

## **Minutes: AGA Board Meeting, Sunday, 19 Sep 2004, 7:00 PM EDT**

The meeting was called to order about 7 pm EDT.

(Present - Bill, Allan, Willard, Jeff, Harold, Roy, Mike)

### 1. Approval of Minutes

Action postponed, pending distribution of prior minutes.

### 2. President's report (including budget, status of bylaws revisions,...)

The Ing Fund request was settled: \$1000 approved for Ming Jiu Jiang's tournament.

2005 Congress—Working with Steve Stringfellow on details of contract. We lack a standard contract.

AGA Organization—Mike is planning to consolidate and reorganize. Will send new chart as a proposal.

By-Laws—Expect that suggestions will be sent to Board, with proposed revisions of voting procedures by end of October.

Edge TV—Mike responded to their recent email, but there has been no response back to him. He did a substantial rewrite, which needs Board comments.

Tournaments:

Need to consider whether to include amateurs in AGA pro tournaments. Hold over for further discussion.

Recalled that there was a commitment to create an annual list of major special tournaments like the Fujitsu, from Joe Carl. Really need to do this, to allow proper advance planning and player selection. Mike will follow up.

On the Fujitsu, who will be the TD? Need to establish the current point standings.

Need to consider procedures for the pro tournament for next year.

Budget - Ben is now providing quarterly reports.

### 3. Old Business

#### a. AGA Principles for U.S. Representation in International Tournaments

(Discussion toward policy adoption)

"The AGA should vigorously seek through its own policies and in its dealings with other organizations to promote procedures for selecting representatives to international tournaments that are inclusive, fair, and transparent. Inclusive procedures provide an opportunity to participate to all players who are United States citizens no matter where they reside, as well as to all players with permanent resident status who reside in the United States. Fair procedures rely on competition to the greatest extent feasible to select representatives from among those eligible. Transparent procedures are clearly and publicly stated."

No comments received from Chapters or anyone else on this issue, since the Congress. Allan assumes people are comfortable with the policy. Moved by Roy and seconded by Willard to adopt proposed policy, adopted without dissent. Will be sent to all interested parties, including foreign organizations that sponsor tournaments that are open to US representatives. We will try to have the letter translated into the appropriate languages, to send, too. Allan will provide a first draft to the Board.

In light of this policy, question arises about opening all tournaments sponsored by the AGA to amateurs as well as pros? The Board agreed to hold this question over for further discussion.

b. Leadership Development Committee:

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

The Board agreed to ask the Committee members to find a new chair for the committee. Discuss again at the next meeting.

4. New Business

a. WAGC representative selection process; review of current point system situation

This is a sensitive issue. Sense of the Board discussion was that the history of recent selections may need to be acted upon. General principle was that being sent to any major tournament in Asia was an honor, with consequent re-setting of the representative's points, per current policy.

The system for selecting the WAGC representative probably needs a review and revision. This will be discussed further at another Board meeting.

Related issue is recognition that the AGA leadership needs to establish better relations with the stronger players. Perhaps recruit some strong players for a discussion? Jeff volunteered to be a temporary liaison for the Board to the strong players.

b. Vendor relations:

- (1) Move from 60% to 70% at the Congress?
- (2) Name a vendor liaison
- (3) Develop open policy for Congresses

This discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

c. League Play:

The Board endorsed the temporary committee to propose implementation of a league system. The committee would include:

Bill Saltman, Jeff Shaevel, Terry Benson, Mike Lash, Chuck Robbins, Chris Garlock, Chris Kirschner, Roy Laird, Phil Straus, Allan Abramson, Micah Feldman, Eric Osman, Paul Celmer, Sam Zimmerman, and Paul Matthews, plus anyone else with an interest. Mike will follow up with this group.

Ratings as an issue has been postponed, in favor of starting the League as soon as practical.

d. Marketing funds:

The Board agreed that we need to develop guidelines for accessing marketing funding for the coming year, to encourage applications. Allan committed to a first draft of the guidelines.

The remainder of new business was tabled until the next meeting:

e. Procedures for selection of representatives to world pair go, 12-16 November:

- (1) Establish a committee?
- (2) Report of trip to be published in EJournal?

e. Discussion of role of Board members on committees (Email thread...)

f. Focus on children: None's suggestion for early school year involvement

Open discussion

Mike has a phone conference with the membership development group. The central question is: why should a non-member pay to join the AGA?

6. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 EDT.