

Minutes
AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Sunday, October 17, 2010 – 8:00 PM EDT

Meeting called to order by: Andrew Okun at 8:06 PM EDT
Type of meeting: Regular Monthly Conference Call

Attendees:

Jie Li (At Large)
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Lisa Scott (Central Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Andrew Okun (Western Region, Chairman)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:

Allan Abramson (President)

Guests:

Chris Kirschner, AGA VP Planning (filling in for Abramson)
Terry Benson, AGF President

1. Approval of September 12, 2010 minutes

Castanza made a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular monthly Board meeting from September 12, 2010. Kolb seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Approval of September 15, 2010 Special Board Meeting minutes

Castanza made a motion to approve the minutes of the special Board meeting held September 15. Scott seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Call for additional agenda items and new business

- a. Celmer asked if a fundraising committee had been formed, and if so, whether there could be a status report.

4. President's Report (Kirschner acting for Abramson)

a. Discussion item: Follow up to 10-Game Question

- i. Kirschner noted that having the 10-game policy eliminated leaves a void in the decision making process to choose representatives to big tournaments.
- ii. Kirschner explained the process that was used to select representatives to the World Mind Sports Games and the Ing Masters' tournament since 2007.
- iii. He proposes using the same process to select representatives to future tournaments when qualification tournaments are not practical.
- iv. He favors using points earned over a period of a year to select competitors for a playoff.
- v. Scott said the points systems are biased toward those who live close to a lot of tournaments, and she opposes systems that penalize members in more sparsely populated areas.
- vi. Kirschner said that problem can be solved by choosing top players from each region and including an internet playoff.
- vii. Scott said she likes that idea.
- viii. Kirschner noted Abramson may not be in favor of that idea.
- ix. Okun said we might leave some tournaments out of the new selection process and continue using the traditional selection criteria until a new system gains popularity.
- x. Kirschner said the Fujitsu, the President's, the Chun-lun, and the World Student Tournaments have established procedures that have been used in the past, and those should continue.
- xi. Celmer asked what the chief advantage of the proposed point system would be.
- xii. Kirschner said it encourages more play among strong players. Beyond that, it makes tournament play more important, because the results are meaningful. It also could simplify the selection process. We don't want to use a different set of criteria for each tournament.

- xiii.**Jie Li asked if this new system would have kept the women professionals out of the last Women's tournament, because the professionals hadn't played any tournament games.
- xiv.**Kirschner said tournament player selection could go either through the points system or through the ratings system.
- xv.**Jie Li said the points system would just end up being a variation on the ten games rule.
- xvi.**Kirschner said people would have to play tournaments to get points, but not a certain number of tournaments or games.
- xvii.**Jie Li said he doesn't think people who lose the first two games in a qualifier tournament will have an incentive to keep playing and they would probably quit the tournament.
- xviii.**Kirschner said a list of points accumulated through a particular point in time in the year, probably after the Congress will be kept and used for the following year. All of the points accumulated count and the top 16 points earners will qualify for the Fujitsu.
- xix.**Castanza said he expects the same objection to a points system as was heard for the 10-game rule. Feng Yun would not have qualified for the women's tournament under a points system, so she will probably object just as much to the points system.
- xx.**Kirschner said that you couldn't even play in a qualifier if you didn't have ten games under the old rule, but the points system is more open.
- xxi.**Okun said because the idea is to have the points system done administratively, it is not a policy, so if there is a tournament such as the women's tournament or pair go, where there aren't that many candidates, it might be better not to use the points system. Professionals have traditionally been able to walk in to the Fujitsu, and if we make that tournament award points, it might fix the problems.
- xxii.**Jie Li said he thinks the women professionals will resent the points system as much as they did the ten game rule.

- xxiii.** Scott said she doesn't want to make rules to exclude people when we are trying to grow membership.
- xxiv.** Kirschner said a way around that would be to invite pros without requiring anything from them.
- xxv.** Jie Li said he would have a problem with treating the professionals better than other strong players.
- xxvi.** Kirschner said the alternative is that if a person plays in a point granting tournament, the Fujitsu, Masters, US Open, etc., they could earn points for the following year. This way continuing to qualify would be almost automatic.
- xxvii.** Castanza said the same objections will continue. A person who has chosen a professional path is being favored over those who may be just as strong of a go player, but has not been able to pursue the professional label.
- xxviii.** Kirschner said if we don't make special rules for professionals, Feng Yun might continue to complain, but this points system would award points for playing in tournaments that strong players already enjoy competing in. There haven't been complaints about the system where it has been used so far.
- xxix.** Celmer suggested awarding a prize of some sort to the top points earner each year.
- xxx.** Kirschner said he isn't looking for a decision tonight about moving forward with a points system. He simply wants to suggest the points system as a way to encourage tournament play which was the objective of the ten game rule.

(At this point Terry Benson joined the meeting, so we discussed item 5 a out of order)

- xxxi.** Kirschner said he would like to float a proposal about the use of a points system rather than make an announcement about it right away. He doesn't think the Board needs to vote on it, he just wants to inform them and ask for their input.

- b. Discussion Item: Follow up to all the recent e-mail comments**
- i. Okun said many people have suggested that all of the comments posted on “lifein19x19” should be addressed in some way.
 - ii. Kirschner said he thinks Abramson should be involved on that and discuss it at the next meeting.
- c. Decision item: Assembly Resolution**
- i. A resolution was passed at the Annual Assembly to drop public access to member ratings if membership has lapsed for two or three years.
 - ii. Kirschner said Abramson strongly disagrees with the resolution, and there wasn’t much debate or publicity about the idea. It was not on the agenda and no prior notice was given to anyone about the resolution. It would be bad to ignore a resolution that was passed, but it is also bad to change a major policy without wide discussion or notice in advance. He thinks the item should be placed on the agenda for next year’s assembly and the item should be discussed widely before implementing the change.
 - iii. Castanza agreed that there should be more discussion before a major change is made.
 - iv. Kirschner said the people most affected would not likely be informed, unless they kept their e-mail addresses up to date with the AGA.
 - v. Kirschner said since the resolution actually passed, we may be required to act in some way.
 - vi. Scott said the vote was close, and the resolution was actually just for the Board to consider limiting access not to actually limit the access immediately.
 - vii. Kirschner suggested releasing a statement saying we are discussing the idea and will put it on the agenda for next year’s assembly and invite comments on the resolution.
 - viii. **Castanza made a motion to table the implementation of the resolution until next year’s assembly after we have received more input from members.**
 - ix. **Kolb seconded the motion.**
 - x. Robbins said we are undergoing a website improvement, and it would be poor management of our limited

resources to make this change until after the web redesign.

- xi.** Castanza accepted Robbins' addition as a friendly amendment.
- xii.** Okun said we won't make any changes until after the web redesign, but that doesn't mean we won't discuss the idea.
- xiii.** **The motion passed unanimously.**

5. Old Business

a. Discussion of Go Camps

- i.** The AGF has helped support the go camps for several years, and Benson joined the call to discuss what is going to happen with the children's go camps over the next few years.
- ii.** Kirschner said someone came forward to volunteer to host a west coast camp next year.
- iii.** Celmer asked what happened to the camp last year. Kirschner said we lost the organizer, and it took too long to find a replacement to have a west coast camp last year.
- iv.** Scott said she talked to Karen Jordan and Jordan said she is still interested in the go camps and has some ideas for them.
- v.** Benson said the AGF has a structure for awarding scholarships to go camps based on youth tournaments, and the scholarships were not awarded last year because the camp was canceled.
- vi.** The AGF supported scholarships to the Congress instead of to go camps last year. Benson would like to know what is planned in the way of camps so he can plan the AGF budget.
- vii.** Celmer said the Go Camps should have the same level of planning as a Go Congress, so the commitments should be made a year in advance like they are for the Congress.
- viii.** Benson said a camp isn't as complicated as the Congress. The main problem is getting a professional to commit.

- ix. Benson said go camps are a big priority for the AGF, and he uses the existence of the camps in his fundraising letters. People like to support camps.
- x. Benson asked if anyone objects to the AGF sending out a fundraising solicitation to AGA members every year rather than every other year as has been done in the past. They switched to an electronic mail last year which produced lower donations, but was more efficient because the expenses were so much less than a paper mailing. No one on the Board objected.

b. Creation of Audit Committee

- i. Okun said that as a 501 c 4 corporation, we file a form 990 to the IRS every year. Our Treasurer submits the forms every year. As a Board, we are responsible for making sure the forms are properly filled out and that we have all required policies in place.
- ii. Okun would like some Board members to form an audit committee to review the forms every year.
- iii. Robbins said he would be willing to serve on an audit committee. Kolb said she would also like to be on the committee if she has time. Scott said she also would like to be involved if she has time.
- iv. Jie Li asked why the whole Board wouldn't automatically be involved in this.
- v. Okun said that the committee could have as their main responsibility circulating the documents for review. This should only be a twice per year sort of job, but it should be a formal requirement rather than a casual idea.
- vi. **Castanza made a motion that we form an audit committee. Robbins seconded the motion.**
- vii. Okun asked if they had an idea how many members to include on the committee. Castanza said three is good. Robbins said he would like there to be five members on the committee including members not on the Board.
- viii. Kirschner said that most of what goes onto the form 990 comes from administrative personnel, so maybe the Treasurer should be included on the committee.
- ix. Okun said the Treasurer submits the numbers, but the Board has the responsibility to make sure they are

accurate. The Treasurer is involved, but not on the committee. Castanza said the president should be a member of all committees.

- x. Kirschner said there is a difference between a standing committee and other committees. Standing committees are made of members appointed by the President or the Board.
- xi. Okun said that the obligation is with the Board, so getting general members involved isn't necessary. Robbins said he might be able to find someone with expertise to help. Okun said that would be fine.
- xii. Okun appointed Castanza and Robbins to be initial members of the committee.
- xiii. **The motion was passed unanimously.**

6. New Business

a. Fundraising Development Committee

- i. This item will be on the agenda of next month's meeting.

7. Establish time and date of next meeting

The next regular monthly Board meeting will be November 14, 2010 at 8:00 EST.

8. Adjourn

Robbins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kolb seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm EDT.

Minutes submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary