

Minutes of Greater Toronto Chess League Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 26, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Edithvale Community Centre

In attendance:

Michael Barron (chair), Salim Belcadi, Undriadi Benggawan, Ilia Bluvstein, Keith Denning, Alex Ferreira, Christopher Field, Heidi Gay, Deepanshi Matai, Anna Pan, Don Parakin,,, Anna Rodin, Omar Shah, Corrina Wan, Egidijus Zeromskis, Victor Zheng

Agenda Item	Action	Result
Call to Order	Chair Michael Barron called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.	
Executive Reports		
Director of Communications	Egis reported that he is revising the website, and updating information on it. A message board is being considered, and considering moving to a new platform. Salim suggested that a list of all bids, with preferred parameters, be listed on the site. Victor proposed to help with the development of a new site.	
Tournament Coordinator	Don Parakin made a brief report. Salim suggested that a phased approach to bid submissions should be considered. After discussion, it was agreed that bids for events in the first half of 2026 would be due by August 1 2025, and January 1 for events in the latter half of the year. There were no objections to this approach.	
Treasurer Report	Michael Barron delivered Anna Rodin's report in her absence. Anna reported an expected income in CFC/ OCA fees of \$1500, to be disbursed as in previous years to support GTCL events.	
Vice-President	Ilia reported that he has the easiest job in the whole board, since the president is doing his job well!	
President	Michael Barron noted that chess is doing very well in Toronto, especially because of the interest the Candidates Tournament has brought, and is expecting bids for GTCL events for 2025.	
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Agenda Item	Action	Result
GTCL Awards	GTCL typically recognizes two members of the Toronto chess community and gifts them with a one-year CFC membership. However, this year, all nominated people either had a lifetime membership or no need for a membership. The decision was therefore to give plaques (at a similar cost) to the following nominees: Ferdinand Supsup (nominated by Alex F.) Heidi Gay (nominated by Salim Belcadi) Anna Pan and Heidi Gay. After discussion, it was decided that all three would be awarded a plaque	Passed unanimously.
Election of Executives	Each year GTCL elects a board and executive officers of the board.	
President	Salim Belcadi nominated Michael Barron to serve as president. There were no other nominees. Michael Barron commented that younger board members would be needed in the coming years.	Acclaimed.
Vice-President	Egis Zeromskis nominated Ilia Bluvstein for the role of vice-president. There were no other nominees.	Acclaimed.
Treasurer	Keith Denning nominated Anna Rodin for the role of treasurer. There were no other nominees.	Acclaimed.
Secretary	Salim Belcadi nominated Keith Denning for the role of secretary. There were no other nominees.	Acclaimed.
Tournament Coordinator	Ilia Bluvstein nominated Don Paraking for the role of tournament coordinator. There were no other nominees.	Acclaimed.
Director of Communications	Alex Ferreira nominated Victor Zheng for the role of Director of Communications, following on a letter from Victor expressing his interest in the role. Egis Zeromskis was also nominated. A vote was held and Egis Zeromskis was elected to continue as Director of Communications.	Egis Zeromskis elected.
Directors at Large	The following people were nominated for the three Director-at-Large positions. Alex Ferreira nominated Victor Zheng. Salim Belcadi nominated Alex Ferreira. Alex declined the nomination. Michael Barron nominated Corinna Wan. Alex Ferreira nominated Anna Pan.	Acclaimed.
Regional OCA Vice-President	Alex Ferreira nominated Ilia Bluvstein for the role of regional OCA vice-president.	Acclaimed.

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GTCL Board Members/Club Representatives	Michael Barron proposed the following list: Salim Belcadi Chris Field Omar Shah Nicolae Oancea Ken Green Ferdinand Supsup Undriadi Benggawan Joel Dick Alex Ferreira Erwin Casareno Deepanshi Matai Hari Raghavan David Ho Iris Lai Cathy Ye Andrew Leung	Acclaimed
OCA/CFC Governors	Ilia suggested expanding the current roster of CFC voting members to reflect the increase in CFC membership in the GTA. Michael proposed the following list: 1) Michael Barron 2) Ilia Blushtein 3) Anna Rodin 4) Don Parakin 5) Egis Zeromskis 6) Keith Denning 7) Corinna Wan 8) Anna Burtasova 9) Nikolay Noritsyn 10) Chris Field 11) Salim Belcadi 12) Victor Zheng 13) Anna Pan 14) Nicolae Oancea 15) Omar Shah 16) Undriadi Benggawan 17) Hari Raghavan 18) Sasha Starr 19) Mike Ivanov 20) Mark Plotkin 21) Heidi Gay 22) Deepanshi Matai 23) Vladimir Semyonov 24) Victor Itkin 25) Slava Rek 26) Matthew Bergeron 27) Daniel Rokhvarger 28) Riley Khan 29) Michael Blair 30) Shon Lazarev	Unanimous assent to accept all the above.

Agenda Item	Action	Result
2024/5 GTCL Budget	Michael presented the proposed budget (prepared by Treasurer Anna Rodin.) With a current balance of \$3254, projected income of \$1799, and projected expenses of \$3459, a balance of \$1594 is expected at the end of the fiscal year.	
	Alex Ferreira asked whether the Toronto Youth Chess Championship could be added to the list of events the GTCL supports. Michael Barron moved that this be added to the GTCL budget.	Passed unanimously.
Other Business	Salim Belcadi suggested that GTCL should have a liaison with different levels of government to help support its events.	
	Alex Ferreira proposed that the Toronto Chess Centre could operate the Toronto Youth Chess Championship at some point in November, to avoid conflict with other youth activities. Corrina noted that Yuri Ledbedev had been running an event with the same name (although not sanctioned by GTCL.) This hasn't run for several years, but Corrina advised that Yuri should be told if GTCL was going to be running TYCC.	
Amendment to Budget	This brought up more discussion. Michael Barron pointed out that youth events are typically attended by players who do not pay CFC memberships, and therefore do not contribute to the GTCL budget. Motion: GTCL should financially support an event such as TYCC without CFC membership requirements. Yes: 8. No: 4. Therefore a contribution to TYCC from the GTCL budget was proposed.	Motion carried.
Budget	Michael Barron moved to approve the budget as amended (attached.)	Passed unanimously.

Agenda Item	Action	Result
New Business	Ilia noted that anti-cheating measurements, specifically for senior-only events, damaged the social aspect of such events. Seniors who attend such events, which have little to no money attached with them, are interested in playing in a more social environment. Rules that forbid players from speaking with one another while games are in play damage the social aspect of such tournaments. It was generally agreed that if such events were not FIDE-rated, anti-cheating rules could be gently relaxed, provided that conversations outside the playing hall were in English only, to determine that no chess is being discussed, and that games in play should not be displayed.	
Motion to Adjourn	Moved by Michael Barron.	Carried. Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.