

AGA Board Meeting Sunday, November 19—8:00 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Willard Haynes
Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call
Secretary: Pauline Pohl

Attendees:

Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)
Robert Barber (Central Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region)
Willard Haynes (Western Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Mike Lash (President)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:

Roy Laird (At Large) Chairman

Agenda Topics:

Call to Order/Establish a Quorum

Willard Haynes called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM EDT. A quorum was established.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Action items: Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting
Motion-Bob Barber
Second-Chuck Robbins
Approved unanimously

2. President's Report : Mike Lash

a) Ing Funds

There has been no change or contact from the Ing Foundation. Last year the Board voted to fund Ing events at the Congress from AGA reserves and then ask for reimbursement later. The Board will have to decide whether to do that again this year. The Congress organizers will need to know what to expect soon. This decision was put off until the next meeting when Roy Laird will be back.

b) Guo Juan DVD

Mike Lash asked for the Board's opinion on whether to pursue the idea of having the AGA produce and sell DVD's of Guo Juan's game analyses and lectures at the 2004 Go Congress in Rochester, NY.

Chuck Robbins said he thought there was some good information in the DVD he saw, but it was somewhat disorganized and the lighting and sound was bad. It

could be sold for a small amount of money, or possibly used as a giveaway as an incentive for new AGA members.

Bob Barber said he studies Guo Juan lectures on line for 1 Euro each. Those lessons are better produced than the DVD he saw, and the price is better than what has been proposed. He wouldn't recommend producing the DVD.

Bob Barber said he is against selling the DVD.

Willard Haynes has misgivings about selling the DVD.

Mike Lash asked if he should continue pursuing the idea.

Willard made a motion to vote on whether to pursue the project.

Roy Schmidt seconded the motion.

Chuck Robbins said he would abstain from voting because he has a conflict of interest because he sells similar items through Slate and Shell.

Bob Barber voted no.

Willard Haynes voted no.

Gordon Castanza voted no.

Roy Schmidt voted no.

Paul Celmer voted to continue pursuing the idea.

There were four votes against pursuing the DVD, one in favor and one abstention. Mike Lash will not continue working on this project.

Mike Lash said maybe we can do a similar project in the future with more planning and better production values.

Chuck Robbins suggested trying to get some of her internet lessons in large quantities at a discount to offer as incentives to get new AGA members in the future.

c) Summer Go Camps

Mike Lash got the spreadsheets from both Summer Go Camps. The West Coast Camp lost \$4600, and the East Coast Camp lost \$3400, making the total deficit \$8000. The AGF had previously committed up to \$7000 for scholarships and professional fees. Only \$5000 of the deficits fall into those two categories, but Terry Benson said he would probably pay the full \$7000 and the AGA will pay for \$1000 of the losses. Terry Benson warned that in the future, the AGF will only pay scholarships and professional fees. Operating expenses will have to be covered by camp fees or by the AGA. The AGF has budgeted \$9000 for the 2006 Summer Go Camps, with \$6400 to go toward scholarships for the 16 finalists of the Youth Go Championship. That leaves only \$2600 for

professional's fees. In the future the AGA might want to add a line item in the budget to support the Youth Summer Go Camp.

d) National Youth Go Tournament

Mike Lash reported that there are six venues set up for the Youth Tournament and one venue almost firm. They are: Seattle/Tacoma, San Francisco, Chicago, Philadelphia, Denver, and North Jersey, with Orange County/Los Angeles almost firm.

3. Rank Certification Proposal

This is Roy Laird's issue, so this discussion was postponed until the next meeting when he will be present.

4. AGF Analysis of AGA-AGF Equipment Expenses

Terry Benson, of the American Go Foundation has the records, and hasn't delivered them yet, so this item was tabled until next meeting.

5. Complimentary Membership for Professional Players

The last draft of this proposal had three categories of free memberships:

- 1) Professionals living in the U.S. with a Visa
- 2) U.S./Canadian/Mexican citizens that hold professional certification
- 3) Those deemed deserving of complimentary membership through service to the AGA (not necessarily professional)

There was discussion as to the motivations for offering complimentary memberships. Bob Barber said it's to give a compliment to somebody for helping the AGA. Roy Schmidt said we are trying to build bridges to reach out to the professionals.

Bob Barber suggested we shouldn't vote on this until Roy Laird is back. Willard Haynes asked if Bob Barber wants to table the discussion for now. Bob Barber said yes, Roy Schmidt seconded and all agreed.

6. New Treasurer

Mike Lash said there's no news on this front. He's still interested in getting Adam Bridges to do it. Paul Celmer said he would ask Adam to contact Mike Lash if he's interested in being AGA Treasurer.

7. Selection Procedure for International Representatives

Mike Lash asked if everyone had seen the latest proposal. Roy Schmidt said he had suggested some minor changes in terminology.

Chuck Robbins suggested adding an amendment to allow players to have either 10 even games with 6-Dan and above or 6 even games with players 6-Dan and above and 8 handicap games. He said this would encourage more strong players to attend local tournaments.

Roy Schmidt moved that we amend Allan's proposal of October 19, 2006 with Roy's typographical comments. Chuck Robbins seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Gordon Castanza proposed an amendment to allow the President to use discretion when possible and send a weaker player to represent the U.S. in international tournaments. It was not seconded.

Willard Haynes asked Chuck Robbins if he wanted to formally propose his amendment to be more flexible on the 10 even game requirement for strong players. He said he would not ask for a vote now, but would ask Allan Abramson to consider it later.

Gordon Castanza moved to approve the selection procedures in the memo dated October 19, 2006 as amended with Roy Schmidt's edits. Willard Haynes seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. New Business

a) Nakayama Award

Bob Barber proposed that we give the Nakayama award to (name withheld) in 2007. He suggested that we approach Jeff Shaevel to make five or six awards now for efficiency to be awarded in future years.

Paul Celmer seconded the motion. All were in favor except for Chuck Robbins. The motion passed. Bob Barber will talk to Jeff Shaevel and get a cost estimate. He'll report back next month.

b) Time limits for AGA-rated, sudden death games

Chuck Robbins said there are two different minimum time limits published for AGA-rated sudden death games. The Tournament Directors' Guide says 45 minutes and the web site says 50 minutes. Bob Barber suggested this was a technical issue better decided by a tournament committee. Chuck Robbins said he agrees, but would like a number to use until an official decision is made. He thinks the tournament directors' guide is more official.

Chuck Robbins moved that the document that will control tournament procedures and rules is officially the tournament guide. Bob Barber seconded the motion. Willard Haynes asked if there was any discussion. There wasn't. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Schedule next monthly Meeting and Adjournment

The next regular monthly conference call will be December 17, 2006 at 7:00 PM Eastern Standard time.

Bob Barber moved that the meeting be adjourned. Willard Haynes seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM Eastern Standard time.

Minutes prepared by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary