

**Minutes of the Alberta Chess Association  
Red Deer, Alberta  
October 26th, 2002**

Minutes of the Alberta Chess Association Board Meeting

Held Saturday October 26, 2002 at the G.H. Dawe Centre in Red Deer, Alberta

In attendance: President: Dr. Ron Hinds, Vice President: Micah Hughey, Treasurer: Dave Gomboc, Past President: Dave Ottosen, Secretary: Tom McKay, Directors: Dr. Grant Brown, Ford Wong, Archie Robertson, Arthur Odachowski and James Chapman. Absent: Director: Alexander Kazakevich. There is also currently 1 vacant Director position.

President Ron Hinds called the meeting to order at 11:14 a.m.

- 1: The Board members were very briefly introduced by the President.
- 2: The agenda was discussed and EJCC Funding and issues, Tournament Schedule for 2003 and Audit were added.
- 3: Micah moved we accept the minutes of the August 24, 2002 ACA Board meeting. Dave Ottosen seconded and the motion passed.
- 4: Dave Gomboc presented the same 2001 financial report as in the AGM. It is also in the Plan.
- 5: Grant Brown suggested the new Board members receive handbooks that have the Plan, By-Laws, Constitution, Policies, etc. as was provided in the past. It was agreed that this should be done, although nobody agreed to do it.
- 6: Ron Hinds turned the chair over to Vice President Micah Hughey to deal with the Board of Inquiry portion of the agenda. Micah then turned the Chair over to Past President Dave Ottosen as Micah did not want to chair that portion of the meeting. Dave assumed the Chair and asked Grant Brown to give a report. Grant advised all the Board of Inquiry members were unanimous in the recommendations contained in the Report of the Board of Inquiry. Allegations that Grant was the instigator and most severe member of the Board of Inquiry are incorrect.
- 7: Ford Wong moved the ACA Board accepts receipt of the Board of Inquiry report. Micah Hughey seconded and the motion passed.
- 8: It was decided that Grant Brown, Ron Hinds and Arthur Odachowski would not be allowed to vote on motions concerning the BOI, but they would be allowed to participate in discussion.
- 9: Grant moved that Vonnie Eng be given a ban of indefinite duration on accessing the ACA complaints / disciplinary procedures as a complainant; plus a one-year ban on attending at any and all ACA events, followed by a one-year probationary period. Both penalties are to be effective the date this ACA motion is passed. Ms. Eng may apply to regain access to the ACA complaints / disciplinary procedures after a period of one year, and reinstatement is then at the unfettered discretion of the ACA Board. Ford seconded.

Arthur Odachowski moved an amendment to Accept the motion as is except to remove the 1 year ban of Vonnie Eng. James Chapman seconded and the amendment was rejected by a vote of 1 in favor and 4 opposed.

The original motion was thoroughly discussed and then Dave Ottosen called the question. The motion passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 1 opposed. The secretary is to send a letter to Vonnie advising her of the motion, advising if she needs clarification to contact the ACA Board.

10: Grant moved that Nelson Eshleman be given a ban on attending at any and all ACA events, effective the date this ACA motion is passed and continuing until such time as the ACA Secretary receives full written apologies addressed individually to Grant Brown for the unfounded personal attack upon his character, to Grant Brown, Walter Watson, and Adrien Regimbald for attacking the integrity of the Board of Inquiry processes, and to Ronald Hinds for subjecting him to the profanity and general unpleasantness of these attacks. Ford seconded. The motion was thoroughly discussed and then Dave called the question and the motion passed with 4 in favor and 2 opposed.

The secretary is to send a letter to Nelson advising him of the motion.

11: Grant moved that Jovette Jolicoeur receive a two-year ban on accessing the ACA complaints / disciplinary procedures as a complainant; plus a two-year probationary term, to run concurrently and effective the date this ACA motion is passed. Ford seconded. The motion was thoroughly discussed and then Dave called the question. The motion passed with 5 in favor and 1 opposed. The secretary is to send a letter to Jovette advising her of the motion.

12: Grant moved that Arthur Odachowski receive a two-year ban on accessing the ACA complaints / disciplinary procedures as a complainant; plus a two-year probationary term, to run concurrently and effective the date this ACA motion is passed. Ford seconded. The motion was thoroughly discussed and then Dave called the question. The motion passed with 4 in favor and 2 opposed. The secretary is to send Arthur a letter advising him of the motion.

13: Grant moved that Jim Daniluk be sent a letter of Reprimand (to be provided by the BOI). Ford seconded. The motion was thoroughly discussed and then Dave called the question. The motion passed with 5 in favour and 1 opposed. The secretary will send the letter to Jim.

14: Grant moved that Vonnie Eng be sent a letter advising "The ACA Board has determined that you are guilty of gross misconduct in the way you behaved at the AYCC tournament in Red Deer this year. We are therefore issuing a ban on attending at any and all ACA events for a period of three years, followed by an indefinite period of probation. However, this penalty will be suspended upon receipt of a letter by the ACA Secretary in which you, in clear wording, accept responsibility for the misconduct described herein and undertake to be on good behavior for the next two years. This offer does not affect any penalty that may be imposed as a consequence of abuse of the Board of Inquiry processes." Ford seconded.

Micah amended the motion to Vonnie Eng be sent a letter advising "The ACA Board has determined that you are guilty of gross misconduct in the way you behaved at the AYCC tournament in Red Deer this year. We are therefore issuing a ban on attending at any and all ACA events for a period of two years, followed by an indefinite period of probation. This does not affect any penalty that may be imposed as a consequence of abuse of the Board of Inquiry processes." Dave Gomboc seconded. Grant and Ford agreed to the friendly amendment of the original motion.

The motion as amended was discussed thoroughly and then Dave Ottosen called the question. The motion passed with 7 in favor and none opposed. The secretary will send Vonnie a letter advising her of the motion.

15: Grant moved that Jovette Jolicoeur be sent a letter reading "The ACA Board has determined that you are guilty of misconduct in the way you behaved at the CYCC tournament in April this year. We are therefore issuing a ban on attending at any and all ACA events for a period of one year, followed by a one-year period of probation. However, this penalty will be suspended upon receipt of a letter by the ACA Secretary in which you, in clear wording, accept responsibility for

the misconduct described herein and undertake to be on good behavior for the next two years. This offer does not affect any penalty that may be imposed as a consequence of abuse of the Board of Inquiry processes.” Micah seconded. The motion was thoroughly discussed and then Dave called the question. The motion passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed. The secretary will send Jovette a letter advising her of the motion.

16: Grant advised he will not be making a recommendation about Alex Kazakevich because he has sent a letter accepting full responsibility for his misconduct and apologizing for same.

17: Micah moved that Alex Kazakevich be sent a letter advising “The ACA Board understands that you held a non-sanctioned ‘qualifier’ tournament in Edmonton, and used that event as a platform for misinforming Edmonton parents about their children’s eligibility to participate in the open AYCC tournament in Red Deer this year. If this information is basically correct, the ACA would like to receive a letter from you in which you accept full responsibility for the misconduct described above and undertake to be on good behavior for a period of one year. If we do not receive such a letter from you by the date of the next ACA Board meeting, a Conduct Committee will be struck to investigate this allegation, and if you are found guilty of misconduct in relation to it the penalties will be considerably harsher than that offered above.” James seconded. The motion was thoroughly discussed and then Dave called the question. The motion passed with 4 in favor and 3 opposed.

18: Grant moved the ACR print an article reading: “The ACA Board is very concerned about a spate of increasingly disturbing incidents of over-zealousness and even hostility involving chess parents and other adults at junior chess tournaments in the past year. Without attempting to discern the exact rights and wrongs of each situation, we are hereby putting you on notice that any disruptive behavior will be dealt with swiftly and sharply by the ACA in the future, whether at ACA or non-ACA events. We expect the most civil conduct from parents of ACA members, toward both Tournament Directors and other participants in chess events in the province.” Ford seconded. Ford made the friendly amendment that the article also be printed on the ACA website. Archie seconded the amendment, and Grant agreed to the friendly amendment. The amended motion was thoroughly discussed and then Dave called the question. The motion passed with 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

19: Ron Hinds assumed the chair as the BOI issues were now finished. There was discussion on the Harassment Policy. It was suggested the CFC be contacted to see if they have a harassment policy that we can also use. There has never been a reported incident of harassment in the history of the ACA. This will be brought up again at the next Board Meeting.

20: Dave Gomboc gave an overview of how we set a budget and explained the difference between Casino funds and Operating funds. If anyone on the ACA Board receives a request for ACA funding then a copy of the request should be forwarded to the Treasurer.

21: Ford explained the ACA Plan.

22: ACA funding was then discussed. There will be another Casino in Calgary in the fall of 2003. New rules concerning Casino Funds are being considered by the Alberta Gaming Commission.

23: The 2002 Tournament Schedule was discussed. Juraj and Kim will be directing the Alberta Junior Championship in November. Roy Yearwood is organizing the Southern Alberta Open, also in November, and Ford is organizing the 2 weeks before Christmas tournament.

24: Micah advised the ACA is looking for a new Junior Chess coordinator. There was discussion on how we can best assist the junior chess clubs, how to set up lines of communication etc. People don’t know who to communicate with so we need to set up a structure. The EJCC has recently tripled in size and is too big for the Edmonton Chess Club room. Bruce Thomas is their new coordinator. Brian McDonald who lives in Whitecourt and is also involved in Junior Chess is

considering accepting the vacant ACA Director position. He is the Vice President of the EJCC. It would be beneficial to have a junior chess representative on the ACA Board to avoid scheduling conflicts and to assist in communications.

25: Dave Gomboc took over the Chair as Ron Hinds left the room after receiving a call on his cell phone. The ACR was discussed. Micah wants to be Editor, but he wants \$150.00 per issue and wants to print the ACR 12 times per year. Dave Gomboc advised this would increase our costs significantly and would be the largest expense of our Operating Funds. Micah was asked if he would do it for less than \$150.00 per issue and he declined. It was pointed out that this is a honorarium and should not be looked at as a paid position. Dave Gomboc is writing the Alberta Gaming Commission to see if we can use Casino Funds for the ACR. Arthur moved we table this until we receive a reply from the Alberta Gaming Commission. Archie seconded and the motion passed with 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

26: Ron Hinds returned to the Chair and brought up the subject of the lack of Alberta tournament information in En Passant magazine. The secretary will send the Editor of En Passant a list of ACA tournaments. Dave Ottosen will update the CFC Website.

27: Grant advised the ACA and Chess Clubs in Alberta do not do enough to encourage new memberships. Suggestions including providing a few copies of the ACR to Chapters Bookstores for free, Master Simuls with literature about our clubs etc. Dave Gomboc advised he received a message from Peter Stockhausen asking him to contact former CFC members in Alberta. Dave will be contacting them to see why they no longer play chess in the clubs.

28: Grant talked about the excessive price paid by the ACA for chess room rentals in Calgary. The ACA is spending over \$6,000.00 per year to hold tournaments in Calgary and for the Calgary Chess Club. He felt a location could be found in a building that could be rented on a monthly basis for a similar cost. James will look into this and report to the Board at the next meeting.

29: Arthur and James had to leave the meeting.

30: The 2005 Canadian Open was then discussed. As it will be the centennial year for Alberta we would like to host the Canadian Open that year. There was considerable discussion then Grant moved: The ACA solicit bids in the next ACR and on the website to be received by March 31, 2003, from parties interested in organizing the 2005 Canadian Open to be held in Alberta, advising a minimum of \$15,000.00 to be provided by the ACA, pending Gaming Commission approval. Ford seconded. The motion passed with 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

31: A request was received from the ACA webmaster to increase his honorarium from \$50.00 to \$100.00 per year. Dave Gomboc advised this should be brought up at the January budget meeting. It will be considered then.

32: Ford moved: The ACA provide an honorarium of \$100.00 to the members of the Board of Inquiry for their work. The distribution to be determined by the Chair, Grant Brown, as he deems appropriate. Micah seconded. Grant was not allowed to vote on the motion, as he is in a conflict of interest. The motion passed with 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

33: Micah advised the Medicine Hat Open which was held in September has not yet been rated. There was some discussion and then it was decided Ron Hinds would contact Bill to get him to send in the results immediately.

34: The EJCC asked the ACA to purchase a ½ page add for the publication "Chatter in the Castle" at a cost of \$60.00 per issue. It is published by Bruce Thomas who runs a printing shop and is mailed to the families of all junior chess players in Alberta. Dave Gomboc advised this is a budget issue to be discussed at the January Board meeting. An anonymous person provided \$60.00 out of his own funds. Micah will provide the content of the add.

35: Grant moved: The ACA approve Ford and Grant to audit the ACA books. Dave Ottosen seconded. The motion passed with 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

36: Dave Gomboc moved we close a Scotia Bank Casino Funds account in Calgary with a very small balance and move the money to the TD Bank in Edmonton. Grant seconded and the motion passed with 4 in favor and 1 opposed.

37: Dave Gomboc recommends the ACA investigate to see if the ACA should lease building space and then make it available for use by the CCC and CJCC. This is deferred to the next Board meeting.

38: The next ACA Board meeting will be held November 30, 2002. Agenda items to be sent to Ron Hinds at least 7 days prior.

39: There was discussion on unsolicited e-mails and it was agreed that they should be discouraged and Board issues should be left for Board meetings for discussion.

40: Grant moved we adjourn. Micah seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.