

Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 17, 2004

Call to order 7:08 PM EDT

Present: Allan Abramson, Bill Cobb, Willard Haynes, Roy Laird, Jeff Shaevel, Secy. Lee Anne Bowie. Absent: Harold Lloyd and Mike Bull
Meeting proceeded as it was established that there is a quorum.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve Willard Haynes; Jeff Shaevel Seconded.
Board voted to approve.

2. President's Report (Including status of Bylaw revisions, Edge TV Proposal, Development of Annual List of Special Tournaments abroad and domestic)

Mike Lash is in the air from/to NY/DC.
Balance of items will wait on email from Mike Lash

3. Old Business:

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

"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."

Need letter of transmittal to all interested parties, including foreign organizations that sponsor tournaments that are open to US representatives. First draft is attached.

Letter for approval:

Dear _____:

As you know, the American Go Association (AGA) seeks to promote and support the spread of Go in the United States. The AGA also seeks a strong and positive relationship with the rest of the Go world's players and organizations. In this regard, the AGA Board of Directors recently adopted

a policy on the selection of U.S. representatives for participation in international tournaments. This policy reflects our commitment to democratic principles and an open process for selections. It applies to both professional and amateur U.S. representatives. The policy is attached to this letter.

We respectfully request that, to the extent possible, the selection of U.S. representatives for international tournaments follow the principles described in this policy.

We look forward to strengthening our relationships and to continuing to spread Go around the world. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Allan Abramson, Chair
American Go Association Board of Directors

The transmittal letter was approved by the board.

Next step is to work with Mike to get it translated (option) and identify the initial mailing list, which we will present for review. Email Allan directly if you have thoughts of to whom it should be sent.

In light of this policy, our intent is to continue discussion with amateurs and pros re opening all tournaments to both amateurs and pros. This applies predominantly to AGA events and the invitational pro cup and Ing cup.

Board discussion ranged from questioning the information we have about the attitude of amateurs and pros on this to current policy. A number of the issues affect them. Suggestion was made that we should create a committee by invitation of strong amateurs, pros and board members to investigate this. One pro has already said that pros should not participate in amateur events where prizes are available. AGA Policy makes it clear that it is an open process for AGA tournaments. It is always the top person who is eligible. Comment was made that there were no complaints on Feng Yun playing in Maryland Open, that most amateurs seem to welcome their participation. In the Fujitsu we invite both. In the Ing, no pros are invited.

Allan will ask Mike Lash to check into Ing rules to see if pros were precluded there. We have a consensus to keep open tournaments open to pros, which is the present policy. Roy commented Mike Lash had called Europeans

who maintain a list of top eight players who have top results. They select the next person on list who can attend. We are looking at this for possible model. Allan would like to involve the pros and strong amateurs in decision.

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)

Status of search for a new chair for the committee:
Roy from Mike on Leadership Committee: No obvious candidates currently.
Allan and Mike will discuss options for recruitment.

c. WAGC: Continuation of Discussion on Current Point System for Representation

Allan thought to refer this to temporary committee, but while not requiring pro input, it does affect the strong amateurs. Allan will create a temporary committee and refer this to them, with the sense that we would like to change the current system.

The system needs to accommodate more selections. Also, resetting points is a problem, so need to work with point process. Sense of the prior 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.

Now we need to act on it and engage in discussion for the long term in general.

All present agreed. Allan appreciates the unanimity on this.

d. Appointment of Treasurer

This is a procedural requirement, neglected after elections.

Roy Laird nominated Ben Bernstein as Treasurer.
Willard Haynes seconded nomination.

A comment was made that we need a professional accountant to assist the treasurer. Discussion of cost ensued.

The board unanimously approved Ben Bernstein as treasurer.

Bill Cobb moved to have Treasurer Ben Bernstein and President Mike Lash find an accountant. Roy Laird proposed a friendly amendment to find an accountant , get a cost estimate and come back with cost. Friendly amendment accepted.

Amended Motion: Bill Cobb moved that the Board direct Mike Lash to work with Ben Bernstein on finding a professional accountant to assist with the books, determine the probable cost, and come back to the board with the information. Willard Haynes seconded.

The motion carried unanimously

e. Strong player liaison

Jeff Shaevel will send out invitation to let them know that we are doing this, during this week.

f. Vendor relations

Lot of issues; a suggestion was made that we establish a committee including vendors to discuss these issues. We need to normalize things so that those vendors who zip in and out at the Congress have no advantage over those who participate in the gift certificates. Further discussion on the percentage granted for gift certificates and its fairness; also on the possibility of charging a fee per table and doing away with certificate idea. These two issues would be added to the list.

After much further discussion, the board determined to have Mike Lash find a former Congress director to act as a Vendor Liaison to discuss with them the establishment of rules of participation in a congress. Mike Lash and the Vendor Liaison are to set a list of issues and a process to produce recommendations.

g. Limited Member Voting

Allan: Many people did not realize that the bylaws changed to prevent limited members from voting. The issue is serious and should be discussed further. One possibility: if they subscribe to e-journal and change from full member to limited, they would lose the game records as limited. But they could get it for \$20 instead of \$30 the way it is currently set up. This issue should be included in the Governance Committee proposal discussions.

h. League play

Roy Laird provided the following:

Discussion on Special Team Tournament: Mike will suggest teams of three playing x number of matches in y time period, with nominal prizes for top four teams.

Basic idea is to promulgate league of teams from chapters, who would challenge other teams on internet, play a series of matches, have fun; various criteria for various prizes.

Which server to use has not been discussed as there are a lot of tech problems due to handles and ratings. Probable result will be to leave it to the two players which server they will play on. The games are not to be rated. Time limits: a minimum of 30 minutes basic time, as in AGA rated games, with some overtime provision not yet decided.

i. Marketing Funds:

Table for next time. No objection.

4. New Business

a. Selection of Representatives for World Pair Go

It was agreed that Paul Celmer will be this year's representative. For the future we need a process to choose this person. Bill and Jeff volunteered to work on establishing guidelines.

Roy Laird moved to have Bill and Jeff work on guidelines for guest officials who attend international and other major events with players. Willard Haynes seconded.

No further discussion.
Unanimously carried.

a. Initial discussion of highest level leagues, and a system to promote strong players to professional level

Held over to next meeting.

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

Held over to next meeting.

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

Held over to next meeting.

a. Agent for service in NY: Need Board resolution

NY State Law requires us to designate an agent. Willard Haynes: moved to designate Michael Brockbank to serve as our agent for service in New York State.

Jeff Shaevel: seconded.

Unanimously carried.

5. Open Discussion

None.

6. Adjournment

Jeff Shaevel: moved to adjourn and carry over all undiscussed items to next meeting. Roy Laird seconded. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Anne Bowie, Secretary