



ACA Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2016

Black Knight Inn, Red Deer

Meeting called to order at 11:20 AM by the ACA President Vlad Rekhson (VR). In attendance: Vice-President Jim Daniluk, Secretary Ian Findlay, Executive Director Vladimir Pechenkin (VP), General Directors Terry Seehagen, Robert Brazeau, Leah Hughey, Dale Haessel, Giridhar (Giri) Koneru and Brad Booker.

VR opens the meeting and invites all attendees to introduce themselves to the others.

Robert moves to approve April 17 ACA Board meeting minutes, Jim seconds. Unanimous.

Committees. VR reiterates that he would like most of the committees to be small. New Board members are encouraged to join committees of their choice.

Planning Committee: VR, Jim, Terry, Ian and Brad.

Coaching Committee is amalgamated with the **Junior Chess Committee:** Jina Burn (chair), Giri, VR, Tristan Tran-Ly and Cristian Ivanescu from Edmonton.

Audit Committee: Dale and Leah. The committee will review ACA ledger, bank statements and cancelled cheques on a quarterly basis beginning in January, 2017.

Bylaws Amendment Committee: Robert (chair), Ian and Brad.

Technical Committee: VR (chair), Terry and Ian.

Appeals Committee remains the same: VR, Micah Hughey and Ali Razzaq. Jim and Dustin Koperski are designated as alternates.

Conduct Committee: VR, Robert, Jim, Leah and Brad.

Giri makes a motion to approve all the committees, Robert seconds. The committees are approved, and the meeting is then adjourned for lunch at 12:08 pm.

Meeting called back to order at 12:47 pm, Jina Burn joins over Skype.

The **2017 ACA Calendar** is the next item on the agenda.

Schleinich Memorial Sectional will be held on January 6-8.

The tournaments in February are: **Northern AB Open** (February 18-19), **Alberta Youth Chess Championship** (February 25-26) and **Calgary Seniors Championship** (February 25-26). The

dates for the **University Battle of Alberta** are not set; VR will be responsible for contacting the university representatives to retrieve more information.

March of Kings (March 11-12), **Lethbridge Open** (April 1-2) and **Alberta Closed and Reserves** (April 14-16) are scheduled on their traditional dates.

VR initiates a discussion on whether the ACA should support the School Championship stream of junior tournaments and/or the Chess Challenge. School Championships first appeared on the ACA calendar in 2013 in lieu of the Chess Challenge tournaments. Now that the ACA can organize both, it looks like the two streams of junior chess almost duplicate each other. An important difference is that the winners of the Alberta Chess Challenge go to the Nationals, which also entails extra cost for the ACA.

The situation is discussed at length, then the Board members are asked whether they prefer supporting both streams of junior tournaments or just one of them. A straw poll is taken, and the majority are in favor of the "either-or" option. A motion to support the Chess Challenge is then made and passes with 7 in favor and 2 abstentions. The President of the Calgary Junior Chess Club Guoliang Wu will organize the **Alberta Chess Challenge** (ACC) on April 8, the actual venue will be determined later.

Alberta Seniors Championship will be held in Edmonton on April 8-9 overlapping with the ACC. **Edmonton International Qualifier** remains on the last weekend of April (29-30), while the **Red Deer Open** is moved back to May 13-14.

The **34th Trumpeter Classic** (June 3-4), and the **Calgary International Qualifier/Fundraiser** (June 10-11) are scheduled as proposed.

12th Edmonton International does not have an organizer yet. The Edmonton Chess Club Board of Directors is going to meet later in November to discuss potential changes of the format of the festival and to appoint a new organizer. The ACA Board reserves June 17-25 for the event.

The **Fort McMurray Open** (combined with the **AB Women's Championship**) will be held during the long weekend of July 1-3. It will be up to the organizer (Jina) to decide on the actual tournament schedule.

The tournaments in August and September are scheduled on their usual dates. **Alberta Open** will remain on the Thanksgiving weekend (October 7-9) along with the AGM. Both Ali Razzaq and Leah expressed interest in organizing the event; the Board will vote on this at the next meeting. **Banff Open** dates are temporarily set to November 11-12 but may change at the next meeting as well. The **Edmonton Fall Sectional** remains on November 27-29. The dates for the remaining events (**AB Jr., Southern AB Open and WBX Tournament**) are accepted as proposed. Finally, AB Active Championship is scheduled for March 25. Ian makes a motion to approve the 2017 ACA calendar (appended), Robert seconds. Unanimous.

The Board then discusses the overall budget figure for 2017. Having examined the balance sheet, Ian suggests that some of the funds be put to a GIC. The Board will discuss this at the Budget meeting. VR explains the financial situation to the Board and proposes to increase the budget this year. Robert then makes a motion that the overall budget figure for 2017 be set to \$75,000, not including the Executive Director (ED) payroll and expenses. Jim seconds and the motion passes with 7 in favor and 2 abstentions.

VR then proposes to discuss the ED salary. VP is asked to leave the room. After some discussion Robert makes a motion that the ED salary be increased by 5% effective immediately. Jina seconds, and the motion passes with 7 in favor and 2 abstentions. Jim moves that ED timesheets are to be turned in on a monthly basis and monitored by the ACA President. Dale seconds, and the motion passes with 8 in favor and 1 abstention. VP returns to the room. Robert then moves that the overall ED budget be increased to \$53,000. Ian seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

2016 Alberta Girls Championship. The tournament will coincide with the Alberta Junior Championship and will serve as a qualifier for the 2017 Susan Polgar Foundation Girls' Invitational tournament in St. Louis, Missouri. Jim moves that the winner of the Qualifier receives a \$500 travel grant from the ACA towards the airfare to St. Louis. The motion passes with 7 in favor and 2 abstentions.

Proposals and Discussion Topics by Terry Seehagen

1) Should it be the Tournament Organizer or Director, or the whole ACA Board, who has the authority to decide such things as: tournament regulations and format, and whether certain people can be banned from entering.

VR explains that local organizers can handle the majority of relatively small issues. However, if an organizer decides to change the dates or the name of the tournament, he must ask the Planning Committee first. Also, organizers do not have the authority to ban people from playing.

2) Should ACA committees have the authority to decide any questions, or should they only give opinions, which must be ratified by the whole ACA Board?

VR explains that ACA committees have the authority to make certain decisions if the Board explicitly granted it to them. Major decisions must always be ratified by the whole ACA Board.

3) A request for more clarity as to whether the ACA or the local club (ECC, CCC, or others) have authority over various aspects of tournaments. In particular, the purchase of trophies, medals, and other prizes of the various Junior tournaments.

Local clubs have been responsible for purchasing trophies and medals for regional junior tournaments since 2015. The clubs collect entry fees (minus \$3 per player) to offset this cost. Prizes for the provincial championships (AYCC, AB Junior) are the responsibility of the ACA.

4) *Does the ACA still have something in the order of \$30,000 of 'surplus' Casino money ? If so, one proposal for spending a bit of it is for the ACA to spend what is necessary to set up an efficient Skype system, through the use of which the ACA meetings could be held.*

Terry and VP will investigate and report back to the Board.

Proposals by Guoliang Wu (Calgary Junior Chess Club President)

1) *Proposal to change the AB Youth Chess Championship prize structure for all age groups:*

1st place: \$800 travel grant towards a trip to the Canadian Youth Chess Championship (CYCC)

2nd place: \$600 travel grant towards a trip to the CYCC.

Travel grants are transferrable if 1st or 2nd place finishers give up the right to go to the CYCC.

2) *Proposal to change the Alberta Junior Championship prize structure:*

1st place: \$800 travel grant towards a trip to Canadian Junior or Canadian Open

2nd place: \$600 travel grant towards a trip to Canadian Junior or Canadian Open

3rd place: \$500 travel grant towards a trip to Canadian Junior or Canadian Open.

Travel grants are transferrable if 1st, 2nd or 3rd place finishers give up the right to go.

The Board discusses the transferability of the travel grants. VP explains various logistical issues associated with the proposal. In particular, since all out-of-province travel grants require AGLC approval, the paperwork would become much more complex and confusing. Also, it's unclear where to draw the line, i.e., whether the ACA really wants to send 7th or 8th place finishers to the nationals. Jim moves to reject transfer of travel grants to lower place finishers for AYCC and AB Junior, Robert seconds. 7 in favor, 1 against with 1 abstention. The actual amounts of the travel grants will be discussed at the Budget meeting.

Chris White's proposal: *I am running another tournament in Grande Prairie on November 12. Just wondering if the ACA will pay for the rating fees in the adult section?*

The Board discusses the proposal pointing out that the aforementioned tournament in Grande Prairie overlaps with the Banff Open. VR asks the Board members to make a motion but no motion is made.

Advertisement on the ACA website. VP asks the Board whether the ACA would like to allow third parties to advertise their products or services on the ACA website. If so, an appropriate policy must be developed. A straw poll results in a 3-3 tie (with the rest abstaining), so the question goes to the Planning Committee.

New business. Robert speaks about selling equipment to clubs at half the price, a formal proposal will be submitted to the Budget meeting. VR brings up an outstanding equipment loan request from the CJCC. Jim moves to lend 5 clocks and a demo board to the CJCC, Giri seconds. 5 in favor, 1 against so the motion passes. Jina leaves the meeting.

Robert moves to adjourn the meeting, Ian seconds. The motion passes with 7 in favor and 1 abstention. The Planning meeting is adjourned at 4:14 pm.

ACA Tournaments 2017

Event	Location	Date	Type	Organizer
Schleinich Memorial Sectional	Calgary	January 6-8	Open	Frank Kluytmans
Regional Youth Championships	Multiple	January	Junior	Multiple
University Battle of AB		February	Open	Vlad Rekhson
Northern AB Open	Edmonton	February 18-19	Open	Ali Razzaq
AB Youth Championship	Edmonton	February 25-26	Junior	Jina Burn
Calgary Seniors Championship	Calgary	February 25-26	Senior	Frank Kluytmans
March of Kings	Calgary	March 11-12	Open	Giridhar Koneru
AB Active	Red Deer	March 25	Open	Alexey Taranik
Lethbridge Open	Lethbridge	April 1-2	Open	Jerry Mikusek
Alberta Chess Challenge	Red Deer	April 8	Junior	Guoliang Wu
AB Seniors	Edmonton	April 8-9	Senior	Terry Seehagen
AB Closed/Reserves	Calgary	April 14-16	Open	Frank Kluytmans
Edmonton International Qual.	Edmonton	April 29-30	Open	Leah Hughey
Red Deer Open	Red Deer	May 13-14	Open	Alexey Taranik
34th Trumpeter Classic	Grande Prairie	June 3-4	Open	Wade Caughlin
Calgary International Qualifier	Calgary	June 10-11	Open	Brad Booker
12th Edmonton International	Edmonton	June 17-25	Invitation	Terry Seehagen
12th Edmonton Intl. Reserves	Edmonton	June 23-25	Open	Terry Seehagen
Fort McMurray Open	Ft. McMurray	July 1-3	Open	Jina Burn
AB Women's Championship	Ft. McMurray	July 1-3	Women	Jina Burn
10th Calgary International	Calgary	August 2-7	Invitation	Vlad Rekhson
Over/Under 1800	Calgary	August 26-27	Open	Giridhar Koneru
Battle of AB	Red Deer	September 9	Invitation	Alexey Taranik
Calgary Junior Regional	Calgary	September 16-17	Junior	Guoliang Wu
23rd Medicine Hat Open	Medicine Hat	September 23-24	Open	Dr. Bill Taylor
Edmonton Junior Regional	Edmonton	Sep 30 - Oct 1	Junior	Dustin Koperski
AB Open	Edmonton	October 7-9	Open	TBD
Edmonton Fall Sectional	Edmonton	October 27-29	Open	Robert Brazeau
Banff Open	Banff	November 11-12	Open	Ian Findlay
AB Junior	Calgary	November 18-19	Junior	Guoliang Wu
Southern AB Open	Calgary	November 25-26	Open	Frank Kluytmans
WBX Team Tournament	Edmonton	December 16-17	Open	Terry Seehagen

Legend

Unclear dates