

President's report for the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the EGF

Financial base of the EGF

In the last years the main income for the EGF came from the Ing-foundation. In January 2009 the EGF got a mail that this support has to be stopped by the Ing-Foundation because of the international financial crisis. With a stopover in Taipei in March 2010 I tried to get more informations direct from Mr. Yang in Taipei hoping on a new or modified support for the EGF in the next years. But there will be no change in the foreseeable future and that's why the agreement out of the 90th (support vs. using Ing-rules at events in Europe) is no longer valid. End of May after the Hangzhou event I tried to start a new contact to the Ing-foundation in Shanghai. Maybe there are possibilities for the future. Especially the Ing Memorial is missed by the strong players and I will try to get a special support for this event in the next months.

Although the income by membership fees has grown in 2010 it's still very difficult to offer a balanced budget as long as the EGF doesn't want to stop any support for European Championships. That's why I put the priority of my last year's work on strengthening the contacts to existing sponsors in Japan and China and looking for new ones, also in Korea and Taiwan. A prerequisite for this work are good contacts to the national Go-organisations in far-east, including face to face meetings in far-east and defining projects for the future. But for visable successes more time is needed.

After starting in 2009 with a new sponsor from China for the EGC and after the excellent work of the Dutch EGC-team in 2009 the Zhuyeqing Tea-company agreed to a new sponsoring-contract with the EGF. 20% of the sponsor-money were kept by the EGF for marketing-activites while 80% were given to the EGC2010-team. It looks like we can keep this sponsor also for 2011 (combined with EGC2011), not to forget the big help of China Qi-Yuan by starting the contacts to Zhuyeqing Tea.

Still the problem for the EGF exists that there are no financial liberties for unplanned expenses without touching the reduced reserves built by unused money from the Ing-Foundation in the last years. That's why I see the priority of my work for the next 12 months unchanged: Looking for sponsors for the EGF as the only way to generate additional budget for EGF-activities in the next years.

Execute-board internal work

The executive-board met end of January in Prague fixing some basic rules for the next months. Some of these points were:

- working on modifying the rules for the different European Championships that they will fit international requirements
- rising the attractivity of European championships although there's no sponsormoney and no real "incentive" available. We decided to give € 500 to the organizers if they offer teaching by professionals or strong amateurs during the event
- strengthen the different European championships by taking the results for nominations whenever Europe has to nominate participants for international events (avoiding qualification games/tournaments)
- Modifying our system of how to support Pair-Go in Europe related to the changed priorities of the sponsor

- Postponing any decision about the future of the European Masters after a possible decision about a new system for the European championship at AGM 2010
- EGC organizers have to use a defined amount of the sponsor-money (direct or indirect from the EGF) for prizes for European winners.
- Improving the communication in the Exec-board by using Skype and/or meet several times a year besides the EGC
- More detailed informations will be given by the colleagues (reports and/or direct at the AGM).

EGCC

The cooperation between the EGF and the EGCC was limited in the last 12 months on some few mailing-contacts about the EGF-material at Amstelveen. Both sides waited on activities and proposals. Many internal changes at the EGCC reduced their "outside"-activities over many months. In the last months we started with direct communication by Skype discussing projects for 2011 because of very limited financial and manpower-resources in 2010 at the EGCC. A meeting of the EGCC Supervisor-board is scheduled for July 31st 2010 in Tampere, the next one for spring 2011 at Amstelveen.

31st WAGC

For the first time in 31 years (!) travelling-expenses had to be taken by the players/country-organisations. The EGF got some requests for support. Also some proposals how to help the small countries were written (lottery - winning country gets a paid flight ticket). Finally 29 Europeans participated out of 35 invited players. On the first view that's not so bad. But maybe some countries will not be able to bear the expenses in the year 2011. We know that the IGF will not change the system (as announced several times in the last years). So there's a risc for a declining number of participants at the WAGC with finally a risc for the whole event.

Additional points

Some countries sent informations about changed executive-boards and also how they managed their problem with the flight-tickets to Hangzhou. But there's a lot of improvement for the next year, on both sides. I planned for example intermediate informations but only if I have safe, decided and important messages which will effect the work on/for Go in the countries. But in the time of changes (see IGF-director's report) many things are unclear or not finished for publishing world-wide.

The EGF-rating with reduced activities of Ales and more direct contacts to Aldo is running fine. A new project for an international rating-system, where Europe sure will have an imporant role, might come up in the future. Ales and Leszek will work on it.

2nd Transatlantic Match - this initiative started in 2009 (managed by Jana and Ales) had a follow on competition (internet, 10 boards, youth under 18) and again hundreds of spectators on both sides of the atlantic. Next steps are not defined, we are thinking about a "super-match" with 10 players per continent like the famous competition between Japan and China in the 80ths, of course not limited to young players.

EGF-nominations for two important tournaments in far-east have been done after decision games between the top 4 ranked European players based on the EGC2009 results.

Some small modifications on the tie-breaking rules for the EGC/EC have been made by the rules-commission. EGF allowed the EGC2010 team playing the congress without Ing-rules if they wish to do. This information has been given to the EGC2011 team as well.

M. Stiassny
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