

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2009 of the European Go Federation
31st July 2009 at Groningen EGC, Netherlands

0) Present

Executive: President: -
 Vice-Presidents: Martin Stiassny & Oleg Gavrilov
 Treasurer: Hans Kostka,
 Secretary: John Gibson,
 Officer Tournaments: Matti Siivola,
 Officer Ratings: Ales Cieply
Auditors: Arnaud Knippel, Thilo Burkhardt

Official representatives:

Armenia: Victor Zilberberg
Austria: Erwin Gerstorfer
Azerbaijan Orchan Mukterov and Gambar Jafarov
Belarus: Mikhail Kuznetzov
Bulgaria: Stanislav Traykov
Czechia: Martin Kovarik
Denmark: Christian Lykke
Finland: Suvi Rovio and Teemu Rovio
France: Jean-Yves Papazoglou and Dominique Cornuejols
Germany: Michael Marz
Hungary: Peter Marko and Julia Seres
Ireland: John Gibson
Israel: Ali Jabarin
Italy: Gionata Soletti and Francesca Marui
Lithuania Laimute Kuriene
Netherlands: Martin Finke and Rob Friederichs
Norway: Pal Sannes
Poland: Leszek Soldan
Portugal: Rui Malhado
Romania: Catalin Taranu
Russia: Victor Bogdanov
Serbia: Milos Bojanic
Slovakia: Radka Haneckova
Spain: Pablo Alvarez
Switzerland: Lorenz Trippel
Ukraine: Dmytro Jatsenko
United Kingdom: Steve Bailey

Denmark was present but had not paid their subscription.

Also present: Jana Hricova, Robert Jasiak of the EGF Rules Commission, Peter Zandveld of EGCC, William Wandel of EGCC, Harry vd Krogt of EGCC, Alexandr Dinerchtein, and other observers.

Special Guests: Mrs Taki and Mr Noguchi - Pair Go/Pandanet; Jong-Ryeol Kim – KBA; Ms Yuki Shigeo – IGF; Ms Chang Hsiao Yin (Ingrid) – World Chinese Weiqi Federation

The meeting opened at 19:10.

1) Opening

Martin Stiassny chaired the meeting as the President, Tony Atkins, was absent because of recent illness.

2) Representation

After introductions, checking the list of delegates showed 27 member countries were represented and 25 were eligible to vote.

3) Agenda

The agenda was accepted. Italy commented on the late start (should have been 18:00) and how their items were included in the agenda.

4) International Matters

4a. Presentations from other International Bodies:

Mrs Taki was pleased to address the meeting for a third time. She spoke of the Pair Go 20th Anniversary in 2009 and that the WPGA had 47 member countries. Pair Go is supported by Pandanet, who are starting a development project that would need help for Europeans.

Mr Kim Jong-Ryeol of Korean Baduk Association: sang a Michael Jackson song to emphasise Globalisation as the issue of the period.

Ms Chang Hsiao Yin (Ingrid) of the World Chinese Weiqi Federation talked about Go in Taiwan and China and invited all to play fraternal Go there.

Ms Yuki Shigeno, IGF General Secretary, said a few words on behalf of the IGF.

4b. Confirmation of Victor Bogdanov as replacement IGF Director:

As Erik Puyt had resigned a replacement director had been needed quickly, so no consultation was made to the members. It was agreed an email should have been sent to canvas opinion. Victor Bogdanov had been available and would give an east-west balance with Martin Stiassny, so was selected by Executive. Appointment approved 19-0-1.

4c. Nomination of Martin Stiassny as continuing IGF Director:

Martin Stiassny was approved for period 2010-2012 with voting 22-1, taken after the IGF Directors' report.

4d. Report from IGF Directors:

Martin Stiassny reported on the work for the 2008 WMSG. He had spent two weeks in Beijing in addition to many weeks preparing and meeting with the IGF Secretary. He had also been working worldwide to prepare for Go becoming an Olympic Sport. There was no report from Erik Puyt, but he had been instrumental in setting up the WMSG. The next WMSG will either be in 2011 or 2013 with five possible cities, and will not follow the Olympics. When asked if Chess organisers would dominate the next event, it was stated there was full cooperation between all the Mind Sports.

4e. Anti-Doping Policy:

Martin Stiassny explained at the request of Robert Jasiek what the IGF policy is. Policy is determined by the IGF and WADA. There are only four international events that the rules apply to (WMSG, Asian Games, KPMG and WAGC). All European representatives at these events are subject to these rules. About a dozen players will be subject to out of competition urine testing, with similar testing for the event winners. Robert Jasiek was worried that out of competition test players had to be available for testing at all times. Erwin Gerstorfer asked if a change to the testing method would revoke the agreements. Information on the policy is on the IGF website.

4f. Go and Olympics - the way forward:

The aim is to be an Olympic recognised sport by next WMSG. This is important for funding in some countries. Italy wanted all players at any tournament to have to be national Go association members; there was limited support for this. Also players cannot play for another country than their own.

4g. EGF Application for Association Membership of IGF:

This motion was approved 19-0. The application had not been accepted on to the 2009 IGF agenda.

4h. International Event Captains:

Lack of sponsor money means some events are no longer inviting captains with all expenses paid. It was suggested that either volunteer captains could represent us or the EGF find some budget to send captains. All captains need the nomination and approval of Executive. It was agreed Catalin Taranu would be captain for the 2009 Youth Exchange trip to Japan.

4i. Cooperation with EGCC:

William Wandel reported that the EGCC is an independent foundation whose goal is Go promotion within Europe. Their personnel reduced last year and reorganisation took much time. Now they are able to talk to National Go Associations again. Peter Zandveld said their financial report is available on request.

5) Minutes

The minutes of 2008 were accepted after comments by Robert Jasiek and Martin Stiassny without a vote.

6) New Members

No new members proposed this year. Updates from Candidates: Estonia, Greece and Montenegro are still awaited.

7) Reports

7a. President's Report:

Tony Atkins had circulated his report (and it was available on the website), but he was absent from the meeting.

7b. Secretary's Report:

John Gibson had nothing substantial to report.

7c. Treasurer's report:

Hans Kostka reported economic problems due to removal of the Ing money. This source will possibly return when the economy improves. Martin Stiassny had visited Taiwan to attempt to visit the Ing Foundation. It is the big events such as Ing Cup and EYGC that lose their budget. The sudden loss of this money led to a 40000 euro deficit on the year. If spending continued as before, the EGF reserves would only last three years. Zhuyeqing Tea Company is providing over 10000 euro to assist the EGC, the result of work over a number of years. It was thought full details of this sponsorship should be in the accounts, but it had only just been received and paid directly to the Congress. Investment values dropped by 3000 euro, but have since partly recovered. There is a proposal to increase members' income from the current 4500 euro to alleviate the situation. Also more sponsors (European as well as Asian) should be sought, and glossy material should be produced to support this. Hans reminded members that IGF fees can be paid together with EGF fees to save charges.

8) Auditors' Report

Arnaud Knippel reported that he will serve one or two more years as auditor. Thilo Burkhardt reported the papers had been delayed in the post and so they had not been able to check the accounts. Martin Finke proposed that a vote be taken to accept accounts if the auditor's approve them within a month; this was passed 18-0.

9) Commission Reports

9a. Rules Commission:

Matti Siivola reported that WMSG rules may be ok to use, but have not been used in Europe yet. Catalin Taranu commented it was currently unclear what rules should be used in international events. Tournament organisation rules are to be gathered together for the various events, but should not be too restrictive to allow potential sponsors a chance to select a system. Michael Marz offered to help with producing possible team tournament formats.

9b. Ratings Commission:

Ales Cieply reported that rating data has moved to the European Go Database thanks to work by Aldo Podavini, who is now the ratings manager. The advantage of this is that the ratings are updated daily, so tournaments appear within days of their submission, and there is more control of provisional players. Marco Silles also now has supervisor privileges to assist checking the incoming data. Ales will rewrite the procedures and will also still check data. There was concern from Italy about the ownership of the data. However the EGF gets a monthly archive and it is believed still owns the data the EGD uses; a written statement will be obtained from EGD to this effect. One delegate believed an opportunity to charge for ratings had been lost. Martin Stiassny replied that the free service ensured all countries could submit results and maintain the accuracy of the system.

9c. Strong Players' Commission:

Catalin Taranu had wanted to organise an exciting and vibrant strong players' website, but had become Romanian President and was too busy to continue. It was agreed his expenses of 50 euro should be covered. The suggestion was made by Alexandr Dinerchtein that some strong players from the Congress should be selected to have voting rights at the AGM.

9d. Other Commissions:

No other Commission reported.

10) Election of Executive Officers and Auditors

10a. Executive:

Oleg Gavrilov withdrew his candidacy leaving an uncontested field, so the executive were elected without voting:

President - Martin Stiassny;

Secretary - Tony Atkins;

Treasurer - Hans Kostka;

Vice-Presidents - Jana Hricova and Leszek Soldan;

Officers - Matti Siivola and Ales Cieply;

In coming President, Martin Stiassny thanked Oleg Gavrilov and John Gibson for their work whilst on Executive and Tony Atkins for being President for 8 years.

10b. Auditors

Arnaud Knippel and Thilo Burkhardt

Break was taken 23:00 to 23:15

11) Budgets - EGF's Financial Future

11a. Motion to Increase Membership Fee:

The proposal to double the fee to 1 euro per adult, but still 50 cent for children where children pay a lower membership rate, would raise about 5000 euro for the EGF, to make up for some of the missing Ing money. The meeting initially suggested modifying the minimum fee from 50 to 100 euro. Various delegates spoke for and against the motion. It was thought that some countries on the minimum actually had more than 50 members. At the suggestion of Italy and with support from Germany, the motion was modified to increase the minimum fee to 200 euro but allowing a reduction (the old minimum of 50 euro), on application, for emerging countries for up to five years, 11-4. The motion was then approved 16-3.

11b. Proposal to Suspend Support Rules for EYGC when no Sponsor:

This was passed 16-0. There is no sponsor in 2010.

11c. Presentation for Comment of Budgets 2009-2010 and 2010-2011:

No printout of the budgets was provided, so it was hard for many to comment. It was proposed by Italy to divert 1000 euro of the EGCC management fee to pay for team captains; this was defeated 5-6-9. The budgets were approved 6-2.

12) Commissions

Appointment of Commissions:

No changes.

13) European Go Congresses

13a. Accounting Requirements - Reports from Past Tournaments:

Congresses should report their figures afterward, but it is not clear in what format and level of detail. The figures are less important if no sponsorship was received. It was requested that Sweden would present its financial report on 2008 by email within two weeks.

13b. Comments on 2009 Groningen, Netherlands:

The Congress was going well. The sponsors had visited and were happy with arrangements, but as they had left already they could not be at the meeting. It was noted the sponsorship was arranged at short notice.

13c. Progress report on 2010 Finland:

The venue is changing to a school in the centre of Tampere. This is a cheaper venue which will assist the budget. All arrangements were going well. A stall promoting Go North! EGC2010 Tampere was being run.

13d. Progress report on 2011 France:

It was reported that the site has changed from the south of France to Bordeaux.

13e. Progress report on 2012 Germany:

Information was available on Cologne and the Congress. They are using a school as a venue with a large hostel nearby.

13f. Selection of hosts for 2013:

The only candidate was Poland, proposing to be in Gdynia. The venue will be 100m from the beach. The proposal was accepted.

13g. Expressions of Interest in Later Years:

Russia is still proposing the Winter Olympics site at Sochi for 2014. Romania is now proposing to hold the Congress in Sibiu. Czechia expressed interest in hosting in 2015.

14) European Tournament Calendar - Selection of Hosts

The following were approved:

14a. Youth Championship

2010: already agreed Romania (in Sibiu)

2011 Brno (Moravia), Czechia

14b. Student Championship

2010: already agreed Germany (Darmstadt)

2011 Prague, Czechia

14c. Pair Go Championship

2010: St Petersburg, Russia, at previous Ing Cup venue

2011/12: Portugal and Slovakia expressed interest

14d. Women's Championship

2010: already agreed France (possibly Aix-les-Bains)

2011: Bucharest, Romania

14e. (Ing Cup suspended)

14f. Team Championship

2010: already agreed Sweden (Leksand)

2011: No proposals (possibly Portugal could run it)

15) Rules Proposals

15a. Proposal to Deduct 76 Pair Go Points from 6 Countries Supported at WMSG:

This proposal was withdrawn (the WMSG was special event hence no deductions).

15b. Proposal to Award More Age Group Prizes at EYGC.

It was noted the age limit at WYGC changes to Under-16 next year. No vote was taken on the suggestion of having more categories, so Under-12 and Under-16 will be the only official categories. The age of the European Students will be lowered to 16 to match. The 2009 WYGC was being held in Changzhi in China from 10th to 16th August.

15c. Proposal to Award PGEC Tournament Prizes by Same Rule as Tournament Points:

The sponsor, Pandanet, wishes this to happen, so the Executive will implement this and hence no vote was taken.

15d. Proposal to Adopt New European Championship Rules:

Due to the late hour, no discussion was held, just votes on a few principles:

a. EC should be held at the EGC: agreed 21-0

b. EC players should not be affected by games against non-Europeans: agreed 16-0

c. The number of rounds to be played for the EC might be less than 10: rejected 4-7

15e. Rules for Selection and Level of PGEC Tournaments:

Neither discussion nor vote was held.

15f. Definition of European Player:

Despite some objections, the definition of EGF member country passport holders, in line with Olympic sports, was agreed 12-4. However there was no definition of what events this should apply to and when, so it will be introduced over a transitional period. Official representatives should be members of their respective association or federation. Open events remain open to anyone.

15g. Formalise and Record the Rules of the Championships:

This was deferred to next year, 8-0.

16) AOB

16a. Start Time: It was agreed to start earlier next year.

The meeting closed at 01:38.

John Gibson Honorary Secretary