

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2009

July 3, 2009 – Baden, Austria

Minutes

Present:

Tina Christensen, Morten Andersen (DK),
András Boda, Zsanett Lakos (H),
Topi Musto, Hannu Pajula (FI),
Marco Milandri, Andrea VerPELLI (I),
Carlos Sánchez Martín, Antonio Guillamón Rubio (E),
Olivier Boivin, Sebastien Berret (F),
Martin Mauthner, Martin Scheichenbauer (A),
Mark Chizhenok (RUS),
Kai Oliver Grote, Frauke Roos (D),
Robert Rijnders, Janco Onnink (NL),
Hans Wikström (S),
Paula Pereira Gomes (P)

By absence of president Uwe Martens, VP Tina Christensen is presiding the GA.

1. Appointment of a note taker:
Paula Pereira Gomes volunteered as note taker.
2. Report of the president:
The report of the president is available as a separate document.
Unfortunately Uwe has to resign as chairman of the EMA, due to health problems, which also prevent him from attending the GA. The GA thanks Uwe for his great work during the past years – the presidential report is accepted without amendments.
3. Report of the chairman of the Rule committee For Mahjong Competition Rules:
Members: Robert Rijnders (NL), Mark Chizhenok (RUS), Per Starbäck (S), Martin Hoffman (A), Morten Andersen (DK), Jérôme Bonifas (F), chairman is Tina Christensen (DK).

There is always going to be a discussion but we do want to improve the rules. If someone has suggestions or if there is an issue that rises bring it forward to committee; you can reach them through mail.
4. Admission of membership (in alphabetical order):
 1. Belgium: unanimously admitted
 2. Finland: unanimously admitted
 3. Portugal: unanimously admitted
 4. Russia: unanimously admitted
 5. Slovakia: 1 vote against, admitted
 6. Spain: unanimously admitted
 7. Sweden: unanimously admitted

5. Sitting of future European Championships:
 1. 2nd European Riichi Mahjong ship: Germany has applied for the organization in 2010 in Hannover. There are some details to be worked out, the (new) date appears to be 10 + 11 July 2010. The new presidium will look into it further, but the application is accepted by the GA.
 2. 4th Open European Mahjong Championship 2011: Italy applied for the organization to take place in Mestre). There is no date yet, but it most likely be July again. The preferred venue is completely air-conditioned. Italy proposed the same schedule as Austria but the GA asks that no more than 3 rounds be played on any day. Without sponsors the registration fee will be €230 - €250; that's the maximum fee.
The GA accepts the application.

6. Change of statutes of EMA proposal of the Presidium:
 1. (Art. 3) Riichi as official rule set.
The only change in par.3 is to include Riichi Mahjong. In order to avoid changing the Statutes again while embracing other rule sets(i.e. HK), Robert proposes to scrap 2.2 (disseminating therule sets). It doesn't change the effect or the purpose.
The GA accepts to delete 2.2.
 2. (Art. 9) New structure of Presidium and board
The change explains which members take seat in the Presidium and in the Board.
The GA accepts the proposal.

7. Election of:
 1. The President of the EMA: Uwe is resigning as President and 2 members candidate for President: Martin Mauthner and Robert Rijnders. After the open vote Robert is the new president.
 2. The Vice Presidents: candidates are Tina Christensen, Kai Oliver Grote and András Boda. After voting the new Vice Presidents are Tina and András.
 3. Members of the Presidium: Marco Milandri, Sébastien Berret, Kai Oliver Grote and Martin Mauthner are candidates for the 2 open positions. After voting the 2 new members of the Presidium are Sébastien and Martin.
 4. Nomination of members of the Board: Jonas Hagerlid (Swe), Kai Oliver Grote (D), Mark Chizhenok (RUS), Carlos Sanchez Martin (E), Marco Milandri (I), Topi Musto (F), Paula Pereira Gomes (P), not present: Peter van Damme (B) and Andreas Riha (SLO).

8. Creation of any new Committee:

There should be a committee to look into the ranking system; although it has been altered a bit after the last GA, the system is still considered flawed. Things like weight, required number of tournaments and other issues should be worked out to come to a more widely accepted ranking. Olivier Boivin, Martin Mauthner, Morten Andersen and Janco Onnink form the committee and will tackle this complex problem. They will decide amongst themselves who will be the chairman and they promise to have a proposal ready within 4 months.

9. Items proposed o the General Assembly
 1. EMA Ranking Systems: decision about requirements and regulations (proposal of the Presidium.
 - 1.3 *change*: A maximum of **3** (2 x MERS 1 and 1 x MERS 2) competitions per country and year and rule set can be certified starting in 2010.
 - 2.2 *addition*: Any limitations for maximum players will have to be recognized by the EMA.
 - 2.4 *addition*: MERS 1 tournaments at least **4 sessions of 90 minutes**,
MERS 2 tournaments at least **5 sessions of 120 minutes**,
MERS 5 tournaments at least **8 sessions of 120 minutes**.
 - 2.5 *change*: The tournament must have at least **16** participants from EMA member countries.
 - 2.7 *addition*: An EMA observer must be announced before the beginning of the 1st session. EMA observers report will be publicly available.

3.1 *addition*: If an EMA member country requires a national membership administration – for players to be able to participate in tournaments – then EMA respects that. Players who do not comply with the regulations set by their country, will not enter the (new) EMA ranking list. All member countries with such a regulation will send a list of registered national members to the EMA.

4.2 *addition*: If application for competitions (weight 2 or 5) should be for the same date, EMA will first negotiate with the 2 countries. If both insist on the same date, the date of receipt at the presidium of EMA is decisive.

2. Nomination of an EMA official as Vice Secretary-General of the World mahjong Organization (WMO):

Uwe resigned and after voting Tina Christensen is voted Vice Secretary-General of WMO.

10. Any other business

It was discussed to use a Google agenda to update the playing calendar. Olivier will send a proposal and / or manual to the EMA.

It was discussed that without any funding we can't come any further. With a bit of money we could do a lot more. While there is agreement amongst the board members that this is the case, the presidium is asked to make a proposal on why this would benefit the mahjong culture in Europe and how the available funds would be spend. The Presidium will make a proposal and send it to the board members.

The EMA will let the board know in due time if and when it is necessary to gather again – normally, the next (GA) meeting will be during the OEMC of 2011, but other occasions are available (EC Riichi, WMC).