

Minutes of a Meeting of the Steering Committee, IAGR
Held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008
Johannesburg

1. Opening & Welcome

After an official welcoming of members of the Steering Committee to Johannesburg and a thank you to Serobi Maja for organizing the meeting venue and activities for the visit by the Steering Committee, Chair Dennis Neilander opened the meeting and extended a welcome to members at 9:45 a.m. He congratulated Raja Kumar on his appointment as permanent Executive Director/CEO of the Casino Regulatory Authority in Singapore.

2. Attendance:

Present at the meeting were:

Dennis Neilander, USA (Chairman)
Andre Wilsenach, Alderney, Channel Islands (Vice Chair)
Atle Hamar, Norway
Raja Kumar, Singapore
Jenny Williams, United Kingdom
Serobi Maja, South Africa
Mark Clayton, USA (Observer)
Cheryl Foo, Singapore (Observer)
Anniken Rygg, Norway (Observer)
Susan Hensel, USA (Secretary)

Participating by telephone were:

Peter Cohen, Australia
Mike Sarquis, Australia
Keith Manch, New Zealand

Regrets:

Trudy Smith Fuselier, USA
Larry Gregory, USA
Hases Per Sjoblom, Sweden

3. Approval of Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting in Chicago, Illinois

The minutes of the above meeting were unanimously approved without amendment by the Steering Committee.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Report from the Chair

Chair Neilander reported that due to the large turnover on the Steering Committee last year that there has been a large loss of institutional knowledge. He noted that this year there has been no turnover except for possibly Nana Magomola from South Africa who was appointed as a public official. Due to her elevation, she may no longer be able to serve on the committee.

Chair Neilander stated that he has been hearing concerns about potential scams in which individuals are representing that they are conducting IAGR sponsored games and lotteries. Chair Neilander has appointed an investigator from his agency to look into the potential scams.

6. Steering Committee 2008/2009

Part of the feedback from the Chicago conference concerned the selection process for members of the Steering Committee. Some members do not understand how the selection process works, others are concerned that there is not enough opportunity to participate in the process.

Chair Neilander noted that the IAGR Bylaws are very specific with respect to the officers of IAGR. The Secretary is nominated by the Chair for a period of two years. Chair Neilander noted that Alicia Gibson, South Africa, is no longer a gaming regulator and as a result is no longer serving as IAGR's Secretary. Chair Neilander congratulated Susan Hensel on her appointment to the position of Secretary.

Chair Neilander stated that the Vice Chair is nominated by the Steering Committee and that this is one of the Steering Committee's most important functions. After the Vice Chair has served for one year, then the Vice Chair automatically becomes Chair for the following year.

Chair Neilander noted that anyone from the general membership can be placed on the ballot for an officer position if three members put the individual's name on the ballot. Chair Neilander advised that he will communicate the methodology for the selection of officers to the membership.

The IAGR Bylaws are silent with respect to general membership on the Steering Committee. Chair Neilander stated that existing Steering Committee members traditionally identify new members by identifying those who are interested in serving on the committee and who are willing to contribute to the committee and IAGR.

Chair Neilander observed that IAGR's Bylaws have not been amended since 2000 and suggested creating a sub-committee to look at the Bylaws and appropriate changes to how members are appointed to the Steering Committee. There has also been a suggestion that Steering Committee members have term limits, which Chair Neilander stated has been contemplated in the past but rejected.

After discussion, it was agreed that the formation of a sub-committee was the proper approach to facilitate a review of the Bylaws. Members suggested that the sub-committee should seek input from the general membership and that there be a presentation at the next business meeting outlining the efforts that were made to obtain input from the general membership.

Chair Neilander suggested that as part of its review of the Bylaws, the sub-committee could also explore whether it would make sense to develop rules to ensure representation from around the world.

It was also suggested that a working document be developed for presentation at the business meeting in Rome and that this document be distributed to the general membership prior to the meeting for input by a set deadline. The idea was also raised to make the Bylaws a newsletter topic, including information about how to make nominations from the floor. It was suggested that the newsletter be e-mailed to the general membership as well as posted on the website.

Chair Neilander nominated Peter Cohen; Vice Chair Andre Wilsenach, and Atle Hamar, to serve on the sub-committee and assigned Vice Chair Wilsenach to serve as coordinator of the sub-committee.

The next topic for discussion was the appointment of a Vice Chair who will ascend to the position of Chair in 2009. Pursuant to the IAGR Bylaws, the Steering Committee must nominate the Vice Chair. Chair Neilander sought the names of nominees and suggested that Peter Cohen would be an excellent choice. After discussion concerning the nominating process, the Steering Committee nominated Peter Cohen to serve as Vice Chair and noted that his nomination must be approved by the general membership pursuant to a Jurisdictional Vote during the business meeting in Rome.

7. IAGR Newsletter

Chair Neilander thanked those who contributed to the most recently published newsletter and noted that he is planning three newsletters for the coming year. It was suggested that the newsletter be e-mailed to the general membership in addition to being posted on the website. Chair Neilander will work with Secretary Hensel to obtain e-mail addresses for the general membership. It was agreed that the topic of the next newsletter will be the creation of the Bylaws Sub-Committee.

8. IAGR Website

It was noted that New Jersey has agreed to continue maintaining the website. Susan Hensel reported that she has had conversations with New Jersey regarding its plans to redesign the website and that this project is expected to be underway in the near future. One goal of the redesigned website will be to provide interactivity for the general membership. It is contemplated that the redesigned website would include a public side and a member only side. The member only side would require log in and could contain contact information for members to encourage communication.

9. Internet Working Group

Jenny Williams reported that work has been completed on a Statement of Principles and that final comments on and endorsement of the associated guidelines on technical standards will be sought at a meeting held to coincide with the Gaming Regulators European Forum meeting in Copenhagen in June. It is expected that a final draft of the document will be ready by the next IAGR meeting. Once the document is completed, it will be posted on the IAGR website. In addition to the Statement of Principles and associated technical guidelines, information is being gathered on best practice for compliance and enforcement.

10. Multi-Jurisdictional Form

It was noted that a new change has been made to the form but that the change has not yet been posted to the website. Chair Neilander stated that he would like to discuss who is using the form with the general membership in Rome.

11. Rome 2008 Conference

Topics for Conference

Chair Neilander expressed an interest in expanding the time available for the business meeting. As a result, it was agreed that a maximum of four topics should be slated for conference sessions. It was also suggested that Chair Neilander provide the general membership with the agenda for the business meeting prior to the meeting.

It was noted that Peter Cohen had done considerable analysis of feedback from the Chicago conference and that the following topics were in great demand: problem gambling, Internet gaming and the regulatory review investigative process. Other suggestions from the analysis included emerging gaming jurisdictions and a technology update. In addition, money laundering and financial crimes were of interest.

After individual input from Steering Committee members and general discussion about possible alternatives, the following was agreed upon:

(a) Problem Gambling

This session will be organized by Jenny Williams who will explore including someone from Casino Austria to discuss their program regarding liabilities of casino owners if they do not cooperate in problem gambling programs. It was also suggested that representatives from the European Union be invited to participate and that the session include both a panel discussion and breakout groups.

(b) New Technologies

Raja Kumar will organize this session which will focus on server based and skill based games as well as mobile gaming. Several committee members suggested that the session also highlight issues for regulators to think about in light of these technologies. It was agreed that regulator concerns could be raised either through breakout sessions or through the presence of a regulator on the panel.

(c) Internet Gambling Session

Atle Hamar will be responsible for organizing this session. The session will likely examine the U.S. ban on Internet gambling and the impact of the ban; the Internet Working Groups Statement of Principles and other accomplishments; the European Union's perspective on Internet Gambling and significant legal cases working their way through various jurisdictions.

(d) Financial Crimes/Money Laundering

Keith Manch, New Zealand, will organize this session and explore participation in the session by a representative of the European Union's Financial Action Task Force and the International Monetary Fund.

A general observation was made, based on feedback received from the Chicago 2007 conference, to look for opportunities to make the 2008 conference more interactive. Peter Cohen has also volunteered to serve as Master of Ceremonies for the Rome conference. Committee members agreed that having a Master of Ceremonies was a good idea.

12. IAGR/IAGA Conference 2009

Chair Neilander indicated that among other options, Argentina is being considered for the conference location in 2009.

The Steering Committee members discussed concerns regarding IAGR's input into the selection of conference venues. Chair Neilander and Vice Chair Wilsenach stated that they are planning to attend the International Association of Gaming Attorney's (IAGA) Board of Trustees meeting and will indicate to IAGA that IAGR members would like more input in the conference locations. Andre Wilsenach also reported that he has had conversations with the incoming president of IAGA, Bob Millar, about the memberships' concerns and that he will follow up on those conversations. It was agreed that more information should be obtained from IAGA on how it goes about selecting future locations.

Serobi Maja, South Africa, strongly recommended that IAGR and IAGA consider making South Africa the venue for an upcoming conference. It was noted that South Africa hosted the South African Gaming Conference in Johannesburg simultaneous with the Steering Committee meeting. Atle Hamar suggested that Norway be considered as a future venue.

There being no further business, Chair Neilander closed the meeting at 12:10 p.m. and thanked all members for their participation.