

## UNOFFICIAL SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY, 2007, MEETING OF THE USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Please note that this document is NOT the minutes of the meeting. The intent of this summary is to list the topics discussed, motions and action items so that actions taken at the meeting will be quickly known to everyone interested. It includes no discussion or details. More information can be found in the audio files that are posted online and in the minutes when they are approved and posted.

President **Bill Goichberg** called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM on Saturday, February 3, 2007 in Monrovia, CA, in Open Session. The entire Board participated. Board members Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall (ex officio), Randy Hough, Don Schultz, and Sam Sloan were present in person and Beatriz Marinello was present via telephone connection. Also present for at least a portion of the meeting were Dewain Barber (for the scholastic council), Harold Bogner, Mike Carr, Jerry Hanken, Steve Jones, Pat Knight, Myron and Rachel Lieberman, and Mike Nolan. Daniel Lucas and Joe Nanna participated by telephone connection during their portions of the meeting.

President **Bill Goichberg** welcomed the guests and introduced them.

**Sam Sloan** mentioned that **Raymond Weinstein**, who is currently in a mental hospital, has made it known that he wants to play chess and can't find strong enough opponents where he is. Sam Sloan indicated that he will visit Raymond Weinstein and see what can be done.

**Joel Channing** gave the report of the Vice President of Finance. Among the topics covered were:

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Endorsements and Partnerships - The Scholastic Council has reviewed and approved the curricula developed by AF4C and the Polgar Foundation. USCF has entered into endorsement agreements with these organizations. USCF has also entered into an endorsement agreement with The Berkeley Chess School, based on its achievements. These organizations will support USCF and present plans for the promotion of USCF membership in the course of their operations. The Kasparov Chess Foundation's curriculum is currently being reviewed by the Scholastic Council with a view towards executing an endorsement agreement with them also.

A meeting was held in Crossville regarding finance issues. Among those invited were Randy Bauer, Frank Camaratta (who was unable to attend), Mike Carr, Joel Channing, Bill Hall, Joe Nanna, Mike Nolan, Grant Perks, and Chuck Unruh. It was a joint effort to work together to get a clear idea of where we are now and where we need to go. VP of Finance **Joel Channing** described it as enjoyable and productive and feels good about what was accomplished,

A report distributed by Finance Committee member **Donna Alarie** was distributed to the Board and some issues that she raised were discussed.

**Joel Channing** emphasized that rumors demoralize staff. Where staff issues exist, they should be dealt with privately and not in public.

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President **Bill Goichberg** gave the President's Report. He indicated that there was a favorable membership trend for the last five months, including increased adult memberships. Membership details were discussed. Bill Goichberg attributed the positive results, at least in part, to the dues sale, improvement of "Chess Life" and the website, and the sending of renewal notices.

**Bill Hall** then gave the Executive Director's report. Among the topics he covered were:

The status of **Bill Hall's** review of the website,

Moderation of the USCF Online Forums,

Advertising, membership, TLAs, and promotion,

The status of the pilot project to offer group memberships to schools. Currently a prototype program has started in Miami/Dade, FL, and in Louisiana, with at least seven other school systems asking to participate next year,

The status of the building, land and final payment to the contractor at Crossville, and

The status of investments.

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A conference call was initiated to connect CFO **Joe Nanna** by phone for a detailed financial discussion. **Beatriz Marinello** continued to be connected by phone.

BH070201 - **Bill Hall** accepted an action item to break down tournament and world youth expenses next week in the office.

BH070202 – **Bill Hall** will work with **Joe Nanna** and **Joel Channing** to examine and follow up personnel expenses.

**Dewain Barber** addressed the Board regarding the need to award concession bids early enough so that the vendor will have time to prepare and obtain sufficient and appropriate materials to offer at the concession.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:30 PM and resumed in Open Session at 1:18 PM. President **Bill Goichberg** deferred a closed session originally scheduled for this time until the end of the day so that guests would not need to be leaving, waiting, and returning.

The deletion of postings on the USCF forums was then discussed. **Sam Sloan** moved motion EB07-056 to reinstate deleted posts and unlock locked threads.

**EB07-056 – (Sloan)** – All locked threads (on the USCF Forum) should be unlocked. All deleted posts that can be recovered should be reinstated except those which have no chess content. **FAILED 1-4-1** with Sam Sloan in favor and Beatriz Marinello abstaining.

Formation of a committee to oversee the USCF issues area on the USCF Forum was considered. **Don Schultz** moved motion EB07-057 to establish a subcommittee to recommend members for the committee.

**EB07-057 – (Schultz)** – A USCF Forum Issues Committee is established. A subcommittee of Randy Hough, Bill Goichberg, and Bill Hall is appointed to recommend committee members to the Board. **PASSED 5-1** with Sam Sloan opposed.

The Internet liability insurance obtained for the USCF Forums was discussed. **Sam Sloan** moved motion EB-058 to abolish the insurance.

**EB07-058 – (Sloan)** – The USCF abolishes its Internet forum insurance. **FAILED 1-5** with Sam Sloan in favor.

The treatment of Executive Board candidates in “Chess Life” was discussed. **Sam Sloan** proposed a motion, which was not voted, that would have disallowed candidates from having regular columns, free ads, pictures, or other benefits not available to other candidates unless the candidate does something newsworthy pertaining to chess. The discussion focused on fairness and editorial freedom. **Bill Hall** accepted action item BH070203 to talk to **Susan Polgar** and get back to the Board within one week. If she does not agree to the restrictions voluntarily Sam Sloan will re-enact the motion for e-mail vote.

American Classic tournaments were discussed. These are tournaments organized by local organizations that have achieved popularity and are expected to have a high turnout and stability of organization. The category does not include National tournaments. American Classic status is intended as additional support for successful organizers to use in promotion of those events. **Dewain Barber** believes that National Scholastics should also qualify and will approach the Scholastic Council for their recommendations (Action Item DB070201). **Bill Goichberg** moved motion EB07-059 to allow a tournament to qualify if it has attracted 400 or more players five times. The existing qualification of 400 or more three years in a row would still apply. The five times are not consecutive. This would allow an event to qualify if it reaches 400 players five times, but if the instances are consecutive it would still only require three times.

**EB07-059 – (Goichberg)** – Moved that the rules for American Classic tournaments be modified so that in addition to getting 400 entries three years in a row, getting 400 entries five times (not in a row) also qualifies a tournament to be considered an American Classic. **PASSED 6-0.**

Election and vote count procedures were discussed. No motions resulted.

Ownership of the land and building in Crossville was discussed. **Sam Sloan** offered a motion to retain independent counsel to determine USCF's rights. **Bill Hall** indicated that he would meet with the Mayor of Crossville as the city has changed its restrictive covenants. **Beatriz Marinello** and Bill Hall agreed to action items (BH070204 and BM070201) to look into this issue after which the motion was tabled.

**EB07-060 – (Sloan)** – The USCF shall retain independent legal counsel to determine our rights as to the ownership of the land and building in Crossville and our rights to sell the land and building in Crossville. **TABLED on a 5-1 vote** with Sam Sloan opposed. Please note: After Bill Hall and Beatriz Marinello agreed to look into this issue, Randy Hough moved to table.

The topic of whether or not **Bobby Fischer** should be given a USCF ID number was discussed. **Sam Sloan** proposed a motion that inasmuch as Bobby Fischer is a USCF member by the Delegate mandate of being named a USA GM on the FIDE website, he is to be given a USCF ID Number. A motion to substitute wording by **Bill Goichberg** that would provide an ID Number upon request was offered and failed 3-3 with Joel Channing, Beatriz Marinello, and Sam Sloan opposed, after which the original motion failed. The substitute motion was then re-introduced as a separate motion and passed.

**EB07-061 – (Sloan)** – Inasmuch as Bobby Fischer is a USCF member by the Delegate mandate of being named a USA GM on the FIDE website, he is to be given a USCF ID Number. **FAILED 2-4** with Beatriz Marinello and Sam Sloan in favor.

**EB07-062 – (Goichberg)** –The Board declares that Bobby Fischer is eligible to become a USCF member. Upon request he will be given a USCF ID number. **PASSED 4-2** with Joel Channing and Beatriz Marinello opposed.

Correspondence Chess was then discussed. No motions resulted from the discussion.

The Board recessed at 4:34 PM and resumed in Closed Session at 4:51 PM. The closed session ended at 6:29 PM and the meeting resumed in Open Session Sunday morning at 9:10 AM. The audio from Sunday's sessions was recorded directly on the new system. Audio recordings from the entire meeting are available online.

The following motions that arose in Closed Session were read and voted in Open Session. Please note that **Beatriz Marinello** was not connected by phone until later. When she was connected she was given the opportunity to vote on all motions that she missed. Her votes are included with the vote totals.

**EB07-063 – (Board)** – The US Chess Federation Board of Directors would like to commend Peggy Stephens on her many accomplishments as Acting CFO for the US Chess Federation. Thank you for a job well done. **PASSED 6-0.**

**EB07-064 – (Board)** – The US Chess Federation Board of Directors hereby affirms Joseph Nanna as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the US Chess Federation. **PASSED 5-0-1** with Beatriz Marinello abstaining.

**EB07-065 – (Board)** – The Board authorizes the President to finalize an eight month extension for the Executive Director. **PASSED 5-1** with Sam Sloan opposed. Sam Sloan stated for the record that it was premature to consider this issue.

The US Championship was then discussed. Three motions evolved.

**Sam Sloan** proposed a motion that no decision on format or selection of bidders shall be made on the US Championship without a vote of the Executive Board. After discussion a substitute by **Joel Channing** passed.

**EB07-066 – (Channing)** - The plans for the US Championship shall not be final until they are approved by the Executive Board. **PASSED 6-0.**

**EB07-067 – (Sloan)** – Inasmuch as the US Championship does not also have to be the same as a Zonal tournament, this year the Zonal tournament will be a ten or twelve player Round Robin with the qualification being decided entirely by USCF rating, to be played at either the Marshall Chess Club or at St. Johns University. **FAILED 1-5** with Sam Sloan in favor.

**EB07-068 – (Sloan)** – The US Women's Championship will be a ten player Round Robin with qualification being decided entirely by rating. **FAILED 1-5** with Sam Sloan in favor. Please note:

**Bill Goichberg** pointed out for the record that the Board is not necessarily opposed to this format but feels that this is premature because we do not have a sponsor yet.

**Hal Bogner** then presented some of the improvements in the next revision of the website and answered questions. He noted feedback from the Board as to what improvements are needed. **Joel Channing** then moved thanks to Hal Bogner and **Marty Hirsch** for their work on the website.

**EB07-069 – (Channing)** – Moved, that we make an expression of thanks to Hal Bogner and Marty Hirsch for their continued assistance with the website. **PASSED 6-0.**

Editor **Daniel Lucas** called in at 11:01 AM. He pointed out that the March issue goes to the printer on February 12 and he needs to know what to print about the Dues Sale. He then listened to feedback and suggestions regarding “Chess Life” and “CL4K”. Bill Hall accepted Action Item BH070205 to contact Frank Brady, Daniel Lucas, Glenn Petersen, and Arlen Walker to join him on a committee to work on magazine advertising.

**Beatriz Marinello** joined the meeting by phone and indicated her vote on the motions that were made earlier in the morning. She gave a report on FIDE issues that affect the Americas and will send the Board a copy of the minutes of the Panama FIDE meeting (Action Item BM070202). She noted that **Florencio Campomanes** was in a serious car accident. She offered to write a letter to express USCF sadness about the accident (BM070203). The Board passed the following motion:

**EB07-070 – (Board)** – The USCF expresses its sadness at the unfortunate accident suffered by FIDE Honorary President Campomanes, wishes him a full recovery, and thanks the Honorary President for his many contributions to the world of chess. **PASSED 6-0.**

**Bill Hall** accepted an action item to find out why we spent so much on the Pan Am Youth and World Youth (BH070206). The meeting recessed at 1:15 PM and convened in Closed Session at 1:42 PM. The closed session ended at 3:25 PM and Open Session resumed at 3:26 PM, when the following motion that arose from closed session was voted:

**EB07-071 – (Board)** – Effective April 1, 2007, and for the remainder of 2007, the Dues Sale prices shall be: \$41.00 for one year, \$76 for two years, and \$109 for three years. **PASSED 6-0.**

Recording of meetings was then discussed. No motions resulted.

Rating issues were discussed next. Among the topics were Life Titles, Quick Ratings, Correspondence Ratings, USCF Rating all foreign FIDE rated tournaments where US players participate, and USCF rating the 2004 and 2006 Olympiads. Sam Sloan moved:

**EB07-072 – (Sloan)** – The 2004 and 2006 Olympiads are rated according to USCF standards and all players shall be given a USCF ID Number. **FAILED 1-5** with Sam Sloan in favor.

**Joel Channing** offered revised wording to motion EB07-060, which was tabled earlier. His wording would have authorized up to \$500 to retain counsel to determine ownership of the land and building. As **Bill Hall** indicated he would talk to the Crossville Mayor and Joel Channing authorized the \$500 expenditure, the revised motion was not needed and was not brought to a vote.

The Junior Grand Prix was discussed. No motions were made.

The Chess Coach Certification program was discussed. **Beatriz Marinello** accepted an action item (BM070204) to share the information about FIDE's Chess Coach Certification Program with **Mike Nietman**.

**Bill Hall** mentioned the life member project with Harris Connect. Some problems were mentioned. Bill Hall indicated that he has not had problem with Harris Connect.

The qualifier status of the US Internet Championship was discussed after which **Joel Channing** reviewed follow-ups from the retreat. Among the items covered were promotion, identification of research results that point to chess as a tool, Tim Redman's National Science Foundation grant application, endorsements, partner with Internet chess organizations to help upgrade the website, membership retention, and mine existing database for helpful information.

Next to be discussed was an online championship. **Dewain Barber** expressed concern that if the winner is called a “Champion of Champions”, the event could be confused with the Denker, which names a High School Champion of Champions. He also pointed out that **Jack Mallory** did a wonderful job with the Denker event. The Board made the following motion to clarify this situation:

**EB07-073 – (Board)** – The designation of “High School Champion of Champions” is reserved for the Denker tournament. **PASSED 6-0.**

**Don Schultz** then moved to establish the US Online Championship.

**EB07-074 – (Schultz)** – The Board establishes the US Online Championship and directs the Executive Director to work out the details. **PASSED 6-0.**

**Bill Hall** accepted an action item to thank David Kuhns and the Rules Committee (BH070207).

Don Schultz moved to appoint a committee to recommend award recipients to the Board.

**EB07-075 – (Schultz)** – Moved, that the Board authorize President Bill Goichberg to appoint an awards committee to report back by the next meeting with recommendations on the awards. **PASSED 6-0.**

The date and location of the next Executive Board meeting were discussed. One possibility considered was to move the meeting to the second weekend in May and meet at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry Hotel during the National Scholastics. No final decision was made. Note: It was subsequently decided that the meeting would take place May 19-20 in Stillwater, OK, the site of the US Championship.

Other items mentioned include online voting sites, a USCF Money Market account, and LMA investment locations.

**EB07-076 – (Channing)** – Moved, that the Board expresses its thank to President Bill Goichberg for his able handling of the meeting. **PASSED 5-0** with Bill Goichberg not voting. The meeting adjourned at 5:36 PM.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

DB070201 – Dewain Barber will ask for a Scholastic Council recommendation as to whether or not the National Scholastics should be considered American Classic tournaments (A category that does not currently include any national tournaments).

BH070201 - Bill Hall accepted an action item to break down tournament and world youth expenses next week in the office.

BH070202 – Bill Hall will work with Joe Nanna and Joel Channing to examine and follow up personnel expenses.

BH070203 – Bill Hall will talk to Susan Polgar regarding proposed restrictions in “Ches Life” coverage and report back to the Board within one week as to whether or not Susan Polgar agrees to honor the restrictions voluntarily.

BH070204 – Bill Hall will talk to the Mayor of Crossville regarding any restrictions on USCF ownership of the Crossville land and building.

BH070205 – Bill Hall will contact Frank Brady, Daniel Lucas, Glenn Petersen, and Arlen Walker to join him on a committee to work on “CL” advertising.

BH070206 – Bill Hall will find out why we spent so much on the Pan Am Youth and World Youth

BH070207 – Bill Hall will send thanks to David Kuhns and the Rules Committee.

BM070201 – Beatriz Marinello will look into USCF rights regarding the land and building at Crossville.

BM070202 – Beatriz Marinello will send the Board the minutes of the Panama FIDE meeting.

BM070203 – Beatriz Marinello will write a letter to express USCF sadness re: Florencio Campomanes' accident.

BM070204 – Beatriz Marinello will share information about the FIDE Chess Coach Certification Program with Mike Nietman.