

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE NOVEMBER, 2007, USCF EB MEETING

This document is a summary of the proceedings of the meeting. It includes motions made, action items accepted, and subjects discussed. Details of discussions, etc., can be obtained from the sound files online.

### Saturday, November 03, 2007

The meeting was called to order in open session by President Bill Goichberg at 9:00 AM at the Best Western Hotel in Crossville, TN. Randy Bauer, Jim Berry, Joel Channing, Robert Colleston, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Susan Polgar, and Paul Truong (All Board members) were present. Also present for at least a portion of the meeting were Cheryle Bruce, Joan DuBois, Ami Hall, Alan Kantor, Patricia Knight, Jack Le Moine, Myron and Rachel Lieberman, Judy Misner, Joe Nanna, Jerry Nash, Mike Nolan, Harry Sabine, and Terry Vibbert.

President Bill Goichberg welcomed everyone and presented the President's report. He focused on membership information. Mike Nolan provided details. Many related items will come up later on the agenda.

Vice President of Finance Randy Bauer asked CFO Joe Nanna to present the financial report. Among the items considered were the timeliness and reliability of financial information presented to the Board, the Finance Committee, reporting procedures, software, budgeting, memberships, tournament revenue and expense, cash flow, and other topics. Details can be found on the reports and sound files on the USCF website. Randy Bauer wanted it known for the record that he thought it strange to start a fiscal year without a budget that has been officially approved. Please note: The fiscal year ends in May, but the Delegates give final approval to the budget in August. CFO Joe Nanna expressed cautious optimism.

Executive Director Bill Hall introduced the staff and volunteers present. Bill Hall then called on Mike Nolan who gave a Membership report. Jerry Nash then gave the Scholastic report. He described packets of scholastic materials that he sends out on request. Please note that the packets include much information valuable to those interested in getting involved in Scholastic Chess and how USCF can help them. They also include a disk that contains research on how chess can benefit children as well as sample copies of "CLAK". He responds to calls, which he considers to be very important. Other topics included the The Final 4 of College Chess, The Pan Am Intercollegiate (current champion is Robert Hungaski), the World Junior and World Youth, the Membership Pilot Program (with the aid of Mike Nolan), Chess in Education, mutual endorsement programs, and FIDE (with Walter Brown and Chuck Lovingood). Jerry Nash received a round of applause. Joan Dubois then reported on Correspondence Chess and Tim "Toby" Tobiason's scanning of "Chess Review" and Chess Life". Toby has completed through 1975. Joan Dubois showed examples of the scanned magazine CDs/DVDs that are available. The .pdf files can also be found on the Members Only section of the USCF website. as read-only files. Thanks to Walter Brown, John Donaldson, and Frank and Jim Berry who helped supply issues for this project.

Bill Hall commented on publications, advertising revenues, and partner programs. A four-page brochure will be inserted into the new revision of the Chessmaster program at no cost other than the printing cost. Thanks to the House of Staunton for helping. Media ideas were also discussed.

Bill Goichberg's idea of USCF providing an e-mail service for affiliates (at a cost) was discussed. At Bill Goichberg's request **Bill Hall** accepted action item **BH1107-01** to examine the issue of providing e-mails to affiliates for a fee and get back to the Board with feedback.

The February, 2008, meeting was to be an online meeting, but there was opposition. The meeting came up for discussion at this time. Joel Channing made the following motion, which did not specify a date or location. Additional discussion would take place later. Please see motions EB08-11, 15, and 16.

**EB08-011 – Channing** - Moved, that the Executive Board meet in person in February, 2008. **PASSED 4-3** with Jim Berry, Susan Polgar, and Paul Truong opposed.

Next to be discussed was how National Tournaments are approved. One of the topics was using geographic rotation (current system) as opposed to a specific location with a good track record for the US Open. Another was whether the Executive Board or the Executive Director makes the final decision. Seattle, WA, wants to be considered for the 2009 US Open. The last US Open in Seattle was in 1966. The Executive Director will make the final decision with input from the Executive Board. Resources for local organizers to

use to publicize National Tournaments in their area were also considered. Susan Polgar suggested the local Visitor's Bureau can be very helpful.

The Profit Sharing plan was next on the agenda. Joe Nanna is working with Spectrum to reconcile past years. The audit is expected to be complete through 2006 by January or February of 2008. The problem may have originated as far back as 1995-6. Joel Channing and Bill Hall indicated that the facts will be known once Spectrum's work is completed. This topic arose again in closed session.

The Board took a break at 12:33 PM and reconvened in closed session at 1:00 PM. Please note that while closed session discussions are not made public, motions that arise in closed session are voted in open session and action items, subject to no objections re: a specific action item, are also made public.

**Bill Hall** accepted Action Item **BH1107-02** to negotiate with Meeting Link and the Opryland Hotel in the future.

**Bill Hall** accepted Action Item **BH1107-03** to publicize that the winners of the US Championship and Women's Championship automatically qualify for positions in the US Olympiad and on the Women's Olympiad Team.

**Bill Hall** accepted Action Item **BH1107-04** to seek the advice of an attorney regarding the issue of Non Disclosure Agreements for moderators

**Bill Hall** and **Harry Sabine** accepted Action Item **BHHS1107-05** to examine the possibility of writing a letter for Susan Polgar. The letter will state that Bill Hall is willing to answer questions that might arise as Susan Polgar's new program is implemented.

The Board recessed for the night at 5:45 PM

#### **Sunday, November 04, 2007**

As President Bill Goichberg was not yet present, Vice President Jim Berry convened the meeting at 9:05 AM on Sunday, November 4. President Bill Goichberg arrived at 9:09 AM.

The website was discussed. A major issue was how to properly handle "breaking news" in a timely manner when we have no personnel working 24/7. **Bill Hall** accepted Action Item **BH1107-06** to look into the possibility of having a staff person or volunteer post significant items to the website on weekends so that news can be made available as it occurs. He will examine the concept of how to best utilize that person.

After continued discussion of the website, the USCF Forums were considered. Among the points brought out were what to do about negativity (Need for moderation/censorship to maintain a civil environment vs. an unmoderated free speech structure), cost of Internet insurance, cost effectiveness for maintaining the Forums, and the moderator/FOC status. Bill Hall noted that we need another moderator.

The Scholastic Council recommended a revised version of the Scholastic Regulations. One issue that was raised was the use of Modified Median instead of Median as the first tiebreak. There were some differences of opinion regarding the meaning of Modified Median. The definition in the current rulebook was quoted. Bill Hall indicated that Mike Nietman should be involved in any e-mail discussion regarding the Scholastic Regulations with the Board. This subject was discussed again later (See motion EB08-019).

Another scholastic issue was certification of chess coaches. A question arose over the word "certified". Harry Sabine indicated that a disclaimer as to what is not being certified should answer any concerns.

Bill Goichberg moved to approve the new Blitz rules recommended by the Rules Committee.

**EB08-012 – Goichberg** – Move to ratify the new Blitz rules as recommended by the Rules Committee.  
**PASSED 7-0**

Bill Goichberg presented the concept of Patron members of the Executive Board. Two seats on the Executive Board would be available to donors who would pledge contributions of \$50,000 every year and there would be no expense to USCF for their attending meetings. Randy Hough suggested a straw poll on the concept and a referral of the concept to the Bylaws Committee. Bill Goichberg moved the following:

**EB08-013 – Goichberg** - The concept of Patron Members of the Executive Board is referred to the Bylaws

Committee. The motion FAILED 3-4 with Berry, Goichberg, and Channing in favor.

Bill Goichberg moved to form a subcommittee to locate appropriate personalities. Paul Truong added a specific time goal to the motion.

**EB08-014 – Goichberg/Truong** – Jim Berry, Bill Goichberg, and Paul Truong will be a subcommittee of the EB to discuss the idea of having a USCF Advisory Board to refer (attract) prominent business people and / or celebrities (to the USCF). The goal is to have something in writing by the end of 2007. **PASSED 7-0.**

Bill Goichberg suggested a possible alternative way to decide USCF EB elections that would minimize ties or runoffs. The idea was essentially for voters to mark every candidate with a number that indicates level of support (The higher the number the stronger the vote). Any clear winners are elected. Any ties are totaled by summing the numbers. After discussion **Bill Goichberg** accepted Action Item **BG1107-07** to put a proposal in writing regarding his revised Executive Board election voting method.

The question of the February meeting time and location continued to be discussed. A specific date and location were needed for a physical meeting as called for in motion EB08-011. Randy Hough moved reconsideration of motion EB08-011 but discussion was in process and a formal vote was not taken. Several possible locations were discussed including sites in AZ, CA, FL, NJ, NV, OK, TN, and TX. The date would be February 2 and 3 if in the west or February 23, 24 if in the east. Joel Channing made the following motion:

**EB08-015 – Channing** – The February, 2008, USCF EB meeting shall be held on February 2-3 at LAX (in the Los Angeles, CA, area). **PASSED 5-2** with Susan Polgar and Paul Truong opposed.

The discussion continued into closed session, after which the final decision was voted in open session. **Myron and Rachel Lieberman** agreed to Action Item **MLRL1107-08** to look at the price and availability of suitable meeting locations in the Phoenix area for February, 2008, and report back. Please note: They found that rooms anywhere in the Phoenix area were unavailable on February 2 and 3 because the Super Bowl would be in town. When vacancies occur for that weekend the rooms go for hundreds of dollars per night even at low end hotels. Any other weekend, even during the tourist season, rates well below \$100 per night would be available for suitable facilities.

The Board took a break at 11:18 AM and resumed in closed session at 11:23 AM.

**Bill Hall** accepted Action Item **BH1107-09** to confer with Mike Nolan and Bill Goichberg regarding the website and where it should go from here. (From Closed)

Bill Hall accepted Action Item **BH1107-10** to ensure that outstanding Action Items are attached to the Agenda for future meetings. (From Closed)

The closed session ended at 12:46 PM and the meeting resumed in open session at 12:50 PM. Rachel Lieberman read the motions that arose from closed session. Susan Polgar and Paul Truong left the meeting at 12:53 PM after voting on those motions. They were not present for any subsequent motions.

**EB08-016 – Board** – The February, 2008, USCF EB meeting shall be held online on February 2-3, 2008. **PASSED 7-0.**

Also arising from closed session discussion was a contract extension for Director of Publications Daniel Lucas and authorization to apply for 501(c)(3) status.

**EB08-017 – Board** – The EB authorizes the Executive Director to sign a three year contract extension for Daniel Lucas with terms as specified by the Board. **PASSED 7-0.**

**EB08-018 – Board** – The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to apply for 501 (c)(3) status. **PASSED 7-0.**

Discussion resumed on the Scholastic Council's proposed changes to the National Scholastic Regulations . The Board adopted their recommendations with one revision (Modified median as the first tiebreak).

**EB08-019 – Goichberg** – Move to adopt changes to the National Scholastic Regulations suggested by the Scholastic Council with the revision that the first individual tiebreak is to be Modified Median and the

second is to be Median. **PASSED 5-0.**

Mike Nolan presented his idea to improve communication and interaction with members with a calendar that can be accessed online and used for committees, etc. He wants it to be usable as a reminder system and the goal is for it to be available this calendar year.

Next to be discussed were adult (Regular) membership dues and the dues sale, which ends soon if not extended. Bill Hall noted that currently adult dues are \$41 online and \$49 if not online. He wants the online dues to remain \$41 at least until August, 2008. Bill Goichberg wants the dues sale to remain unchanged for another year. Alternatives for increasing revenue were mentioned, including advertising, mailing schedules, the need to expand non-membership revenue sources. Bill Goichberg made the following motion:

**EB08-020 – Goichberg** – Move that the third dues sale Adult Membership Rate be extended through 12/31/08. **PASSED 5-0.**

Bill Hall brought up the use of Meeting Link Services, a third party organization that can help locate suitable hotels in areas where we need to find a location and have no previous history with the hotel.

Several rating related issues were discussed, including Quick Ratings, Life Titles, FIDE rating fees, and USCF rating of FIDE rated events.

Quick ratings cause a problem because there are many fewer Quick rated games than there are Regular rated games. If a player plays in a Quick rated event and stops, while he or she is rapidly improving and plays in Regular rated games, that player could have a much higher Regular rating than Quick rating. An example was given where a player's Regular rating was 2250 while the same player's Quick rating was 1350. The Ratings Committee had earlier suggested dual rating all rated tournaments. That was tried in 2004 and did not solve the problem. Another possibility mentioned was to allow the use of Quick ratings for all time controls. That would create an "overall" rating that nobody appeared to want. The Ratings Committee asked for another chance to resolve this issue.

The Delegates have previously approved two title systems. The first system allowed the awarding of a title after a certain number of games at that level were played. Most recently (2003) they approved a norm system for titles. Neither has been implemented, apparently due to computer scheduling. There have been a number of more urgent tasks that require programming. Mike Nolan indicated that to start from January 2004 on the new system, calculating norms shouldn't be a problem. However, to go to 1991, as requested, would require about 4 to 5 hours of programming time per month.

FIDE has increased its fee to USCF for rating and registration of a FIDE event from a minimum of \$35 to a minimum of 30 Euros (\$45 at the current exchange rate). These minimums are increased as the category of the tournament gets higher. Add to that the extra work required to prepare a FIDE registration form and rating report (which now requires much more information including color allocation for every game) and the charge to the organizer must be increased.

Randy Hough moved to charge FIDE event organizers \$50 per section for FIDE registration and rating fees. After discussion, Bill Goichberg amended the amount to \$60 and the following motion passed:

**EB08-021 – Hough/Goichberg** – Effective for events ending on 06/01/08 and after, USCF will charge organizers \$60.00 per section for FIDE registration and rating. **PASSED 5-0.**

The idea of USCF rating of FIDE Rated Events was discussed. Definitions were needed. Is a US player a US resident or someone who plays under the US flag? Must they be current USCF members, etc.? Mike Nolan pointed out that there are over 2700 players with FIDE IDs in our database.

A related idea of offering USCF rating service to foreign federations for a fee. Advertising and possible interest level were points for discussion. Bill Hall and Mike Nolan agreed to Action Item **BHMN1107-11** to discuss the concept of foreign federations using the USCF rating system for a fee and will make a determination of what is the best way to go.

Online play rated with the Regular rating system was discussed. This was discussed at the previous meeting. The primary issues were the need for specific online play rules (how many directors, limitations on locations, etc.) and detection and elimination of cheating. Bill Hall accepted Action Item **BH1107-12** to ensure that the office initiates communication with the Rules Committee on the concept of preparing a set of

rules for online play. Board members are invited to participate.

The next topic was USCF use of money market funds. **Randy Bauer** accepted Action Item **RB1107-13**, as follows: A subcommittee of Randy Bauer, Bill Goichberg, and Jim Berry will be formed to work with Joe Nanna. Randy Bauer will write a memo regarding the use of money market funds.

The possibility of a clearinghouse for volunteers was discussed. The Scholastic Council and the USCF office have volunteer liaisons.

Issues related to charges made by Brian Mottershead were discussed. Bill Goichberg made the following motion:

**RB08-022 – Goichberg** – Moved, that the EB appoints a Board Subcommittee to consider issues related to charges made by B. Mottershead. The subcommittee is to consist of Randy Bauer (chair), Jim Berry, Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, and Randy Hough. **PASSED 5-0**. Please note that Susan Polgar and Paul Truong had to leave early but were aware that this would be considered and consented to it.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**BH1107-01** Bill Hall will examine the issue of providing e-mails to affiliates for a fee and get back to the Board with feedback.

**BH1107-02** Bill Hall will negotiate with Meeting Link and the Opryland Hotel in the future. (From Closed).

**BH1107-03** Bill Hall will publicize that the winners of the US Championship and Women's Championship automatically qualify for positions in the US Olympiad and on the Women's Olympiad Team. (From Closed).

**BH1107-04** Bill Hall will seek the advice of an attorney regarding the issue of Non Disclosure Agreements for moderators (From Closed)

**BHHS1107-05** Bill Hall and Harry Sabine will examine the possibility of writing a letter for Susan Polgar. The letter will state that Bill Hall is willing to answer questions that might arise as Susan Polgar's new program is implemented. (From Closed)

**BH1107-06** Bill Hall will look into the possibility of having a staff person or volunteer post significant items to the website on weekends so that news can be made available as it occurs. He will examine the concept of how to best utilize that person.

**BG1107-07** Bill Goichberg will put a proposal in writing regarding his revised Executive Board election voting method.

**MLRL1107-08** Myron and Rachel Lieberman will look at the price and availability of suitable meeting locations in the Phoenix area for February, 2008, and report back.

**BH1107-09** Bill Hall will confer with Mike Nolan and Bill Goichberg regarding the website and where it should go from here. (From Closed)

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