



## ACA Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2014

Black Knight Inn, Red Deer

Meeting called to order at 11:40 AM by the ACA Vice-President David Miller. In attendance: Treasurer Patrick Porter, Secretary Vlad Rekhson (VR), Executive Director Vladimir Pechenkin (VP), General Directors Ali Razzaq, Micah Hughey, Terry Seehagen, Leah Hughey, Jim Daniluk, Giridhar Koneru. Paul Gagne sends his regrets.

David Miller opens the meeting by addressing the Board. David gives a brief summary of the past year emphasizing achievements and challenges. Overall, the year was a success.

Micah makes a motion to accept 2014 AGM minutes. All in favor.

VP presents a projected income for 2015 based on 2013 operating statement. The Board discusses how much money the ACA can spend in 2015. VR makes a proposal for the 2015 budget: \$65,000 + \$50,000 ED budget. Jim seconds. All in favor except for Terry who abstains.

2015 Tournaments is the next item on the agenda.

**Schleinich Memorial.** Jim moves that the ACA pays \$100/day venue rental even though the tournament will be held at a hotel. VR seconds. Giridhar, Micah, Leah, Patrick are against, Ali abstains. The motion is defeated.

**Regional Youth Championships.** VR gives a brief summary of the youth program designed in 2012 and 2013. The Board agrees to keep the same structure of the youth tournaments in 2015.

Jina Burn joins the meeting at 12:30 PM via Skype. **Northern AB Open** (NAO) date falls on the Valentine's day. Also, both the **University Battle of Alberta** (UBOA) and the **Alberta Youth Chess Championship** (AYCC) should be held in Edmonton in February. The board discusses whether three ACA events may be held in the same city on three consecutive weekends. Finally, the following dates are set. UBOA: February 7-8; NAO: February 14-15; AYCC: Feb. 21-22.

AYCC attendance is expected to exceed the capacity of the Edmonton Chess Club (ECC). VR moves that the ACA tentatively budgets \$500/day for a hotel room rental. Motion passes.

**March of Kings** is scheduled on March 14-15 as it is a traditional date for this event.

The dates of the **Regional School Championships** will be determined by the local organizers.

As usual, **Alberta Closed and Reserves** will be held during the Easter weekend, April 3-5.

**Lethbridge Open** is scheduled for April 11-12.

**Alberta Women's and Seniors Championships** will be held at the ECC on April 25-26.

**10th Edmonton International Qualifier** is moved to May 2-3. The main festival is traditionally scheduled on June 20-28. **8th Calgary International** will be held on July 29 - August 3, the Qualifier is on May 30-31. **AB Active** is moved to August 16.

The dates for the remaining events are accepted with very minor changes. The full ACA tournament schedule for 2015 is appended.

VR makes a motion to approve the calendar, Micah seconds. All in favor. Motion to adjourn for lunch at 1:07 PM.

The meeting is called back to order at 1:35 PM. The board recognizes the need for another signer and recommends that the Vice President David Miller gets a signing authority. Terry presents his proposals as motions.

**Motion #1.** *In accordance with the ACA Bylaws, the Board of Directors as a whole should be the body with the authority to make all major decisions. It is still affirmed that the President would form committees, and these committees would make their recommendations, but these recommendations would always be brought to the Board as a whole, who would then accept or reject them. This does not apply to the Conduct Committee, however.*

Jim seconds. Motion passes.

**Motion #2.** *In particular, it should be the ACA Board as a whole who has the authority to make the final decision concerning hiring and firing the Executive Director.*

Jina seconds. Motion passes.

**Motion #3.** *The ACA Board has two major meetings each year, the Planning Meeting and the Budget Meeting. These two meetings would remain ones at which as many board members as possible would gather in one location, for a face-to-face meeting. Except in special circumstances, all other meetings of the ACA Board would be conducted either by e-mail or through the use of Skype.*

Micah seconds. VR points out that one more face-to-face meeting during the year is necessary. Terry withdraws his motion.

**Motion #4.** *E-mail meetings would be contemplated when only one or two issues need to be decided upon. E-mail meetings would seem to be a natural extension of the Bylaws, Article III, Section 3(e). As a suggestion which would be in the spirit of the Bylaws, in such a meeting a minimum of 6 board members would have to cast a vote by a stated deadline, to constitute a quorum and make the vote valid.*

Jim seconds. Motion passes.

**Motion #6.** *For face-to-face meetings with a quorum that last 4 hours or longer, the ACA should provide funds to purchase a meal for each board member attending.*

Jim makes the corrected motion, VR seconds. Motion passes.

**Motion #7.** *Concerning the two major meetings, the Planning & Budget Meetings, in 2015 and beyond, rather than meeting in a hotel room in Red Deer, as has usually been the case in the past, I propose that one of these meetings be held at the Calgary Chess Club and the other be held at the Edmonton Chess Club. This would save the ACA the hotel room rental costs. The overall travel costs for board members would be exactly the same as in the past. And, I would argue that, overall, it would be a bit more convenient for the board members. Each board member from Calgary and Edmonton would have to make one "road trip" rather than two, although the trip would be of 3 hours greater length.*

VR points out that hotel room costs for board members travelling out of town must be added if the motion passes. No one seconds, however, so the motion is cancelled.

**Motion #8.** *For any tournament on the ACA schedule where the games have a time-control of about 90 minutes per player (I counted 22 such tournaments for 2014), I propose that, rather than the old honorarium of \$35/day, the Tournament Director receive an ACA honorarium of \$25/round directed. This would better reflect the time that actually had to be spent at the Club by the Director. For a 2-day, 5-round tournament, the honorarium would be \$125, rather than the current \$70. For a 3-day, 6-round tournament, it would be \$150, rather than the current \$105. So, the increase would be about \$50 per tournament. With 22 tournaments, the total extra expenditure for the ACA would be in the order of \$1100 per year. (For tournaments with Active time-controls, where there are more rounds played, I am unsure what, if any, change in honorarium would be proper. Perhaps for those tournaments, a flat fee per day would continue to be the best.)*

VR points out that he has a similar motion with slightly different figures and a somewhat different structure of the TD fee raise. VR suggests that the TD fee be increased for a selected set of the most prestigious tournaments only. Only experienced TDs will be appointed to direct such events, while the rest of the tournaments may be directed by TDs with less experience. After a long discussion the Board decides to form a committee that will investigate the issue further. The committee must report to the Board prior to the Budget meeting.

**Motion #9.** *The ACA should organize two more Tournament Director Training Workshops (one in Edmonton and one in Calgary), to train interested people to become competent Tournament Directors. The instructor will be paid \$75 off the operating account. The workshops must be completed by June 1, 2015.*

Micah makes the amended motion, Terry seconds. Motion passes.

**Motion #10.** *The ACA will always try to find a local organizer and a TD for ACA tournaments. If it's not possible, the ACA should be willing to consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether any travel and/or accommodation costs beyond the normal honorariums would be justified for persons to travel from another city to be the Organizer or the TD.*

Motion passes with Leah and Jim opposing and Giridhar abstaining.

**Motion #11.** *All tournaments on the official ACA schedule, and specifically the Medicine Hat Open, would have to adhere to a prize structure approved by the ACA Board. The ACA would desire to work in consultation with the Tournament Organizer in determining the prize structure.*

Leah seconds. The Board delegates the task of designing a prize structure to a committee that must report to the Board by the Budget meeting.

**Motion #12.** *The ACA should award a cash prize of \$200 to the 2014 Medicine Hat Open champion, Tristan Tran-Ly.*

Terry moves but no one seconds. Motion cancelled.

**Motion #13.** *Concerning the Alberta Seniors Championship, the ACA would continue to award a \$500 travel grant to travel to the Canadian or World Seniors Championship, in each of the two sections (age 50-64 & age 65+), if there are a minimum of 6 players in a section. If there were less than 6 players in a section, the travel grant would be as follows: 5,4,or 3 players - \$400; 2 players - \$300; 1 player - \$200.*

**Motion #14.** *Concerning the Alberta Women's Championship, the ACA would continue to award a \$1000 travel grant to travel to the Canadian or World Women's Championship, if there are a minimum of 6 players in the tournament. If there were less than 6 players, the travel grant would be as follows: 5,4,or 3 players - \$800; 2 players - \$600; 1 player - \$400.*

Both motion #13 and #14 are tabled and will be discussed at the Budget meeting.

**Motion #16.** *If any ACA member should achieve the requirements to be awarded an FM or a WFM title, the ACA should pay the fees necessary to officially apply to FIDE for the title. Specifically, at present, if Alex Yam has not yet been able to apply for the FM title, the ACA should pay the fee to do this.*

Micah seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

**Motion #16A.** *If any ACA member should achieve the requirements to be awarded a National Arbiter or a FIDE Arbiter title, the ACA should pay the fees necessary to officially apply for the title. The member must agree to direct at least one ACA tournament.*

Motion passes with 2 abstentions.

**18. Junior Chess.** Jina proposes to form a committee that will deal with the school program. The Board agrees that education is an important topic that should be discussed more thoroughly at a later date.

**2016 Canadian Open** proposal by Vlad Rekhson. *ACA will seek a 3rd party individual or a company (this should probably be someone outside the board due to the potential large sum payment involved) to solicit funds for the purpose of holding the 2016 Canadian Open in Calgary. This 3rd party will need to gather \$50,000 for the 2016 Canadian Open by July 1st, 2015 in order to guarantee ACA support for this venture. If this funding is found and received, the 3rd party that solicited the funds will receive 10% commission of the funds raised from the ACA up to \$10,000.*

*Criteria: The guaranteed \$50,000 must be eligible for the following key tournament expenses:*

- a) Venue*
- b) Prizes*
- c) GM Appearance Fees*
- d) GM Hotel Rooms*

*Sources of raised funds that will be excluded from the commission:*

- a) Entry fees.*
- b) Funding coming from any Alberta Chess Organization.*

Terry seconds. Micah points out that the ACA must see a concrete proposal from the organizers first before any meaningful discussion can occur. VR withdraws the motion. A specific proposal from the organizers is expected to be ready by the Budget meeting.

**Junior Ambassador Award.** *ACA will discontinue its Junior Ambassador Award program and instead use the funds available for it to promote other junior programs in Alberta.*

Motion passes with Leah opposing. The program will be discontinued unless somebody proposes to resume it at the Budget meeting.

**Aaron Sequillion incident** (submitted by Micah Hughey)

*On November 3, 2014, the Edmonton Chess Club Board voted to ban Aaron Sequillion from rated tournaments for one year.*

*During the "Geoff Newton Memorial", Sequillion was caught concealing a cellphone from the Arbiter after making several long trips to the washroom during his game. He lied to the Arbiter, saying that he wasn't carrying a cellphone. A search was conducted, and when a cellphone was found concealed in his pocket, Sequillion refused to unlock the phone so the Arbiter could see his chess engine, and walked out. The Arbiter forfeited Sequillion.*

*This misconduct (some have called it cheating) was witnessed by the Arbiter (Mike Zeggelaar), the ACA Vice President (David Miller), the ACA Executive Director (Vladimir Pechenkin), and ACA Directors Ali Razzaq and Micah Hughey.*

*At the time that he was caught with the concealed cell phone, Sequillion had won 10 consecutive*

*games on Thursday night tournaments at the Edmonton Chess Club, performing at a 2500-level. FIDE sets a maximum penalty of a three-year ban for such misconduct, if it is a first offence.*

*I propose that the ACA ban Aaron Sequillion from all rated games in Alberta for a period of three years. We should make an example out of him for the most serious misconduct in an ACA tournament in decades.*

Leah mentions that she asked Aaron to submit a statement in his defence but did not get a response from him. She then points out that a proper way to deal with the situation is to appoint a Conduct Committee and to proceed in full accordance with the bylaws. Leah suggests that the Conduct Committee be formed immediately.

The ACA President Rick Pedersen and Vice-President David Miller must be on the Conduct Committee according to the bylaws. Patrick also agrees to serve. David will ask a few more people and then report back to the Board.

Since the Tournament Director Mike Zeggelaar has not filed a CFC report yet, the Executive Director will do it instead. VR advises that Aaron Sequillion's wins at the 2014 Geoff Newton Memorial be filed as unrated forfeits. The Board is in agreement.

**Dr. Bill Taylor's request.** *As the ACA is either a Non-Profit Society, or Charity, you MUST provide the Alberta Registrar of Corporations the contact information for ALL Board Members. This information is a matter of public record. In my opinion, it should be freely shared with any interested member of the public AND, more importantly, with any interested member of the Alberta Chess Association.*

*So please discuss this at your Board meeting reaffirming the Board's responsibility to share this information (if requested) with your membership. Once you have done this, please send me the most recent listing of the ACA Board of Directors (to include pertinent contact information (mailing address, phone numbers, AND e-mail addresses) of ALL Board members) AND a copy of the minutes from this Board meeting, as soon as they are finalized and available for distribution.*

The Board authorizes VP to email Dr. Taylor the most recent listing of the ACA Board of Directors with phone numbers and email addresses included. The Board will discuss the whole issue further at a later date.

**Possible bylaws amendments accommodating advances in technology as well as changes in the structure of the Association.** A committee will be formed to investigate the proposal.

VR moves that the Executive Director must be in possession of the ACA phone. Leah seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

**Chess equipment purchase for resale:** *the ACA will buy chess sets and clocks for the purpose of reselling them to clubs, schools and individuals. The ACA is expected to make a small profit.*

VR points out that it is possible, in principle, but there are logistical issues such as storage and ED time. Furthermore, equipment purchase was neither discussed nor approved at the previous Budget meeting. Micah suggests that the President's discretionary fund be used to buy 100 chess sets for schools. Equipment purchase in 2015 will be discussed at the upcoming Budget meeting.

Micah makes a motion that the Executive Director (VP), Organizer (David) and the Tournament Director (Ali) of the 2014 Alberta Open be reimbursed \$120 each for their trip from Edmonton to Calgary. VR seconds. Motion passes with Patrick and Ali abstaining.

There are several **Committees** to be formed. The ACA President is a member of all of them.

**Technical Committee:** Ali, Micah and VR.

**Tournament Committee:** Terry, Patrick and Giridhar.

**Junior Program Committee:** Jina, VR, Leah, Giridhar and Paul Gagne.

**Planning Committee:** Jim, Patrick and David.

**Bylaws Amendment Committee:** Jim, David and Leah.

**Appeals Committee:** VR, Micah and Ali.

**New Business.** Jim discusses the organization of the 2014 Alberta Open and ACA equipment.

Motion to hold the Budget meeting on January 17, 2015. Motion passes.

Micah makes a motion to adjourn, Leah seconds. The meeting is adjourned at 4:57 PM.

## ACA Tournaments in 2015

<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Organizer</b>
Schleinich Memorial Sectional	Calgary	January 2-4	Open	Jim Daniluk
Regional Youth Championships	Multiple	January	Junior	TBD
University Battle of AB	Edmonton	February 7-8	Open	TBD
Northern AB Open	Edmonton	February 14-15	Open	Ali Razzaq
AB Youth Championship	Edmonton	February 21-22	Junior	Jina Burn
March of Kings	Calgary	March 14-15	Open	Jim Daniluk
Regional School Championships	Multiple	March-April	Junior	TBD
AB Closed/Reserves	Calgary	April 3-5	Open	Vlad Rekhson
Lethbridge Open	Lethbridge	April 11-12	Open	Dr. Paul Viminitz
AB Women's	Edmonton	April 25-26	Women	Terry Seehagen
AB Seniors	Edmonton	April 25-26	Senior	Terry Seehagen
Edmonton International Qualifer	Edmonton	May 2-3	Open	Micah Hughey
Red Deer Open	Red Deer	May 16-17	Open	Alexey Taranik
AB Schools Championship	Calgary	May 23	Junior	Paul Gagne
Calgary International Qualifier	Edmonton	May 30-31	Open	Vlad Rekhson
32nd Trumpeter Classic	Grande Prairie	June 6-7	Open	Wade Caughlin
10th Edmonton International	Edmonton	June 20-28	Invitation	Micah Hughey
10th Edmonton Int. Reserves	Edmonton	June 26-28	Open	Micah Hughey
Fort McMurray Open	Fort McMurray	July 4-5	Open	Jina Burn
8th Calgary International	Calgary	July 29 - August 3	Invitation	Vlad Rekhson
8th Calgary International Reserves	Calgary	July 31 - August 2	Open	Vlad Rekhson
AB Active	Red Deer	August 16	Open	Alexey Taranik
Over/Under 1800	Calgary	September 5-6	Open	Jim Daniluk
Battle of AB	Red Deer	September 12	Invitation	Micah Hughey/ Vlad Rekhson
21st Medicine Hat Open	Medicine Hat	September 19-20	Open	Dr. Bill Taylor
Edmonton Junior Regional	Edmonton	October 3-4	Junior	David Miller
AB Open	Edmonton	October 10-12	Open	David Miller
Calgary Junior Regional	Calgary	October	Junior	Vlad Rekhson
Geoff Newton Memorial Sectional	Edmonton	November 6-8	Open	Leah Hughey
AB Junior	Calgary	November 14-15	Junior	Paul Gagne
Southern AB Open	Calgary	November 28-29	Open	Jim Daniluk
WBX Team Tournament	Edmonton	December 12-13	Open	Terry Seehagen