

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 25th July 2023 from 17:00 to 21:45 CEST in at Rudolf Hildebrand School in Markkleeberg/Leipzig, Germany.

Agenda

0. Present

President:	Martin Stiassny
Vice-President:	Li Ting
Vice-President:	Jean-Yves Papazoglou
Vice-President:	Damir Medak
Secretary:	Nicholas Roussos
Treasurer:	Harry van der Krogt
Executive Officer:	Catalin Taranu

Official representatives, 27 countries:

Country	Representatives	Votes
Austria	Ion Elian Grigoriu, Mirta Medak	2
Belgium	Frank Segers	2
Croatia	Damir Medak	1
Cyprus	Nicholas Roussos	1
Czechia	Lenka Dankova	2
Denmark	Mathis Elmggaard Isaksen, Finn Nørgaard	1
Finland	Tomi Petäjaniemi	2
France	Ralf Würtzinger	4
Germany	Antonius Claasen	4
Hungary	György Csizmadia, László Bóviz	2

Ireland	Stephen Nulty	1
Israel	Amir Fragman, Ali Jabarin	2
Italy	Francesco Potorti, William Korcari	2
Lithuania	Tomas Sabirovas	2
Netherlands	Frank Janssen	3
Norway	Pål Sannes	1
Poland	Oleksandr Yeroshkin	2
Portugal	João Ferreira	1
Romania	Darius Dobranis	2
Serbia	Mihajlo Andjelic	2
Slovakia	Pavol Chalmoviansky	2
Slovenia	Maja Logar	1
Spain	Carlos Moreno Morera	2
Sweden	Anton Silfver	2
Switzerland	Flavien Aubelle, Lorenz Trippel	2
Ukraine	Dmitry Yatsenko	2
United Kingdom	Colin Williams	3
Total:		53

Special Guests:

Mr. Chaiwoo Choi, Executive, Korea Baduk Federation

Mr. Arnold Kim, International Affairs, Korea Baduk Federation

Mr. Liang Zhijie, Secretary General, CEGO

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President, Martin Stiassny, opened the meeting and welcomed Official Guests.

2. Verifying Presence and Voting Rights

3. Accepting the [Agenda](#)

There was a proposed change, to address the European Tournament Calendar and Selection of Hosts right after the break, in order to allow enough time for the discussion. The Agenda, with the proposed change, was accepted unanimously.

4. International Matters:

- a. Presentations from other International bodies - none
- b. Report from IGF Directors [link](#)

5. Acceptance of [Previous Year's AGM Minutes](#)

Accepted unanimously

6. Admission of New Members

No new members

7. Reports of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Presidents, Officers

- a. President Report, Martin Stiassny [link](#)
- b. Secretary Report, Nicholas Roussos [link](#)
Nicholas asked members to look for interested individuals and nominate people for the role of webmaster to help with the EGF web site
- c. Treasurer Report, Harry vd Krogt [link](#)
- d. Vice Presidents Reports
 - Jean-Yves Papazoglou [link](#)
 - Li Ting [link](#)
Colin Williams (UK) asked whether the members will be able to review the new CEGO contract and discuss it before it is signed. Li Ting confirmed this, and mentioned that the same procedure was followed before the first contract was signed.
 - Damir Medak [link](#)
Damir presented his report, providing an outline of his proposal to the EGF Board on how to better recognise Go as a sport, and an overview of the SEYGO tour.

e. Other Reports of Board members

- Catalin Taranu [link](#)

Catalin raised some flags regarding youth activities. He asked National Associations to support the youth, not leaving everything on parents. In some cases, parents of strong young players might not afford to cover expenses for international trips.

Catalin encouraged members to advertise the **EGF Academy** in their countries more actively, as with current numbers the Academy is in danger to stop.

Regarding **SEYGO**, Catalin mentioned that only 2 countries, Romania and Croatia, are steady supporters/participants of the tour. He asked more countries to step up and organise youth events under SEYGO.

8. European Tournament Calendar

a. Update on upcoming events:

- Grand Slam Qualification (Online tournament, September)
- Grand Slam 2023 (Czechia, Prague, October)
- European Pair Go Championship 2023 (Sweden, Leksand, 16-18 August)
- European Student Championship 2023 (Romania, Timișoara, September)
- Grand Prix Final (UK, London, 28-31 December)

b. Call for Candidates/Selection of hosts

- Pair Go Championship 2024: April in **Croatia**, Dubrovnik
 - Damir said we would like to do this in April, in Dubrovnik
- Women Championship 2024: **Slovakia**, looking for sponsors and announce details. August or September in Bratislava.
- European Youth Go Championship (EYGC) 2024: **Germany**, Hamburg, March 2024
- European Pro Championship 2024

This will need to be decided at a later date, subject to securing sponsorships (potential organiser needs to secure sponsorship of €5-10K).
- Student Championship 2024: **Serbia**, September, Novi Sad
- Women Championship 2025: **Czechia**, Prague, September

- Pair Go Championship 2025: **Romania**, Bistrita, April
- Student Championship 2025: **Israel** , September or October
- European Youth Go Championship (EYGC) 2025: **Romania**, Vatra Dornei, around March
- European Pro Championship 2025
This will need to be decided at a later date, same as EPC 2024 above.
- EGC 2026: Turkey expressed interest
UK asked to clarify deadlines for applying for and being awarded the EGC. Martin explained that we decide 2 years ahead, so 2026 will be decided during the AGM at EGC 2024 in Toulouse.

To take advantage of time while still waiting for the pizza, we proceeded with the update reports from EGC 2022 (Vatra Dornei) and EGC 2024 (Toulouse).

EGC 2022: Catalin gave the update. He explained difficulties faced due to Covid and late responses.

EGC 2024: Jean-Yves gave the update on EGC 2024 preparations and showed a video. He welcomed everyone to join now with an early bird fee (50% reduction until end of August 2023). There was a question about accommodation and Jean-Yves explained that people need to first register for the Congress and then the organisers can assist them with the accommodation. Martin asked for the number of registrations to date. Jean-Yves said there are about 370 registrations by now and the organisers are optimistic that there will be more than 1.000 registrations.

9. Report of the Auditors for 2022 (Nicole de Beer, Toby Manning), discharge of the Board.

The auditors could not attend the AGM. Our Treasurer described how the audit took place and his communication with the Auditors. The Auditors provided a recommendation for better budget control. Despite this, they recommended that the Board be discharged. The Board was discharged unanimously by the members.

10. Reports of Officers/Chairmen of the Commissions

- a. Pros Commission: Ali Jabarin
Ali presented his report.

- b. Tournaments & Rules, Michal Timko, David Zacek, Laszlo Boviz, François Myzessin - No report was presented.
- c. Ratings (EGD), Lorenz Trippel [link](#)
Lorenz presented his report. He explained how EGD now has a Privacy Policy and the way EGD operates based on Legitimate Interest. Lorenz also explained the difficulty in discussing and deciding on certain matters, because the Rating System Commission does not exist anymore and he said some things are to be discussed online on the lifein19x19 forum. Nicholas urged members to identify people from their countries (e.g. mathematicians, physicists, etc) who could support Lorenz on such discussions. Colin Williams (UK) suggested that EGD communicates any questions for opinions to the members through EGF and expect to get feedback within a reasonable time. Lorenz agreed to circulate the current matters he would like to discuss.
- d. Rating System Commission: Ales Cieply, Michael Silcher, Dave de Vos, Geoff Kaniuk.
It was clarified to the AGM that this commission no longer exists.
- e. Appeals: Leo Dal Zovo, Kerem Karaerkek
No report.
- f. Academy: Cris Bratu [link](#)
Cris Bratu could not attend the AGM. Catalin talked briefly about the current situation with the Academy and how the fees needed to be raised in order to cover expenses with the reduced number of students. He described the league, and explained that essentially for €30 participants receive 8 lessons.
- g. SEYGO: Damir Medak covered this in his VP report earlier.

11. Proposals from Members / Board Members / Commissions

- a. Proposal 1: EGF to devise a system and present it to AGM in 2024 or earlier.
Damir Medak described the system proposed in order to better recognise Go as a sport, with proper organisation, teachers, referees, etc. He explained the need for EGF to provide a system to its members to enable proper membership management.
Colin Williams (UK) expressed the concern that some countries may end up

with multiple membership systems.

Italy noted that we need to explain to organisers that every game uploaded to EGD costs something.

Serbia asked what would be the effect of Go players who are not members of a national association and whether they can still play in tournaments.

The answer was that nothing changes and yes they can still play. The concept is for members to pay reduced registration fees, while non-members will pay the normal fee.

Colin Williams (UK) added that this concept works, as it is currently used in the UK. He noted that tournament directors will need access to this system, so that they know which players are members and eligible for reduced fees. It was noted that some tournaments don't charge a fee.

Sweden noted that they currently don't charge membership fees and only charge for tournaments.

Darius Dobranis (Romania) phrased the issue of fees, where many players play in tournaments, but are not members of the national association. It was noted that this is included in the issues we are trying to solve with a new system. Colin Williams (UK) noted that if foreign players play in the UK, then it is the responsibility of the UK tournament directors to collect the right fee.

The proposal was **accepted** with 49 votes for and 4 against.

- b. Proposal 3: Czechia proposed to consider active players 10 kyu or stronger who were active in the past year as opposed to past 3 years.

Ali Jabarin (Israel) raised the concern that we voted to increase the membership fee in order to maintain a neutral budget, and then we are discussing changing the calculation for active players to reduce income.

The proposal was **rejected**. 16 votes for, 37 against.

- c. Proposal 2: Increase fee per active member from €3 to €5.
It was explained that the 2024 budget was prepared based on this increase, which was mentioned at the AGM of 2022.

The proposal was **accepted** with 42 votes for, 9 against, and 2 abstains.

- d. Proposal 4: Germany proposed that EGF members cover the membership fees lost from Russia/Belarus for 2023.

Colin Williams (UK) voiced an opinion against this, since EGF did not ask members for such contribution and noting that the budget would be balanced without it.

The proposal was **rejected**. 23 votes for, 25 votes against, 5 abstains

- e. Proposal 5: Voting for lapsed members.

Colin Williams (UK) asked if these countries can play in international events such as the WAGC if they remain members of IGF. Martin Stiassny explained that this would not happen.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted**, that Armenia, Latvia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are now lapsed members.

- f. Proposal 6: Adoption by EGF of IGF Article 20 on multiple nationalities
Amir Fragman (Israel) noted that 5 years sounds like a long time. It was clarified that the EGF maintains the right to accept a lesser period on a case by case basis.

The proposal was **accepted**. 34 votes for, 19 votes against/abstains.

- g. Proposal 7: Czechia proposed that the length of EGC is reduced from 15 days to 8 or 9.

There was a discussion on the matter, but no specific details available to make a vote meaningful. It was agreed that the matter would be revisited.

12. Budgets

- a. Presentation of Budgets 2022/23 

There were no specific questions on the budget, which was circulated in advance of the AGM. There was no discussion further to the membership fee increase covered in proposal 3 (Item 11c above), on which a neutral budget was based. The budget was **approved**. 47 votes for, 2 votes against, 4 abstains.

13. Appointment of Commissions, Auditors

- a. Tournament Rules & Commission:

- Members
 - Michal Timko
 - François Mizessyn
 - László Bővíz
- No other candidates.

b. Appeals Commission:

- Members:
 - Leo Dal Zovo
 - Kerem Karaerkek
- No other candidates.

c. Auditors

- Nicole de Beer and Toby Manning did not offer themselves for reappointment.
- No other candidates. Nicholas explained the importance of identifying two persons to be the auditors for the year's 2023 financials and asked members to look for candidates in their respective countries.

14. European Go Congress

a. Call for candidates congress 2025: Poland

- Tomasz Andrzejewski joined the meeting remotely and presented the Polish proposal. The organisers already started approaching potential sponsors. Tomasz responded to a question on the location, and said that it will be either in Warsaw or Krakow.

The members unanimously agreed to award the organisation to Poland for 2025.

b. Call for candidates congress 2026: Turkey

- Decision for 2026 will be at the Toulouse AGM in 2024.

The meeting had to be concluded at 21:45. There was no time to discuss the cheating incident on PGETC, which was registered under "Miscellaneous" on the agenda by Iceland.

15. Online Participants

Adriana Tomsu, Albert Fenech, Chantal Gajdos, Claude Brisson, Eoghan Barry, Eren Kurter, Fabien Lips, Filip Pettersson, Hallbjorn Thor Gudmundsson, Jitka Bartova, Leonardo Dal Zovo, Martin Finke, Michael Silcher, Nicolai Ryge, Tomasz Andrzejewski, Vidas Sadauskas.