

U.S. CHESS FEDERATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Radisson Hotel
11 East Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Monday, August 14 & Tuesday, August 15, 2000

IN ATTENDANCE: TIM REDMAN (President); BOB SMITH (Immediate Past President); R. JOHN McCRARY (Vice President); JIM PECHAC (Vice President of Finance); DORIS BARRY (Member-at-Large); JOE IPPOLITO (Member-at-Large); HELEN WARREN (Member-at-Large); GEORGE DE FEIS (Executive Director & CEO).

Vice President McCrary convened the meeting and read President Smith's letter of resignation of the USCF Presidency.

MOTION EB01-001(Tim Redman): Move that the Executive Board accepts the resignation of President Smith with thanks for his year of hard work. (Passed 6-0; abstention Smith)

MOTION EB01-002 (Bob Smith): Move that the Executive Board elects Tim Redman as President of the USCF. (Passed 6-0-1; abstention Redman)

MOTION EB01-003 (Tim Redman): Move to adopt the agenda with the understanding that Board members may add additional items. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-004 (John McCrary): Move that the executive director is assigned the duties of secretary temporarily, while the position is vacant. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-005 (Joe Ippolito, Helen Warren): Move that the Executive Director institute a life member newsletter to be mailed twice a year for an experimental two-year projection to analyze the results, beginning with the pre 1960 list. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-006 (Tim Redman): The Board moves to award 2002 through 2004 The National Open to Rae Products Chess Club under the terms negotiated by the executive director. (Passed 7-0)

Discussion: About decreasing response time for Objections Procedure motions (presently 10 days) resulting in suggestion that each board member acknowledge receipt of e-mail even if have not made a decision. This could speed up the process.

Discussion: On Conference Calls Myron Lieberman suggested that a conference call is a special meeting. It is not as such a closed session meeting, unless it's specifically defined as such for that particular meeting, there is no reason for any motions passed at a conference call not to take effect immediately. It's important that a particular closed session conference call go into open session before the end of the call so that the motions can be read into the record in open session and acted on immediately. Either Microsoft Net Meeting or Instant Messenger, or anything of that nature can provide the ability to hold conference calls on line. The second the meeting is over you can have print out of a full transcript.

MOTION EB01-007 (Tim Redman, John McCrary): It is the sense of the Board that a tape recording of conference calls and a transcript will provide sufficient documentation for the meeting, as is consistent with the delegate motion. Passed 7-0

Discussion: On Bidding Procedures: George De Feis agreed to have a draft of revised bidding procedures and standard contracts ready for the fall meeting.

Discussion: On Ratings System: The existing software has been updated to use the rating formulas that were approved by the delegates four years ago. It is now being tested and assuming that all goes well it will be implemented after the next ratings supplement is produced. And that will include a number of changes which will have an improvement on the ratings, primarily of provisional or rapidly improving players. The correct rating will be reached much quicker than under the old system. For established players or players who come in at the right rating to begin with, it will have very little effect.

There will be some implementation delay on the dual rating of Quick Chess and the regular system since the time control is not currently part of the rating report.

MOTION EB01-008 (George De Feis): Move to thank Gary Prince for his outstanding volunteer contributions on the development of the U.S.C.F. on-line chess playing service and for his wise counsel in assisting the USCF in negotiating our relationship with Games Parlor. (Passed 7-0)

Discussion: While Gary is now wrapping up his involvement with the conclusion of developing the on-line registration process he has indicated that he would be available

to assist our MIS director, Laura Martz, who will be assigned our lead responsibility on this important project, as she or I requests.

MOTION EB01-009 (Helen Warren): Move to refer decision on the All-America Team ratings to both the ratings committee and the scholastic committee for report back to the Board by October 1. (Passed 7-0)

Discussion: Bill Cornwall, is concerned about the ratings qualifications method in determining members of the All-America Team. Qualifications should be established the same as for other events on the basis of the individual's peak rating, rather than a rating achieved at a certain deadline for the event.

Discussion: On Procedure for Referral to the Scholastics Committee: The chair should be informed by the Board liaison that their opinions are expected back by a certain date, in this case the January meeting. The e-mail should be copied to the Scholastics Chair and copied to the Ratings Chair. And they, in turn, will copy their committees. And if that indeed does not happen, then the Board will proceed to make its own evaluation of merit and make recommendations accordingly for specific implementation.

Discussion: On the statement prepared by the attorney on the security of children at national events. The Executive Director is going to be making suggestions and will get advice from the legal task force, as well as TDCC, Scholastics Committee and membership processing.

MOTION EB01-010 (Helen Warren): The Executive Board endorses the proposal for the Koltantowski Chess Seminars and requests that the USCF Charitable Trust consider funding these seminars. (Passed 7-0)

Discussion: When the Trust agrees to fund this, a committee will be appointed. Funding will include a half-page promotional article in Chess Life.

Discussion: On budget included backorders, delivery, coordination between purchasing, marketing, inventory control and turnover.

MOTION EB01-011 (Tim Redman): The U.S.C.F. will commit \$2,500 per player/captain for the 12 members of the U.S. men's and women's Olympic teams and an additional travel reimbursement of \$1,000 per player/captain, and will offer the following incentives if medals are won:

\$2,000 per player/captain for a gold medal,

\$1,000 per player/captain for a silver medal,

\$500 per player/captain for a bronze medal for each team. (Passed 7-0)

Discussion: Closed Session discussing legal matters, committee appointments and Chess Trust appointees.

Tuesday, August 15, 2000

IN ATTENDANCE: TIM REDMAN (President); BOB SMITH (Immediate Past President); R. JOHN McCRARY (Vice President); JIM PECHAC (Vice President of Finance); DORIS BARRY (Member-at-Large); JOE IPPOLITO (Member-at-Large); HELEN WARREN (Member-at-Large); GEORGE DE FEIS (Executive Director & CEO/Acting Secretary).

MOTION EB01-012 (Bob Smith): The Board moves that Bob Smith, in communication with the Board and George De Feis, contact and employ legal counsel in Phoenix, Arizona, to investigate and report on the status of the bankruptcy action involving Richard Peterson. Legal fees will be limited to \$2,000 unless prior approval of the Board is obtained. A report will be furnished prior to the October meeting. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-013 (Board-Sponsored): The Board moves that President Redman and George De Feis proceed immediately to arrange chess tournament(s) at the Adams Mark Hotel in Dallas, Texas, and to obtain a full and final release of all the claims. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-014 (Referred by Delegates): The Delegates move that only the Executive Board shall have the authority to initiate, terminate, arbitrate or settle litigation. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-015 (George De Feis): That the Executive Board approves the appointment of Peter Kurzdorfer as editor of Chess Life. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-016 (Referred by Delegates -- ADM #00-51 -- Regarding On-Line Tournament Reporting): That USCF develop, using outside expertise as necessary, and fully implement an on-line tournament report submission system and an on-line membership database to be operational no later than a date to be determined by the executive director, such determination to be made no later than 9-15, 2000.

Discussion: The Executive Board and Executive Director are directed that the development of this system is of primary importance to USCF. The Executive Board and ED are encouraged to negotiate special arrangements that may be bundled to provide the required economic

resources. The Executive Director will have project oversight. Such a system shall have, as part of its basic features, the acceptance of electronic payment for rating fees and for USCF memberships. The system will offer a rating fee discount from tournament reports submitted on paper and for USCF memberships to be set by the Executive Director and Executive Board, but not to exceed fifty cents per game or a minimum tournament rating fee of \$20 per tournament. The Executive Board and Executive Director will have this power until 8-15, 2001. In addition, USCF will make available a program which organizers can use to input tournament results to accomplish electronic submission. Such program may be on line. (After Board discussion/deliberation, the motion was amended to: That the Executive Director is directed to prepare a plan, schedule and budget for implementation of on-line ratings and on-line tournament reports for the Board at its next meeting. (Passed 7-0))

MOTION EB01-017 (Referred by Delegates -- ADM #00-54 Regarding Organizer Ratings That tournament organizers, as represented by affiliates, and tournament directors who submit rating reports will be rated based on timeliness, accuracy and electronic submissions based on guidelines developed by the ED in consultation with the TDCC. Tournament organizers meeting higher standards will receive a discount on rating fees at the time of submission.

(After Board discussion/deliberation, the motion was amended to: That the Executive Director, with the advice of the Tournament Director Certification Committee, will explore the idea of an incentive-based plan to improve the timeliness and accuracy of tournament rating reports. (Passed 7-0))

MOTION EB01-018 (Referred by Delegates -- ADM #00-80 (Regarding the Formation of a Scholastic Council): After Board discussion/deliberation/revisions, the motion was amended to: That a Scholastic Council, as described in ADM #00-80, be established with the following changes: One-year terms for council members, a designated council chair, and that oversight authority is maintained by the Executive Director. The council will deliver a written report to the Executive Board two weeks prior to each Executive Board meeting. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-019 (Referred by Delegates, sponsored by Sharon Burtman and Jay Blem -- Regarding the Tournaments on Holidays): That U.S. invitational championships should not be held so as to conflict with the ten days of the Jewish high holy days beginning with Rosh Hashana and ending on Yom Kippur, with at least a two-day buffer on both sides. (Failed 0-7 There was much discussion, regarding the difficulty in managing this request relative to other religious and non-religious holidays. It was suggested that the revised tournament guidelines mention that tournament organizers be mindful of holidays in their planning/scheduling of tournaments.)

MOTION EB01-020 (George John and Myron Lieberman): Regarding the Publishing of the Annual Rating List: That if the rating list and/or the yearbook are left out of "Chess Life," they be published on the web in their entirety. (Note: This would require that the annual rating list be provided on the web in a format that can be browsed instead of only searched if it is not in "Chess Life.") (Motion to refer this item to the Executive Director for consideration/implementation -- Passed 7-0.)

MOTION EB01-021 (Steve Doyle): Regarding the \$150,000 Computer System Expenditure: That a committee be formed to investigate \$150,000 computer system expenditure and report back to the Board of Delegates. (Failed 0-6; 1 abstention Warren). There was much discussion on the merits of the cost-effectiveness of accomplishing such an investigation, the benefits to be derived, and Board decisions already taken [last year] to remedy the situation [i.e., prevent recurrence].

MOTION EB01-022 (Helen Warren, Bob Smith and Tim Redman): That the executive director is authorized to employ a consultant to help us in the implementation of a computer system that will meet the requirements of USCF. (Passed 6-0; 1 abstention Ippolito)

MOTION EB01-023 (Lawrence Cohen): That the Executive Director is instructed to consider allowing a \$5 promotional, one-time reduction for new scholastic members. (Failed 0-7)

MOTION EB01-024 (Frank Camaratta): That a tournament standards committee be established, that ADMs #00-66 through #00-70 be referred to that committee for study, that the committee report its findings to the ED for action, as necessary, before the next annual delegates' meeting, and that the Board report the Committee's findings to the Delegates, and make recommendations for subsequent EB actions. (Failed 0-7)

MOTION EB01-025 (Frank Camaratta): That the Executive Board appoint a legal committee to advise the Executive Board on matters of a legal or potentially legal nature. (The EB declared this item moot, based on a previous related item.)

MOTION EB01-026 (Robert Tanner): That USCF reinstate its previous scores of 100 points by truncating the last two digits. That the Ratings Committee be instructed to investigate the fluctuations in the rating system by conducting a comparison of known computer program ratings. (The Board voted 7-0 to refer this item to the Ratings Committee.)

MOTION EB01-027 (Tim Redman): That the Executive Board appoints Tim Redman counselor to the USCF delegation for the FIDE conference in Istanbul on November 3-12, 2000. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-028 (Tim Redman): That the Board ask the FIDE subcommittee (McCrary and Redman) to prepare a draft USCF FIDE policy for consideration in October. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-029 (Doris Barry): That the Board expresses its appreciation to the entire office staff, and particularly to Laura Martz and Jami Anson, for their contribution and cooperation in the development of the USCF-Games Parlor on-line chess playing site. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-030 (Doris Barry): That the Board expresses its appreciation to our partner, Games Parlor, for its outstanding efforts in developing the U.S. Chess Federation's on-line chess playing service. (Passed 7-0)

MOTION EB01-031 (Tim Redman): That Doris Barry be reimbursed for four air tickets purchased in conjunction with visiting the USCF Headquarters office on matters relating to US Chess Live. (Passed 6-0; abstention Barry)

MOTION EB01-032 (Joe Ippolito): That the meeting be adjourned. (Passed 7-0 at 11:45 a.m.)