



Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Hull and District Chess Association, held at Willows Chess Club, Hull, Tuesday 2nd February 2016.

The President opened the Meeting at 7.20pm. The Meeting, due notice having been given, was quorate.

Present: Steve King (President), Andrew Bettley, Stephen Greep, Lester Jones, Paul Allison, Bill Wright, Steve Thrower, Dave Mills (DaM), Steve Hodge, Graham Chesters, Roger Noble, Derek Sheppard and Jim Miklevicz.

In Attendance: Mike Butt (Willows)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Dean Morris (DeM)
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**
 - 2.1 Committee Meeting of 02/11/15 - unanimously voted as a true record
3. **Matters arising** (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
 - 3.1 **Chess in Prisons Initiative:** SG had still not received further contact with the ECF officer responsible for Prison Chess. Mike Butt agreed that Willows would look at a potential initiative.
4. **Treasurers report** – SH spoke to his report, including a budget statement, previously circulated. Hull Chess Club had still not paid their fees so they had not received their ‘special payment’. The ECF had not yet sent their invoice for the congress. DM asked if Association equipment held at his home was covered on the insurance. SH to check.
 - 4.1 **Income Tax and Gift Aid matters:** Paul Lyons remained in discussions with HMRC concerning a possible tax refund and gift aid, but these had not yet been concluded.
 - 4.2 **YCA Games Fees:** Ian Bell (£16) was only outstanding amount.
 - 4.3 **Replacement Trophies:** It was agreed to purchase replacement trophies for the winners of the two six board and the two four board winter leagues. SH agreed to progress.
5. **Strategy**
 - 5.1 **2017 events:** SG introduced his paper on possible events for 2017. Following discussion it was agreed that the following should be prioritised: Chess in the Park event (up to £6,000), Hull v Rotterdam Challenge (£2,500), Yorkshire City Challenge (£2,000) and the Hull Junior Chess Congress (£500). These were all dependent upon sufficient funding being available and lead organisers being found. It had already been agreed by the YCA that the Yorkshire Player of the Year would be contested at the Hull Congress in 2017 (no cost). There was a target of £10,000 budget for these events. SG had been in touch with the Council regarding potential event support. GC suggested potential additional support for the Chess in the Park event.

Other events such as the Congress, Presentation Evening/team and GM Simultaneous would still take place in 2017 within existing budgets. Those events not specifically funded (e.g. Individual

Lightening, Midweek congress and Master Chess Event would still be considered if funding became available.

- 5.2 **Child Protection Policy:** DM had produced a draft policy which had been circulated. Dean was thanked for his draft and the work which had gone into it. Following discussion there was clarification required over who would need to be DRB checked and who polices events. SG and PA agreed to discuss with DeM.

6. Member Events

- 6.1 **Peter Hughes Final:** AB reported that the rematch between Colin Hailstone and himself had been drawn and therefore it had been agreed to share the trophy for this year. The next Peter Hughes Tournament would begin at the start of the 2016/17 season – PA to organise.
- 6.2 **Presentation evening/Team Lightening:** A date of Tuesday July 5th had been agreed at Willows Club (thanks to Mike Butt for organising). Colin Hailstone had agreed to be arbiter. Following a discussion regarding alternative formats it was agreed that those in place for 2015 should remain. The Trophy Presentation session needed to run more smoothly. JM had agreed to organise the collection and inscription of trophies.

7. Public events

- 7.1 **Hull 2016 Congress:** SK reported that the date of the 2016 congress would be October 14/16th. SG had produced a paper on future congress arrangements which was discussed. SK was to form a separate group to discuss arrangements for the 2016 congress. The 2017 congress should revert to the original congress dates (first weekend in October) if possible.
- 7.2 **GM Simultaneous:** SG reported that the simultaneous against David Howell had been successful – a report had been submitted to the YCA and HDCA web sites and distributed to all local players (for whom an email address was held). David Howell strolled to 25 wins and just three draws. The first draw was obtained by David Lord who won a copy of Fritz, kindly donated by Chess Direct. Further draws were won by Steve Hodge and Graham Chesters. The blitz session in the morning resulted in a 5.5/1.5 win for David Howell with a win for Chris Mathews.

RN was congratulated for the production of a very professional CD which had raised over £100 towards the cost of the event.

Johnathan Hawkins (as 2015 British Champion) had been approached for the 2016 simultaneous, but had not yet responded. If he was not interested Luke McShane would be asked (contact had already been made). The event was to be moved to a Sunday (several people couldn't play in 2015 due to Saturday work commitments) and to the spring.

- 7.3 **2015 Chess Training day(s):** SG reported on the feedback from the training with Sheila Jackson. While there were a variety of views on the event, feedback was positive. With one exception players felt they would like the exercise repeated in 2016, but with a different trainer (for variety reasons only). SG would also explore a cheaper venue.

Arrangements for the 'senior' chess training day with James Adair were progressing, but it was proving difficult to find a suitable date.

- 7.4 **Public Events 2016:** David Stothard had offered to organise the 'Chess in the Park' event on July 2nd at Pearson Park. As this had been a successful event last year it was agreed to proceed with this.

Following a general discussion about event organisation SG agreed to write to all local chess players asking for help with event organisation.

8. Officers Reports

- 8.1 **League and Fixture secretaries', Junior Chess and Match Captain:** had all produced reports which were briefly discussed. There were no further points for action.

9. Committee and Rule Matters

- 9.1 Rule amendments on the evening:** Our constitution clearly states that 28 days' notice of rule changes are required; any changes to the rules and the constitution made on the night are outside the constitution and currently should not be allowed.

In order to allow debate at the meeting, however, and for minor changes to be made it is proposed to add the following to the constitution. 'At a general meeting amendments to proposals for rule changes may be made only with the consent of the original proposer and at the chairman of the meetings discretion. The Chairman of the meeting will determine that an amendment is that and not a new rule'.

- 9.2 Proxy Voting:** Following discussion it was decided not to progress this issue.

- 9.3 Committee co-options:** Paragraph 19(2) of the constitution says 'The Trustees may appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. Subject to Clause 5b [which relates to the overall numbers of Trustees which is a maximum of 15] they may also appoint Trustees to act as officers. The Committee therefore clearly have the powers to co-opt.

9.4 Rule Clarifications

9.4.1 Recording of Moves: Following enquiries from Mike Butt and John Thomson it was agreed to clarification was needed of the requirement for both players to record their moves, until the last five minutes on their clock. Games are played under the FIDE rules of chess, as interpreted by the ECF and subject to our own rules. No new rule is required, but a clarification will be added to the published rules.

9.4.2 Clarification of decision makers at matches: Our current rule already say Team Captains should know the rules, be there the whole match or appoint a deputy. It was agreed to re-emphasise the role of team captains as joint arbiters, and that, if necessary they might stop their own clocks to resolve issues. This should go to the AGM for confirmation.

9.4.2 Use of mobile phones: this was debated and followed an incident at a recent Yorkshire match. At present current ECF rules should apply – that no one should have a mobile phone in the room and secondly if they do and it goes off it's an automatic default. This matter was to be discussed at the YCA AGM and it was agreed to be advised by their ruling.

10. Any other notified business

- 10.1 Chess Newsletter.** Mike Pollard had indicated that he might be willing to produce regular Chess Newsletter. SK to contact.

- 10.2 Time Controls.** DM asked for support for a proposal to return to previous time controls.

- 10.3 School Support.** DeM had indicated that two schools were looking for help. LJ was helping at St Mary's.

11. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 17th May 2016, Willows Club 7.15 start.

There being no further business the President closed the Meeting at 22.20

Stephen Greep,
Hon. General Secretary
21/04/2016