

# Minutes

## AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### Sunday, April 27, 2008 – 8:00 PM EDT

Meeting called to order by: Roy Laird at 8:08 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

#### 1. Approval of minutes

Gordon Castanza made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 2, 2008 Board meeting. Roy Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### 2. President's Report

Mike Lash presented his monthly report:

##### a) Tournaments

##### World Mind Sports Games (WMSG)

Lash submitted our first required entry form listing the number of players in each event - 22 players and 3 team leader/coach positions. We are planning to enter every event with full participation. This form has no names. These will be provided by June 30.

The Chinese Weiqi Association confirmed that every attending country will receive one paid ticket for its Open Individual amateur player as originally announced, ending speculation that China Airlines would not make enough tickets available for all countries.

Last month Lash raised proposed that the WMSG should not count as an overseas event under our policy limiting players to 2 such events per calendar year. He withdrew that proposal. Right now, only one AGA member has already earned two slots for 2008 – Mingjiu Jiang. Jie Li and our WAGC member Mozheng Guan have one each.

Lash reported that he, Chris Kirschner, and the other members of the WMSG committee want to create a “President’s Choice” seat for the WMSG such that one or more players who did not meet all of the AGA’s requirements for representing the AGA might be picked in exceptional circumstances. If the AGA’s international representation policy is followed, only citizens who reside in the US are eligible to represent the AGA internationally.

Gordon Castanza stated his objection to violating the existing policy for any reason, because if one exception is made it leads to others, and the policy was debated at length before being implemented. Chuck Robbins also does not want to make exceptions, and would like to see a system put in place where special cases are not permitted.

Lash reported that the proposal arose from the realization that Michael Redmond, as a citizen, would be unable to participate except on the US team. He could not try for the Japanese team as he has with other events. Paul Celmer asked what benefit it would be to the AGA to send Michael Redmond. Lash said that as a 9P, Redmond could win some rounds and reflect well on the U.S. In addition, he has supported the AGA over the years and lends his name to our longest running youth go event. Laird added that Redmond is internationally famous as an American go player and his absence would be noticed.

Castanza reiterated that we have a policy and if it is not enforced it is vacant. Lash pointed out that the Board originally made the policy and is fully authorized to amend, suspend, repeal or extend the policy as it sees fit to address special circumstances. Laird proposed that the discussion be tabled for now and the discussion resume through e-mails. It was agreed to do that and either resume during the next monthly Board meeting or perhaps hold a special meeting dedicated to this subject.

### United States Youth Go Championship (USYGC)

The second season of the USYCG is doing well with 7 of 8 qualifiers being completed as of the Board meeting. The eighth tournament will be held next weekend. The Finals will be in New Jersey, with Paul Mathews as TD and Feng Yun as a guest professional. Nicole Casanta has done an excellent job as USYCG Coordinator, handling complaints, last minute changes, and challenges.

There was a hitch in the program at one qualifier where a TD failed to confirm US citizenship of a player - this young Canadian was the only player to show up in the junior division and won by default. Afterwards, the TD advised him that he could not attend the finals due to the citizenship requirement. This is reported to the Board for two reasons: 1) keeping the Board informed of complaints about AGA operations (he and

his parents have conceded to the limitation, but were naturally upset about not being informed by the TD in advance); and 2) to emphasize the continuing need for TD training and publicity about tournament rules.

### **b) CGA-AGA Reciprocity Agreement**

Lash reported that he has been working with James Sedgwick, the CGA President, on a bilateral agreement between our associations to clarify the rules on players from each national association playing in tournaments of the other association. Lash sent a draft agreement via e-mail to the Board.

The agreement states that players may play in stand-alone events in either country, regardless of prize money, unless there are limitations placed on the event by a sponsor. However, whenever winners play for the right to represent a continent, a nation or a national association overseas, this is more serious and requires more detailed attention.

Laird said that a Canadian player must be ranked in the AGA database even if the rating isn't published so that the opponents of that player can have their rating updated even if the Canadian player does not complete his/her membership process.

Gordon Castanza made a motion to approve the CGA-AGA Reciprocity Agreement. Chuck Robbins seconded the agreement. The vote was unanimous to approve the agreement.

### **c) IAGO MOU**

Lash reported that he has been corresponding and talking with a man named Richard Hutnick about having the AGA support his newly formed organization called "IAGO". Rich is trying "to expand and promote abstract strategy games and the organizations that represent member/players". He is in talks with Checkers, Chess and others and is attempting to gather "official" support from the respective national associations. His aim is to generate energy and depth of support in order to attract the media to games events and ultimately bring in corporate sponsors.

Lash circulated a one-page nonbinding MOU he negotiated with Hutnick, and asked the Board to approve it. It states that we generally support IAGO, but specially withholds authority to represent us or bind us to anything without our prior consent.

Willard Haynes said in his time working with the AGA, he has seen at least three proposals like this and none has amounted to anything. He thinks the Board needs a policy about this type of proposal which should be consistently applied. Paul Celmer said there is really nothing Hutnick is asking from the AGA, so there's no reason not to agree. Laird asked Haynes if he is willing to develop the type of policy he thinks is needed. Haynes said he will look into it.

Celmer made a motion to authorize Lash to sign the MOU. Robbins seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-1 margin.

#### **d) AGA 2009 Budget**

Lash submitted his proposed budget in an e-mail file to the Board and asked if there were any questions or suggestions.

Robbins said he would like to see the prepaid multiple-year membership revenues kept as liabilities until the year when they are to be applied. For these and Life memberships, an accrual accounting system should be used. Lash said he will ask the Treasurer to move toward that type of accounting for multiple year memberships, but since there are no refunds for life memberships, he is not in favor of changing those accounting practices.

Lash noted that the Go Congress profit estimate is lower this year than it has been due to the organizers trying to keep the price low. He is expecting \$6000 as the AGA half of the profits. He said there is a new \$2500 line item for a college outreach program at the request of Paul Barchilon, who has identified a volunteer to lead the new program.

Lash also said that due to the very late issuance of the Yearbook, he doesn't have those expenses yet and they will be added within the next week or two, so the budget may change slightly.

Lash reported that the Ing Foundation donations and expenses are summarized in a report separate from the operating budget of the AGA. It is reported based on a calendar year and is being delivered by hand to Mr. Yang of the ING Foundation in Taiwan, by Chris Kirschner, who was invited to attend the Ing World Cup tournament this month.

Willard Haynes made a motion to approve the provisional budget, allowing Lash to fill in the numbers for the Yearbook when he gets them. Paul Celmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. 2009 Budget**

This item was previously covered as part of President's Report.

### **4. International Representation Policy**

Laird circulated a proposed revision of the current policy to determine who is eligible to represent the AGA in international tournaments and asked if any Board members had suggestions on the policy.

Robbins said he would like language added that the AGA has the authority to choose representatives from the US, so if members of the American Professional Go Association (APGA) want to compete in AGA controlled tournaments they would agree that the AGA rather than the APGA will choose international representatives.

Lash suggested the Board should decide whether to increase the number of times one person can represent the US from two to three or more. Robbins said he thinks two is a reasonable number of times.

Laird is going to work on changing the policy to incorporate the proposed amendments and will circulate it among the board for comments.

## **5. Chapter Services**

Lash said he has added \$2500 to the budget to specifically help chapters by adding services and materials to help them. We need volunteers to effectively kick start this effort and active leadership. Willard Haynes said there are already programs to have teaching pros visit, etc. and the problem may be communicating that the services are available. Lash agreed, and said he will work with out Chapter Services coordinator to make sure the chapters know what is available and to try to help them.

## **6. New Business**

None.

## **7. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be 8:00 EDT on June 8th

## **8. Adjournment**

Chuck Robbins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gordon Castanza seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 EDT.

Minutes submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary