

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2011 of the European Go Federation
Held on Thursday 28th July 2011 at 17:30
at the Espace Francois Mauriac, Hotel de Ville, Talence, Bordeaux, France

0) Present

Executive: President: Martin Stiassny
 Vice-President: Jana Hricova
 Treasurer: Hans Kostka
 Secretary: Tony Atkins
 Officer Tournaments: Matti Siivola
 Officer Rating: Ales Cieply
Auditors: Thilo Burkhardt, Ilona Crispian

Official representatives:

Armenia: Oleg Gavrilov (Victor Zilberberg left early)
Austria: Erwin Gerstorfer (Kurt Paar left early)
Azerbaijan: Gambar Jafarov
Belarus: Mikhail Kutznetsov
Belgium: Marie Jemine
Czechia: Vladimir Danek
Denmark: Christian Lykke
Finland: Antti Tormanen
France: Fred Renaud
Germany: Michael Marz
Hungary: Csaba Mero
Israel: Ali Jabarin
Italy: Leonardo Dal Zovo
Netherlands: Martin Finke
Norway: Pal Sannes
Poland: Stefan Wroclawski
Romania: Catalin Taranu
Russia: Maxim Podolyak
Serbia: Dusan Mitic
Slovakia: Martin Strelka
Sweden: Henric Bergsaker & Frederik Blomback
Switzerland: Flavien Aubelle
Ukraine: Dmytro Yatsenko
United Kingdom: Alex Rix

Also present: Peter Zandveld, William Wandel and Harry vd Krogt of EGCC, former IGF director Victor Bogdanov and other observers from the EGC 2011 staff.

Special Guests: Ms Shigeno Yuki – IGF; Mr Kim Dal-Soo – KABA; Prof Nam Chi-Hyoung , Mr Huh Kyung-Moo and Mr Yoo Chang-Hyuk - KBA, Ms Chizu Kobayashi – Nihon Ki-in, Ms Lee Semi - WBaduk

The meeting was filmed by Frederick Donzet and by Harry Weerheijm, with live broadcast on EuroGoTV.

The meeting opened at 17:45.

1) Opening

Tony Atkins (Secretary) chaired the meeting on behalf of Martin Stiassny (President). Leszek Soldan (Vice-President) had apologised for absence.

2) Verifying presence and voting rights

24 members were present and 22 able to vote (Slovakia and Israel had not yet paid for 2011). All the executive, the delegates, and guests present introduced themselves.

3) Accepting the agenda

Some items were moved (e.g. item 13f and International Presentations).

4) International Matters

a. Presentations from other International bodies:

Prof Nam Chi-Hyoung and Mr Huh and Mr Yoo, on behalf of KBA, talked *after the mid-meeting break* about their plans to work with European Professionals announced in their letter of 11th April. All three big countries are keen to help Europe and the scheme had been discussed at the last WAGC. It was key that the leadership for the system should come from Europe and then the KBA could help in the ways it had promised. They stated there had been no attempt at starting such a system elsewhere yet. Also it had been agreed that contact can be made direct to the KBA, rather than via Mr Kim Sung-Rae in Hungary. Prof Nam stated they were not restricting themselves to just helping in this way and they would be interested in hearing other ideas. There have been players studying in Korea it was wondered if the KBA could help in any way; they can if asked.

Catalin Taranu stated that the important thing at this stage was to set up the management team to determine how it would work and not distract the players. Yuki Shigeno said the IGF agreed with the scheme but needs to know what direction it will follow. Martin Stiassny concluded that it is still too early in the set up period to say, but the EGF must set up the organisation team; it should stay independent and set aims in order to attract the money needed. Jana Hricova agreed with Catalin that players living as professionals in Europe would help spread the game by making it a target for children to achieve. Catalin proposed Vladimir Danek to start the team. Mr Huh thought that if Korea could set up a new system a few years back, then we could do it too.

Ms Kobayashi Chizu, on behalf of the Nihon Ki-in, announced *during the mid-meeting break* plans for a European Hans Pietsch Memorial team tournament for children. As the exchange visit had ended there was now a new project from Japan needed to help promote Go to European children. It would be for three-player teams and for different age groups and would be held at the EGCC. It was important to encourage the strong young players and possibly give some the chance to study in Japan.

Mr Kim from KABA was thanked for the donation of electronic timers to the EGF.

The other international bodies that had been at the congress had left already; the EGF acknowledged the support received from China and the World Pair Go Association.

b. Appointment of continuing IGF Director from May 2012

Martin Stiassny was selected to be nominated to the IGF to continue as director without opposition.

c. Report from IGF Directors (see separate report)

Martin Stiassny talked about the IGF director's report that had been circulated. New director Martin Finke highlighted the Sport Accord Games 2011 and the unknown status of WMSG 2012. It had been positive that Mr Damiani had visited at the start of the congress.

d. Report of EGCC Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board had met and found no problems. Peter Zandveld reported that the EGCC was now stable after the uncertainty a few years back. They continued to provide storage and arrange transport for EGF equipment. He presented the EGCC's current plans, including manga conventions, the next Iwamoto Award, 1Minute2Go films, and a youth training and team event.

5) Minutes AGM 2010

The previous year's AGM minutes were accepted with no comments.

6) Admission of new members (none) and updates from Candidates:

The two discrepancies reported with Latvia when they joined need checking for resolution.

Kazakhstan has been in contact through Alexandr Dinerchtein. The country plays most sports as part of Europe, but they may prefer to join the Asian Go Federation and have played in the Asian Games already.

No reports had been received from Go groups in other countries, but Matti Siivola reported he was still visiting the Estonian Go players, who are organised enough now to run tournaments.

7) Reports

a. President (see separate report)

Martin Stiassny's report had been circulated. He put emphasis on the new European Pro system that should be set up, how to do that, and how the KBA would cooperate with it. This underlined the fact that our top players are well respected in Asia. The scheme was very new so it had not yet been decided who the start up team would be or how it would work.

b. Secretary

Tony Atkins gave a short report on admin was given, noting that the new Pandanet Go European Team Championship had caused a rise in web work, stressing that members should inform the EGF of contact changes and reporting that appearing on TV game shows was a good way to promote Go.

c. Treasurer

Hans Kostka talked about the accounts that had been circulated that cover the last nine months of 2010 only (to change the accounting year). He stressed that the losses shown of about 2500 euro were caused by late payment of Ing Fund items; the Ing Fund has now been wound up as they are no longer a sponsor. He pointed out that two countries were only one more year away from defaulting and should pay soon. He was still awaiting the President's travel expenses for 2010 and the figures for 2010 Zhuyeqing Tea money which had been paid via the President in cash. Martin Stiassny was confident the Zhuyeqing Tea money would continue next year.

8) Report of the Auditors for 2010 (9 months):

Thilo Burkhardt reported that they had been able to look at the figures in advance of the congress and had obtained answers to all questions satisfactorily from the treasurer. The outstanding president's expenses and Zhuyeqing Tea money receipts must be presented within a month. The accounts were accepted as approved on this condition. It was commented that having all our accounts in euro, apart from some Swiss investments, had proved better than holding some in dollars, as once suggested.

9) Reports of chairmen of existing Commissions

a. Tournaments

The report on the European Cup changes had been circulated. Matti Siivola explained that the European Cup had no sponsor currently and, in response to a question, he explained that certain level events were allowed to clash on dates, but usually with a geographic spread. When asked about the rule set in use at the congress, he reported that this type of rule set had been allowed since 2007, however it was recognised that it had been a surprise to many competitors who had not played them before.

b. Rules

The report on the European Rules changes and referee workshop had been circulated.

c. Ratings

Ales Cieply reported on website changes being implemented by Aldo Podavini, such as improved statistics. A small change to parameters is to be made as an anti-deflation measure for countries such as the UK and Finland. It had been proposed to rate the Internet games from the Team Championship, but this had not been done for season one because of objections from players. However getting such games rated would be useful for those countries with few rated events and few rate players. For the second season this will only be done if all teams agree before the start. The event will be rated with minimal impact by having a low class and being pre-dated to the start of the event when submitted at the end. The category rules had been amended to allow for Fisher Timing. He was asked about international ratings. The investigation a few years back failed due to lack of interest from some Asian countries. It was still IGF policy to set them up one day. There was further discussion about the Team Championship and whether cheating had occurred (no complaints had been received). Also suggestions were made such as including games in the database without rating or including them in a different database to allow statistics to be calculated.

d. Youth

Jana Hricova reported on EYGC and the success of the new third category for Under-20s. She stressed that as the event gets 2000 euro of support from the EGF there should be no entry fee at the EYGC, but local sponsors could be found to provide travel and accommodation support. There were also more international developments such as the third transatlantic match (won by Europe) and possible youth events in Korea.

Catalin Taranu had joined the Commission to follow up the idea raised in 2010 about youth study trips to China. This year was too soon, so the plan is to take a team there in August 2012 arranged with Liu Siming. The team would pay travel only and applicants will be sought later this year. Catalin was also about to host the WYGC in Romania. Vladimir Danek was concerned this was not a good use of a professional player, however Catalin reported he already did a lot for youth in

Romania and it was an area he was interested in. The new team tournament at the EGCC was also mentioned as a way of developing youth Go in Europe.

10) Election of Executive officers and auditors

a. The executive was reelected, unopposed with no vote:

Martin Stiassny for EGF President

Tony Atkins for EGF Secretary

Hans Kostka for EGF Treasurer

Jana Hricova and Leszek Soldan for EGF Vice-President

Matti Siivola and Ales Cieply for EGF Officer

b. Auditors were appointed: Thilo Burkhardt and Ilona Crispin

Martin Finke recommended that a third auditor be found, preferably from a different country to Germany also rotation of executive. Peter Zandveld thought the executive should be rotated by at least one new member each year.

11) Budgets

a. Presentation for Comment of Budgets 2011 and 2012

These approved with the note that officer's expenses may be higher than the 4000 stated as this was only an estimated based on previous years and the amount of IGF-related travel was rising..

12) Appointment of Commissions

a. Appeals Commission:

The proposal for membership and operation of the Appeals Commission was accepted.

There was a break from 19:15 to 19:50 during which Ms Kobayashi addressed the meeting.

After the break Prof Nam and Mr Huh and Mr Yoo from KBA addressed the meeting.

13) European Go Congresses

-. Financial reports from 2010

The financial report was available, but it could not be shown as the laptop available could not read PDFs. Antti Tormanen promised to circulate the file by email after the meeting.

a. Comments on 2011:

Fred Renaud commented that the start of the congress had been heavy work, but after a few days it became easier, though staff were often tired. 650 players were there already with 800 expected in total. 25 percent of the income was going on prizes and the prize structure would be published the following week. Fred requested any questions, apart from ones about the rules. Various problems with signage being too small, insufficient toilets and remoteness of refreshments were raised by delegates. Martin Finke requested relay of the top board games as they could not be watched.

It was thought to be bad that organising experience goes to waste as often new people are involved. It was thought potential and past organisers should meet and share experiences. The meeting was reminded there was a section on Sensei's Library for collecting such information.

b. Progress report on 2012:

Germany, Bonn: Michael Marz explained that the organisation is well underway and registrations were being taken. It will be good venue with all events in the main municipal hall building in Bad Godesberg, including refreshments, and a pleasant park location, near the Rhine. One draw back is players having to travel to accommodation, but this will be quite easy by metro. There were lots of choices including the youth hostel in Bonn, hotels and camping. They are expecting similar numbers to Bordeaux.

c. Progress report on 2013:

Poland. Stefan Wroclawski explained that as one university will be closed for refurbishment in 2013, it will now be in Gdynia or possibly a neighbouring town. It will be cheaper than 2011/2012 and attractive for tourism. They will hold a computer Go event and are expecting media interest. Their web site is up but under construction.

d. Progress report on 2014:

Sibiu, Romania. Catalin Taranu explained that Sibiu has much history, culture, museums and night life. There are lots of hotels of different classes (e.g. 3 star at 35 euro) and cheap rooms in student accommodation (for 5 euro). Everything is quite close together. He is expecting support from the city and there is a local Confucius society. The city is 3 to 5 hours from Bucharest but easily accessible in other way.

f. Right of Russia to apply immediately for 2016:

Martin Finke thought that arranging congresses too far ahead was not sensible. Problems had occurred due to external changes, for instance, when a previous congress had been set a long way ahead. Italy expressed interest in 2016 or 2017. The motion was not approved by 3 votes to 13.

e. Selection of hosts for 2015:

Both candidates gave impressive presentations and answered questions.

Vladimir Danek presented the Czech proposal to hold it in Liberec (formerly Reichenberg) in the heart of Europe. The venue is a multi-function conference and leisure centre with many different rooms available which they have been offered at half price, so they expect the congress fee to be 100 euro. The on-site hotel will be available at 40 euro per night and student accommodation will be 10 euro, though a gymnasium may be possible.

Russia were again proposing St Petersburg with accommodation (20 euro) and playing in the hotel of the same name. Cheaper accommodation would be in the navy school for less than 10 euro per night. The hotel acts as a sponsor of the event. When asked about visa requirements Maxim Podolyak said that special arrangements for sports were being set up for the winter Olympics and this would benefit the congress. When asked, he thought that if 500 players came then they would make 7 to 10 euro per player in order to help promote equipment for Go in clubs and schools. St Petersburg, Russia, 9 votes and Liberec, Czechia, 11 votes, with 2 abstentions. Czechia selected.

14) European Tournament Calendar - Selection of hosts**a. Short updates from 2011/12 selected hosts and WYGC 2011 in Romania.**

The 2011 European Students is in Prague. There would probably be free accommodation but no cash prizes. It is connected with the games festival.

The 2011 European Women's is in Sibiu. Its announcement was rather late so it needs to be promoted by each country.

The 2012 European Students will be at the Hotel St Petersburg.
No information was available on the Women's 2012 in Czechia or the Pair Go 2012 in France.

The WYGC 2011 was in Bucharest in August 2011 and they were expecting 70 players in the open event alongside. This is an important event for Go in Romania.

b. Youth Championship

As no host had been found in 2010 for the EYGC in 2012 and no response came for the appeal at the EYGC 2011, the Youth Commission had found that the same venue, the Hotel Santon in Brno, would be possible for 2012. They would provide support for the top players and leaders.

Since then Russia had submitted a bid to hold the event at the Hotel St Petersburg.

St Petersburg, Russia, 10 votes and Brno, Czechia, 8 votes, with 4 abstentions. Russia selected.

The EYGC 2013 was agreed for Hungary. Rita Pocsai would either hold it in Budapest or in her home town.

c. Student Championship

The ESGC 2013 was agreed for Italy.

d. Pair Go

EPGC 2013 no host was forthcoming – so the EGF Executive will find one.

e. Women's Championship

EWGC 2013 no host was forthcoming – so the EGF Executive will find one.

15) European Championship System Proposals - Review of impact of changes system

As the BGA motion had been received late, it did not have to be included in the agenda, Also there is no experience of the system, so it could be too early to judge its success or otherwise. There are other proposals still on the table, such as an idea from Ales Cieply who has sent it to strong players for comment. Hence Executive had agreed that no decision could be made at the meeting. Matti Siivola explained how the last meeting had given the Rules Commission the job of setting the finer points of the meeting, which they had done so including the relegation game system. He pointed out that all the British members of the Commission had stepped down in previous years, otherwise they could have contributed to the decisions. Henric Bergsaker thanked Geoff Kaniuk for making the detailed analysis, but Csaba Mero thought all the effort made in the scientific analysis of the systems could have been better directed else where and that the current system of relegation games was just perfect.

A suggested postal vote was not acceptable and so the matter was referred back to the Executive to resolve in conjunction with the Rules Commission.

16) Change to Selection of Players to Professional Tournaments

The EGF Executive decided not to change this until next year.

17) Proposals from Members

a. Proposal from Russia: Organise 3 championships in 5 years before hosting an EGC

The proposal was amended to two not three events in five years as the Team Tournament had stopped. Catalin Taranu thought it was too restrictive, as did others. It was clarified that the motion meant before applying and not before organising. The motion was defeated without opposition.

b. Proposal from Russia: on voting method to be used when selecting EGC hosts

This item was withdrawn as a similar method had been used this year. Erwin Gerstorfer pointed out that if there were multiple candidates, show of hands would be suitable still to eliminate the first candidates. Henric Bergsaker was not aware of the voting problem mentioned in the proposal.

18) Any other business

None

Meeting Closed 22:30