

**Minutes**  
**AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Sunday, March 28, 2010 – 8:00 PM EDT**

Meeting called to order by: Roy Schmidt at 8:05 PM EDT  
Type of meeting: Regular Monthly Conference Call

**Attendees:**

Jie Li (At Large)  
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)  
Roy Schmidt (Central Region) Chairman  
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)  
Andrew Okun (Western Region)  
Allan Abramson (President)  
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

**Guest:**

Thomas Hsiang (AGA Vice President for International Affairs, and IGF Vice President)

**Absent:**

Laura Kolb (Central Region)  
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)

**1. Approval of minutes**

Gordon Castanza made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 28, 2010 Board meeting. Andy Okun seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Call for additional agenda items and new business**

**None.**

**3. President's report**

**a. Thomas Hsiang's International Go News**

Thomas Hsiang joined the call to report on International Go news.

**i. Japan Region**

1. Nihon Kiin has been in difficult financial condition. One of the consequences is the pending sale of the New York Go Center. The Seattle Go Center will remain open.
2. The Nihon Kiin will pay for fewer professional visits to the West. In 2010, there will be no professionals sent to the European Go Congress and in 2011 there will be no pros sent to the US Go Congress. In subsequent years, this will probably alternate.
3. The Kansai Ki-in is still strong. They did not lose any sponsors in the economic downturn.
4. The Japan Pair Go Association is strong.
5. The World Amateur Go Championship is also having financial problems, and will stop paying travel expenses for competitors starting 2010. The tournament will be held in China in 2010, Japan in 2011, China 2012, and possibly Thailand in 2013.
6. A new “judicial person”, the Japanese Go Association, has been formed by Nihon Kiin, Kansai Kiin, and the Japan Pair Go Association. It has been recognized by the Japanese Olympic Committee and will represent Japan in the Asian Games.

**ii. Korea Region**

1. KBA and KABA have attempted working toward merging, but the talks have broken off.
2. The KABA (Korean Amateur Association) is recognized by the Olympic Association and has been the principal force behind the Asian Go Federation. But KBA (Korean Baduk Association) has more resources and is the preferred organization for Nihon Kiin and Chinese Weiqi Association to deal with.

3. IGF is working with Chinese Weiqi Association to work out the technical details for the Asian Games Organizational Committee, in the absence of a functional Asian Go Federation.

### iii. **China Region**

1. There is a new president for Chinese Weiqi Association, Liu Siming; AGA relationship with China continues to be strong.
2. In addition to the national organization, there are now strong regional associations in China. For example, Hangzhou Qiyuan has hosted the Pair Go World Cup and will host the 2010 WAGC, and the Guangzhou Qiyuan will host the 2010 Asian Games.
3. Hsiang is working with Chinese Weiqi Association to seek sponsors for the US Go Congress. The current plan is to help the AGA find corporate support starting with the 2011 Congress in Los Angeles.

### iv. **Pair Go 20-year anniversary**

1. To celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the World Pair Go Association was formed, and a Pair Go World Cup was held last weekend in Hangzhou to celebrate the inauguration.
2. The just-retired Director General of UNESCO, Matsuura Koichiro, is the president of the new WPGA, bringing a great deal of clout to the Go world.

### v. **World Mind Sports Games**

1. IMSA was formed to organize the first World Mind Sports Games. Currently the IMSA president is José Damiani, president of WBF, vice president is Giorgio Markroupolos, VP of FIDE, and the executive secretary is Thomas Hsiang, VP of IGF.
2. The second WMSG was to be held in the summer of 2013 and sponsored by the United Arab Emirates, but that is falling through. New sponsors are emerging.

3. Poker may be added to the IMSA. It was originally rejected because it is a game of chance. They have reapplied with a “duplicate poker” game similar to duplicate bridge. Poker and Xiangqi will likely become new members of IMSA.

vi. **New Tournament**

1. The president of SportAccord (formerly GAISF), Hein Verbruchen, has proposed a new “SportAccord Mind Games” under the auspices of SportAccord. The format is likely to be like a World Cup, with a small number of participants and substantial cash prizes. More information should be forthcoming after the next IMSA meeting in late April, 2010.

vii. **Asian Games**

1. The Asian Games will be held in November 2010 in Guangzhou, China. They will include Go and Chess. There will be three medal items: men’s team, women’s team, and pair. There must be at least six countries competing in each item for a medal to be awarded. The Games will feature Go for the second time in the 2014 Asian Games in Korea. If Go is included a third time in 2018, Go will become a permanent item in the Asian Games.

**b. Tournament Coordinator Position**

- i. Boris Bernadsky has resigned the job of tournament coordinator. Abramson said he posted an ad in the e-journal asking for volunteers.
- ii. Jie Li said this is an important position that needs to be filled right away. He volunteered to talk to Abramson personally after the call to brainstorm ideas.
- iii. Abramson said he will need the support of all Board members to identify and recruit a qualified volunteer

who will have the time to devote to this demanding position.

c. **Information item: Rank Certificates**

- i. Abramson said he wants to implement this program in stages, with the first stage of this program being automated e-mail messages to members when they achieve a new rank.
- ii. He would like a three tier system: easy promotion for double digit kyu, medium for single digit kyu, and difficult for Dan level ranks.
- iii. For example, (not decided, but illustrative) as soon as a double digit kyu player crosses into the next higher rank, they could get an e-mail certificate. Single digit kyu members will have to maintain their new rating in tournament play for a while before receiving a certificate, and Dan level members will have to maintain their new rating in a number of tournaments over a period of time before getting the e-mail certificate. The philosophy will be statistically based.
- iv. Abramson has delegated the job of developing the details to Phil Waldron, who will make the final design decisions, and is ready to go ahead with programming as soon as the basic framework is determined.
- v. Robbins pointed out that Waldron got the first ratings run done quickly, but Waldron is moving into a new house and he may need some months to settle in and get the automated certificates working. Abramson said there is no deadline for getting the job done, he is just thrilled that progress is being made, and he expects Phil to get to this within a few months.
- vi. Okun agreed he likes the automatic e-mail notification members will get when they qualify for a new rank.
- vii. After the automated system is in place, we will work on getting volunteers to design and sell fancy certificates. Abramson asked the Board members

to think of potential designers to make attractive, framable certificates.

d. **Information item: Ratings System**

- i. Phil Waldron has updated the ratings using the new system. Abramson suggested that the Board members each express their gratitude to Phil for his hard work and generous donation of his time. All agreed Phil has done a great job on a difficult task.

e. **Reminder: Chapter Calls**

- i. Abramson reminded the Board members to do their spring calls to chapter organizers and to report back to him priorities and concerns that the organizers have.

4. **Old Business**

None

5. **New Business**

None

6. **Establish time and date of next meeting**

The next monthly conference call will be May 9, 2010 at 8:00 EDT.

7. **Adjourn**

Okun made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Castanza seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM EDT.

Minutes submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary