



Alberta Chess Association
PO Box 11839 Main
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Alberta
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Minutes

The Planning Meeting took place on November 17th, 2024, via Zoom. Starting time 1:00 p.m.

- (1) Attendance – Lars Lowther (President), Michael Ludwig (Secretary), Sam Hoekman (Vice President), David Ludwig, Zeeshan Munir, Terry Seehagen, Garth Dunn, Avery Michalchuk, Gordon Campbell, Michael Anderson.
- (2) Budget Meeting minutes – David moved, seconded by Zeeshan, to accept the minutes from the previous Budget meeting. Motion passed 7 in favour, 1 abstention.
- (3) President's Address – Lars briefly explained the purpose and procedure of the meeting.
- (4) Assign Committees
 - a. Planning committee – Lars Lowther (Chair), Michael Ludwig, Rafael Arruebarrena, Sean Wu, Garth Dunn
 - b. Junior and coaching committee – Michael Ludwig (Chair), Sam Hoekman, Avery Michalchuk, Sean Wu
 - c. Audit committee – Avery Michalchuk, Zeeshan Munir
 - d. Bylaws amendment committee – Lars Lowther (Chair), Gordon Campbell, Terry Seehagen, Zeeshan Munir
 - e. Technical committee – Michael Ludwig (Chair), Sam Hoekman, Rafael Arruebarrena
 - f. Appeals committee – Lars Lowther (Chair), Dale Haessel, Michael Anderson
 - g. Conduct committee – Lars Lowther (Chair), Sam Hoekman, David Ludwig, Zeeshan Munir, Michael Anderson
 - h. Signers – Rafael Arruebarrena, David Ludwig, Dale Haessel (to be added), Lars Lowther (to be added)

David will inquire about setting up a conference call with the bank to change signing authority. Failing that, Lars and Dale may try to travel to Edmonton to get it done.

- (5) TD honorarium

It has been brought up that the TD honorarium should be raised from the current \$75 per day, including to more accurately reflect that days do not always involve the same number of rounds. Michael shares the AGLC's emphasis on having a volunteer membership, and some of the ACA's history in getting approval for tournament director honoraria. Gordon notes the extra effort involved in setting up a single Friday night round. Changing to \$50 per round would add approximately \$1700 in spending, and \$75 per round would add \$4500. The option of raising ACA dues was brought up, and recognized as a non-preferred option.

After coming to general agreement, David moved, seconded by Sam, that the honorarium for classical events would be raised to \$60 per round, and a minimum of \$75 per day. Passed 6 in favour, 3 abstentions.

(6) 2025 calendar

Michael shared that Ian Findlay had been considering returning to organize another Banff Open, but the dates provided by the Banff Centre were much less accommodating than previously. As it stood, the options were the Thanksgiving weekend in October, or a weekend in January. Additionally, the venue cost was rising from approximately \$1800 in 2024 to \$4725 for a 2025 event.

It was agreed that the Banff Open is a highlight on the calendar, and the highest-attended event, so the effort should be made to hold it. Sam suggested the entry fee could be raised to offset some of the cost increase. There is still some Casino money that can be spent, as a short-term assist. It was decided that Sam and Avery would explore organizing the Banff Open, and may investigate the possibility of an alternate venue.

It was agreed that holding an International in both Edmonton and Calgary is not an ideal setup. The suggestion is made to alternate years in Edmonton and Calgary, with Calgary taking 2025. Gordon mentions the approximate \$4000 financial loss the Calgary Chess Club is accepting in running the Calgary International.

Michael moved, seconded by Sam, to accept the calendar as presented. Passed unanimously.

(7) General proposals for spending

Sam remarked that not many of Alberta's top players are regular participants in tournaments. He suggested both reduced entry fees for strong players, or possibly offering top players some compensation for playing, including GM Dmitri Komarov. The Board preferred not to pay players to play, but agreed that offering a consistently discounted entry fee for National Masters and other 2300-rated CFC players was reasonable.

Sam moved, seconded by Gordon, to amend the Northern Alberta Open, Southern Alberta Open, and Alberta Open into two-section tournaments: a Premier section, and an under-1600 section, with the option for a \$20 play-up. This would be to make sure players get games closer to their level, which may be encouraging for both high- and low-rated players, and is similar to what the Calgary Chess Club does for their events. It was clarified that unrated players would be ineligible for prizes in the U1600 section. Passed unanimously.

(8) Budget Meeting Preparation

The Treasurer was not present to give accurate bank balances. The ACA has about \$85,000 in the casino account.

(9) Other Items

The ACA will have a Q2 Casino in 2025, in Calgary. Nobody present is willing and able to be the Casino chair. It is decided that Calgary board members will look around for a Chair, to be decided no later than at the Budget Meeting.

The Board agrees to keep searching for and inviting new people to become tournament directors and organizers. Suggestions include parents of players, and university chess club members who may be interested in becoming more involved.

(10) Adjournment – It was moved by Sam, seconded by Avery, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.

At 3:24 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.