mike - It will be announced to the membership this week
- Future of hard copy Annual Journal - Discussion
 - Willard - Prefer a hard copy
 - Also useful as a promotional device
 - Mike Lash - Keep the hard copy for visitors, with a limited run?
 - Yuan - Also prefer a hard copy
 - Agreed to do an electronic poll of the chapters, providing some options
- Annual reports to the Assembly
 - Both Mike Lash and Allan asked the Board for input and suggestions on their draft reports; target is final documents by the end of the month

6. Open discussion

- Yuan - Concerned about international rules
 - Raised a specific case of counting with a ko at the end of the game
 - He and Jeff will continue the discussion off-line

7. Adjourn

- Willard moved, seconded by Jeff; meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM