

Ontario Chess Association

2010 Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Present: John Coleman, Hal Bond, Michael von Keitz, Michael Barron, Ilia Bluvshstein, Chris Mallon, Paul Roschman, Bob Gillanders, Bill Doubleday, Brett Campbell, Garvin Nunes, Chris Field, Stuart Brammall, Alex Ferreira

President's Report: (Chris Mallon)

- One major change is the expansion of the role of OCA Vice-President into that of four Regional Vice-Presidents, meant to ensure regional representation at the OCA.
- Bill Doubleday questions the Constitution regarding this issue
- Ilia Bluvshstein: "What is the function of a governor?" – benefits vs complications, governors should be a simple definition
- Leagues pick own governors. Executives don't have to be governors.

CYCC in Windsor this year, report by John Coleman, organizer of the event:

- New Trillium grant in the value of \$19,600
- To OCA / Windsor Group / CYCC, OCA's name can be used as a non-profit organization to facilitate such grants
- Attached with several other small things, such as several free chess sets and clocks
- Sets and clocks to be used in other tournaments in the area as well
- This equipment must be held for 5 years, and if passed to someone else, it must be to a non-profit organization (like the OCA for example)
- 27-page document submitted to Trillium in October 2009, called by Trillium in January
- OCA constitution and incorporation documents requested
- Trillium grant not affected by previous experiences, according to Trillium, OCA is not blacklisted, even though the (past) President was hired instead of an outsider
- Trillium management very friendly
- CFC may apply to Trillium grants but would likely have to spend all income in Ontario.

- Michael Barron objects to a statement in the President's report about the CFC declining cooperation in the pursuit of a Trillium grant

Vice-President's Report: (Michael von Keitz)

- Trillium file now closed
- Trillium is not expecting any money back
- Campbell reassures there are people at Trillium who like chess

Secretary's Report: (Michael von Keitz)

- Eric van Dusen had confirmed he had received all bank records from OCA, including from the Thorvardson years, but cannot produce them.
- No real report by van Dusen
- 2 motions (by Bond and Mallon) representing OCA executive, formally requesting that van Dusen would produce the documents
- Doubleday to attempt approaching van Dusen one last time
- TD Bank problems, OCA moved its account to Bank of Montreal
- Potential problem if OCA were to get audited
- No tax returns on file for OCA
- OCA seal still in Thorvardson's possession, should be retrieved. Bob Gillanders suggests he will attempt to obtain it.

Treasurer's Report: (Brett Campbell)

- Rushed through, bank info received last minute
- Bank cards for OCA allow deposits and withdrawals
- Suggestion made that, for reasons of transparency, the bank card be deposit-only
- Cheques not cashed by OCA; issue resolved
- Cheques sent to GTCL & NOCL, not being cashed by leagues
- \$4,600 surplus after one year: meaning money not being sent out to people who can use it
- Being a non-profit organization, this again would look bad if OCA was audited (\$5,736 in bank)
- GTCL did not receive cheque, Michael Barron blames lack of communication
- Record keeping needed of who's holding on to what in terms of cheques
- Iliia Bluvshstein questions if all cheques are to be re-issued

- Bill Doubleday notes that it is unacceptable that the treasurer has not been on top of things, and so much was discovered last minute. Campbell agrees
- Mallon and Barron mention that bank cards should be issued to accountable person. Campbell notes there may be problems depositing (unsigned) cheques
- Doubleday: “There should be regular treasury reports” – Barron: “quarterly!” – Campbell: “sure, in the future”
- Michael von Keitz asks whether we should start declaring taxes in the future. We’d have to go back 5-6 years since OCA incorporation
- Campbell: “OCA cannot cover what I charge to people in the real world.” – to go back 5 or 6 years of digging financial records
- Doubleday reminds the group that it should really have a look at the constitution. It was renewed since incorporation. Everything should be pieced together for tax incomes. Campbell can’t receive money to do work, contract would have to be in place

Leagues Report:

Greater Toronto Chess League: (Michael Barron)

- Successful bid to host the Canadian Open
- Ontario Open by Chess Institute of Canada and Ted Winnick’s initiative
- Canadian Junior organized in Toronto at Hart House

Northern Ontario Chess League: (Michael von Keitz)

- Rutherford retiring
- Youth is the driving force in NOCL, with Rob Clark as regional VP
- Looking for concessions at CFC level. Outstanding tournaments that have never been rated, causing a dent in membership trust and participation in the NOCL

SouthWestern Ontario Chess League:

(Michael von Keitz)

- Grand Prix thrives
- Olympic Waive fundraisers in place
- Several initiatives within the league

(Bob Gillanders)

- strong presence in several areas of SWOCL

- some challenges with the Windsor / London areas, in part due to distance
- Initiative in the Niagara Falls region so not to lag behind
- Ontario-level tournaments taking place in SWOCL

Eastern Ontario Chess Association: (Bill Doubleday)

- 9 tournaments coming up in the Grand Prix: 5 of them in Ottawa
- Ottawa has been attracting a Toronto contingent, growing in numbers of competition
- Membership is shrinking slowly

Youth Coordinator Report: (Patrick McDonald)

- OYCC (taking place during OCA AGM) is highlight of Ontario youth events
- Education Ministry approached about the possibility of including some chess in schools' curriculum, awaiting response
- Kitchener has been great for Ontario Youth, last 3 years being the largest turn-outs at 150+ participants in OYCC

Ontario High School Chess Championship: (Chris Field)

- 108 kids showed up this year in Toronto
- Only one kid from the entire SWOCL region
- Field asks for recognition by OCA as an official youth event, to be included in the calendar
- Mentions problems with dates conflicting with OYCC

Both Field and McDonald mention challenges with fitting OHSCC and OYCC respectively into the calendar

---- break ----

Ontario has 17 incoming governors:

GTCL (8):

- Michael Barron
- Ilya Bluvshstein (RVP)
- Egis Zeromskis
- Chris Field
- Bob Armstrong
- Nava Starr
- Bill Evans (Michael von Keitz indicates that Evans' membership is apparently expired. Michael Barron indicates that he will follow up)
- Nikolay Noritsyn

SWOCL (4):

- Bob Gillanders (RVP)
- Garvin Nunes
- Stuart Brammall
- Michael von Keitz

NOCL (1):

- Ellen Nadeau

Regional Vice President, though not a governor, is Rob Clark

EOCA (4):

- Bill Doubleday (RVP)
- Gordon Ritchie
- Aris Marghetis
- Kevin Pacey

When membership numbers were rounded up, a total of 18 governors would be in place, with SWOCL having a 5th. SWOCL accepted rounding down to fit the maximum 17 for Ontario.

Elections for 2010 – 2011 OCA Executive (acclaimed):

President: Michael von Keitz

Treasurer: Brett Campbell

Secretary: Alex Ferreira

Youth Coordinator: Patrick McDonald

Constitution Revision Committee: Bill Doubleday, Bob Armstrong and Stuart Brammall. Doubleday puts forth to be reviewed the end of fiscal year for OCA, which does not match CFC's. Role of Regional Vice Presidents must be defined.

Auditor for OCA

- non-practical, non-existing
- a quarterly report should be sent to RVPs by treasurer
- constitution adopted by early 2005 at the time of incorporation
- leagues asked to check for cheques received by OCA, to piece it all together
- leagues still owed money from OCA (SWOCL not paid in 2006)

Motion by Bill Doubleday, seconded by Bob Gillanders:

“The OCA resolved that all debts from OCA to leagues from previous fiscal years have been resolved and will not be pursued further” – (previous fiscal years ending March 31st 2009)

11 in favour, 1 abstention

Ontario Open 2011

- NOCL's turn to host it
- Deadline of August 1st, at which point it'll be open to new bids outside the region

Motion by Michael von Keitz, seconded by Stuart Brammall: The OCA should recognize the OHSCC as an official calendar event and avoid scheduling conflicts.

11 in favour, 1 abstention

OYCC and OHSCC organizers to submit two ideal weekends each to OCA, which will decide which event is to take place when

5 minute discussion between Chris Field and Patrick McDonald regarding their options and challenges organizing these events in the month of May

Ontario Closed bid from Kitchener for the 1st weekend of August, to take place simultaneously during the Kitchener Summer Festival, which also includes the Canadian Amateur

Some discussion about potential organizers for the Ontario Junior.

Eligibility requirements include being an Ontario resident, being under the age of 20. No federation requirements unless there's a qualification for the Canadian Junior – some initial interest from the SWOCL region, possibly Hamilton – difficult for Hart House to put in a bid for a possible event in late 2010

Cheque rebates to leagues being written by Brett Campbell, to settle any unfinished financial business, which were distributed at the end of the AGM

Allocation of monies to support Ontario tournaments:

- \$500 to each Ontario Open, Ontario Closed and OYCC
- \$250 to each OHSCC and Ontario Junior
- Some earlier miscommunication led to spending closer to \$500 at OHSCC, OCA willing to give the OHSCC double (\$500) this year and skipping next year's funding for the same event
- Confirmation that Ted Winnick & the Chess Institute of Canada are to receive \$500 for this year's Ontario Open

Bill Doubleday asks what the OCA's position will be at the CFC AGM. To be raised is the situation with CFC Life Members, and OCA dues not being paid, which is a financial problem for OCA

---- Meeting adjourned ----