

# MINUTES OF THE AGA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## 8-8-2003

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:02 PM, Chris Kirschner

### 1) ROLL CALL:

Dave Weimer, board president, U of W - Madison Go Club

David Dinhofer, board member, Bayou Go Club

Harold Lloyd, board member, Cleveland Go Club

Jon Boley, board member, Seattle Go Center

Chendao Lin, board member, N.Y. Wei Chi Society

Bob O'Malley, board member, Corvallis Go Club

Alan Abramson, board member elect, NOVA Go Club

John Stephenson, board member, Wings Go Club

Chris Kirschner, AGA president.

None Redmond, Education coordinator

Susan Weir, secretary, Ann Arbor Go Club

Roy Laird, AGA web master

Sam Zimmerman, Lancaster Go Club

Gregory Lefler, Empty Sky Go Club

Terri Schurter, Wings Go Club

Dee Dee Eckles, Denver Go Assn.

Richard Mott, Princeton Go Club

Ken Pelter, Berkeley Go Club

Larry Gross, Go-for-Yu Go Club

John Goon, Hillandale Go Club

Jean de Maiffe, Sunnyvale Go Club

Loretta Chinn, Twin Cities Go Club

Joe Carl, Cuyahoga Go Club

Todd Heidenreich, Arthur Lewis and Rockville Go Clubs

Willard Haynes, Davis/Sacramento Go Club

John Hogan, Portland Go Club

Paul Celmer, Triangle Go Group

Terry Benson, AGF president

Mike Peng, Houston Go Club/2003 Congress director

Robert Cordingley, Houston Go Club

Duane Burns, Cleveland Go Club

Keith Arnold, Baltimore Go Club

Roland Crowl, Massachusetts Go Assn.

Larry Russ, Hoboken Go Club

Jeff Shaevel, Austin Go Club

Mark Rubenstein, Evanston Go Club

Glenn Peters, Portland Go Club

Jie Li, Fengyun Go School

Willard Draisin, New Mexico Go Assn.

Arnold Eudell  
Craig Hutchinson, AGA Archivist  
Chuck Robbins, Tournament Coordinator  
Ron White  
Joey Hung  
Lianzhou Yu  
Yansong (George) Zhou, Ing Coordinator  
Chris Garlock, VP Communications

## **2) APPROVAL OF THE 2002 MINUTES**

Correction on p. 2, Congress 2005 is proposed for Tacoma, WA, not Seattle.

- MINUTES APPROVED.

## **3) REPORT OF THE BOARD TO THE ASSEMBLY**

(note : Board report was handed out to the Assembly)

Dave Weimer: as the notes say, we spent a lot of time organizing ourselves, put together a new organizational structure. We post the agenda before each meeting, post the minutes of meetings on the web site. The AGA is changing to the new organizational structure - we will continue to fill positions within that structure. We want to get that done so we can move on to more substantive issues.

Q: Can you tell us what is going on between the board and the President?

John Stephenson: We formed a presidential search committee - NOT to replace Chris K, but to have a more orderly succession. We are not empowered to make action, just to develop a pool of candidates.

Q: Could Chris K. have a second term?

Dave Weimer: I think the board has had too much control, I hope we change to removal of the president by a super majority, not just a majority, to decrease the power of the board.

Q: What power to members have in regards to the Board's actions?

John S: Explained the by-law structure about elective voting for the board, recall provisions.

Q: looking at the budget - how does new publicity and probable new members joining over the coming year affect the budget?

Chris K: Some items have been incremented slightly; but in general the budget was written before we knew about Hikaru -No-Go.

BOARD REPORT APPROVED.

## **4) REPORTS**

i) FINANCE: Chris Kirschner:

We changed the budget to allocate more money to developing new members, youth members. Moneys formerly allocated to the regions have been reduced, went to line 16, the youth membership pilot project. The discretionary funds increased, as we wanted more flexibility for new events. George Zhou is the new Ing Director, Chapters should now go to him for Ing fund requests instead of their VP's.

Q: Is there a statement of assets?

Chris: unfortunately, it was left out of the report, there is a balance sheet which will be sent out to the chapters., our assets are roughly \$225,000 - \$230,000. The Ing surplus has gone to the AGA, half to the general funds, half to investments.

Q: Why has NAMT switched over to "pro competition"?

Chris K.: the NAMT committee decided not to do the NAMT in 2003. This is a new attempt to provide something for the pros this year, we are actively planning for next year; either resuming the NAMT, or another format.

Q: the NAMT had been suggested by the pros to select players for international competition?

Chris K.: without NAMT, there was not a selection, our selection process can be variable.

Q: is there thought being given to incorporate the pros officially into the AGA structure?

Chris K.: Not at this point.

ii) MEMBERSHIP: Sam Zimmerman:

There is a steady increase in membership. Fewer limited, more full memberships, more youth members. A note to tournament directors: SEND IN the provisional member fees please!

iii -iv) RATINGS, RANKING: Jeff Shaevel: We have taken a survey, and are in the process of gathering information and statistics; it's a work in process. There is consideration about pros adding signatures to rank certificates; they liked the idea, but concrete steps have not been taken.

v) JOURNAL: Chris Garlock:

We are changing the paper journal to an annual yearbook with a CD.

Q: What percentage of the membership gets the EJournal, has e-mail?

Chris G: About 80%. Of the 20%, most probably have e-mails, we just don't have their addresses. We are sending our postcards to these members, are actively pursuing them.

Q: the EJournal is nice, but we also like the paper Journal

Chris G: We'll have the annual paper journal, and make a smaller, cheaper yearbook to hand out for promotional purposes. There are two basic reasons for this change: Cost of the paper Journal, and the volunteer time needs the paper Journal requires. This is basically a done deal, but we are still looking for active input, comments are welcomed.

Q: Why isn't there a decrease in the 2004 budget for the Journal?

Chris G: Last year's number reflect a year of only 3 Journals published, not 4, so the numbers don't reflect the true cost of the paper journal. The current yearbook is planned to come out by the end of the year.

EJournal subscribers have gone from 4000-5500, clearly instrumental in our membership increase.

## **5) Motions to validate actions of prior Chapter Assemblies (Proposition**

1)

This corrects an oversight in the new by laws; making prior actions become current policies. There was some discussion about the wording concerning "full membership" and voting in the proposition. Basically, membership had not been clearly defined before. The new language is more inclusive and voting members include life members, youth members, etc., everyone except limited members shall vote.

This amendment was offered: Second paragraph change to: all members are full members, except limited and complimentary membership, all are defined as full members.

Amendment passed unanimously.

Proposition passed unanimously.

## **6) AGA rules regarding komi**

Terry Benson: Asian associations have changed their komis, based on statistics - we want to follow suit. The rules committee decided this needed some study.

Keith Arnold: under current rules, white passes a stone last - which doesn't change the game outcome, but at 6.5 komi, it could. So we should go to 7.5 komi now, TD's can decide their own komis. Do we trust the Asian statistics? Should we look at our own game

results? (undecided)

Terry B: the stats are of pro games, not amateur games. The Koreans, Japanese use 6.5, the Chinese, 7.5, Ing uses 8. This will continue to be studied over the year, no action taken.

## **7)Revisions of Article of Incorporation to the By laws process proposed**

(Proposition 2)

Purpose: Adopting a new procedure for presenting by-law revision

This is a policy to develop how we make by law amendments, a policy the president can implement. Passing this resolution directs all presidents to also follow this procedure, so it sets future precedent.

John Stephenson: This motion micromanages - a bad precedent- we should expect the president to do this as a routine business of the office (as is, any four chapters can put any amendment of the by laws before the assembly)

Chris Kirschner: The purpose of this is to mandate a process to keep our bylaws consistent and well thought out. We need the stability of a regular process to do so.

ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:

RESULTS: YES - 51 NO - 9 ABSTAIN - 1

the revision is adopted

## **8) Proposal for direct voting instead of weighted chapter vote.**

(Proposition 3 - Supplemented)

John Stephenson: There's been lots of discussion, clearly we need to revisit this issue. The supplement was a great outcome of agreement. We'll take a nominal chapter vote here to get an indication, NOT BINDING, to help the committee that will look at this issue move forward. (this committee is the governance committee plus Rick Mott) The committee will brainstorm ideas, present the various options to the chapters, and in the EJournal, to allow for the membership to comment on them. The hope is that by next year, we'll have voting revision proposal to put before the membership. We may put this together before next year's assembly, but no later than next year.

Q: We're barely into the new by-laws, I worry we're changing too much too rapidly.

Allan A: there's so much division over this issue, we think it's best to keep working to resolve strong feelings, but to leave it hurts the organization.

For the nominal vote, there are two parts to this:

A) Do we keep the current system or go to direct voting? (either/or)

B) Can we find some kind of hybrid with aspects of both alternatives?

HAND VOTE (A):

TO KEEP THE CURRENT VOTING SYSTEM: 11

TO GO TO DIRECT VOTING; 15

ABSTAIN; 4

HAND VOTE (B):

SUPPORT A HYBRID OF SOME KIND; 23

NO HYBRID; 1

ABSTAIN; 1

WEIGHTED CHAPTER ROLL CALL VOTE (A ONLY):

DIRECT VOTE: 30

CURRENT SYSTEM: 23

ABSTAIN: 10

### **9) Proposal to elect directors at large instead of by region**

Withdrawn by John Stephenson.

### **10) Voting rights revision proposal**

Also withdrawn by John Stephenson

(as both of these are tied to proposal #8)

### **11) 2004 Congress proposal**

Rochester, N.Y., Greg Lefler, director. Dates: July 30- August 7.

This will be held in a hotel, with private baths, mostly double occupancy, 305 rooms are available. Meals will be catered.

Greg has been tremendously active in getting the Rochester Institute of Technology to subsidize the go club, they will help subsidize the Congress costs.

Passed unanimously.

### **12) 2005 Congress proposal**

Chris Kirschner: Tacoma, WA.- we're still looking at sites. It's a Lutheran campus, a dry campus, but there are various restaurants within walking distance. Dorms are fairly nice.

### **13) New business**

none

### **14. meeting adjourned at 10:29 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Weir

AGA Secretary