

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2012  
of the European Go Federation  
Held on 18:00 on Thursday 26th July 2012 in  
Stadthalle, Bad Godesberg, Bonn, Germany**

**0) Present**

Executive:      President:              Martin Stiassny  
                    Vice-President:        Jana Hricova  
                    Treasurer:              Hans Kostka  
                    Secretary:              Tony Atkins  
                    Officer Tournaments: Matti Siivola (after break)  
Auditors:        Thilo Burkhardt, Ilona Crispian

Official representatives:

Armenia:              Victor Zilberberg  
Austria:              Erwin Gerstorfer  
Azerbaijan:          Gambar Jafarov  
Belarus:              Mikhail Kutznetsov  
Cyprus                  Dimitris Regginos  
Czechia:              Vladimir Danek  
Denmark:              Jannik Rasmussen  
Finland:              Antti Tormanen and Pekka Keipi  
France:                Fred Renaud  
Germany:              Michael Marz  
Hungary:              Imre Tozser  
Italy:                  Leonardo Dal Zovo and Maurizio Parton  
Kazakhstan            Max Ivanchenko  
Netherlands:        Han Ellenbroek and Rudi Verhagen  
Norway:                Pal Sannes  
Poland:                Blazej Madejski  
Romania:              Ion Florescu  
Russia:                Maxim Podolyak and Victor Bogdanov  
Slovakia:              Marek Fulle  
Spain                  Antonio Egea  
Sweden:                Erik Ouchterlony  
Switzerland:        Lorenz Trippel  
United Kingdom:    Toby Manning

Also present:        Martin Finje, Director International Go Federation,  
                         Peter Zandveld, William Wandel and Harry vd Krogt of EGCC,  
                         Oleg Gavrilov, former EGF Vice-President,  
                         Manja Marz and other observers from the EGC 2012 staff,  
                         Li Ting , EGF officer-elect,  
                         Miroslav Smid (member of bid team Slovakia),  
                         Maria Diez (member of bid team Spain),  
                         Michal Zubalik, and other observers.

Special Guest:      Ms Shigeno Yuki – Secretary International Go Federation

*The meeting opened at 18:10.*

## **1. Opening of the Meeting**

Martin Stiassny (President) chaired the meeting. Leszek Soldan (Vice-President) and Ales Cieply (EGF Officer) had apologised for absence.

## **2. Verifying Presence and Voting Rights**

23 members (including the member-elect) were present and able to vote. All the executive, the delegates, and guests present introduced themselves.

## **3. Accepting the Agenda**

The agenda was accepted, but taking 13b before 4 and 9a/b before 11.

## **4. International Matters:**

**a. Presentations from other International bodies:** None

**b. Appointment of continuing IGF Director from May 2013**

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

**c. Report from IGF Directors (see separate report)**

The report of Martin Finke and Martin Stiassny was circulated. Martin Finke apologised that it had been late but things were moving fast, especially with the WMSG approaching and the work that entailed. He reported Kazakhstan had become members and what the lasting on doping was.

**d. Report of EGCC Supervisory Board**

Martin Stiassny reported the Supervisory Board had met in Amsterdam in March. The EGCC is more active now its finances are settled and is trying to run an event every six months, such as its 20 year anniversary tournament in September. It is also running the Iwamoto Award and creating more one minute videos.

## **5. Minutes AGM 2011**

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

## **6. Admission of New Members and Updates from Candidates:**

Kazakhstan had completed their questionnaire satisfactorily though it had not been yet possible to check their constitution. This is in Russian and can be checked later. An info sheet showed their activities and pictures of various people, most young, playing. They are already in IGF and elected to join EGF rather than Asian Go Federation as they are more Europe-facing than Asia, despite being in both continents. All present were in favour and Kazakhstan was welcomed as the 37th EGF member.

The status of other non-members was discussed. Estonia had run an EC Tournament, but little had been heard from other countries such as Montenegro and the observer member Georgia. If anyone meets players from these countries online they should be encouraged to get EGF membership. There was a problem with Bosnia as they dropped out of the online team league and will be in default if they do not pay their three years outstanding membership. The EGF will try and contact them.

## **7. Reports**

### **a. President (see separate report)**

Martin Stiassny's report was circulated, emphasising the success of the Teams and the congress Pair Go, and was looking forward to the WMSG. He also was pleased with existing international events and was looking for new ways of co-operation with the East, such as the new relation with the Chinese and the Yan Huang Cup.

Yuki Shigeno, IGF Secretary, reported she was happy with the arrangements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> WMSG and noted that EGF members were now half the IGF total. She reported that the 2013 WAGC in Sendai will be end of July/early August. This caused a lot of concern with the meeting. On checking her diary she discovered it was actually planned for end of August/early September!

### **b. Secretary (see separate report)**

Tony Atkins gave a short report on admin stressing that some members were slow at replying to messages and request. He also reported about the improved look to the website.

### **c. Treasurer**

Hans Kostka was happy the balance sheet only showed a deficit of 229 euro and most spending was on budget. However he reported concern over lax member payments. Nine payments were late, many paid the reduced fee and some did not include the late payment fee.

The meeting shared his concern about the misuse of the reduced fee option and that more stringent enforcement of the rules should be applied. In fact 14 countries play reduced amount and it was clear many were not developing countries. Toby Manning thanked Germany for propping up the EGF with the largest payment and agreed that better checking be applied in future, or possible even a change to a band system. Russia pointed out that 200 euro was not so much and the organisers should be recognise their responsibility to pay it, suggesting sanctions like blocking IGF invites should be applied. It was agreed that the rules should be applied more stringently and countries have to apply for the discount again.

## **8. Report of the Auditors for 2011**

Thilo Burkhardt reported that they had received most information well in advance, but they had only been able to answer all questions with the treasurer at the congress. They found all bookings were correct and the finances were in good order. However some countries were not reporting their member numbers accurately and he believed it was incorrect to run down the EGF's reserves. He recommended the accounts be accepted. It was pointed out that the SportAccord income had not been received until 2012, so there was a distortion of money spent against income on the balance sheet.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

## 9. Reports of Officers/Chairmen of Existing Commissions

- a. Tournaments** Matti Siivola, as Officer, reported on the success of the European Cup and this and the other tournament matters will have to be handled by the new executive.
- b. Rules** Matti Siivola, as Chairman, reported on the referee workshop in Bordeaux and there had been a recent rules update.
- c. Ratings** No report had been received, neither from the chairman, who at previous meetings normally reported in person, nor anything from the European Go Database. Erwin Gerstorfer considered this unacceptable as 1000 euro fee is paid via the Ratings Commission for the work on EGD and the meeting supported his view. However it was believed there were no major issues as the system was still working successfully. There was a short discussion about paying volunteers and it was agreed a report must be received from the Ratings Commission next year in order to justify payment.
- d. Youth** Jana Hricova reported there was no budget for new projects, only events. These had gone successfully.
- e. Appeals** No report had been received, but it was believed no appeals had been heard.

## 10. Election of Executive Officers and Auditors

- a. Executive:** Having thanked Matti Siivola and Alex Cieply for their time on executive, the meeting elected the executive as follows:
  - Martin Stiassny for EGF President
  - Tony Atkins for EGF Secretary
  - Hans Kostka for EGF Treasurer
  - Jana Hricova and Leszek Soldan for EGF Vice-President
  - Li Ting and Lorenz Trippel for EGF officer

Li Ting can speak many languages, and is a pro at the Kansai Ki-in so will be working on international contacts. Lorenz Trippel has been one of the EGF League managers.

**b. Auditors:** Ilona Crispian was unable to continue and was thanked for her work in the last years. It was proposed to appoint four auditors, and it was agreed two of these should be reserve auditors. This would allow rotation of the team, more different countries to be involved, and retention of expertise. It was agreed that Thilo Burkhardt and Michal Zubalik would be auditors, with reserve auditors Steffi Hebsacker and Leo Dal Zovo.

*There was a break from 20:00 to 20.20.*

## 11. Budgets

- a. Presentation for Comment of Budgets 2012 and 2013** The 2012 budget had been revised following sponsor changes and the 2<sup>nd</sup> WMSG. This was presented for comment. There was some concern that the estimate for travel expenses could be too low. The 2013 budget may have the same issue and it was not clear what the various aspects of equipment costs cover and some of these depend on donations from China and Korea (import charges). The budget was approved (22-0-1).

## 12. Appointment of Commissions

- a. **Tournaments** – work now assigned to executive and will continue that way.
- b. **Rules** – continuing with Matti Siivola and Robert Jasiek.
- c. **Ratings** – it was not clear on its current purpose, so will be suspended. However there may be a need for continuity in knowledge about the rating system, so this must be discussed with Ales Cieply.
- d. **Youth** – this will be now assigned to executive and lack of budget means there were no projects apart from overseeing the tournaments.
- e. **Appeals** – continues as it is in the constitution.
- f. **Promotion** – Oleg Gavrilov suggested that this was restarted, but it will not be started unless executive consider it useful.

## 13. European Go Congresses

- a. **Financial report from 2011 Bordeaux, France:** Fred Renaud circulated a one page report. A surplus of about 5000 euro was made, with 841 participants because of their policy to have cheap prices. 250000 euro had been the budget, including the Chinese event, and this was achieved thanks to support such as the Chinese tea company.
- b. **Comments on 2012 Bonn, Germany:** There had been some clock problems but all else was making for a very good congress. Peter Zandveld thought it the best venue and smoothest organisation. Martin Finke had no complaints. Peter Zandveld also thought the entry fee was too low, but Manja Marz stated there had been complaints it was too high (the congress was without a major sponsor).

There was concern that some players refused to play a blind opponent – players with disabilities must be made welcome and accommodated and refusal to play for this or other discriminatory reason should be forbidden. Thus must be stated in the EGF general rules.

- c. **Progress report on 2013: Poland.** This will now be held in Olsztyn, as Gdynia had problems with the accommodation. It will be a university location, with lakes and countryside nearby, so would make nice family holiday. Registration is open and they are producing automated congress software that will allow, say, skipping of rounds by using the internet. There were large discounts for children and all over price was quite low. Travel could be made via Gdansk or Warsaw airports and onward by train or bus, or flights to Olsztyn.
- d. **Progress report on 2014: Sibiu, Romania.** Flyers were available, and the website will be up soon, with registration from next year. Sibiu is an attractive old city with several hotels and guest houses. They were expecting 1000 participants including many hundred from the local association.
- e. **Progress report on 2015: Liberec, Czechia.** No change from last year to report.
- f. **Selection of hosts for 2016:** Unfortunately information on the bids had not been circulated earlier, but there was a board to display information at the EGC near the info desk. Three

five minute presentations were made by Russia, Slovakia and Spain and then questions were taken. Unfortunately no representative was present from **Turkey**. Their proposal was to hold it at a seaside holiday resort called Burhaniye (near to the Greek islands).

**Russia:** Maxim Podolyak stressed that they had learnt their lessons from 2003 with a new team and a different Russia. The EYGC 2012 had been successfully organised by the team. The venue was still to be the St Petersburg Hotel with room for 800 from 25 euro per night and 10 euro dorms nearby. They have just been contacted by a gold-mining company who would be a major sponsor of the EGC and Russian Go for the next few years.

**Slovakia:** Miroslav Smid presented the bid for Bratislava. They would be able to provide an EGC rich in Go, leisure and vacation opportunities, with an easily accessible location. They had three potential university locations, all fifteen minutes by tram from the city centre. Their focus was on low cost accommodation (from 15 euro), but a 140 euro fee with large discounts for youth and junior players.

**Spain:** Antonio Egea and Maria Diez explained that there were 200 players in Spain and it was their club, Nam-Ban, which is the main club in Madrid that was tasked with organising the EGC. They had the choice of two congress hotels and a university in a nice area to choose from. They stated that summer was low season in Madrid so they would get good deals and that Madrid was a nice city and only three hours to the beach. They had support from various embassies and a Japanese travel agency and a cultural promoter.

Michael Marz commented that the majority of people who had commented on the displayed proposals supported Spain.

There was discussion of whether secret voting or open voting should be used. Open voting, like in 2011, was decided 11-10-2. In the first vote Turkey received 1 vote and was eliminated (10-9-3-1). In the second vote Slovakia was eliminated (10-10-3). In the third vote Russia (St Petersburg) beat Spain (Madrid) to obtain the right to host the EGC in 2016 (12-11).

## **14. European Tournament Calendar - Selection of Hosts**

### **a. Short updates were received from the 2012/2013 selected hosts**

**2012 Students** – This will be 22-23/09/12 in Moscow. Information and website will be available in August.

**2013 Students** – Will either be in Florence, Trieste or Palermo in September 2013. Any preferences should be sent to Leo Dal Zovo.

**2013 Youth** – will be a new location near to Budapest but the date is not decided yet. The website will be launched in September.

*The following venues/hosts were agreed:*

### **b. Youth Championship –**

**2014 Bognor Regis, UK** – on the south coast near to Gatwick Airport with beds from 15 euro per night. It will be run alongside the British Go Congress.

### **c. Student Championship –**

**2014 Toulouse, France** – in August or September 2014.

**d. Pair Go Championship –**

**2013 Amsterdam, Netherlands** – The EGCC will host this in early May.

**2014 Helsinki, Finland.**

**e. Women's Championship –**

**2013 Leksand, Sweden** – Martin Stiassny said he would hold it alongside the Leksand Tournament.

**2014 no host** - A potential EGC host should take on this as practice for the EGC.

**15. Proposals from Members**

None

**16. Any other business**

- a. Netherlands are making a new play box for children, with water and fire not black and white and sets of cards not stones – users can check meaning on the Internet – however they need a sponsor.
- b. Martin Stiassny proposed holding the AGM on Mondays – rejected and the must be time before the AGM to present displays for bids and to discuss things in pre-meetings. Changing day so that more guests from the East can attend is not a sufficiently important issue. It should be Thursday again.
- c. Austria requested a report of stocks of EGF Go sets should be provided at the AGM. This will have to be got from the EGCC as they hold most of the equipment for the EGF.
- d. Italy asked about the European Professional scheme. There have been no direct activities and the scheme has stalled as it has no sponsor. The American system will be monitored.
- e. Austria suggested some of the EGF funds be kept out of the euro-zone in case of financial crisis. Hans Kostka reported that currently bonds were maturing, but there is nowhere obvious to reinvest them, so currently 20000 euro in cash is held. He will try to look in to non euro-zone options.
- f. Martin Finke reminded members that online registration was available for WMSG.

*Meeting Closed 22:27*