

General Assembly 2007

June 22, 2007 – Copenhagen, Denmark

Minutes

Present: Uwe Martens (DEU), Olivier Boivin (FRA), Laurent Mahé (FRA), Marco Milandri (ITA), Andrea VerPELLI (ITA), András Boda (HUN), Zsanett Lakos (HUN), Jonas Hagerlid (SWE), Kai Oliver Grote (DEU), Juho Pakarinen (FIN), Robert Rijnders (NLD), Nusreta Mauthner (BIH), Martin Mauthner (AUT), Martin Scheichenbauer (AUT), Morten Andersen (DNK), Tina Christensen (DNK), Martin Rep (NLD)

1. Appointment of a chairman of the meeting

Uwe Martens was appointed chairman of the meeting

2. Appointment of a notetaker

Tina Christensen was appointed notetaker

3. Report of the President

The report of the President is available as a separate document.

The shortness of answers from IMSA was discussed, and Laurent Mahé volunteered to contact the IMSA via telephone since their headquarters are in Paris.

4. Changes of the Statutes of the EMA

The new statutes as distributed before the General Assembly were discussed point by point and some changes were made. The main changes regards

- membership, which is now for national organizations. Spain and Finland expect to have national organizations before the end of 2007. Sweden may be starting a process of founding an organization.
- a more formal board with positions of a President and two Vice Presidents (in the original agenda this was a General Secretary and a Treasurer)
- the formalization of the association with headquarters in Denmark which has the most easy terms.

After the discussion all present voted for the new statutes.

5. Elections

5.1 President

Only candidate was Uwe Martens (DEU) who was re-elected as President.

5.2 Two Vice Presidents

A secret ballot was made to elect two of the three candidates. Each member of the General Assembly had two votes. The result was: Laurent Mahé: 8 votes, Martin Rep: 12 votes, Tina Christensen: 14 votes.

Martin Rep and Tina Christensen were elected Vice Presidents.

5.3 Further Members of the Board A board member was elected from each of the remaining national organizations:

Martin Scheichenbauer (AUT)

Laurent Mahé (FRA)

András Boda (HUN) Marco

Milandri (ITA)

6. Creation of Committees

No comments.

7. Financial Matters

No comments.

8. Siting of the Open European Championship 2009

The proposal from Austria was adopted. The OEMC 2009 will take place in Austria, in or near Vienna.

9. Items proposed to the General Assembly

9.1 Mahjong Europe Ranking System MERS: discussion of requirements and regulations

A proposal from Anton Kösters had been presented to the General Assembly. There was general support to increase the minimum number of tournaments for entering the MERS list. It was mentioned that the fading of tournament results needs looking into; there may be need for a faster fading than in the current system.

It was suggested to have a system where only the best (e.g. the best five) results are kept. It was suggested to make stricter requirements for national tournaments than for local tournaments, e.g. regarding non-playing referees, number of sessions.

It was pointed out that it is wise to first make clear what is the purpose of the MERS before actual changes are addressed.

It was decided that the President and the Vice Presidents are responsible for making a proposal, deadline October 1, 2007, for changing the MERS. All board members are encouraged to include any experts or interested persons in their respective organizations in the discussions.

9.2 European Riichi Championship 2008

The proposal from the Netherlands was adopted. It needs to be low-profile in order to be manageable. The participation from different countries is to be finalized later, including non-European participation. It was mentioned that there are riichi-playing communities in Toulouse, France, and in Finland which are likely to be interested.

9.3 Membership of the EMA in the World Mahjong Organization (WMO)

Correspondance from China Majiang Organizing Committee and WMO suffers from lack of details and information. This makes it difficult to decide currently which of the two possible scenarios is preferred: 1. EMA is a member of WMO, representing all member organizations. 2. National orgaizations are individual members. The latter gives a more difficult situation for countries without national organiazations. The ques- tion of membership shall be decided later this year by the board, when more details about WMO are available.

9.4 Public relations of EMA: Newsletter, Website etc.

Improvement of the public relations of EMA is needed. There must be a mailing list for those players who are interested, and more information must be available on the web site.

10. Any other business

It was discussed whether money prizes are acceptable. It was agreed that money prizes are acceptable as long as they are payed by a sponsor and not by the players. Concerns were raised that money prizes changes the character of the game.

It was discussed whether EMA should support top players, e.g. by travel refunds. Mostly it was opined that EMA should not spend the income that may arise on the top players, but rather on all players or on the spreading of mahjong.

Tina Christensen

Copenhagen, July 17, 2007