

Minutes of the first meeting of the Montana State
Chess Association Held at Livingston, Montana,
Sunday March 24, 1935.

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Prior to the time of this meeting a great deal of thought had been given the question of organizing a state wide chess association in order to promote the interest in chess in the state of Montana and also to be able to hold tournaments and declare a state chess champion.

Accordingly at the banquet held at the Park Hotel in Livingston at the time of the first tournament, the Montana State Chess Association was formerly organized.

Mr. Lathrop of the Yellowstone Club acted as temporary chairman and toastmaster. A great deal of interest was taken in the question of organizing the state association by all present. Mr. Lathrop was elected President of the Association and after discussion it was decided that the Secretary-Treasurer of the association should be elected from the same club as the president in order that they would be close enough to work together. Accordingly Keith Neilson of the Yellowstone Club was elected to this position.

Considerable discussion was held regarding the tournament for next year with nearly everyone present joining in the talk. After a thorough consideration of all angles it was decided that at least one state tournament should be held each year. That this tournament should be considered as determining the official and recognized state champion of the state who would have to defend his title at least once every year at the annual tournament. Otherwise the next winner of the annual tournament would be declared State Champion. It was also decided that at the next meeting each player would be assessed an entrance fee of \$1.00 which would cover the cost of banquet and any other incidental expenses in connection with the tournament.

In order to give the Secretary-Treasurer a little money for postage a plate was passed around the banquet table and each player contributed a dime which was to cover his dues in the association for the next year. A total of \$5.35 was collected by this method. Total attendance at the tournament was approximately 55 players coming from Billings, Hardin, Big Timber, Livingston, Whitehall, White Sulphur Springs, Yellowstone Park, Bozeman, and a few players from scattered and outlying districts.