

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 08/13-14/06 USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD OPEN SESSION

The new Executive Board met in open session on Sunday, August 13, 2006, at 3:00 PM. The format was an open forum where input was welcomed from the audience. The newly elected Executive Board (President Bill Goichberg, Vice President Don Schultz, Secretary Robert Tanner, VP of Finance Joel Channing, and new members Randy Hough and Sam Sloan) were present. Executive Director Bill Hall, functioning as an ex-officio Board member, and Executive Assistant Pat Knight joined them. Those also in attendance included, but were not limited to the following: Dewain Barber (CA/S), Barbara DeMaro (NY), Joan DuBois (TN), Brenda Goichberg (NY), Roger Gotschall (IA), Jim Gray (OK), Richard Koepecke (CA/N), Mikhail Korenman (KS), Secretarial Assistants Myron and Rachel Lieberman (AZ), Joe Lux (NJ), Jerry Nash (TN), Mike Nietman (WI), Mike Nolan (NE), Tim Redman (TX), Luis Salinas (TX), and Harold Winston (IL).

The forum was called to order at 3:00 PM by President **Bill Goichberg**. **Mikhail Korenman** was introduced and presented a slideshow of historical USCF membership information by membership class and age. **Mike Nolan** explained the graphs and answered questions. Regular memberships have declined while scholastic and family memberships have increased. It was noted that scholastic memberships are the largest group. Memberships by age peak dramatically in the early teens and fall off quickly, reaching a low point by age 21. There is an increase to a substantially lower peak by age 40, after which there is a slow decline. The pattern appeared the same using information from several years. USCF Rated events by state since 1996 was also presented.

Among the problems encountered are that costs have gone up while the number of events held has gone down. The state of MO was noted for having the largest increase in memberships and events. Between 2000 and 2005 their numbers doubled. Other states with large increases included TX, CA, CO, NY, and AZ among others. It was noted that the six states with the highest increases should be listed in *Chess Life*.

Mikhail Korenman then presented a slide show and described, explained and answered questions about the Chess Coach Certification Program. The program is designed to identify, assist and certify USCF members who provide instruction and teaching, thereby serving as coaches. There are four levels of chess coach certification:

Level I: Chess Club Coach

This level offers a two year renewable certificate. The requirements are that the individual must be a USCF member, possess one letter of endorsement from an organization recognized by USCF (i.e., a school or foundation), be able to prove basic chess knowledge, and pass a basic test (by email or mail) with a minimum 80% score. The cost is \$30.

Level II: Chess Team Coach

This level offers a three year renewable certificate. The requirements are that the individual must be a USCF member, possess two letters of endorsement from an organization recognized by USCF, be able to prove intermediate chess knowledge, and pass an intermediate level test with a minimum 80% score. The cost is \$40 and includes a USCF Rulebook and Club Tournament Director Certification.

Level III: Senior Chess Coach

This level offers a five year renewable certificate. The requirements are that the individual must be a USCF member, possess three letters of endorsement from an organization recognized by USCF (one of which should be from the State Chess or Scholastic Chess Association), have five years of proven experience coaching teams that participated in local, state, and national USCF rated events (as verified by one of the letters presented), and have a minimum 1600 rating. The individual must be able to prove advanced chess knowledge, and pass an advanced test with a minimum score of 80%. The cost is \$50.

Level IV: National Chess Coach

This level gives a lifetime certificate. The requirements include USCF membership, nomination by the Scholastic Council for USCF EB approval, and three letters of endorsement from an organization recognized by USCF including one from the State Chess or Scholastic Chess Association to be directed to the Scholastic Council. The candidate must have a background that includes ten years of proven experience coaching teams that participated in local, state, and national USCF rated events. These teams or players must have placed in the top three of the state scholastic/ collegiate championships at least three times, and must have participated in at least five national scholastic/ collegiate championships. The candidate must have a record of service that includes at least one term on the Board of the state scholastic chess association, USCF scholastic committee, or USCF national committee. Once the requirements are met, there is no charge for this level of certification.

Mikhail Korenman then presented an outline for his upcoming International Chess Convention to be held in Chicago in September, 2007. The intent of this convention is to cover all aspects of chess nationally and internationally as it pertains to children, education, technology, peace, and competition (Internet and OTB). Mikhail Korenman distributed a proposed schedule. He stated that he is looking for additional presenters, including children, with hands on experience. The USCF Chess Trust has made a commitment to help support this convention.

Following Mikhail Korenman's presentation there was extensive discussion. **Robert Tanner** explained the difference between the Scholastic Council and the Scholastic Committee. A question arose about whether or not the Scholastic Council was subject to the authority of the Executive Board. **Mikhail Korenman** noted that the Scholastic Council can make recommendations to the Board but the Board must approve of any action they take. The Scholastic Council supports the Chess Coach Certification Program. Joel Channing asked about the finances for the program. Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Mike Nietman, Mike Nolan, Don Schultz, Sam Sloan, and Robert Tanner were among those that discussed the funding and allocation of funds. **Bill Goichberg** pointed out that we should be paid for everything we do. **Randy Hough** made the point that the program calls for someone to meet all requirements, but allow exceptions. He said that this could be seen as allowing political favors and they should accept a candidate with 3 of 4 or 4 of 5 requirements, etc. **Sam Sloan** suggested that we try it and if it doesn't work we can modify it later. **Joel Channing** asked that the program be approved enthusiastically and that specifics and costs be studied. **Robert Tanner** asked that the program be approved in concept.

The scholastic convention was discussed. **Joel Channing** was concerned about the amount of staff time it would require. The costs have gotten higher and the USCF needs to make some money on the convention. Two motions followed:

EB07-001 (Channing): The Executive Board approves the Scholastic Council proposal regarding the Chess Coach Certification Program and endorses the program in principle. The Executive Board enthusiastically requests that the Scholastic Council come back with more details including what costs are involved. **PASSED 6-0**

EB07-002 (Goichberg): The Board has heard a presentation from Mikhail Korenman regarding an International Chess Convention to be held in the fall of 2007 and strongly supports the convention in Chicago. **PASSED 6-0**

Joel Channing pointed out the need for **Bill Hall** to keep up an action item list and data bank. Fields would be added and numbered as needed including task number and description, date of request, latest input of information, remarks, and date completed. Thirty days later tasks would be pulled off the data bank. A report would be emailed to the EB on a weekly basis. It was stated that this should be the procedure for all proposed projects and could be called a "Task List". An example of such a list was distributed to the EB. Joel Channing asked that the record reflect that Bill Hall was instructed to do this and make it an ongoing item. Please note: This proposed plan became an action item for Bill Hall. Joel Channing asked that starting immediately Board members earmark items to be added to the list.

Sam Sloan moved that the Olympiad just completed in Turin, Italy be USCF rated. **Robert Tanner** was concerned about the staff time necessary to rate the entire Olympiad as well as the legality of doing it for all players. **Bill Goichberg** indicated that rating US players was not the same as rating all players in the Olympiad. **Randy Hough** asked if Bill Hall would comment about Staff time that might be required. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that my estimate back in early 2005 was that it would take 90-100 hours of staff time to look up (or create) USCF IDs for all the players, enter initial USCF ratings for them and get all the crosstable data entered. (Jerry Nash's estimate was twice that.)

EB07-003 (Sloan): The World Chess Olympiad just completed in Italy should be rated fully in accordance with the USCF rating system. **FAILED 1-5** (Sloan in favor)

Bill Goichberg asked what could be done to rate just the games of the US players. It was noted that the players in the World Team Championship of last October were told that their event would be USCF rated. **Bill Hall** stated that he does not have staff time to rate all participants. **Randy Hough** pointed out that when he was in the USCF office they were also doing the ratings for FIDE, so the FIDE information was easier to get. He suggested that the simplest way today might be to apply the US players' FIDE rating change as an adjustment to their USCF rating. **Sam Sloan** said that Kenneth Sloan (no relation) of the Ratings Committee did a study correlating USCF and FIDE ratings and found no correlation. Bill Goichberg pointed out that the Ratings Committee provided us with a formula to do it. Sam Sloan said that the formula doesn't work. **Mike Nolan** explained how the formula works. **Joel Channing** asked Sam Sloan for proof that the formula doesn't work. Bill Goichberg pointed out that US players in world

championships (i.e., World Youth and Olympiad) should have their games be USCF rated and also in the case of the most recent Olympiad only ten US players are involved. The Ratings Committee position is that plugging in Olympiad numbers adds data to the system and that more data produces more accurate ratings. The discussion continued with Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Mike Nolan, Don Schultz, and Sam Sloan among the participants.

Sam Sloan suggested that the USCF allow other countries to have their tournaments be USCF rated but not require USCF membership of the players. These countries would pay fees to the USCF for use of the rating system. **Bill Goichberg** and **Bill Hall** both expressed that they thought it was a good idea if it could be done. **Joel Channing** noted that we own our ratings and we need to find out their potential. Joel Channing requested that **Mike Nolan** determine the costs and the needs to put a system such as this in place.

EB07-004 (Sloan): The Executive Director and FIDE Delegate are encouraged to negotiate with other countries to sell USCF rating services to other countries. **PASSED 5-0-1** (Tanner abstained)

The meeting went into closed session from 5:02 PM until 9:05 PM.

After an informal discussion about rating the Olympiad, the EB resumed its meeting in open session on Monday, August 14, 2006, at 9 PM. Three motions that came out of the Sunday closed session were voted in open session with Beatriz Marinello present on speaker phone and all other Board members present in person. Those also present for at least part of the meeting included but were not limited to Joan Dubois, Betsy Dynako, Tom and Maxine Fineberg, Roger Gottschall, Jim Gray, Jerry Hanken, Pat Knight, Andy McFarland, Myron and Rachel Lieberman, Mike Nolan, Kenneth Sloan, and Harold Winston.

EB07-005 (Board): Moved that the Executive Board appoint the Vice President of Finance and President to act as agents and be signatories of the profit sharing pension account managed by Spectrum in the Vanguard account. **PASSED 6-0**

EB07-006 (Sloan): Moved that the expulsion of Bobby Fischer in 2002 by objections procedure (EB 02 – 40) is hereby vacated. **PASSED 4-1-2** (Goichberg, Tanner, Marinello, Sloan in favor), (Channing opposed), (Schultz, Hough abstained).

Joel Channing asked that the record show that this is the same Bobby Fischer that, when he heard of the 9/11/01 attack, said “Isn't that a wonderful thing”. Beatriz Marinello pointed out that passing this motion does not make him a member.

EB07-007 (Board): Moved that:

- 1) The USCF obtain Internet liability insurance at an estimated cost of \$15,000 per year, said insurance to cover officers, directors, moderators, and paid consultants.
- 2) The USCF enunciate clearly a policy on the website that we will be aggressive in deleting posts the moderator considers objectionable.
- 3) From now on the USCF insists that all posters post under their real names. **PASSED 7-0**

Joel Channing asked that the record show that **Bill Hall** is to edit the cash flow monthly to show the \$15,000 insurance expense.

Sam Sloan asked if we will post the real names of those who did not post under their real names previously. **Randy Hough** pointed out that since the rule didn't exist in the past that can't be done. It can only apply prospectively.

After considerable discussion of dates and locations **Bill Goichberg** suggested that the next Executive Board meeting be held near, but not necessarily in NY, NY on the third weekend in November (Nov 18, 19).

Harold Winston asked that an EB member attend the annual US Chess Trust meeting. He pointed out that in the past, by June the EB and ED would get together and plan for requests of the Chess Trust. **Bill Goichberg** said that it would be the same as last year. Harold Winston mentioned the Denker tournament and the Scholar Chessplayer program and noted that Sunil Weeramantry's Scholastic Chess Foundation has donated \$2,500 for the Scholar-Chessplayer program and plans to increase that next year. The plan is for five players to get \$1,500 each next year.

The Chess Trust contributes \$1,000 to the Polgar tournament, supports the World Youth, and contributes \$2,000 to the Final Four of College Chess. They contributed \$4,810.19 of earmarked funds to the Men's Olympiad and \$1,000

to the Women's Olympiad. He pointed out that money donated under the Patron program will be transferred to USCF. Each year \$5,000 from the Lerner donation is transferred to the USCF (for four years). Over \$12,000 was raised between the Delegates and the Trust Board at the meetings, which is better than usual.

Harold Winston pointed out that the Trust has replaced Trustees' life terms with staggered ten year terms except for the Scholastic VP who serves a two year term. He mentioned that Mark Fins, a businessman who has donated \$10,000 to the Trust has been added as a Trustee. Harold Winston noted that the value of Trust investments increased \$55,000 and, coupled with donations, there was an increase of over \$100,000. He mentioned the major donation by the Deborah Doll estate. **Joel Channing** asked financial questions which Harold Winston answered.

The Trust also donated \$1,000 to the Chess Congress / Convention proposed by Mikhail Korenman. That can be increased to \$5,000 through earmarked donations to the Trust. Harold Winston was pleased with the progress of the Sets for Vets program.

Irving Chernev and **Jeremy Gaige** were nominated for the Hall of fame. **Sam Sloan** asked about support for kids at needy schools. **Harold Winston** answered that a letter from the Principal is needed. **Bill Goichberg** pointed out that names submitted by coaches should be people who have played in tournaments. Joel Channing requested that future reports include what was given away for the year. Harold Winston said that he would try to do that.

Possible dates and sites were considered for the February, 2007, meeting. No final decision was made but the idea that it be held in Southern California on the first weekend in February was suggested. Beatriz marinello would participate by phone since she cannot attend out-of-town meetings.

Next to be discussed was voting procedures. **Randy Hough** pointed out that there was a problem with the bulk rate mailing this year. Bulk mail is treated at the mercy of the Post Office and there is no way of knowing when it will be delivered. Both First Class mail and inclusion in the magazine would be better because we should know when the ballots should be received. It would cost about \$5,000 more to print and mail ballots by first class (about \$15,000 bulk rate, \$20,000 First Class). **Bill Hall** pointed out the additional problems with the Delegate election. He suggested a separate mailing for the EB ballot. **Don Schultz** indicated that states should do their own Delegate election. **Bill Goichberg** indicated that is what was done previously until the Delegates mandated the change to the current system. It could not be changed back without a Delegate vote. All we could do is recommend. Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Beatriz Marinello, Don Schultz, Sam Sloan, and Robert Tanner, along with Mike Nolan and Myron Lieberman continued the discussion. The possibility of electronic voting was included in the discussion. **Joel Channing** suggested using an e-mail address instead of a PIN number for identification. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that e-mail balloting would not be secure. He also pointed out that a PIN number is not secure identification either. He pointed out that the PIN number is created from the membership ID and expiration date. As both are available to anyone it is possible for anyone to figure out PIN numbers and use them. Don Schultz wanted to find an electronic system and pointed out that voter registration can be done electronically. Bill Goichberg suggested that the e-mail address on file with USCF could be used for identification. **Myron Lieberman** pointed out that a random number can be sent to the e-mail address on file and it could be submitted with a ballot for certification. He also mentioned the online voting system successfully used by investors, which involves getting a unique number by mail or e-mail, then going to a website to vote. Mike Nolan pointed out that the software packages available for electronic voting cost about \$15,000 so it would not be a way to save money. Beatriz Marinello indicated that she was open to explore options. She left the telephone connection at 10:17 AM. Mike Nolan suggested that the Election Committee look at it. Bill Goichberg made the following motion:

EB07-008 (Goichberg) Moved, that the Board ask the Elections Committee to study electronic voting. **PASSED 6-0.**

Sam Sloan brought up the subject of rating olympiads. **Bill Goichberg** pointed out we already voted. Sam Sloan proposed a different motion.

EB07-009 – (Sloan) The office is asked to rate the Olympiad just completed in Italy in accordance with USCF ratings and all ratings go into the MSA. **FAILED 1-5.** Sloan in favor. See also EB07-003.

Sam Sloan proposed that volunteers be allowed to add historic events prior to 1992 to the Member Service Area of the website (MSA). Nobody was opposed to doing that but other things had higher priority. Sam Sloan said that all annual rating lists starting with 1950 be posted on uschess.org either in .pdf format or scanned with OCR software. Mike Nolan pointed out that it should be restricted to .pdf format since OCR software could require substantial staff time to edit. He wants birthdates of life members included. **Mike Nolan** said that that information probably could not

be available for posting. Sam Sloan also wanted to set up an Olympiad Committee. No motions were needed on these items.

Sam Sloan wants a rule to ban headphones from tournament play. The Delegates referred his Delegate Motion regarding headphones to the Rules Committee. He then proposed the following motion:

EB07-010 – (Sloan) Pending a recommendation of the Rules Committee, headphones and listening devices are prohibited, but that may be waived at the discretion of the Tournament Director. **FAILED 2-4**. Channing and Sloan in favor. Please note: Joel Channing asked that the record show that others on the Board were in favor of the concept of this motion but wanted to wait for the recommendation of the Rules Committee before implementing it.

Robert Tanner distributed three pages of changes to the National Scholastic tournament regulations recommended by the Scholastic Council.

EB07-011 – (Schultz) The Board acknowledges receipt of three pages of adjustments to the National Scholastic Tournament Regulations, and, barring objection in accordance with the 30 day approval rule, accepts them. **PASSED 6-0**. Please note: The revised regulations will be posted on the website.

Joel Channing pointed out that a representative of the Scholastic Council is invited to the Board meetings and asked that it be on the record that we want them to attend. He invited them to closed session. **Bill Goichberg** said he would not automatically exclude them. Joel Channing said that it was the sense of the Board that the Scholastic Council is given a formal notification that their representative is invited. He wants us to work hard make them feel wanted. We exist for them and we need to keep them in the loop and see how we can help them.

Joel Channing pointed out that we have authorized **Mike Nolan** to do several studies, including a time and motion study of the staff at the Crossville office to help allocate staff time, which is an integral part of the expenses that we are pursuing this year; a study to create a rational way to deal with LMA funds in the future; to study costs and logistics for the Federation to do large volume ratings as may be necessary if we sell the rating service to other countries. He also asked that the record reflects that re: item 3 of the Military Committee report, Jerry Nash will be informed that Susan Polgar and Paul Truong are looking into the Department of Defense meshing with schools.

Bill Goichberg brought up the documentation of Mike Nolan's work. There has been no substantial progress since May. **Mike Nolan** agreed that it would take start up time for someone else to get up to speed.

The meeting recessed at 11:06 AM and resumed in closed session at 11:10 AM to consider committees and other matters. The open session resumed at 5:11 PM at which time the following motions that arose from closed session were read and voted.

EB07-12 – (Board) The following Committee Chairs, Board Liaisons, and Committee Members are appointed for 2006-2007. **PASSED 6-0**. Please note. The committee list that is shown as Appendix A includes the current status of committees as of August, 2006. It includes both Board and Delegate appointed committees as well as committees appointed earlier for 2006-7.

EB07-13 – (Channing) A report on the duties of Mike Nolan will be given at the next meeting. **PASSED 6-0**.

EB07-14 – (Goichberg) If an e-mail vote is proposed and two Board members object, the vote is prevented and requires a conference call or action at the next meeting. A Board member who has participated in the substance of a discussion may no longer object to an e-mail vote. **PASSED 5-1**. Sloan opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 PM.