

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUGUST 05-06, 2007, USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Please note: This is a summary of the proceedings of the USCF Executive Board (EB) held August 05 and 06, 2007. It is intended to provide the topics considered by the Board, motions with their disposition (including votes), and action items. This is an overview and is not intended to provide detailed coverage or discussion for any topic. Those interested in details and discussion are referred to the sound files on the USCF website.

President Bill Goichberg welcomed everyone and called the first meeting of the 2008 Board in open session at 3:05 PM on Sunday afternoon. Present were Randy Bauer, Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Susan Polgar, and Paul Truong. Jim Berry arrived at 3:12 PM. Others present for at least part of the meeting included but were not necessarily limited to Donna Alarie, Kenneth Ballou, Dewain Barber, Hal Bogner, Walter Brown, Ed Conway, Aviv Friedman, Jim Gray, Steve Immitt, Tim Just, Pat Knight, Richard Koepcke, Gerald Larsen, Myron Lieberman, Rachel Lieberman, Daniel Lucas, Todd Lunna, Sevan Muradian, Mike Nietman, Mike Nolan, Tony Pabon, Tim Redman, Luis Salinas, Don Schultz, Jennifer Shahade, Sam Sloan, Charles Unruh, Terry Vibbert, Sunil Weeramantry, and Harold Winston.

The Board had met in closed session earlier in order to name officers and committee liaisons. Paul Truong announced the officers that were elected by the Board. The Board decided that there would be no members-at-large and that all Board members would have an area of responsibility reflected in their title. The officers named were:

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Susan Polgar – Chairman  
Bill Goichberg – President  
Jim Berry – Vice President  
Randy Bauer – Vice President of Finance  
Paul Truong – Vice President of Marketing and Communications  
Joel Channing – Vice President of Business Development  
Randy Hough – Secretary/Vice President

Please note: The Board passed a motion by e-mail after the meeting to clarify these titles. The clarification can be found in motion EB08-004 on the 2008 motions list.

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Paul Truong read Board motion EB08-001 which named the Board liaisons to committees.

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**EB08-001 – Board** – The Board names the following Delegate and Board committee liaisons :

AUDIT – Randy Bauer  
BYLAWS – Bill Goichberg  
CHESS IN EDUCATION – Susan Polgar  
COLLEGE CHESS – Paul Truong  
CORRESPONDENCE CHESS – Randy Hough  
CRAMER AWARDS – Paul Truong  
DENKER TMT COMM - Paul Truong  
POLGAR TMT COMM - Paul Truong  
ELECTION – Randy Hough  
ETHICS – Joel Channing  
FINANCE – Randy Bauer  
HALL of FAME – Jim Berry  
INTERNET - Paul Truong (Please note: This committee was subsequently eliminated.)  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS – Susan Polgar  
LMA MANAGEMENT – Randy Bauer  
MILITARY – Joel Channing  
OUTREACH – Susan Polgar  
PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS HEALTH AND BENEFIT – Jim Berry  
PUBLICATIONS – Randy Hough  
RATINGS – Bill Goichberg  
RULES – Randy Hough  
SCHOLASTIC – Paul Truong  
SENIOR – Jim Berry  
STATES – Randy Hough  
SURVEY – Bill Goichberg  
TOP PLAYERS – Susan Polgar

TDCC – Randy Hough  
US OPEN – Bill Goichberg  
WOMEN's – Susan Polgar

## **PASSED 7-0**

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**FOC** - Extensive discussion took place regarding the Forum Oversight Committee (FOC).

One key point was **Terry Vibbert's** request that the FOC post warnings in prominent public places to those who are believed to have abused the forum. **Mike Nolan** suggested warnings should be private. **Bill Hall** pointed out that if a public warning is given to anyone the same policy must be followed for everyone. It was noted that moderators, not the FOC, remove posts. Adding moderators would help. Another recommendation was a fresh start. A related question involved what should be done with repeat offenders. **Terry Vibbert** expressed displeasure with the appeals process and indicated that there should be no appeal from sanctions imposed by the FOC.

Another key point was **Dewain Barber's** concern that as presently constituted it is not appropriate for scholastic players, in part due to moderation problems. He wanted to take the "Issues" forum down for 30 days and review how it could be made acceptable. Because of the possibility of users under the age of 13 COPPA requirements must be considered. **Bill Goichberg** noted that some things could be disallowed without the need to shut down the forums. The Executive Director and the Executive Board should be able to find a proper way to moderate. **Joel Channing** noted that the \$11,000 cost for Internet insurance is due to the forum.

**Susan Polgar** noted that there could be separate forums for those under 16 and those age 16 and above. She noted that they have different interests anyway. **Mike Nolan** accepted action item MN0807-01 to talk to **Hal Bogner** about separate forums for members under age 16.

**YMCA** - **Todd Lunna** then made a presentation to the Board regarding the involvement of YMCAs with chess. He suggested that club matches can be held at YMCAs nationwide.

**IMMIGRANT POLICY** - **Joel Channing** asked about USCF policy toward providing letters of support for foreign players who wish to immigrate to the US. **Sevan Muradian** elaborated. **Bill Hall** indicated that copies of all related correspondence are kept and that only statistics re: chessplaying ability are documented.

**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK** - **Joel Channing** asked about USCF Policy re: sexual harassment. **Bill Hall** noted that harassment is covered in the Employee Handbook and accepted action item BH0807-01 to e-mail a copy of the Employee Handbook to Joel Channing.

**INTERNET** - **Joel Channing** asked about rules for Internet chess. **Bill Hall** indicated that he has plans for an online championship and rules are under consideration. **Bill Goichberg** noted that he has had discussions with ICC to set up regular USCF rated online play with slower time controls. The Rules Committee has been asked to draw up rules. Among the issues are how to handle cheating, how many directors are needed for each type of event, the effect of prize fund size on the number of directors needed, and related issues. **Paul Truong** mentioned some methods of detection of cheating. **Paul Truong** noted that Internet matches between schools could draw thousands of participants in the scholastic market. **Susan Polgar** added that the Internet is the future. **Bill Hall** noted that an infrastructure that includes an adequate number of computers, etc., must also be considered.

**MILITARY** – The Military Committee concerns were brought to the Board by **Joel Channing**. They want a check box for military service on the membership form and a reduced rate for active duty service people. The concept of having the military work with Chess in the Schools was mentioned. **Joel Channing** indicated that he would e-mail the material he has to the Board.

**CORRESPONDENCE CHESS** – **Bill Goichberg** expressed concern about Correspondence Chess. He received an e-mail from **Franklin Campbell** that raised the question of whether USCF Correspondence Chess is still active. **Susan Polgar** has also been approached with similar concerns. USCF is facing a serious problem with Correspondence Chess. The Correspondence Chess Committee needs to get involved to find a solution. AFPCT has gone to National associations. New people and national organization are needed. **Bill Goichberg** emphasized that it is important to retain Correspondence players. He wants to hear Alex Dunne's recommendations and is receptive to doing something subject to cost constraints.

**COLLEGE CHESS TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS** – **Bill Goichberg** noted that the 2008 US Open in Dallas will be the first time since its inception that the Polgar tournament would not be held with the US Open. He wants to start a new event at the US Open and suggested a College Chess Tournament of Champions. This could be a prestigious one player per school event with no entry fee. **Susan Polgar** indicated that she might help sponsor it and noted that her tournament has been scheduled for the last week in July so the girls playing there can play in the US Open. **Paul Truong** noted that chess is the bridge between scholastic and adult chess. **Dewain Barber** said that he supports the the collegiate tournament and would pay for medallions (one medallion for every college). Applause followed. **Tony Pabon** and **Paul Truong** provided a historical perspective of the Polgar tournament. **Paul Truong** also described the incentives, including scholarships and room and board

that Texas Tech is offering for the Polgar tournament participants. Promotion and incentives are the keys to success. The College Chess Tournament of Champions is pictured as an individual tournament, which **Tim Redman** noted could be played concurrently with the Denker tournament. He pointed out that the timing is good as kids are out of school and there is a possibility of a scholarship for the Denker tournament. Applause followed. Bill Goichberg offered the following motion:

**EB08-002 – Goichberg** – The USCF establishes the College Chess Tournament of Champions to be held annually at the site of the US Open beginning in 2008. Each college is eligible to send one player. Details will be worked out by the USCF office.  
**PASSED** 7-0

Tony Pabon urged everyone to remain positive. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

The Board met in closed session at 6:29 PM. The closed session concluded at 10:10 PM and the Board resumed in open session at 10:19 PM. Walter Brown, Guy Hoffman, Sandy Hoffman, Patricia Knight, Myron Lieberman, Rachel Lieberman, Mike Nolan and Steve Shutt were present in addition to the Board for at least part of the session.

**BOARD ORIENTATION** - Board procedures and Board/Office interaction were discussed. Such things as allowable reimbursements and a detailed breakdown of e-mail procedures were covered. The BINFO system was also explained.

**WEB REPORTING** – **Susan Polgar** and **Paul Truong** will report immediately. **Jennifer Shahade** can also post on Susan Polgar's blog. Paul Truong pointed out that Chessbase and the "New York Times" go to Susan's blog for information.

**JUNIOR GRAND PRIX** – Bill Goichberg brought up his proposed Junior Grand Prix, which would award points for young players who win or draw against opponents rated above them in tournaments of Game/60 or slower. He would like to see many merchandise prizes and/or plaques awarded, with the possible first prize in each of a number of age based categories being a trip to the US Open. Recognition of winners would be important, and the importance of their names appearing in Chess Life was stressed. The main goals would be to get juniors to play more games at slower time controls and against stronger opponents. Bill Hall said that he has heard from a sponsor interested in funding this event, and Board reaction to the idea was positive.

The meeting was recessed at 11:00 PM and scheduled to resume in open session at 9 AM on Monday, August 6. No room was available for meeting at 9 AM on Monday. Thanks to **Patricia Knight** and everyone else who assisted in obtaining a room and preparing it for the meeting on very short notice.

The meeting was called to order at 9:21 AM. The Board with the exception of Joel Channing was present. Among others present during at least part of the meeting were Donna Alarie, Walter Brown, Jim Gray, Jerry Hanken, Jon Haskel, Steve Immitt, Patricia Knight, Myron Lieberman, Rachel Lieberman, Daniel Lucas, Sam Sloan, and Polly Wright.

Discussion resumed regarding the Jr. Grand Prix. Among the items discussed were rating source (latest vs. MSA), whether or not to have a separate Junior Grand Prix section in "CL", age brackets, date on which age is based, allocation of points (how many points are won to play, to draw, to win; what about early withdrawal, etc.), obtaining sponsorship, length (4 rounds or more). **Mike Nolan** accepted action item MN0807-02 to see whether an allocation of 1, 2, 4 or 1, 3, 6 works best based on 2007 statistics and report back to the Board. He also noted that with Quads you may not reliably know whether or not you are playing up. **Bill Goichberg** emphasized that the important thing is to get it started now. **Bill Hall** noted that he has a standing sponsorship offer from one company and another is waiting to see the rules. **Paul Truong** and Bill Hall said that multiple sponsorships would be acceptable. Bill Goichberg suggested that Chess Cafe be contacted as they sponsor the other Grand Prix.

**US OPEN TIES** – There was a seven way tie for first at the US Open this year. Some players do not like multiple ties. Various options for tiebreaks and playoffs were discussed. **Bill Hall** accepted action item BH0807-02 to look at tiebreak and playoff options for the US Open.

**QUICK AND REGULAR RATINGS** – **Mike Nolan** pointed out that there is little conformity between Quick and Regular ratings. He noted that the Ratings Committee wants all Quick time control games to be rated. **Mark Glickman**, Ratings Committee Chair, informed him that the Ratings Committee is working on the Quick and Regular rating issue.

**LIFE TITLES** - The Delegates passed two Life Title motions but neither has been implemented yet due to prioritization of programming. Only one Life Title system is needed and Bill Goichberg advocates be the norm system, passed in 2004. Mike Nolan pointed out that the norm system was designed by the Ratings Committee.

**Mike Nolan** indicated that he is working with **Hal Bogner** to rewrite the MSA program. He is also working to redo the TD/Affiliate section of the website, which should be ready by September. He noted that every record we have is now in electronic form. **Steve Immitt** noted that crosstables from older tournaments are not available online. Mike Nolan suggested that the ink might be faded and it could be too time consuming to re-enter. It would be difficult to make them available on DVD. Steve Immitt pointed out that he has copies of every tournament he has run. Possibly organizers and TDs may be a source of information to be archived.

**US OPEN FORMAT** – Bill Goichberg noted that in 2005 and earlier the US Open Blitz tournament was played on the first

weekend of the US Open and typically attracted about 40 players. The Blitz event was moved to the second weekend in 2006 and attracted 85 players. This year it was moved back to the first weekend and attendance dropped back to 40 players. Bill Goichberg suggests a return to the second weekend with a five round Blitz event in Dallas next year.

**FIDE FEES** – Mike Nolan presented FIDE's new fee structure (substantially higher than before and based on number of players for Swiss events.) that will be effective 12/01/07. An example was made of the USATE. Their FIDE fees this year amounted to about 1,500 Euros. It is unclear whether the FIDE rating fees for a Swiss event would be based on the total number of participants or only those with FIDE ratable results. Paul Truong and Susan Polgar accepted action item PT0807-01 to talk to people in September about this and update the Board.

Rachel Lieberman read the committee chair list that came out of closed session discussion. The following motion was made:

**EB08-003 – Board** – USCF Executive Board Committee assignments and appointments are reaffirmed as follows: **PASSED 6-0** with Joel Channing absent for the vote.

Please note: In the interest of having all committees in the same place, Delegate appointed committees are included in the list for information only. The Board motion only referred to EB appointed committees. Please see Appendix A for the list. Board Liaisons are repeated there as well. We have received no Office Liaison information as of this time.

A brief committee related discussion continued after the motion passed.

Steve Immitt suggested that the Annual Rating List be effective January 1. Bill Hall indicated that the change might make sense but it would confuse people.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

#### ACTION ITEMS

BH0807-01 – Bill Hall – E-mail a copy of the employee handbook to Joel Channing.

BH0807-02 – Bill Hall - Look at tiebreak and playoff options for the US Open.

MN0807-01 – Mike Nolan - Talk to Hal Bogner about separate forums for members under age 16 and those age 16 and older.

MN0807-02 – Mike Nolan – Will see what point allocation works based on 2007 statistics and get back to the Board.

PT0807-01 – Paul Truong / Susan Polgar - Talk to people in September about FIDE fees and update the Board.

#### APPENDIX A : COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Please note: a (D) after a committee name indicates a Delegate appointed committee.

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	MEMBERS	LIAISON
AUDIT (D)	Committee to name	Steve Doyle, Jon Haskel, Grant Perks	R. Bauer
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BYLAWS (D)	H. Winston, M. Nolan Co-Chairs	Jerry Hanken, Guy Hoffman, Gary Kitts, George John, Richard Koepcke, Myron Lieberman, Joe Lux, John McCrary, David Mehler, George Mirijanian, Mike Nolan, Robert Persante, Ernie Schlich, and Harold Winston.	B. Goichberg
CHES IN EDUCATION	John Buky, Dr. Joseph Eberhardt Co-Chairs	Add Dr. Alexey Root to committee	S. Polgar
COLLEGE CHESS	James Stallings, Chair		P. Truong
CORRESPONDENCE	Robert Rizzo, Chair	Add Brennan T. Price to committee.	R. Hough
CRAMER AWARDS	Frank Brady, Chair		P. Truong
DENKER TMT COMM	Dewain Barber, Chair		P. Truong
POLGAR TMT COMM	Dewain Barber, Chair		P. Truong
ELECTION (D)	Mike Nolan, Chair Harry Sabine Vice Chair	Roger Gottschall, Woody Harris, Mike Nolan, Harry Sabine Alternates Myron Lieberman, Ernie Schlich	R. Hough
ETHICS (D)	Committee to name	Richard (Buck) Buchanan, William (Wick) Deer, Jim Gray, Jim Mennella, Kenneth Sloan, Andy Thall, and Ken Thomas.	J. Channing
FINANCE	Charles Unruh, Chair	Donna Alarie, Patrick Farley, Beatriz Marinello, Mike Nolan, W. Allen Priest, Charles Unruh	R. Bauer

HALL of FAME	Harold Winston, Chair		J. Berry
INT'L AFFAIRS	Michael Khodarkovsky, Chair		S. Polgar
LMA MGMT (D)	Committee to name	Frank Camaratta, Leroy Dubeck, Peter Dyson, Beatriz Marinello, Grant Perks, Tim Redman, Fred Townsend, and Charles Unruh.	R. Bauer
MILITARY	Matthew Nemmers, MSGT Stephen Rollins Co-Chairs		J. Channing
OUTREACH	Myron Lieberman, Chair		S. Polgar
PPHBF MGMT	Fred Gruenberg, Chair		J. Berry
PUBLICATIONS	Arlen Walker, Chair	Add Ray Hernandez and drop Ryan Ko	R. Hough
RATINGS	Mark Glickman, Chair		B. Goichberg
RULES	David Kuhns, Chair	Add Steve Immitt, Ernie Schlich, Kenneth Sloan	R. Hough
SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL/COMM	Mile Nietman, Steven Shutt Co-chairs		P. Truong
SENIOR	Charles Hatherill, Chair		J. Berry
STATES	Guy Hoffman, Chair	Drop Tony Pabon	R. Hough
SURVEY	Tony Pabon, Chair		B. Goichberg
TOP PLAYERS	Greg Shahade, Chair		S. Polgar
TDCC	Tim Just, Chair	Add Ed Conway, Charles Hatherill, Phil Smith Jeff Wiewel	R. Hough
US OPEN COMM	Jerry Hanken, Chair		B. Goichberg
WOMEN'S	Polly Wright, Chair	Add Dr. Alexey Root	S. Polgar

Please note: LMA MGMT stands for Life Membership Asset management Committee and PPHBF MGMT stands for Professional Players' Health and Benefit Fund management Committee. TDCC stands for Tournament Director Certification Committee.

Please note: The Internet/MIS/Website Committee has been discontinued.

Please note: The Board named chairs of EB appointed committees and acted only on changes to committee membership. When a listed committee shows no members, the existing members continue until replaced.

#### REPRESENTATIVES TO FIDE

FIDE VICE PRESIDENT – Bill Kelleher    DELEGATE – Don Schultz    ZONAL PRESIDENT – John Donaldson

#### OTHER APPOINTMENTS

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS – Rachel Lieberman

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