



Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025

Charity name: The Hull and East Riding Chess Association

Charity registration number: 1155858

Official Address: 35 Newland Park, Hull, HU5 2DN

Objectives and Activities

- Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document.
 1. The advancement of amateur sport by promoting the game of chess for the benefit of the residents of Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire;
 2. The provision of facilities for the learning, teaching and playing of chess for the benefit of the Beneficiaries with the objects of improving conditions of life.
- Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.
 1. To ensure the appropriate management of the Charity and its assets.
 2. To promote chess to the residents of Hull and East Yorkshire.
 3. To organise a series of chess events for both local chess players and members of the public, including leagues, cup competitions, tournaments and an annual congress.
 4. To promote chess, particularly through public events and events in the community, including libraries, local cafes etc.
 5. To support local chess clubs.
 6. To promote (and support) chess to schools in Hull and East Riding.
 7. To place Hull and East Riding Chess in a national context.
- Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and let it consciously inform its activities. Public benefit is particularly evident in our Chess in the Community programme where the focus of activity is on the general population of the area, potential chess players or actual chess players. The Competitions stream offers the chess playing public great opportunities. Our Junior Chess Academy is likewise open to learners and players with no unreasonable restriction.

Achievements and Performance

- **The Chess Strategy**

The HERCA Chess Strategy was revised in 2023-24, in consultation with the membership: the full strategy can be found on the website. During 2024-25 the objectives of the strategy have all been pursued, with additional work being done to help monitor progress in the first five elements, which are concerned with increasing the number of people playing chess. Thanks are due to all representatives of clubs and other chess groups who contributed information to the survey towards the end of the year. The whole exercise, which will be carried out annually, is very much a work in progress, but the key findings are as follows:

No. Target Measure 2024 2025

1	300 target for HERCA adult and junior members	Membership of HERCA			220
2	Number of active adult and junior players target to be 600.	Active Players in the region			427
3	Increase the number of HERCA teams and clubs (particularly in the East Riding).	Number of clubs		6	6
		Number of teams	6-board leagues	14	12
		Number of teams	4-board leagues	15	15
		Number of teams	Atkinson Cup	8	10
		Number of teams	Ross Cup	10	12
		Number of entrants	Under 1940	14	12
		Number of entrants	Under 1640	13	10
4	Target is 1000 new junior players in schools over 4 years (2024-2028)*	Junior Players (note that the figures for the two years are not directly comparable)	HERCA registered	N/a	82
		Other juniors in clubs and other groups		150	28
			Other**	230	130
		Number of teams	4-board leagues	7	10
5	Increase the number of female players, coaches and arbiters.	Female Players	HERCA registered		13
		Other females in clubs and other groups			11

*The target of 1000 is cumulative figure over the period of the chess strategy.

**Other juniors covers work in schools, school chess leagues, the HERCA summer school, etc. (estimated figures).

➤ Promotion of chess in the community

During the year we carried on pursuing the chess strategy reviewed and revised in January 2024, particularly from the public benefit perspective through our fourth annual Play Chess Festival. The Festival began with HERCA's Junior Academy first Chess Fest in Princes Quay, which included once again the Hull Juniors v London Juniors on-line challenge game. But the dominating event of the summer was the supporting programme for the British Championships in July/August at which HERCA volunteers sustained day-long public chess-playing outside the City Hall throughout the congress. There were further events in Pickering Park, Alderman Kneeshaw Park, Pearson Park and a Beverley Chess Fest in Flemingate organised by Beverley Chess Club. The most attended public display was as part of the Freedom Festival weekend programme, 31st August- 1st September; this year, HERCA was given a prime location in Trinity Square.

The Association has contributed to the growth of new groups of chess players in Brough (East Riding), Bridlington (East Riding), Willerby, and West Hull (a community group, one for home-schooled children – which now includes Saturday coaching sessions at the University – and one for women players). It continues to support chess at the Art House in Princes Avenue, together with the close neighbours, Open Doors, an organisation helping refugees and asylum seekers. Saturday Chess sessions in the Central Library (Hull) regularly attract a good dozen players, young and old. All clubs have yet again been supported through the award of a development grant to help promotion, retention and recruitment of new members.

➤ **Junior Academy**

The HERCA Junior Chess Academy is now into its third year following its launch in April 2022.

The Academy has continued to go from strength to strength, this can be measured in a number of ways, including the growth of juniors playing at junior chess clubs, the growth of juniors represented in club senior teams and the growth of juniors playing in the Yorkshire junior leagues.

By following the 4 year strategic plan agreed previously the Academy has successfully maintained its external grant support from the Jack Brignall fund and grown participation levels of chess by juniors in the area.

Coaching capacity has grown with a number of schools actively receiving at least one hour of chess tuition a week. In addition many juniors now work progressively through the STEPs books an initiative introduced last year to help juniors develop their chess skills.

The continual junior chess development cycle as set out in the strategy continues to keep juniors engaged throughout the year, whether through junior clubs, junior school club, or HERCA run junior tournaments. All of these events and our junior leagues would not be possible without the valued work of our growing network of junior coaches and helpers.

In relation to chess in schools generally, the HERCA database we maintain of chess activities undertaken at both primary and secondary schools level continues to grow and has helped us recognise new area for improvement.

The HERCA junior section also has strong links to the charity Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) and will for the 4th year in a row participate in the annual CSC Chess festival in London, using large screen technology to play a consultation game in Trafalgar

Square on the 13th July 2025. We are also hopeful of a similar event on the 20th July this time with Liverpool, to help celebrate the chess games of Amos Burns.

Junior clubs have continued to grow this year and we are hopeful of introducing another junior club in 2025/6 into HERCA.

The HERCA junior Summer School in August each year continues to be the start of our annual development cycle which finishes with our prize giving night in June the following year. The prize giving event introduced was a great success in relation to celebrating and showcasing junior chess achievements in the area.

➤ **Competitions**

Yorkshire League

This year the charity fielded three teams playing in the Yorkshire league. Following last years historic promotion, we had two HERCA teams playing in the top division (the Woodhouse Cup) and a third team playing in the AG Sunderland division. The HERCA A team narrowly missed retaining the Woodhouse Cup in the first division by one match point! HERCA B had a challenging season which ended with the team finishing at the bottom of the table. The HERCA C team managed to finish the season in 2nd place in the AG Sunderland, a very respectable finish. The best performance in the Woodhouse Cup came from Joe Varley who won an impressive 8/9 matches! Paul Allison gave the best performance in the HERCA C team with a season result of 3.5/4.

Local Competitions

The charity continues to support and organise a range of competitions for local players. This year we ran a 6-board league, a 4-board league, two team cup competitions and several Individual competitions. The winners of each competition are below:

Competition Name	Winner
6-Board Division 1	Hull A
6-Board Division 2	Beverley Beavers
4-Board Division 1	Hull T
4-Board Division 2	St Andrews Minus 4
Atkinson Cup	Hull CE
Ross Cup	St Andrews C
U1640	Stuart Sharp
U1940	Chris Matthews
HERCA Championship	Mark Collinson
Junior Tournament Section 1	Michael Ingleby
Junior Tournament Section 2	Ethan Wake

Congress Events

This year we hosted two major competitions. We ran our annual Congress event in September and a Rapid Tournament in January. Both events had an increased number of registered players and despite the weather being particularly bad for the rapid, the turnout of the events were good.

Local members continued to deliver noteworthy performances:

Congress U1750 - Paul Allison and Alec Grice finished in a four-way joint 1st.

Congress U1500 - Dave Cooper and Edward Staples taking joint 1st

Rapid U1300 - Local Beverley junior Jamie Fisher won the tournament

Rapid U1600 - Stuart Sharp won the event with Ian Scott coming in a close 2nd place

Rapid U1900 – Steve Crow and Gary Morris finished joint 1st with 5 points

Rapid Open - Kamila Hryshchenko won the event with John Cooper finishing in 2nd place

Hull was fortunate to be the host for the 2024 British Chess Championships which had over 1400 participants across over 30 events, with many local players taking part in. Two of our local players won their events!

Sean Smith won the AM U1600 Event

Steve Crow won the U2000 Rapid Event

Investment performance

All HERCA endowment funds have been invested with CCLA, (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities), an investment management company that specialises in dealing with charitable trust funds. They took over from Cardales in 2020. Since that date, when £161,200 was transferred, HERCA has taken an annual dividend of around £5,300. The capital fund stands at the time of writing (9 June) at £191,323. Over the period, the total return from the investment with CCLA is £61,600. In other words, 35% or 9.3% per annum. The judgement is that the performance by CCLA has been more than satisfactory; it ranks amongst the top performers for the type of fund that they manage on HERCA's behalf.

Financial Review

The Charity remains in a very strong financial position. In 2024-25. Our income was £25,723 (2023-24 - £17,398) against expenditure £26,228 (2023-24 - £19,975). The total cash at bank at the end of the period was £12,143 (2023-24 - £13,486). Our investment value at the end of the year is £191,323 (2023-24 - £198,101, 2022-23 - £182,597). The decrease is due to the downturn in the global stock market. Investment income during the year (included above) totalled over £5,466.

Structure Governance and Management

HERCA is a formal Association, with a constitution adopted on 12th February 2014 and subsequently amended in June 2016, February 2020, August 2021 and May 2022. The Annual General Meeting elects trustees after nomination or self-nomination and an Executive Committee check on eligibility and suitability. The Executive Committee appoints and co-opts trustees.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Name	Office, if any	End of period of office	Body responsible for appointment
Graham Chesters	President and Lead for Chess in the Community	2025	AGM
Keith Porteous	General Secretary	2026	AGM
Douglas Vleeshouwer	Treasurer	2027	AGM
David Atkin	Lead for competitions	2026	AGM
Chris Matthews	Lead for the Junior Chess Academy	2025	AGM
Richard Atkinson	Lead for Governance & Safeguarding	2027	AGM
Andrew Bettley		2025	AGM
Derek Sheppard		2026	AGM
Dan Malbon		2025	Ex Comm

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees: