



## MINUTES

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Hull and East Riding Chess Association: held in the James Reckitt Reading Room, Hull Central Library. Thursday 18th January 2024. 19.15

**Present – Graham Chesters (chair), David Atkin, Andrew Bettley, Richard Atkinson, Chris Matthews, Steve Thrower, Graeme Reid, Keith Porteous (trustees), John Thackray (St Andrew’s Chess Club) (observer).**

1. Apologies for absence: Derek Sheppard, Douglas Vleeshouwer, Bethany Mount, Jim Miklevicz (observer).
2. Minutes of the last meeting – Committee meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023: one correction, proposed by John, was noted – under 5(b) the St Andrew’s decision not to pay the HERCA fees had been made by the club and was announced at their AGM.
3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)
  - (i) It is noted that Bethany is now an established trustee, appointed by the Executive Committee as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and needs to be registered with the Charity Commission. **Action – Keith**
  - (ii) It was reported that trustees’ immediate responses to the letter from St Andrew’s Chess Club, and sent by John Thackray, regarding the points deduction from St Andrew’s teams amongst other matters, showed no general consensus. John assured the meeting that his letter was supported by the whole of St Andrew’s committee. Some questions were asked about St Andrew’s internal processes, and points made regarding the effect of possibly changing the points penalty on other clubs, but debate on these matters was postponed to an additional extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee, to be called just for this one issue, as soon as possible. **Action – Keith**
  - (iii) The call for expressions of interest in contributing to the production of a history of the local chess association has produced no responses. (Note that one person has since expressed an interest.)
  - (iv) Derek and Douglas have suggested two responses to the problem of teams dropping out of the four-board division 3 this season. First, to revert to a two-division league next year; and second to adjust the timetable for teams to enter, with an encouragement to clubs to make sure that they enter only teams that they know will be viable (including viable captaincy).
4. Chair’s Business (GC)
  - a) **Chess Strategy 2024-29** – The main point made about the chess strategy was that plans and of action were needed to back up the objectives identified. It was agreed that several of these are already in place, through the work of the Junior Academy, and the ongoing management of the various competitions. Any plan for attracting more females to the game requires more work: the event on January 30<sup>th</sup> is a good start, and the advertising for this elicited further

interest from people who are unable to attend during the working day. It was noted that a developed plan, and the identification of someone who is willing to take the lead in managing this strand, are both needed.

It was agreed that the chess strategy should be made available to all HERCA members. Keith will update the HERCA website with the new document, after Graham has re-drafted the introduction

**Action – Graham and Keith**

- b) Review of Financial, Investment and Reserves strategies – Graham reported briefly on the subgroup meeting of January 8<sup>th</sup>, the main points being:
- i. Our invested capital is performing well, with an income plus increased capital interest rate of about 7.5%. It is acknowledged that many members erroneously judge the performance poor, calculating the income percentage of around 3%. It is agreed that the true picture needs to be publicised.
  - ii. HERCA is free to draw down from investment a variable amount, depending on year-to-year needs. Such decisions could form part of the annual budget-setting processes.
  - iii. Financial planning needs to look further ahead than just one year, with outline budgets for year 2 and 3 required. The costing of the Chess Strategy is a priority for the subgroup.
  - iv. It was mooted that occasional meetings of a finance group, for budget-setting and monitoring, would be useful. Terms of reference for this group will be brought to a future meeting of the Executive.
- Action – Exec. Committee**
- c) British Championships and Hull – The plan is to hold the British Championships, and the Glorney Cup, in Hull in the summer of 2024, although the contract between BCF and Hull City Council is not yet finalised. The venue for the championships is planned to be City Hall and the Doubletree Hotel. HERCA will contribute the social programme – a group of volunteers is needed to generate ideas.
- Action - Graham**
- d) Play Chess Festival – It is hoped to maximise the impact of this year’s festival by linking it appropriately with the British Chess Championships.

## 5. Treasurer’s Business (GR)

- a) Financial report, including performance against budgets – The circulated spreadsheet, and some of the subsequent queries, were discussed. There was discussion about the necessary level of detail provided, and questions raised included:
- i. Two payments by St. Andrew’s of £108, and one payment returned: this was a double payment error by the club.
  - ii. The entries of Beverley Minster and Newbald: these are two primary schools that have become involved in the work of the Junior Academy.
- b) Current investment performance – The latest reported figure for the HERCA investments is £189 250.

## 6. Competitions (DV)

- a) **Congress 2024** – Douglas contributed the following notes about the congress:
- i. Following the net loss of £1500 in 2023, the aim this year is to break even.
  - ii. There will be four sections, as for 2023.
  - iii. The prize fund will be £3750, £1000 each for the first three sections, and £750 for the fourth.

- iv. Entry fees will be the same, £40 for the first three sections, and £30 for the fourth.
- v. The congress will be FIDE-rated.
- vi. If the event should run at a loss, HERCA will stand the first £750 and split any remaining loss 50-50 with 4NCL
- vii. Organisational responsibilities will remain as there were for 2023.
- viii. The room hire costs will be the same as for 2023, but Hull University has indicated that these will increase for 2025.

## 7. Junior Academy (CM)

- a) Junior Chess Congress – Chris reported that it is hoped to run a junior congress in 2025, linked in some way to the annual summer school.
- b) The primary and secondary school leagues are up and running, as is the knock-out competition.
- c) Amidst a congested programme of events, the final round of the Yorkshire under-18 team competition will be taking place in York, on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## 8. Chess in the Community (GC)

- a) Chess in the Parks funding – All HERCA members have been invited to contribute to the consultation about the nature and siting of the outdoor chess tables planned for Pearson Park and East Park; several have responded.
- b) Harry Potter night – this is planned for March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c) **Club development funds; review of 2023, and plans for 2024.** – The proposals in the circulated paper were agreed: that a £200 grant be awarded to affiliated clubs to add to the £250 already allocated, with the former amount withheld until the latter has begun to be significantly and successfully spent by the two clubs who have yet to use their monies. The summary of activities and purchases supported by the first grant will be circulated to club secretaries, to further the dissemination of good ideas.

**Action – Keith**

## 9. Governance

- a) Update on affiliation process (KP) – Since our last meeting St Andrew’s Chess Club has indicated its willingness to affiliate to HERCA, although this is complicated by the position of one of their members who has not been a member of the Association for some years, but has played in HERCA events nevertheless. It was reiterated that non-members of HERCA will not be able to participate in HERCA league and cup matches after the conclusion of the affiliation processes. Keith indicated that the next step, that of rolling out the new membership form, is imminent.
- b) HERCA Assets Register – Richard urged that the Association address the need to update the general assets register. The inclusion of all the trophies in this is important. It was agreed that this is important, and that it should be included in the Chess Strategy (together with responsibility) (Since the meeting, it has emerged that the responsibility is identified in the current role description for the Treasurer.)

**Action – Exec. Committee**

## 10. Any other notified business:

- a) Richard mentioned that club secretaries need to be informed of the deadline for the submission of proposals for rule changes for the 2024-25 season. **Action – Douglas**

KP

- b) Steve asked what the insurance position was for HERCA chess mornings in central library. Assurance was given that this is covered by Hull City Council.

**11.** Date of next meeting: March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Future meetings 2024:

May 16<sup>th</sup>

The AGM could then be June 18<sup>th</sup>