



Alberta Chess Association Strategic Planning Meeting

November 24, 2012

Black Knight Inn, Red-Deer, AB

1. Meeting is called to order by President Rick Pedersen: 11:40. In attendance: Rick Pedersen, Ali Razzaq, Dale Haessel, Terry Seehagen, Pat Porter, Robert Davies, Jim Daniluk, Jina Burn by Skype.
Executive Director-Vlad Rekhson
2. Ali gives current bank amounts: Total amounts: Operating: \$42000 (regular), \$51000 (savings), \$45000 (Casino).
3. Junior chess: Vlad presents a proposal for a junior chess system.
4. Jina suggests attracting school kids through in-school presentations for chess where chess rules are explained.
5. Jina had questions about how the Scholastic championship would work. Vlad said that that would be an individual tournament, but top four finishers would count as a team for a team award. Regions can decide to make it a more traditional team event if they wish.
6. Jim MAKES a motion to: adopt in principal Vlad's suggestions for changes to Alberta junior chess, with details being discussed in the budget meeting. Pat seconds. All in favour. Unanimous.
7. Jina raised a question about how ACA can help with coaching to encourage local players. She suggests to use internet options more. The ACA board will discuss this further.
8. Lunch break, 12:45 pm. Meeting resumes at 1:45 pm
9. Registered coaching program is discussed.
10. Jina asks about a possible program for a group of students interested in chess like in a remote community. Vlad suggests that the board discuss it further, but in terms of the suggested registered coach's program, the students that receive funds could if they choose pool them together and receive more lessons as a group.
11. Dale makes a motion to pass the Registered Coaching as is. Ali seconds. Passed unanimously.
12. 2:00 pm. President of the Red-Deer chess club; Alexey Taranik enters to talk about his new club and upcoming events. The first Red Deer Open tournament will be at the of January. Alexey mentions that it would be nice to have some promotion before the event for out of towners, because he doesn't

feel that he has too many local adults who would be interested yet, and the juniors will be intimidated by playing top level players.

13. Alexey's club currently consists of juniors almost entirely and he will now be working with the Red-Deer college.

14. Jina asks to make a face to face meeting of club representatives for ideas. This could be done during the summer months, perhaps in Edmonton. A budget proposal for such a meeting will be presented at the budget meeting.

15. The board discusses tournaments.

16. Dale makes a motion to have a Provincial Seniors with the winner of the provincial receiving a trip to National tournament. The portion of the trip will be sponsored by the ACA with the exact amount determined at the budget meeting. The Alberta Senior's championship will alternate between Edmonton and Calgary, with Calgary hosting the first event in 2013. The age criteria for participation will follow the National championship criteria. Rick suggests amending the motion to say that the first tournament location should be determined by a coin flip. Dale agrees to the amendment. Mike seconds the motion. Passed Unanimous. Pat makes a coin flip and Edmonton receives the original competition in 2013.

17. Jim makes motion to adopt schedule Pat seconds. Passed unanimously.

18. Jina Burn leaves at 4:20 pm.

19. Vlad presents the findings of the ACA technical committee members Dale Haessel, Ali Razzaq and Vlad Rekhson which made suggestions in regards to the Battle of AB and the AB Closed regulations..

20. The board discusses regulations pertaining to the Battle of Alberta.

21. Mike makes motion that team captains should make teams. Dale seconds. Passed unanimously.

22. Jim makes a motion that in round 2, replacements should only step in, in case of a true emergency. If the opposing captain disagrees, the TD should decide what constitutes an emergency. Mike seconds. Passed with a vote of 5-2. Robert Davies and Dale Haessel voted against the motion.

23. Pat Porter makes a motion that only Alberta residents can play at Battle of AB. Terry seconded. Passed unanimously. 5 voted in favour, Dale and Pat voted against the motion.

24. The board discusses the AB Closed regulations.

25. Ali makes motion to accept numbers 1 and 2. As suggested by technical committee members, Vlad and Ali. Jim seconds. Dale makes an amendment to have the winners split the travel fund equally if it is a tie.

26. 2 vote for the change. 3 vote against. Vlad and Ali's suggestion passes.

27. Jim makes a motion that the highest rating in the calendar year prior to the announcement of the players will be used to determine the qualification. Dale seconds. Passed unanimously.
28. Ali makes a motion to make the 2013 budget \$65000 for general expenses, plus \$60,500 for set expenses. Jim seconds. 6 in favour. Terry abstains.
29. Mike makes motion to adjourn. Dale seconded. Passed Unanimously.
30. Meeting is adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Attachments

2013 Tournaments

| Event | Location | Date | Type | Organizer |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Schleinich Sectional | Calgary | January 4-6 | Open | Frank Kluytmans |
| AB Youth Regionals | Multiple | January 19-20 | Jr | Multiple |
| Red-Deer Open | Red-Deer | January 26-27 | Open | Alexey Taranik |
| University Battle of AB | Edmonton | February 2-3 | Open | BradWillis |
| Northern AB Open | Edmonton | February 16-17 | Open | Ali Razzaq |
| AB Youth Championship | Edmonton | March 2-3 | Jr | ? Maybe Richard |
| March of Kings | Calgary | March 9-10 | Open | Frank Kluytmans |
| AB Closed/Reserves | Calgary | March 29-31 | Open | Frank Kluytmans |
| Lethbridge Open | Lethbridge | Apr 6-7 | Open | Dr. Paul Viminitz |
| Edmonton International Qualifier | Edmonton | Apr 20-21 | Open | Ali Razzaq |
| AB Seniors | Edmonton | Apr 27-28 | Sr. | Rick Pedersen |
| Alberta Schools Regional | Multiple | May 4 | Jr | TBD |
| AB Active | Red-Deer | May 5 | Open | Alexey Taranik |
| Calgary International | Calgary | May 14-20 | Open | Ali Razzaq |
| Calgary International Reserves | Calgary | May 18-20 | Open | Frank Kluytmans |
| 30th Trumpeter Classic | Grande-Prairie | June 1-2 | Open | Wade Caughlin |
| Alberta Schools Provincial | Edmonton/Calgary | June 13 | Jr | TBD |
| 8th Edmonton International | Edmonton | June 23-July 1 | Invitation | Micah Hughey |
| 8th Edm. International Reserves | Edmonton | June 30-July 1 | Open | Micah Hughey |
| Fort McMurray Open/AB Women | Fort-McMurray | July 13-14 | Open/Women | Jina Burn |
| Over/Under 1800 | Calgary | August 31-Sept 1 | Open | Frank Kluytmans |
| AB Jr. Qualifiers | Edmonton/Calgary | September 7-8 | Jr. | TBD |
| Medicine Hat Open | Medicine Hat | September 14-15 | Open | Dr. Bill Taylor Micah Hughey/ Jim |
| Battle of AB | Red-Deer | September 21 | Invitation | Daniluk |
| AB Open | Edmonton | October 12-14 | Open | Rick Pedersen |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------|------|-----------------|
| Edmonton Sectional | Edmonton | November 1-3 | Open | Mike Zeggelaar |
| AB Jr./ Reserves | Calgary | November 8-10 | Jr. | Paul Gagne |
| Southern Alberta Open | Calgary | November 23-24 | Open | Frank Kluytmans |
| WBX Team Tournament | Edmonton | December 14-15 | Open | Ali Razzaq |

ACA Registered Coaching Program:

Some of ACA's awards to juniors in various provincial events can be free coaching.

Winners of those awards will be able to choose a coach of their liking among the registered ACA coaches.

ACA registered coaches will need to:

- have a minimum highest achieved rating of 1800.
- Be members in good standing with the ACA

They would need to pay an annual coach registration fee of \$50. Coaches living outside the province can also be registered at a rate of \$200 a year.

Students will be able to choose any coach from the list of coaches. Each individual coach will be able to decide on a rate that he would want to provide lessons at. For example if the student receives \$100 from the ACA towards instruction, the student would then be able to choose whether to pay coach A \$50 an hour for 2 lessons. Coach B, \$20 an hour for 5 lessons or coach C \$30 an hour for 3 lessons and then either to let the \$10 go or to pay the additional \$20 himself.

The idea is to do the following:

- Allow Alberta chess coaches a platform to advertise their services and earn a little extra income.
- Showcase to parents and children that ACA believes that receiving chess instruction is worthwhile.
- Introduce coaching into the ACA agenda.

Alberta Junior Chess

In previous years ACA spent approximately \$15,000 a year on junior chess. We spent approximately \$8000 on Chess Challenge travel which was between \$6000-\$12000 depending on where it was. \$6000 on CYCC Travel and \$1000 on Canadian Junior Travel.

Under my proposal for a new system of AB Junior we would spend approximately the same amount while reaching more diverse population of children and contributing to the chess advancement of different levels of juniors.

The proposal would also aim at involving more chess players and chess organizers from regions outside of Edmonton and Calgary and thus promoting chess province-wide.

Some highlights:

- Cash prizes will not be paid in junior events. Instead, juniors will be awarded with subsidized travel, coaching and trophies/medals/certificates.
- Under this proposal beginner players that win a low rated "Reserves" event will receive some funds from the ACA.
- Instead of paying the \$3 ACA tournament fees from each entry organizers will pass all the received funds to ACA. Those funds would be used to offset some of the expenses.
- Local organizers will be responsible to ensure that an ACA fee for each non-ACA member child is paid.
- At this time I don't see how we can include special girls categories with high prizes. I will suggest giving girls a discounted entry and providing trophies for girls in each event.

3 types of events:

Alberta Youth Championship (Under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18)

Alberta Junior (Under 20)

Alberta Schools Championship (New Proposed Event)

Details on Budget considerations are available in the Jr. Budget document.

Alberta Youth Championship (Under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18)

Currently this event is held and sponsored provincially by ACA where the champion receives typically \$1000 to travel to nationals.

Under my proposal we will add regional qualifiers to this tournament. The regionals will take place either over 2 days or over 1 day under either Regular or Active time controls (depending on the local organizer's preference).

Wherever possible special Reserves sections will be available.

The suggested locations of the regionals are: Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge or Medicine Hat (South Qualifier), Fort McMurray and Grande-Prairie. If one of the qualifiers would not be possible we could include a Red-Deer qualifier, but at this time due to the relatively high costs of each qualifier I will recommend not to have more than 5.

The winners will receive coaching rather than travel in order to make it equal for all winners. Reserves winners will also receive coaching at a smaller amount. Winners of Open and Reserves will also receive a free entry towards the Provincials.

The Provincials will take place in either Edmonton or Calgary. Reserves section will be added in each category.

Winners of each Open Category will receive travel funding to the National Championship. Winners of Reserves in each category will receive coaching.

All events will be CFC rated. CFC Membership will be mandatory for participants of the Alberta Youth Championship. Time Control in all Provincial events will be Regular.

Estimated Expense: \$9920

Alberta Junior Championship (Under 20)

Currently the provincial event is the only one for under 20 juniors. The winner receives \$1000 travel voucher.

I propose to have the provincial event held as a 6 player Round-Robin. The qualification can be based

on winners of Regionals held in Calgary and Edmonton, as well as, 4 players qualified by rating. To make the event prestigious like it should be the out of town participants will receive travel reimbursement. Winner of the Provincial will receive a travel voucher to the national. Winners of Regionals will receive coaching. Each Regional and the Provincials will include Reserves events. The Provincial Championship will consist of 3 days, the Provincial Reserves will consist of 2 days. Regionals will consist of 2 days.

All events will be CFC rated. CFC Membership will be mandatory for participants of the Alberta Junior Championship. Time Control in all events will be regular.

Estimated Expense: \$1590

Alberta Schools Championship

The aim of this event is to promote chess in schools and provide children with a more relaxed atmosphere.

The categories will be:

Elementary: K-6

Jr. High: 7-9

High School: 10-12

Regionals will be held in 6 regions: Edmonton, Calgary, Red-Deer, South (Lethbridge or Medicine-Hat), Fort McMurray and Grande-Prairie.

The event will be held under an Active Swiss Format over 1 day. The local organizers will be able to choose whether to have a traditional team tournament where schools will be able to make teams of 4 players each competing against other schools (each school could have more than 1 team). The alternative will be an individual Swiss event where the top 4 scorers from each school will count for the team score. Wherever possible a special Reserves section will be held for beginner players. The top team of each section (not including reserves) will receive a subsidy for its top 4 players towards the provincial event.

The Provincial Championship will be held in either Edmonton or Calgary. The tournament will be held with Active time control, Individual Swiss Format of 5 rounds.

The tournament will start at 11 am and end at 5 pm allowing for players from Red-Deer to travel back and forth in one day and for players from Edmonton/Calgary to travel back on the day of the event.

Subsidized teams will not have to pay an entry fee and will receive subsidized accommodation and some travel expenses.

The tournament will be CFC rated. Participants will not have to be members of the CFC.

Total estimated expense: \$3600

Total Junior Chess Estimated Expense: **\$15110**

Alberta Chess Association Technical Committee Discussions

Alberta Closed Chess Championship regulations

Committee members were discussing regulations for: 1) rating qualification to the event. 2) Tie-break system in case the first place has a tie.

Ali Razzaq and Vlad Rekhson suggest the following new regulations:

- 1) The rating used to determine qualification to the AB Closed will be the average rating of the first CFC rating list of the month in the 3 months leading up to the registration deadline for the AB Closed. For example, if the AB Closed takes place during the Easter weekend in April, and registration deadline is the middle of March, the average of the first list of January, February and March will be used.
- 2) The following will be used as the tie-break system to determine the AB champion and the recipient of the travel funding. (The first four tie-break rules are the suggested FIDE rules).
 - a) Direct encounter
 - b) The greater number of wins
 - c) Sonneborn-Berger (Total points of opponents you beat plus half the points of opponents you drew).
 - d) Koya System (Only count the points that you scored against opponents that scored at least 50%).
 - e) Total blacks
 - f) Blitz match with time control of 5 minutes and 3 seconds increment per side. Played immediately after the last round of the competition. Tied players will play each other with alternating colours. In case that a match is still tied after the first mini-match, they will repeat the procedure until someone wins.

Committee member Dale Haessel suggests the following:

- 1) highest rating in the year up to the date of choosing the recipient - that way it encourages people not to just sit on their rating (aka if you play it will still be your peak rating for the period). Should be up to say end of March but I am flexible on the cutoff date.
- 2) co-champions and share the prize / voucher (aka 200 \$ towards a tournament so 100 \$ to each person). If you want an "official" champion, then do as they do in the US and play a blitz match just for the namesake but means really nothing.

ACA Board Passed the following:

- 1) The rating used to determine the qualification to the AB Closed Championship will be the highest CFC rating in the calendar year (from January 1st) up to the date of choosing the recipient.
- 2) The following will be used as the tie-break system to determine the AB champion and the recipient of the travel funding. (The first four tie-break rules are the suggested FIDE rules).
 - a) Direct encounter
 - b) The greater number of wins
 - c) Sonneborn-Berger (Total points of opponents you beat plus half the points of opponents you drew).
 - d) Koya System (Only count the points that you scored against opponents that scored at least 50%).
 - e) Total blacks
 - f) Blitz match with time control of 5 minutes and 3 seconds increment per side. Played immediately after the last round of the competition. Tied players will play each other with alternating colours. In case that a match is still tied after the first mini-match, they will repeat the procedure until someone wins.

Battle of AB

The committee members agreed on the following suggestions for the ACA board:

Discussion of committee members:

- 1) We agreed on the proposal to allow captains to choose teams (effectively cancelling the 1900 out of big city rule). Ali suggested studying the possibility to increase the number of participants to 14 or 16 per team to allow more players to participate..
- 2) We agreed that replacements shouldn't be just lower rated than the person they are replacing with the suggested limit of at least 100 points lower. There were also suggestions that no replacements should be allowed after round 1 and no replacements should be allowed unless the other team is notified well in advance We didn't agree on those points.
- 3) We agreed that all the participants should be Alberta residents (meaning that they have an address in the province with a proof provided if requested). There could be some disputed cases, like Eric Hansen, but he still has a residency in Alberta and as far as I understand he no longer has another residence.

Captain of the North; Micah Hughey responded with the following:

1. I would strongly prefer to see the teams remain at 12 players. The captains discussed this extensively in years past, and 12 provides a manageable number of strong players.

--Excellent choice, to allow Captains to choose the teams.

2. Replacements should be lower rated, even if only 1 point lower. There should NOT be an increase to "100 points lower" or anything like this. This could keep a very deserving player, who has travelled all the way to Red Deer as a substitute, on the sidelines in case of illness or injury.
I suggest 1 hour's notice, or no notice required at all.

Captain of the South; Jim Daniluk responded with the following:

I agree with Micah on all but the last point

“There were also suggestions that no replacements should be allowed after round 1 and no replacements should be allowed unless the other team is notified well in advance We didn't agree on those points”.

A replacement should only step in in a true emergency in round 2. If the captains disagree, the TD should decide what constitutes an emergency. This was not the case, as I understand it when Peter replaced Micah. In essence Vlad's preparation for this game was wasted. This is the kind of replacement that could be arranged in advance (I'm NOT saying that happened in this case!). Thus I have to disagree with Micah on this point.

The board agreed on the following:

- 1) Captains will choose teams.
- 2) In round 2, replacements should only step in, in case of a true emergency. If the opposing captain disagrees, the TD should decide what constitutes an emergency.
- 3) Only Alberta Residents can be participants of the Battle of Alberta.

