



Hull and East Riding Chess Association (Registered Charity 1155858)

MINUTES

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Hull and District Chess Association: held in the James Reckitt Reading Room, Hull Central Library. Thursday 22nd August 2024.

Present – Keith Porteous, David Atkin, Andrew Bettley, Douglas Vleeshouwer, Derek Sheppard, Richard Atkinson, Chris Matthews, Graham Chesters (chair), Steve Thrower, Tom Tallentire; Dave Mills (observer, St Andrews).

1. Apologies for absence: Jim Miklevicz
2. Minutes of the last meeting(s)
 - 2.1 Committee meeting of 16th May 2024 – accepted as correct.
 - 2.2 AGM Draft Minutes (for noting) – GC raised the idea promoted by John Cooper, that we be more imaginative about how we develop chess – we should embrace this. Discussion about the work of HERCA highlighted the need to develop a good metric for how many chess players there are, in order to track progress accurately.
3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)
 - 3.1 (Ref 10a) Affiliation process (KP) – It was confirmed that Beverley, Hull, East Hull, Hull University, Victoria Dock, and St Andrews Chess Clubs had affiliated. Withernsea has not, but is not yet interested in taking part in HERCA activities: an approach from them for affiliation would be welcomed if it occurred. Club secretaries have now been contacted, to promote the signing up of individual members to HERCA, the deadline for which is November 1st (although players entering the individual tournaments need to assure their membership before the start of that tournament). The position of junior players was considered, and it was agreed that the Association does need consent to hold contact information for junior players in HERCA events.
 - 3.2 (Ref 4b) Rule changes for 2024-25 (DV) – A guide for captains has been produced, to ensure that amongst other things they are informed about the revised arrangements for handicap events, and the use of up-to-date ratings. A new score sheet has also been produced.
 - 3.3 (Ref 6c) Handover of Treasurer's role (TT) – This is progressing but is not yet complete – the bank mandate change is expected to be finalised August 23rd. The changes to the contacts details for the CCLA contact are also in hand.
 - 3.4 (Ref 4a) The difficulties in communication with the Charity Commission have been overcome, and the annual report was submitted, albeit several weeks later than the due date.
 - 3.5 It was noted that ECF insurance is due for renewal at the end of August, and the trustee liability insurance was due in May. The latter needs to be checked and the former actioned. **Action – KP (the latter), TT (the former)**

Post-meeting information: the trustee liability insurance was renewed in May, and action was taken to change the details held by Markel to accommodate the Association's new name, and contact address of 35 Newland Park (KP)

4. Reflections on the British Chess Championships – 15 adult members applied for the subsidy of £20. In the event, one gained free entry, one decided to waive their application, and one found they were unable to play. The cost is therefore £240. Details of the full support provided to juniors are to be gathered. **Action – KP**

Post-meeting information: grants of £20 each were offered for the rapid play event, and taken up as follows:

Hull Chess Club – 10 offered, 4 taken up;

East Hull Chess Club – 4 offered, none taken up;

Beverley Chess Club – 5 offered, 5 taken up;

Victoria Dock Chess Club – 8 offered, 8 taken up.

The planned allocation of £540 (£20 × 27) resulted in an actual spend on BCC support of £340 (£20 × 17); the remaining £200 stays with the clubs to give general support for junior development.

In addition, a further 7 juniors received a total of £535 to support their entry into the standard play events.

5. Arrangements for the winter league, 2024-25, (DS) – The fixtures are all arranged and in LMS. The two six-board divisions have six teams in each. The four-board division 1 has eight teams, and division 2 has seven. Following the difficulties of 2023-24, with teams withdrawing after entry, a division 3 is not to be run this year.

M H Brown Summer league 2024 – both sections are due to be completed with a few days of this meeting. Problems are reported with the Swiss format for division 2: the setting of match dates on a fortnightly basis (necessary for such a format) created several difficulties for clubs in various ways, and it is accepted that this format will not be used next summer. Questions were raised about players with relatively high ratings playing in division 2, something that was not intended in the original design of the summer league. The discussion linked with item 11, reported below.

6. Chair's Business (GC) – GC's term of office as president ends at the next AGM, as does his role as lead for chess in the community. GC expects not to continue with the latter, and it would be good to find someone willing to take over and learn about the tasks during this year. Trustees are invited to consider how best to publicise the issue to get a volunteer.

The suggestion was made that HERCA consider supporting the training of first aiders in affiliated clubs. Opinion was divided: chess clubs do not exhibit any enhancement of everyday risk, and first aid knowledge is readily considered as a life skill, it being not appropriate for HERCA to take on its promotion; on the other hand, health issues do crop up during matches sometimes, and a first aider on hand is valuable. It was agreed to ask clubs what the level of interest in training might be. **Action - KP**

7. Treasurer's Report (TT) – Consideration was given to the budget that has been constructed after a couple of meetings of the finance group. It was agreed that we do not need a budget for legal advice. It was noted that there is also £13k in the bank, and that current spending plans indicate that there is no need to draw down the £22k from the capital investment that we could have accessed. TT is on the verge of getting all monthly accounting fully in place, once he has acquired copies of recent statements. £199580 was reported as the value of the capital investment. A reserves policy is to be drafted for the next meeting. **Action - GC**

Consideration was also given to the circulated assets register. DV has supplied additional information to be added. **Action - KP**

There was clarification of what should be in this register and what in the junior register.

It was noted that legacy trophies are held by Dave M. CM has the missing black box, with ten folding boards, seven flat boards, fourteen sets, 24 clocks. Stephen G has some equipment which needs to be counted.

8. Charity and Trustee Matters (GC/KP)

8.1 Annual report – done, although late, as noted above.

8.2 Constitutional review: it was proposed that the constitution, bye-laws and rules should be reviewed for consistency, with a view to presenting at the next AGM. GC, KP, RA, and DA to form that working group. **Action - GC**

8.3 Communications Strategy: it was also proposed to form a working group to develop a well-formulated communications strategy – to include the Facebook page, the website, as well as communication generally between HERCA, clubs and members. DA, KP, and GC to form that working group. **Action – KP**

Post-meeting information: the communication working group comprises DA and KP.

9. Strategic Leads reports

9.1 Lead Competitions (DV) – Leagues for the autumn/winter season have been set up and are entered on LMS. The rapid tournament is set for the first Sunday in January; and the Peter Hughes (1800+) rapid will take place in May.

There have so far been 92 entries for the Hull Congress, which compares with a total of 164 last year. More late-entry players are expected. Local players and other entrants from previous years have been emailed to remind them of the event.

9.2 Lead Junior Academy (CM) – 40 youngsters have signed up so far for the summer school, 28-30 August. All necessary arrangements have been made.

Three schools are currently planned to receive tuition under CSC.

The junior league is to be run again, as well as knock-out tournaments.

There are expected to be four Yorkshire league events for under 18s this year.

9.3 Lead Chess in the Community (GC) – The Play Chess Festival has stretched volunteer capacity, coming as it has done so quickly after the British Chess Championships. The Freedom Festival covers three days over the weekend 30 August to 1 September, from 10am to 6pm. The HERCA stall, comprising the giant set and tables with sets, will be in Trinity Square. Volunteers will be needed for this.

10. ECF/YCA Matters (DV/CM) –

- The North West qualifier for the UK Open Blitz championships has been moved from Saturday 28th September to Sunday 29th September, at our request. This means it no longer clashes with the Yorkshire league matches that had already been scheduled for the 28th.
- The ECF membership bands and fees have changed: The Silver band has been merged with the Gold band. The Bronze membership fee (needed for playing in the HERCA league) has increased to £20, Gold (needed for playing in congresses and tournaments) has been reduced to £35, and Platinum has been increased to £77. Junior Bronze is still £6, Junior Gold has been reduced from £12 (first year junior membership is free).
- The YCA have changed the rule regarding electronic devices during matches. Any noise from a player's electronic device will entail a loss: no warning will be given for the first occurrence.

- The ECF have established a fund to support grass-roots initiatives. £10,000 has been made available for Yorkshire and the Humber. The YCA have established a sub-committee to manage the funds, with a local representative from east area; Chris Matthews is the representative for East Riding & The Humber. Applications are to be submitted through the ECF. Full details about the fund, areas we are looking to support, criteria for applications and how to apply can be found in this prospectus: <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Grassroots-Prospectus.pdf>, which explains .
- The YCA have requested players to contact them if they'd like to represent Yorkshire in County matches. Anyone interested in playing for Yorkshire should contact info@yorkshirechess.com.

11. Any other notified business: Provision for lower-rated players, (KP) – The ideas in the circulated paper met with general support, and consideration was given to various ways of providing rating-restricted competition, including a dedicated under-1300 individual event and a 3rd section in the summer league with a lower (team) rating limit than the current section 2 one. It is suggested that the chess groups that meet in Bridlington and Brough be contacted to see if there is any interest from them. Club secretaries will be invited to share their views about the ideas.

Action - KP

In passing it was noted that there is now a lack of business-based chess teams, unlike the position three or four decades ago. This may well reflect the demise of sports and social clubs in firms.

Post-meeting information: Association members with lower grades have been canvassed as to their likely level of interest in a restricted competition; and club secretaries have been invited to share ideas.

12. Date of next meeting: November 7th, 2024.

Planned meetings for 2025:

January 16th

March 20th

May 15th

AGM June 24th