

Report of the European IGF directors for the 2010 AGM of the EGF

The period between July 2009 and July 2010 brought more changes in the IGF than in the last 25 years.

- a) Rotation-system for the IGF-presidency, new IGF-president
- b) New financial base for the IGF
- c) First World Amateur GO Championship in China since 1987
- d) IGF and olympic movement - modified anti-doping-agreements
- e) EGF Association Member of the IGF
- f) New international top-events (held in 2010 / planned for 2010, 2011, 2012)

To explain in detail all the variations / plans / activities is much too much for a report. The European representatives in the IGF director's board in the last 12 months were Victor Bogdanov and Martin Stiassny.

Here are some explanations what's behind the upper points.

In several "three-country-meetings", arranged by Yuki Shigeno, China, Japan and Korea found a way how to manage the IGF in the next years.

ad a) The presidency in the IGF will change every two years. It has just started with China (till May 2012) and will be followed by Japan (till May 2014) and Korea (till May 2016). The president always has the right to have an IGF-office in the president's country. But for some important reasons (an international operating body should not change the address every two years for example) it's agreed that a "fixed" second IGF-office is possible.

ad b) The three countries also defined a modus for sharing the main expenses of the IGF. The country with the presidency will take 60% the other two 20% / 20%. So for the first time the IGF has a defined financial base with three "mothers". This is a very important step on the way for the IGF to be a strong partner for different organisations.

ad c) The WAGC 2010 was held very successful in Hangzhou. After 1987 it was the second time outside Japan. But compared with 1987 where JAL was the main sponsor this time the financial responsibility for this IGF-event was taken by China. Moving with the WAGC to different countries will be the strategy for the next years. 2011 Japan (Shimane) and 2012 (city undecided at the moment) back to China are already fixed.

ad d) The way for Go to become an "Olympic Accepted Sport" has become more difficult than we expected one year ago. Especially in Europe we wanted to work on the prerequisite papers required for being accepted (f.e. reporting about youth-activities in different countries, several statistics, school-activities, and so on). But since the IGF recently got the message from the IOC president, Mr. Jan van Rogge, that he doesn't want more mind sports (besides chess and bridge) in the next years, the IGF postponed the planned activities on the task for becoming an "IOC-sport".

But the agreement between the IGF and WADA still exists. Last year I explained what's behind "in-competition" and "out-of-competition" doping-tests. Therefore I was in contact with many strong players in Europe and finally found 6 ones (participating at Hangzhou) ready for the "out-of-competition" tests. But the good message just came before the start of the 31st WAGC: We have a new agreement with WADA -- "out of competition testing" is cancelled for Go (and also for the other mind sports). Additionally we have an (updated) 2010 list from WADA with the forbidden points, without beta-blocker for example.

At the WAGC2010 the first doping-tests happened, for the top 5 of the tournament and one random chosen player. 2 Europeans were under these 6, no problems. So for IGF-events we still will have doping-tests, next ones at the Asian Games 2010.

ad e) Since May 2010 the European Go Federation is Association Member of the IGF. This means that for example the IGF could delegate some of their activities to the EGF. It also honours the work of the EGF as an organizer of international events with non-European participants.

ad f) Parallel to big organisation-changes in the IGF we also see new international events on the horizon which will require adequate answers from the IGF:

1) In March 2010 the first World Pair-Go-Championship for Professionals and Amateurs was held in Hangzhou. Europe had two seats and sent of course the top-placed pairs of the last European Pair Go Championship. This championship was organized by the World Pair Go Association (all 35 European Go-countries are now members of the WPGA) and the event shall happen every year from now on.

2) In November 2010 we'll see the Asian Games 2010 in Guangzhou, where Go is for the first time an official sport. Although Europe is not directly involved I expect (and hope) on a great impact. Hopefully we'll see and read something in European press and TV, but this can also be used as an argument for discussions with national governments in Europe about Go as a sport, internationally accepted, and so on. For the whole Go-world this is a great step forward.

China Qi-Yuan is very busy for this event, for example with workshops for certifying referees. This activity will be open in the future for referees from other go-countries.

3) Since some months there are rumours about an event for 2011, called Sport Accord Event. This event shall be played like the successful World Mind Sports Games 2008, but with only about 250 players all over, 8 days. The actual number for Go is 40 participants. It is not decided if it will happen and where it will happen. Only the date seems to be fixed, September 2011.

Within the IGF we "found" a system for competitions and countries (8 x 5), where Europe will get one or two seats out of the 8 countries and where 4 competitions are planned for the 5 players per country (male and female). But, time is running, and no decision is on the desk. IMSA is active and the partner for Sport Accord (former GAISF). So till now it's a hope, but we have to be prepared to react very quickly how to nominate our European team(s).

4) Another much bigger project is behind "WMSG 2012" where again IMSA is in the lead. This event (with a long-term vision for the 3. WMSG in Brazil) is also not decided

although you might read something on webpages about poker and their membership in IMSA and next WMSG.

It's not useful to write here more about the actual status. But like the WMSG 2008 in Beijing (Olympics in Beijing) the first choice for the 2. WMSG will be UK because of the 2012 Olympics in London. It is obvious that the EGF (and the BGA) as the local Go-organisation cannot (and will not) ignore this top-event if it will happen. Again like at 3) nothing is decided. We all are waiting on more news.

Finishing this report you might imagine that the European IGF-director's were involved in some IGF tasks. Especially because of foreseeable work for the 2012 event Victor decided taking his health in consideration not to candidate again for the position of an IGF-director for the period May 2011 to May 2013.

Besides the upper points our new IGF-president is very interested in new Go-projects. New ideas are very welcomed, international working-groups can be built on special topics. Not only the EGF, also the IGF needs more engaged people to work for Go.

Martin Stiassny
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