



**Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Hull and District Chess Association, held at Croda, Oak Road, Hull, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014.**

The Committee Meeting, due notice having been given, was quorate.

The President opened the Meeting at 7.15pm

**Present:** Steve King (President), Stephen Greep, Andrew Bettley, Roger Noble, Derek Sheppard, William Wright, Steve Thrower and Jim Miklevicz (for items 1- 4 only).

**In attendance:** Richard Atkinson (item 4.1), Colin Hailstone (Item 6)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Dave Mills.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting(s)**
  - 2.1 Committee Meeting of 09/09/2014 - unanimously voted as a true record
3. **Matters arising** - there were no matters arising not otherwise covered on the agenda
4. **Treasurer's Report** – presented a written report which had been previously circulated. The congress had made a small loss (£201), but the simultaneous had made a small profit (£205, due to the grant from the Ross Fund). The treasurer was preparing an ‘Investment policy’ for the Association. This was required by the Charity Commission, but also was essential prior to the Association receiving the Ross Funds. SG had contacted one of the existing trustees to request a meeting concerning the transfer of funds.
  - 4.1 **Cup fees interpretation.** Correspondence regarding this matter had been previously circulated. After a long discussion it was agreed that the wording in the handbook would require clarification next year. For the present year it was agreed (following a vote) that for the current season the interpretation should be **£4 per team, per cup entered** (five votes for, one against and two abstentions). The treasurer should implement these proposals for the current season and write to any clubs who had not paid the appropriate fees.

Andrew Bettley and Steve Thrower to liaise in respect of forms to be sent out next year for team entry into competitions.
  - 4.2 **Trustee Indemnity.** Deferred to the next meeting.
5. **League and Fixture secretaries report(s)** – a report had been circulated prior to the meeting. DS reminded everyone that - General Rule 5.1 to read “All teams intending to compete in the Winter League must register with the League Secretary before 1st July”. SG agreed to inform Club secretaries that this was to be put to the AGM so that they had adequate time to prepare their submissions.

6. **Hull 2014 Congress** – had been a good success. With just under 140 players it was a slight improvement in numbers. The additional space had been a bonus and timings were greatly improved. The new time controls had worked well. It was agreed to support a number of changes for 2015 including:
- We would hire the extra upstairs room – while space was much improved this year some areas were still tight and more space was needed for the draw and score boards. SK and ST to visit Endsleigh House to agree the costs and space also discuss setting up and taking down arrangements. They were also to discuss refreshment arrangements, especially on the Friday evening. SG offered to attend if required.
  - RN and SK to review the congress leaflet - in light of other brochures we have seen.
  - The strategy of making our congress a qualifier for the British Open (which would mean increasing the numbers to around 200) and to obtain a target of 300 players within the next ten years were confirmed. With this in mind SK to visit Mich Upfold to discuss the viability of using the Guildhall or Town Hall in two or three years' time.
  - Prizes would remain the same next year, with a view to increasing further in the future if it was felt this would make a difference
  - There would be no prize ceremony. This to be outlined in the congress brochure. The ceremony had not worked well this year and caused irritation amongst many people right at the end of the congress.
  - Bryan and Colin needed further help and support for future years. SK agreed to run the minor again and to pilot the use of Tournament Director (with a view to rolling this out to all sections in the future). It was agreed to canvass local players for administration support. AB and SG agreed to provide future support if this was not forthcoming from elsewhere.
  - Players must use the congress clocks and not their own.
  - Any noise from mobile phones would default the game, but not disqualify from the whole congress. This to be made clear at the start of the congress.
  - Agree with the council a congress dedicated web site for accommodation.
  - Work harder to get more senior players at the congress as well as overall numbers, with a target of 165 for next year. Try to get more local support.
7. **ECF Affiliation/Membership** – SG had been in correspondence with the ECF and had obtained the relevant membership forms. It was agreed that the Association would become a member of the ECF and SG agreed to complete the relevant forms. This would give the Association a say in the running of the ECF, although it was not clear how many votes would be received. Before submission of the application SG agreed to clarify that no further payments over and above those made for the congress were required and that the Association would not be responsible for collecting ECF membership fees.
8. **Events**
- 8.1 Grand Master Simultaneous** – A very successful event which had received very positive feedback. SG had agreed to write a report for the Associations web site, as well as the YCA web site. It was further agreed that this should become an annual event, next year asking a different Grandmaster. SG to write to Gawain Jones and to progress arrangements for next year.
- 8.2 Holy Trinity Open Day** – BW confirmed that the £25 agreed goodwill payment agreed at the last meeting had been made.
- 8.3 Mid-week congress.** SG reported that this had received only six offers of support. It was therefore too high a risk to proceed with this at this moment, but we would revisit in the future.
9. **Yorkshire League matches**  
Nothing for discussion.
10. **Any other business**
- 10.1 AGM Rule change proposal.** DS spoke to his proposal which had been previously circulated. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed to support this rule change at next

year's AGM:

#### 8.0 Promotion and Relegation

Delete 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 and replace with:

8.1 Promotion shall be offered only to those teams finishing first and second in their respective divisions. Any team may decline promotion if it so wishes. Should a team decline promotion the higher placed of the teams due for relegation shall remain in the higher division.

8.2 There shall not be a difference of more than one team between any two divisions and a higher division shall not have fewer teams than the lower one.

**10.2** Following a discussion it was agreed that no disciplinary action was to be taken in respect of the issues raised by Steve Donaghue. This matter was now two years old. However, the player's behaviour was inexcusable and unwarranted. Steve received the support of the committee and had simply been acting in his capacity as a member of the committee. The President was to write to the club secretary concerned outlining the seriousness of the matter and that any re-occurrence would result in a ban for the player involved.

**10.3** RN had been approached by GC in respect of placing blue plaques recording successful past chess players in Hull. He was investigating the matter and would respond to GC.

#### **11. Date of next meeting – Tuesday February 3rd, Willows Club, 19.15**

There being no further business the President closed the Meeting at 22.15

Stephen Greep,  
Hon. General Secretary  
17/11/14