

MINUTES OF THE AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sunday, 18 Dec 2005, 7 PM, EDT

Attending: Yuan Zhou, Bob Barber, Willard Haynes, Mike Bull, Allan Abramson, and Mike Lash

(Absent = Roy Laird and Jeff Shaevel)

1. President's report

- a. Policy statement – Mike said that the Board needs to make a decision, and noted that users of Ing funds must file a report for the AGA to compile into an annual report to the Ing Foundation. With one abstention by Bob (who as a new Board member had no history on this issue), the Board approved the policy. Additionally, Mike committed to have the latest report to the Ing Foundation ready by February.
- b. Request by AGF for use of AGA mailing list for their fund-raising. The Board approved this request, consistent with past policy and procedures.

2. Old Business

- a. Priorities for the year: open discussion

O Mike has not revised his draft paper on priorities, so discussion on it was deferred.

O Willard said that the entire tournament organization and structure was a critical item. It is needed for all major tournaments

O Yuan and Bob agreed, adding that running the tournaments well also was critical

O Mike Bull asked for an update on the Fujitsu. Mike Lash replied that it is all set, with Jeff directing, a field of 16 players, all pros invited (one yes at this point), invitations to Canada and Mexico, and to be run in January as planned. Mike Bull suggested putting this information into the E-Journal.

O Willard observed that the change to the new organization has cost us senior people, who were contributing significantly, such as the regional VP's. As this is a staffing issue, not a priority issue, discussion was tabled, even as the Board agreed that getting more volunteers was a critical issue.

O All agreed that growing the membership was a high priority

b. Pro policy discussion, continued

O Harold started calls to the pros for input, but this is not complete. Allan committed to contacting Harold on his status, and sending an email to the Board with the results.

O Willard noted that we still had to move forward on procedures to train and certify American pros

O Suggestion for one place to post all our pro policies (need to follow up with Roy Laird, our webmaster)

c. Initial discussion of policy for memorials

O Allan noted that Chris Garlock was open to listing recent losses in the E-Journal, as well as to adding a section to the Annual

O We need a policy on recognition, in general: whom do we honor, and to what extent?

O Allan suggested that we ask Terry and Chris Kirschner, for input. All agreed. Mike Lash to follow up.

O Yuan noted a need to recognize and ease the burden of our major tournament organizers. Again, all agreed.

O More discussion to come...

3. New Business

a. Discussion of use of AGA/Ing reserves (See attachment)

Assuming that we will receive only \$40,000 from the Ing foundation in FY2006, we need to make a decision about cutting half of the approved Ing budget. As indicated in the attachment, if we fund only the Summer Camp, the Congress tournaments (Masters, Ing and Redmond), and the Congress comps for youth (which may be underestimated!), this would come to the \$40,000 figure.

This would cut out: regional funds totaling \$10,000; equipment purchases and shipping totaling \$16,000, and the youth mini-grants of \$6,000. The remainder of \$8,000 was for admin (500), discretionary (3500) and reserves (4,000).

Something to think about: HARD DECISIONS are needed...

O Allan and others agreed that we still need to account for all of the Ing budgets, from the beginning. Mike Lash to follow up.

O Bob asked as the North Carolina Congress Liaison if the Ing funds were threatened for this year. The Board responded “no,” and that the Congress could expect the usual support

O Bob suggested, and the Board agreed, that further discussion should be deferred, until the data are clear

b. Initial discussion of IT issues, including tournament software

O Discussion deferred, since Jeff was absent and this is his item

O The status of the new tournament software was uncertain, and Allan agreed to call Ray Hunley to ask about the status

O Allan stated how impressed he had been by the tournament software for the Pair Go Championships, and suggested that we consider asking the Asian Associations for their experience. The Board agreed. Mike Lash to follow up.

4. Open discussion

a. Allan noted that the Chinese Association has sent some signals that they might be interested in opening a Go Center in the US. He asked the Board for permission for Mike Lash and himself to encourage them in this thinking. He suggested that Washington DC might be a good location, since New York and Seattle had Nihon Ki-in centers, and Los Angeles had a Korean Baduk Association center. The Board was ok with this suggestion, but noted that site selection was a long way off, so the location should be left open.

b. Allan reported that the Japanese Pair Go Association and Pandanet had offered to run a pair go web site for the AGA. They had demonstrated a model of this site for him when he was in Tokyo for the Pair Go Championships. After some discussion, the Board agreed that he should inform the JPGA that we would accept their offer, try it, and evaluate how well it works for us.

c. Marketing funds have not been requested much by the clubs. Allan suggested that the Board authorize a national marketing effort, targeted at groups most likely to provide new members, such as chess players, Anime, and Shonen Jump fans.

Willard suggested more general ads, such as to Mensa, the IT community, and to Asian cultural journals. These would take some more research.

The Board agreed that we should explore such a national effort. Allan will draft some proposals for Board consideration.

- d. Yuan asked if it might be useful to begin to plan for backup/succession of the rating system. Mike Lash agreed to contact Paul Matthews to open this discussion.
- e. Need for a new Archivist was discussed. Mike Lash noted that we had no volunteers yet. Allan suggested seeking a retired librarian, or seeking a University library. Needs further consideration, and someone to do the search.

5. Adjournment