

**Minutes of the Alberta Chess Association
Red Deer, Alberta
July 6, 2002**

In attendance: President Ron Hinds, Vice-President Roy Yearwood, Treasurer Dave Gomboc,
Directors: Arthur Odachowski, Mark Cole, Ford Wong, Tom McKay

Absent: Vonnie Eng, Past-President David Ottosen

Tom McKay appointed acting secretary

Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m. on July 6, 2002

1. Minutes of previous meeting
Corrections to minutes – April 20th meeting did not occur.
Motion to accept minutes of the February 2, 2002 meeting made by Ford Wong.
Seconded by Mark Cole. Motion passed
2. Budget 2002
Dave Gomboc asked if draft 3 is a correct version of what was discussed at the Budget meeting. It was decided that it was correct. Roy moved that we accept with the caveat (seconded by Ford Wong) that if anyone finds something in their notes that conflicts, it can be brought up later.
3. Dave Gomboc motioned (Mark Cole seconded) that Ford Wong be given signing authority because David Ottosen is in Korea.
4. Alberta Sports Recreation and Wilderness Meeting is coming up. Questionnaire must be completed by July 31st. Ford Wong and Dave Gomboc are to get together to fill it out using background information from John Quiring and Ford Wong. They must meet with Government officials sometimes at least 10 days thereafter. This year's plan has to be submitted along with it. Government wants a clear plan of what we do. It is very tedious and detailed. We have to demonstrate to the Government that we know what we are doing. Our answers to the questionnaire are critical as we may lose funding. There are two questionnaires, one due July 31st and one due 10 days before the meeting with the Government representative.
5. Juraj Pivavorov has more time now to get membership details.
6. Digital clocks
Quotes from the CFC and Chess'N Math were discussed. FIDE clocks would cost more than \$150 each. Chess'N Math use the Precision clocks. They do not have as many features. Precision only has game in "x" minutes. The decision about analog versus digital clocks was discussed. The recommendation is to buy Saitek II clocks. Tom moves to support the CFC, and that we order Saitek II clocks from CFC ASAP (seconded by Arthur Odachowski). Roy Yearwood feels we should find the cheapest clocks available and order them. Ford Wong agrees we should support the CFC because it benefits chess in Canada but the consumer in him thinks he should investigate all possibilities. Much more discussion occurs. Voting takes place, 4 in favor, motion passed.
7. Motion to pay the \$185.00 shortfall to the CFC for the rating of the AYCC. Moved by Dave Gomboc (seconded by Roy Yearwood)
Motion: The ACA pays the \$185.00 shortfall to the CFC for the AYCC entry fees.
Motion passed unanimously.

8. How to improve future Alberta Junior and AYCC

Dave Gomboc advises that parents have complained about lack of tournament details, ratings not used, behavior of individuals, and poorly organized events. ACA must do better. Tournament details must be provided in advance including location, dates, starting times, time controls, entry fees, eligibility, etc... Arthur Odachowski recommended that the tournament be moved between Calgary and Edmonton since we have no one in Red Deer. One day tournament, 5 rounds, 1 hour each time control or 45 minutes for players over 10 years of age and 30 minutes for under. Another venue is a two day tournament divided so that younger kids finish in one day and the older kids in two days with longer time controls.

Tiebreak rules should be laid out ahead of time. Rules must be followed. Dave Gomboc said Alberta Junior is in November. We received a lot of justifiable complaints and we shall do better.

EJCC supplied recommendations for handling junior tournaments.

Alexander Kazakevich offered to organize the Alberta junior tournament if the date is moved to the end of November.

Dave Gomboc suggested how to improve the Alberta Junior. Two days should be allowed with normal length games. AYCC should also be a two day event. Chess'N Math events are for casual players. CFC tournaments are for more serious players. Two would relieve scheduling problems.

Arthur Odachowski will provide written details on how to improve junior tournaments in Alberta.

Action item: Arthur Odachowski will coordinate with CJCC and EJCC to provide guidelines for junior chess championship tournaments in Alberta and will report back to the ACA by the end of August.

9. Discipline

A letter of complaint was received concerning the behavior of the President of the Calgary Junior Chess Club. Arthur Odachowski earlier advised that he was speaking on behalf of Ms. Jolicoeur and the Calgary Junior Chess Club. He was ruled to be in conflict of interest and was asked to leave. Arthur Odachowski stated that he is not in conflict of interest because he is an ACA board member. His loyalty is to the ACA. Arthur Odachowski was allowed to stay but not to vote.

Letters of complaint were forwarded by parents concerning the behavior of the President and one of the directors of the CJCC. Ron Hinds read a letter from a parent concerning Ms. Jolicoeur (see Appendix 1). A passage from the letter referred to the behavior of other people. Ron reported that the term "other people" referred to Ms. Eng and Arthur Odachowski

Ron Hinds read the second letter of complaint signed by several parents concerning the behavior of Ms. Eng (see Appendix 2). A third letter also pertaining to the behavior of Ms. Eng was written by a board member and was read by Ron Hinds (see Appendix 3).

Ron Hinds advised that he personally witnessed the incident involving Ms. Jolicoeur.

Arthur Odachowski said that he was there. Mrs. Pradhan's daughter had 4 black so she complained that there was a conspiracy and that they were prejudiced and unfairly treated. It was explained to the mother who then started shouting and arguing. Ms. Jolicoeur yelled back.

Ron Hinds advised that Ms. Jolicoeur acted aggressively and tried to grab a piece of paper away from the mother. Ms Jolicoeur was screaming and yelling at the mother in front of the kids and other parents. Ron Hinds stated that there were several people and children within the tournament site at this time.

Dave Gomboc asked when did this happen and he was told that it was recently.

Ron Hinds advised that he is looking for a clear condemnation, not of the people, but of their actions. Yelling and shouting by chess officials must not be tolerated. Ron Hinds has asked for advice from 2 CFC Governors.

Dave Gomboc asked Arthur if the contents of the letter were accurate. Arthur Odachowski advised that Ms. Jolicoeur was provoked by the parent. Arthur advised that in the case of Ms. Jolicoeur, no profanities were used whilst, in Ms. Eng's case, they were.

Ron Hinds read an example motion designed for him by an anonymous CFC Governor of long standing.

Roy Yearwood put forth the following motion:

"The ACA condemns the abusive behavior of Ms. Eng and Ms. Jolicoeur in recent youth chess events. Such behavior is unacceptable and contrary to the Mission Statement of the ACA" (seconded by Ford Wong)

Dave Gomboc advises that he feels it is inappropriate for any chess official to yell and scream at a parent or a player, even if the other person behaves that way.

It was agreed by all that this behavior was unacceptable.

Vote taken, 5 votes in favor, Arthur Odachowski not allowed to vote, Ron Hinds as President did not need to vote. Motion passed

Dave advises that the ACA form a conduct committee to consider the written complaints of the behavior of Ms. Eng and Ms. Jolicoeur.

Ron Hinds read an example letter designed by an anonymous CFC Governor that could go to Ms. Eng and Ms. Jolicoeur. It was recommended by the CFC Governor that ACA President Ron Hinds write to Ms. Eng and Ms. Jolicoeur. Ron Hinds would like it to be co-signed by Dave Gomboc and Ford Wong.

Arthur Odachowski again expressed the opinion that Ron Hinds should not be writing the letter to Ms. Jolicoeur since Arthur feels that he may be in a conflict of interest.

The example letter designed by the anonymous CFC Governor states:

"I am writing as President of the Alberta Chess Association to discuss a very serious matter related to your recent conduct at Youth Chess events. We are always looking for volunteers to run chess events, and are grateful to anyone who donates their time. At the same time, there are certain standards of conduct that must be maintained at chess tournaments, to provide a smoothly run, enjoyable event for everyone who shows up.

I am very disturbed by events that I have personally witnessed, as well as other events that have been described to me by several people. It is fair to say that numerous parents are very upset by your actions and words. It is clear that you were abusive to parents and players, and the ACA board has unanimously passed a motion condemning this behavior. It would be appropriate for you to resign your position as ..."

A similar letter will be sent to the CJCC recommending that they ask for Ms. Eng and Ms. Jolicoeur's resignations.

Ford Wong would like to take it further against Ms. Eng and not allow her to direct any ACA junior tournaments.

Dave Gomboc recommends that we write the letters and then see what they do. If they resign, no further action is required. If they do not resign, we can then form a conduct committee to look into further discipline.

10. New Business

Roy Yearwood submitted his tournament report to Dave Gomboc from the Canada Day Open and asked for a cheque to cover it.

Arthur Odachowski and Ron Hinds asked for cheques for gas for driving to this meeting.

11. Adjournment

Roy Yearwood moved that we adjourn the meeting (seconded by Ford Wong)
Next meeting: in November, 2002

Meeting closed at 14:30

Appendix 1

Complaint letter relating to behavior of Ms. Jolicoeur

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Attention: ACA President

I would like to lodge an official complaint against the CJCC President and would like to outline the events that support these complaints.

As a concerned parent, there were some issues that were unclear to me at the last city championship and I raised them with you personally. Instead, my family was met with personal attacks by the President of the CJCC who misused her authority, broke in and took over the conversation. We were humiliated in public; this abuse of parents is a bad influence on children, general public and other parents.

This unsportsmanship behavior has become a trend within the junior tournaments and we feel that our family has become a target of malicious attacks. The president of the CJCC has set a standard of abuse amongst the CJCC members, as we have met with similar behavior from other executive members.

I require a written apology and demand her resignation. I would like to request the ACA to take appropriate measures to relieve the CJCC President of her duties.

Muneer Pradhan

Appendix 2

To: Alberta Chess Association Board
The board and President (Ron Hinds)

June 8, 2002-07-23

Re: Vonnie Eng (Eshelman)
CFC Tournament @ Red Deer College

This letter is to advise that we, the parents, of the children in the above and future tournament wish to advise the conduct of Vonnie Eng and bring your attention to the following incidences:

She abused her authority. She was rude to the children and provocative to the parents. She refused to listen. Her behavior was abusive towards children and parents. As she yelled; "shut up", "psycho" and even went to the extent of using profound language such as "F" and "A" words. She also slammed the doors. When brought to her attention she even did it more.

With this in consideration she has left a psychological impression on the children and has proven herself as a "bad" role model.

We asked the board to remove her from the board and any further directing of any Chess tournament across Alberta. She should be removed from any chess organizations. This letter has been written without prejudice. Please turn over for all the parents' signature.

Alena Kazakevich
Charlie Chi
Samina Aggarwal
Muneer Pradhan
Harry Wong
Alex Marina Smorshchok
Elroy Deimert
Marg Fokkema
Anna VandenPol (observing friend)
Ron Henbest

Appendix 3

To the board of Alberta Chess Association

Situation that happened on Alberta Youth Chess Championship 2002 is embarrassing for ACA.

In April I called Arthur Odachowski who should be TD AYCC 2002 and asked him to give me information about this event. This information I needed before Edmonton Youth Championship to give it to the young players who will play on the AYCC. I also asked him about time control and told him that time control should be regular in my opinion. According to CFC this tournament should be regular rated. Only the provinces that are not able to do it in regular (because of clocks absence or very low players rating) can run tournaments in other forms. Arthur answered me that he will talk to Dr. Ronald Hinds and David Ottosen and phone me back in 2-3 days. He did not do it. Besides that I asked him to post all the information about AYCC on the ACA website and he did not do that either.

When I came to AYCC I found out that Arthur Odachowski decline to be a TD and Vonnie Eng took control of organizing the tournament but nobody give her the right to do that. Time control was kept active and entry fee was only two dollars despite of 7 dollars for members and 10 dollars for non-members according to CFC. I asked Vonnie to stop registration for 5 minutes and tell her that we need to discuss how to run the tournament in a proper way. She told me that she does not have time for discussion and that tournament will run active and entry fee will be 2 dollars. She did not listen to anyone and nobody could stop her from taking the full control. I was trying to prevent her but she was just talking to me as if I was an annoying child. That abused me as an ACA director, President of Edmonton Junior Chess Club and a parent. A little later came Dave Gomboc who told me that he was an official TD after Arthur Odachowski. But Vonnie still stayed on top of everything and her behavior started to be absolutely abnormal and that had a bad affect on the children and their parents. Vonnie yelled at the parents and kids (youngest kids got scared) and slammed the doors. Then I left not to tense up the situation.

After that most parents just wanted to take their kids and go home. I stopped them from doing it by reasoning them that this tournament is for their kids. After that parents told TD Dave Gomboc that Vonnie cannot stay and should leave the tournament. Then the parents wrote the letter about Vonnie's behavior, they asked me to present this letter on the ACA board and ask the board to:

1. Not allow her to be an organizer of any chess tournament for kids.
2. Ask her to step down from being a member of ACA board.

Besides that in a group under 10 in a Swiss system tournament the rating was not used for pairing, instead random pairing was used and that affected the final results. Many parents complained about that.

Vonnie directed group under 12 where her son played. Considering her behavior that day it was a bad pressure for other children in that group and it affected the final result as well. When I asked the board on the January meeting to be a TD for this tournament you did not allow me to do that because my daughter was playing in it.

My suggestions to avoid the situation like this in the future are:

1. The ACA board should establish the rules of the AYCC (under 10, 12, 14, 16, 18) and AJCC (under 20) tournaments and TD should follow those rules.
2. These rules should be posted on the ACA website not later than two months in advance.
3. Parents cannot be a TD in a group where their child plays.

Because the main goals of AYCC and AJCC are to:

1. Find the champion in each category (under 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20)
2. Determine who will get the financial support to go to national championship

3. Determine who will take part in the Alberta Closed (for AJCC under 20)

My suggestions are:

1. AYCC and AJCC should be closed round-robin tournaments with 6 players and with a time control similar to the national championship.
2. Have open qualify tournaments for North and South Alberta (3 players from each should be qualified to play in AYCC and AJCC).
3. Change the date of AJCC 2002 from 1st November to last weekend of November 2002 (November 22-23rd or November 30th-December 1st) to avoid conflicts with other tournaments.

Sincerely,
Alexander Kazakevich