

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2010 of the European Go Federation
Held on 30th July 2010 in Hotel Cumulus, Tampere, Finland

0) Present

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

Official representatives:

Armenia: Oleg Gavrilov
Azerbaijan: Gambar Jafarov
Belarus: Mikhail Kutznetsov
Belgium: Joost Vannieuwenhuys
Croatia: Alexandr Dinerchtein
Czechia: Milos Podpera
Denmark: Christian Lykke & Jannik Rasmussen
Finland: Suvi Rovio
France: Fred Renaud & Noel Saint-Paul
Germany: Michael Marz
Ireland: Colin McSweeney
Israel: Ali Jabarin
Italy: Leonardo Dal Zovo & Maurizio Parton
Latvia: Dmitry Golubev
Netherlands: Martin Finke
Norway: Pal Sannes
Poland: Kamil Chwedyna & Agieszka Kacprzyk
Romania: Catalin Taranu
Russia: Maxim Podolyak
Serbia: Nikola Mitic
Slovenia: Sreco Camernik
Sweden: Henric Bergsaker & Leif Pettersson
Switzerland: Daniil Matveev
Turkey: Egemen Akgul & Husrev Aksut
Ukraine: Kateryna Voznytska
United Kingdom: Geoff Kaniuk

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

Special Guests included: Mrs Taki and Mr Matsuura - Pair Go/Pandanet; Kim Sung-Rae – KBA; Ms Yuki Shigeo – IGF; Mr Zhang Wendong – Chinese Weiqi Federation

The meeting was filmed with live broadcast by Harry from EuroGoTV.

The meeting opened at 19:10.

1) Opening

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

2) Verifying presence and voting rights

25 members were present and able to vote, plus Latvia once a member, making 26. All the delegates, executive and guests introduced themselves.

3) Accepting the agenda

Item 16c was withdrawn, some items moved (for instance item 4b was taken after item 10b). Some of the guests spoke when present and not at 4a.

4) International Matters

a. Presentations from other International bodies:

Mr Zhang Wendong, from China, spoke on behalf of Mr Liu, IGF Office Director, who had left the EGC. He requested Europe supports China as the current head of IGF and was interested in our ideas, such as those given at the previous Sunday's special meeting. He announced new World Women's Championship to be held in September and for at least the next two years. Martin Stiassny commented the European player will be Rita Pocsai, based on the EWGC results.

Mr Matsuura, new President of WPGA, was introduced in the middle of the IGF Directors' report. He said he was used to Europe as he had worked for UNESCO and at the embassy in Paris for many years. He was looking forward to the Pair Go prize giving.

Mrs Taki, President PandaNet, spoke in the middle of the IGF Directors' report. She announced new Pandanet European Go Team Championship with online national leagues starting in November and live finals at EGC. 20 top players would thus get support to attend the EGC each year. This was replacing their sponsorship of the Go European Cup.

Mr Kim Sung-Rae of the Korean Go School in Budapest was introduced (just before item 7). He explained how the new school was part of a government plan for globalisation of Go and that 20 pros in all were abroad teaching. He also suggested a European pro system could be set up, that would be of interest of sponsors; the meeting approved of this suggestion.

b. Nomination of replacement IGF Director from May 2011 (taken after 10b):

There was some discussion on the four candidates, whose CVs had previously been circulated, and the three present were introduced. Alex Dinerchtein commented that Igor Grishin and failed to get a visa but was very active in Go promotion and teaching. Maxim mentioned that Igor had left the Russian Go Federation and was working outside of it. Peter Zandveld pointed out it was a tough job and as the work of the IGF was getting more and more important, it was key that the candidate was good at spoken English. The voting was by secret transferable ballot, but only one round of counting was needed:

Martin Finke 14, Oleg Gavrilov 6, Igor Grishin 5, Matti Siivola 1

So Martin Finke will be recommended to the IGF at their meeting in May 2011.

c. Report from IGF Directors (see separate report)

Martin Stiassny talked about Go at the Asian Games 2010 at which 12 countries were sending 10 player teams. It was suggested the EGF should send a reporter.

After Mrs Taki's talk, he continued on about the Sport Accord Games 2011, at which 8 countries could send 5 players (Europe will probably send two teams). He then mentioned the proposed WMSG 2012, to be organised by IMSA. He then mentioned the relationship between mind sports and Poker, and finally changes to IGF organisation and other matters. Victor Bogdanov had nothing more to add.

d. Cooperation with EGCC (taken after item 9)

Peter Zandveld, President of the Foundation, reported his reaction to the Czech and Romanian letters prior to the meeting by email and on their new website. The meeting should note it is independent of the EGF, but the EGF does make appointments to the Supervisory Board. This would be meeting the next morning. Financial problems now over so work on Go projects can restart under the direction of Supervisory Board. A workshop would be held the next day at 20:30 for members to make suggestions. They were also planning to restart the Ing memorial. Catalin Taranu said that he thought the EGCC had done close to nothing. They had in fact made a promotional film for the Dutch but no translation had been made (and now there is also Chinese-made promotional film.). There had been a suggestion to close or move the centre, but it was possible to fix up any problems and make it as good as it was in the past. The balance between staff levels and maintenance cost and effort had now been corrected. Catalin suggested that members could be recruited to help support the EGCC, but also bad management should be corrected to ensure available resources are used better. He suggested investing for a promotional campaign to allow expansion. Peter Zandveld replied that the centre needed entrepreneurs to drive it forward but these are not the people you employ to handle day-to-day running. The Supervisory Board had not met some years, such as 2008, so renewed efforts should be made to push things forward. Michael Marz suggested Catalin might be a suitable source of ideas. Latvia and Switzerland agreed that our reps needed vision and a flair for marketing. The meeting agreed that the French nomination, Jean-Yves Papazoglou, and Catalin Taranu, if he wanted to, should join the Supervisory Board. More information on activities is to be made available on the website, when it recommences, but the Czech motion requesting formal Annual Reports be made available was not appropriate.

5) Minutes AGM 2009

The previous year's AGM minutes were accepted. Peter Zandveld requested that in future they be more complete.

6) Admission of new members:

Latvia was admitted, provided they correct two discrepancies from their application form, if the area of international representation and appeals. Dmitry Golubev reported Go had previously been played mostly by a group of Russian players, but now they had around 70 players and 30 members playing in one established and one new club. There was no national championship yet.

Georgia had written about the procedure for joining, but was not fully established yet, so was accepted as Observer Member.

There was a short break from 20:10 to 20:25

7) Reports

a. President (see separate report)

Martin Stiassny reported on that the main challenge in his first year had been the change from Ing money to new sponsors and more membership income. He had travelled extensively to visit the sponsors and had retained Zhuyeqing as a sponsor for Bordeaux in 2011. Executive was working to make Go be more Sport-like with workshops by pros or strong players at each championship (costing 500 euro). The Pair Go event at the Congress was liked by the sponsor and it would be repeated in 2011. He had spent time on the Championships issue but had not pushed the EGCC into action during their consolidation period. Again the WAGC would have no paid flight tickets. Yuki Shigeno recommended Shimane as venue because of its temples and seaside. Matti Siivola suggested we might consider the WAGC in Europe at some time.

Martin would send more information to members during the year, but often sponsor discussions are confidential. He reported that the issue of international ratings was being discussed again and Ales and Leszek were looking at working with the Chinese. Peter Zandveld noted that Chess has local and international ratings, so it should not cause us a problem. Robert Jasiak pointed out for an accurate international system more international games are required. Michael Marz was concerned about appeals at congresses and that the appeals committee should cover all events. There was some discussion of this Fred Renaud promised this would be handled correctly in 2011. Martin's final point was the executive were meeting more between EGCs, either at events or via skype.

b. Secretary

Tony Atkins gave a short report on administration tasks, highlighting PGEC, Pair Go, accounts, web, AGM and communication.

c Treasurer

Hans Kostka reported that equity was down 6000 euro, but investments were starting to recover. He noted the increased membership fee and that only 46 percent members had paid on time. This would be the last year that cash payment is acceptable and not paying on time shows a lack of responsibility by members. It had been agreed with the auditors that records must be kept in a more orderly fashion, and members should use the correct format when applying for payment. Michael Marz asked about the late payment fee – this is twenty percent of the membership fee and should be more rigorously applied. 10 members had asked for reduced membership fee so far. Although members get benefits of playing in international events, it was noted by Peter Zandveld that KABA sometimes invited non-members to their events.

8) Report of the Auditors:

Thilo Burkhardt reported that he and Arnaud Knippel had received the records for 2008-09 immediately after the 2009 AGM and were able to examine them satisfactorily. Any questions had been answered by Hans Kostka. Everything was correct, though sometimes transparency was lacking. Arnaud had requested to step down from the post of auditor and thanks go to him for work in previous years. So Thilo invited Ilona Crispian, also from Germany, to help audit the 2009-10 accounts. They had spent the previous three weeks looking at the figures and discussed matters with Hans the previous day. Again all questions were answered. The auditors recommended discharging the board by acceptance of the 2008-09 accounts and 2009-10 accounts, as all transactions supported Go in Europe. There were few questions and the accounts for both years were accepted.

9) Reports of chairmen of existing Commissions

a. Rules

The Rules Commission had run a Referees Workshop, checked rules proposals and had updated some of the rules documents.

b. Ratings

No report had been received from Ales Cieply.

c. Youth (taken after item 7a)

Jana Hricova reported on the sudden change to the World Student qualifying, from the ESGC to online tournament on Pandanet. Together with the WYGC age-change, this meant that students over 16 can play in the ESGC and the EYGC is competed at Under-12 and Under-16. The Under-18 section at the EYGC was unofficial. In order to make this group bigger it was being amended to Under-20. Some players could then play EYGC and ESGC, but as there is no support at these events, there is no conflict. She noted that Romania had run the EYGC in 2010 very well, despite there being no Ing Fund support. The Youth Overview had raised data collection issues and it has been decided not to hold any personal data, except when a player is an international representative. The second Transatlantic Youth Match had been drawn. It would be possible to hold the WYGC in Europe, with a little Ing Fund support, if a sponsor was found. Anyone who thinks they could run the WYGC on this basis should talk to Jana before the end of the year. For instance Czechia or Netherlands could be possibilities. Alex Dinerchtein asked how much would be needed. Jana thought about 15000 USD. Jana also noted that Mr Yang had said at the WYGC the previous week that he was disappointed there was no Ing Cup in 2010. She noted, when asked, that our best player at the WYGC had been Lukas Podpera with 3 wins at under-16. There was some discussion about whether the EYGC should give prizes for under-20 (depends on sponsor) and should there be a parallel side event, like in 2010.

d. Strong Players

There was no report as this commission had not functioned.

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 Crispian

Martin Finke recommended that a third auditor be found, preferably from a different country to Germany.

There was a break from 22:40 to 23:00

11) Budgets

a. Approval of countries applying for reduction in 2010

It seemed that the previous year's meeting had agreed this approval can be done by executive without resort to AGM, so it was not necessary to review the 10 countries applied so far.

b. Proposal to revert minimum membership fee to 50 euro (IE)

This had also been proposed by the Executive to cut out bureaucracy but the corrected position mentioned in 11a overcame this reason. Colin McSweeny said that even the 50 euro minimum was a lot for small countries and they would not be ready to pay the full amount after five years. Michael Marz and Martin Finke pointed out the reduced rate rule was part of the package agreed along with the increases last year so could not be changed. Henric Bergsaker thought EGF membership good value for money, but Slovenia disagreed if this was 4 euro per member for a small country, unlike the 1 euro for bigger ones. Catalin thought that if accepted then the reduced rate members should not be allowed to vote. It was suggested WAGC players could pay the fee. Many thought the fees were not so big, but Ali Jabarin disagreed. Oleg Gavrilov asked if there could be a link with ratings. If we are to be recognised as a serious sport, then membership fees should reflect this seriousness, was another view. The motion was defeated (6-12-3).

c. Proposal to change EGF accounting year to calendar year from Jan 2011

This change would mean that membership year would match accounting year and there would be more time to audit the accounts before the AGM. This was accepted without objection.

d. Presentation for Comment of Budgets 2010 and 2011

The 9 month budget for the short year 2010 and the budget for 2011 were then examined. The new sponsorship of Team Championships will improve the situation. There were no comments made against the budgets.

e. Proposal to report accounts three months before AGM (CZ)

This will now be possible because of the accounting year change, so was not discussed.

12) Appointment of Commissions

The Appeals Commission must be set up calls for nominations should be sent out before the year end.

As for the Strong Players Commission there were different opinions as to whether one should be set up or should the players be left to organise themselves, as Csaba Mero had done with his gohub website. Oleg Gavrilov thought it should be better to formulate solutions in commission rather than in the AGM. Catalin pointed out that most strong players were not organisers, but maybe Csaba should be asked and other strong players should be contacted. It was agreed it should be restarted in order to formulate proposals for agreement at annual meetings. There was also the suggestion there should be a weak players commission to balance it.

The other existing commissions should look to expand their membership as appropriate.

13) European Go Congresses

a. Financial reports from past tournaments (CZ)

It is already a requirement for EGC accounts to be presented to the AGM. The accounts for 2009 were presented to the meeting on paper, by Martin Finke.

b. Comments on 2010: Tampere, Finland.

The current team was thanked for their efforts thus far and also for the extraordinarily warm weather. Suvi Rovio reported that there had been sufficient entries to make the finances okay, and the prize fund they had planned (as on the paper she distributed) would be met. Other prizes not

stated thereon would be gifts not money. The top 5 Europeans would be guaranteed prizes, though there may be more recipients if ties. Alex Dinerchtein asked if it could be announced in advance as some strong players did not come because of uncertainty. Finland had been unable to make such a commitment. Martin Finke mentioned that a lack of meeting area was the only real problem.

c. Progress report on 2011 France Bordeaux:

Fred Renaud reported that Astrid Gaultier was the main organiser and was arriving the following day to take registrations. They had a big and experienced team of organisers. They are expecting over 1000 players, including 100 from Japan and 50 from China, as they had 900 in 1997. They are increasing the number of student beds reserved to 500, all at reasonable rates and with meals available. The University venue is only 10 minutes by tram from the centre, quite near the sea too and they are working on the congress wine. The website is French only, but English from August with online registration and credit card payment. The 5000 euro from the sponsor is again reserved for Europeans.

d. Progress report on 2012 Germany:

As the main organiser has stepped back and there was nowhere suitable in the city itself, the German congress will now be outside Cologne. Michael Marz reported the favourite is now the town hall in the old city of Bad Godersberg near to Bonn. There will be business hotels, hostels and camping nearby. Many things are being sorted out, such as the organisation team and prize money strategy, but registration should be open next EGC.

e. Progress report on 2013 Poland Gdynia:

They have a core team of organisers starting to work and expect their website to be ready next year.

f. Selection of hosts for 2014:

Maxim Podolyak presented a visual presentation of the Russian bid for 2014. It will be the 50th anniversary of the first Russian Go club, Olympic year (allowing support for cultural events) and the last year in a package deal they have with the three-star hotel St Petersburg, which would be the venue. It had large playing halls and 400 rooms, allowing 20 euro per night. Also they have naval dormitories nearby at 10 euro per night, all in the centre of St Petersburg. They have already played top events at the venue and have three sponsors already signed up.

Catalin Taranu had no flyers but was able to talk on Romania's plans. They have a big team of experienced organisers and plan the EGC in the same city as 2010 EYGC, Sibiu. There is a good hotel with accommodation at 20 euro per night, and they received good city support. It has suitable halls, a university and is a very pleasant old Germanic town. Jana Hricova commented that the EYGC had been very pleasant there.

Romania had last held the congress in 1998 and Russia last in 2003.

St Petersburg, Russia, received 12 votes and Sibiu, Romania, 13 votes. Romania was selected.

g. Expressions of interest in later years

No new expressions of interest were made for 2015 and beyond (Russia's bid had been specific for 2014 only).

14) European Tournament Calendar - Selection of hosts

a. Youth Championship - 2012 No host was found (2011 will be in Brno).

b. Student Championship - 2012 was agreed for St Petersburg, Russia. Michael Marz invited students to the 2010 edition in Darmstadt (2011 will be in Prague).

c. Pair Go – 2011 was agreed to be in Turkey , likely to be Istanbul. 2012 was agreed to be in Lyon, France.

d. Women's Championship - 2012 was agreed for Czechia (2010 is in Lyon; 2011 in Bucharest).

e. Team Championship – from 2011 event is now held online, so bids from Russia and Spain were not considered.

15) European Championship System Proposals

After the pre-meeting the executive had sifted the proposals and had nominated one system as worth considering – a separate closed championship played in the afternoons. Robert Jasiak pointed out that this would mean a change to thinking times, down to 2 hours. Alex Dinerchtein proposed an unchanged system apart from reducing the supergroup to 24 players. Geoff Kaniuk introduced a proposal from the UK, similar to suggestions in previous years, with top 8 European players playing knockout after 7 rounds. Martin Stiassny's system was also one worthy of consideration. The meeting would have to decide which of the guidelines agreed last year should be ignored: number of rounds, non-interference from non-Europeans, and so on. There was considerable discussion on these issues and even whether to make a change at this point. It was agreed whatever system was adopted the Rules Commission would have to sort out the detailed rules later and ensure the system was implemented successfully in 2011.

Finally the 4 options were voted on

- a) Alex Dinerchtein' system - 1
- b) BGA's system - 15
- c) Martin Stiassny's system - 8
- d) EGF Executive's system - 0

So the BGA system of knockout after 7 rounds was adopted.

16) Proposals from Members

a. Prizes at EGC (RO and RU)

Catalin Taranu proposed that 60 percent of entry fees should go to prizes. The previous year prizes were as low 475 euro. It was agreed that it was impossible for organisers to budget this way. I was noted in 2000, 28 percent was prize money. Of course it depended on sponsorship and the current sponsorship ensured a reasonable prize fund guaranteed for Europeans. Henric Bergsaker thought 20 or 25 percent was a reasonable level. Geoff Kaniuk suggested accepting donations for a prize fund. It was agreed to be too risky to announce firm amounts in advance, but Martin Finke suggested organisers could advertise provisional amounts, only achievable if budgets are met. Catalin was happy with this suggestion.

b. European Professionals at EGC (RO)

Catalin Taranu said that players like Christian Pop thought there should be more chances for European pros and top players to teach at congresses. It was agreed we should not neglect our own

and future organisers should take note. The new Team Tournament prizes would help support our top players at EGC.

c. Rating System only open for national Go association members (CZ)

This item had been withdrawn by its proposer.

d. President to report quarterly (CZ)

It was agreed one member of executive will report quarterly, if not the president.

e. Top Players to vote at EGF AGM (RU)

No support was given for this idea, but they should be encouraged to get more involved.

f. World Cup selections (RU)

The proposal of taking the first place from the EGC, then online qualifiers featuring the 4 best players for the others, was accepted (15-2-7).

g. New Champions League (RO)

Ion Florescu had suggested this league of National Champions and it was accepted as good idea; Harry of EuroGoTV kindly offered to organise it.

h. Situation, location and staff of EGCC (RO)

Already discussed under item 4d.

17) Any other business

a. Italy

Leonardo Dal Zovo reported a new FIGG board had been formed, players had rejoined the FIGG and there was unity again in the country. Go in Italy is now more active than in years gone by.

b. Sport Accord Qualifying

There was a complaint from Catalin Taranu that the qualifying for Sport Accord Games was announced too late and that the team tournament was too soon and too close to the EGC. It was unfair on teams who could not take part. However removing the qualifying may be unfair on those who were taking part and it might be the only suitable way to select teams. However Yuki Shigeno announced that the event details have changed with a later date (December) and the requirement for junior as well as male and female players. Hence the team championship is not an appropriate selection. Some sort of points system was suggested. Martin Stiassny agreed to amend the qualifying system if possible.

Meeting Closed 02:15