



Hull and District Chess Association (Registered Charity 1155858)

Junior Academy: 4 Year Junior Strategic Plan (April 2023 – April 2027)

Introduction

The Hull and District Chess Association in 2022 approved new structural arrangements for overseeing chess in the area. Within these structural changes an organisational strand for Junior Chess was established. This was followed up by trustee nominations and then appointments. As a result from July 2022 Junior Chess within the HDCA would now be overseen by the Lead Officer for Junior Chess under a new Junior Chess Academy. With the help of other trustees it was agreed that the development of a 4 Year Strategic Junior Plan for the Junior Chess Academy would be a helpful way of moving forward.

Overview

The Plan is not intended to be a comprehensive document to sit on a shelf, but more of a reference document that can be updated and expanded as necessary. It sets out an appropriate action plan that the Junior Chess Academy of the HDCA can look to deliver over the next 4 years.

The Plan recognises and supports the overarching objectives of the HDCA to “support and develop chess within the Hull and District Chess Association boundaries”. The district is identified as the same boundary as the current East Riding of Yorkshire boundary. The identification of the area is not always clear to stakeholders.

The Area

Specifically looking at the area, the size of the task of developing a Plan for junior chess is quite daunting especially given there are:-

- Approximately 200 Primary Schools and 45 Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Colleges within the Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire area
- In excess of 85,000 children attending primary and secondary schools each year within the Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire area (based upon government statistics for 2021 / 2022). This is equivalent to more than 100,000 children attending primary and secondary schools over a 4-year period.

Also it would be fair to say chess development historically has been very much centred around the area of Hull with few clubs establishing themselves successfully for long periods of time outside of the city’s boundary. That said, the area in general has a long history of chess playing and chess players. In addition the RP Ross legacy and the more recently received Jack Brignall Trust Grant for Junior Chess does mean that the HDCA Junior Chess Academy has the ability to make significant progress over the next 4 years.

Partners

The Junior Academy has a number of key partners that can help in the delivery of any actions. These include but are not limited to:

- The HDCA Members and Affiliated Chess Clubs
- The Areas Children and Parents.
- The Areas Schools and Teachers.
- Chess Associations (Yorkshire Chess Association, Yorkshire Junior Chess Association, English Chess Federation).
- Other Chess Organisations (Chess in Schools and Communities, Northern Counties Chess Union).
- Hull City and East Riding of Yorkshire Councils.
- Funding Partners and Sponsors.

The Current Position

Since early 2022 work has been undertaken to develop a continuous cycle of opportunity for junior chess within the HDCA area, to add a structural element to the events. This had been the priority focus alongside the support directly to junior clubs and their development whether these are provided by affiliated chess clubs or directly by schools.

Prior to this junior chess events were more sporadic and individual in nature and very much focussed on identifying volunteers to support sessions at local schools. As such there did not appear to be any wider strategy with any identifiable end goals.

Despite the change it is clear that whether running a continual programme of events or individual events, one of the main areas of focus is the resource and capacity needed to support such events.

Until now the HDCA has relied on the goodwill of volunteers. It is evident from work undertaken in recent months that goodwill alone will not produce enough capacity to deliver the step changes necessary to enhance junior chess significantly within the HDCA area. Those step changes being in the main the ongoing delivery of the continuous cycle of events and the delivery of targets as set out in the Jack Brignall Trust Grant.

The Current Programme of activities for 2023.

2022 to Feb 2023	YCA AG Sunderland (under-18) team event.
2022 to May 2023	HDCA Junior Club League.
2022 to May 2023	HDCA Knockout Championship.
2022 to May 2023	HDCA Junior Championship.
Feb to June 2023	Primary School Online League.

In addition the Junior Academy is looking to grow the existing programme of activities and add the following in 2023 and beyond:-

July 2023	Junior Awards Event
August 2023	Summer School Event.
August to 2024	Junior Training Events.
August to 2024	Junior Scholarship Programme.
September 2023 to 2024	Targeted Schools Development Programme.
Oct to April 2024	Secondary School and Sixth Form College League.

To be determined

Junior Congress.

If the Junior Academy is to be successful it will need to identify new arrangements for managing the planned programme of activities throughout the years ahead.

The Jack Brignall Trust Grant

Many of the activities planned for the next 4 years are now driven by the Jack Brignall Trust Grant which the HDCA was successful in obtaining in December 2022. As such any 4 year plan needs to include these objectives.

The grant sets out a number of countable outcomes that have to be delivered over a 4 year period. These have been set out in below: -

- 22 new schools involved
- 22 new chess teachers in charge
- 1000 new junior players in schools over 4 years
- A new secondary schools league
- A new primary schools league
- 15 scholarships awarded to encourage junior ambition
- 20 HDCA Academy juniors playing in Yorkshire county teams
- Double qualified coaching capacity and increased number of experienced coaches
- 4 new HDCA Junior Academy clubs in Drifffield, Beverley, Bridlington and Goole/Howden
- A new Hull Junior Chess Congress

One of the important steps in ensuring that the targets can be met is having a clear baseline of the position as at 31st December 2022. As such behind the scenes a junior Academy project is currently underway to identify and build up detailed data on junior chess activity as at 31st December 2022.

Picking out some key countable outcomes from the grant there is the desire to develop coaching and coach skills for junior chess. This action supports the behind the scenes work we are already completing in relation to coaching and strengthens our safeguarding and DBS responsibilities. The Jack Brignall Trust Grant also looks to develop a congress for junior chess over the next 4 years within the area.

Summary

The HDCA Junior Academy is looking to seek approval for this 4 Year Junior Strategic Plan. The plan is designed to be flexible but recognises some of the difficulties in relation to the HDCA area boundary and the number of juniors within the area. The plan has identified the key partners and stakeholders that can help support the development of chess in the area and recognised the current issues with capacity to deliver its future aspirations. As a result an action Plan for approval is attached below which aims to capture what can be realistically achieved over the next 4 years.

4 Year Action Plan

Action	Ownership	Start date	Completion
Align HDCA name and Boundary	HDCA Executive Committee	Proposal to change name submitted to HDCA AGM (June 2023)	If proposal accepted then rebranded documents and website by September 2023.
Review the Plan Annually	Junior Academy Board	April 2024	Completed in April 2027.
Review of Capacity Annually	Junior Academy Board	April 2023	April 2024.
Establishment Baseline (31 Dec 2022)	Junior Lead Officer	January 2023	December 2023.
Delivery on the Continuous Development Programme of events	Junior Academy Board	April 2023	Completed annually over the next 4 years.
Delivery of a Junior Congress	Junior Academy Board	April 2026	Completed in April 2027.
Delivery of other Jack Brignall Trust Grant targets	Junior Academy Board	Jan 2023	Completed annually over the next 4 years.
Review of Partner and Stakeholder Support	Lead Junior Chess	April 2023	Completed by April 2024.
Asset Register Update	Junior Academy Board	May 2023	To be reported annually (May 2024 onwards)
HDCA / CSC Partnership	Lead Junior Chess	May 2023	To be reviewed annually (May 2024 onwards)

Document Review

The 4 Year Junior Strategic Plan will be reviewed every year or sooner if there are any significant changes.

The review will be led by the HDCA Lead for Junior Chess Academy with assistance from the Junior Academy Board members.

A report will be presented to the HDCA Executive Committee. The 4 Year Junior Strategic Plan will be updated and re-issued if required.

Changes to this document

Any changes we may make to our 4 Year Junior Strategic Plan in the future will be agreed by the Junior Academy Board members.

Change History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes	Author
1	May 2023	Initial Issue	Chris Matthews