

## **USCF Executive Board Meeting February 5-6, 2011 – Conference Call**

### **Saturday Open Session 1**

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., may be obtained from the sound files online.

Executive Director, Bill Hall, called the meeting to order. President Jim Berry stated roll had been called and all Executive Board members were present with the exception of Randy Bauer. Guests present were Mike Nolan and Joe Nanna.

EB 11-020 Gary Walter moved to approve the minutes of the October 30-31, 2010 Executive Board meeting as previously distributed to the Board. **Passed 6-0** with Randy Bauer absent and not voting.

### **Officer Reports**

President Berry commented first that Hikaru Nakamura's win at Wijk aan Zee by was a good thing. He advised that we have no lawsuits pending. Berry also stated that Saint Louis is the center of chess in the U.S. and envy of the world.

Bill Hall, Executive Director, noted that most of the items in his report are part of the agenda. He introduced Joe Nanna for the finance report.

CFO, Joe Nanna, reported that we are trending very well and are ahead of budget. He commented on revenues, expenses, the mortgage, lines of credit, interest charges, and legal fee payment schedules which should be paid off by the fall of 2012. Specifically on the mortgage, a new loan from Cumberland County Bank will drop the rate from 6.8% to 5.5% for a term for less than seven years.

Bill Hall responded to Mike Atkins query about infrastructure improvements.

### **Committee Liaison Reports**

Bill Goichberg offered that at the request of the Governance Task Force for direction, the Board suggests the GTF continue to consider the question: Who should be the Board of Directors?

At this point Gary Walters questioned voter registration progress. Bill Hall, Bill Goichberg, Jim Berry and Mike Nolan participated in the discussion. Hall advised a plan is in place for multi-media advertising of the registration deadline.

Joe Nanna made brief comments on the registration with the state of IL as part of the 501(C)3 process.

Returning to Committee Liaison reports, Mike Nietman, reported on activities of the College Committee.

### **Unfinished Business**

The Board then reviewed the qualifications for U.S. Championships and National Teams selections. A residency clarification was discussed. The subject of ratings was introduced and a sub-committee consisting of John Donaldson, Bill Goichberg, Mike Atkins, Bill Hall and Ruth Haring as chair was formed. The sub-committee will study suggestions from Donaldson and Goichberg and make recommendations at the April meeting.

Next, Bill Hall agreed to check the status of the contract with Random House regarding the USCF rulebook as an action item.

An update, regarding the online play initiative, was offered by Hall. He noted that within a few weeks early testing should begin.

### **New Business**

The 2011 Executive Board election was next on the agenda. Discussion on formalizing the candidate certification process included all Board members. The topic was referred to the Governance Task Force for further consideration.

Standards for tracking and listing delegates were then addressed. Mike Nolan advised that a system for dynamic updating has been implemented.

Bill Hall presented an update on prospective locations for the 2012 and 2013 U.S. Opens. Vancouver WA, Chicago IL, and Concord CA are under consideration. Bill Goichberg pointed out that the Executive Director not the Board places the U.S. Open.

**Meeting was adjourned for lunch and scheduled to reconvene at 2pm Central time.**

### **Saturday Open Session 2**

EB11-021 (Board) The USCF and the Executive Board congratulates Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura on his fantastic finish at the Tata Steel Chess 2011 Tournament. **Passed 6-0** with Randy Bauer absent and not voting.

Ratings issues were next on the agenda. Mark Glickman, Chair of the Ratings Committee joined the meeting.

The topic of adjusting USCF ratings based on FIDE results was discussed by Bill Goichberg, Mark Glickman, Mike Nietman, Bill Hall, Mike Nolan, Jim Berry, and Ruth Haring. Suggestions to tweak the current adjustment formula; do away with adjustments on lower levels; institute an Invitational Rating system; not rate events where opponents are FIDE rated below a certain threshold; and the USCF philosophy regarding FIDE ratings were considered. Mark Glickman and Mike Nolan agreed to investigate the correspondence between USCF and FIDE ratings particularly regarding youth. Their findings will help determine a comprehensive ratings policy, which will be presented at the April Executive Board meeting.

Quick rating formulae testing was the next subject considered. Bill Goichberg noted that two formulas approved in November 2009 for testing have not yet been done. Jim Berry, Mark Glickman, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall commented on quick ratings tests. Mark Glickman explained the Glicko-2 rating system. Hall noted it might be a streamlined way of handling several concerns with the current Elo system. Nolan will schedule the Quick tests and have results ready in late spring. Some Glicko-2 testing results might be ready for the Ratings Workshop in August.

Goichberg then gave the background on and need for additional revised K factor testing. Bill Hall, Ruth Haring, Mark Glickman, Bill Goichberg, Mike Nolan and Jim Berry dialogued about the importance of accuracy and volatility. Nolan, Goichberg, and Glickman agreed to do additional testing with results and recommendations coming back to the Board. After consideration, it was agreed that the K factor testing in the regular rating should be scheduled first

Jim Berry introduced the topic of credit for titles based on pre-1992 play. The type of supporting information necessary to qualify and an alternate norm system for pre-1977 data were discussed.

Briefly Bill Goichberg and Mark Glickman talked about a proposed invitational rating system. Glickman was thanked for participating and left the meeting.

Next, Bill Hall answered questions on the standard policy for payment of postal prizes. A recent odd glitch had caused concern.

Time, menu, budget and a name change for the US Open President's Reception event were discussed. Pat Smith will use her consummate negotiating skills to work out the details.

Regarding the next agenda item “ Office employee to monitor threads each day in Issues Forum”, Bill Hall reported that Judy Misner and Mike Nolan already perform that function.

A short discussion on appropriateness of USCF employees serving as committee chair took place.

The Board then considered the K-8 Tournament of Champions. Mike Nietman answered questions from Mike Atkins, Jim Berry, Bill Goichberg and Bill Hall regarding format. He will email a complete packet to the Board to review and then vote on next week. Nietman also reported on two special donations for the tournament.

EB11-022 (Nietman) The Executive Board accepts the resignation of Dewain Barber as the chairman of the Barber K-8 Invitational Committee and that the Executive Board names Tony Rich as chair of the committee. **Passed 5-0** with Randy Bauer and Gary Walters not present.

Subsequently Mike Nietman briefed the Board on new World Youth qualifications. A final proposal will be completed by the Scholastic Council in the next few weeks and emailed to the Board for approval.

A proposal to revamp tournament memberships with three-month memberships for adults and juniors and four-month memberships for scholastic and primaries available only through organizers as a means of increasing membership was introduced by Bill Goichberg. Ruth Haring, Jim Berry, Bill Hall, Mike Nietman, Mike Nolan and Mike Atkins joined the deliberations. Hall and Goichberg will work out the details and email to the Board for approval.

Bill Goichberg reported that the Governance Task Force (GTF) was ready to begin work again and had asked for direction from the Board. “Who should be the Board of Directors?” and a procedure for candidate certification were two subjects already identified for their consideration. In addition, the GTF is to examine what the ideal size of the EB is to be as well as the ideal number of delegates.

Use of Amazon.com email services was briefly discussed. Mike Nolan will study the possibility and send a report to the Board by the end of February.

The meeting was adjourned to be reconvened at 11:30AM on February 6, 2011 in closed session.