



# MINUTES

## Hull and East Riding Chess Association (Registered Charity 1155858)

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Hull and East Riding Chess Association: held in the James Reckitt Reading Room, Hull Central Library. Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

*Present: Graham Chesters (chair), Keith Porteous, David Atkin, Richard Atkinson, Andrew Bettley, Derek Sheppard, Dan Malbon, (trustees); David Mills (observer, St Andrews Chess Club), Paul Allison (observer, Hull Chess Club).*

***Fond memories of the late Steve Thrower were shared, in tribute to his long and valued contribution to chess in the area and to the Association***

1. Apologies for absence: *Douglas Vleeshouwer, Chris Matthews*
2. Minutes of the last meeting(s)
  - 2.1 Committee meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.
3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)
  - 3.1 Transfer of Treasurer's responsibilities (item 3.2) (DV) – It was reported that DV has now taken over all the work with our bank, but that the link with CCLA still requires some changes (which are all in hand).
  - 3.2 Census of club membership (item 3.3) – KP outlined the development of plans for a census based on the identification of key indicators in relation to the objectives of the chess strategy (building on work done by DMA). Some data have already been acquired from LMS. It was agreed that the date for collecting information should be May 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - 3.3 Review of HERCA constitution, byelaws, and Communication and Marketing Strategy (items 8.1 & 8.2) – The proposed revision of the constitution and byelaws, and the new marketing strategy, had been circulated to members for comment, but none had been received. The revised documents will go to a general meeting of members for formal approval.
  - 3.4 Humber Bridge well-being club (item 11) (GC) – It was reported that no volunteers had come forward for this group, but that the opportunity was still open.
4. Lead Junior Academy (CM) – Covering future tasks – The proposed re-allocation of responsibilities stemming from the retirement of CM was considered. DA, GC, DMA and KP all indicated their willingness to take on the tasks falling to them. The crucial need to recruit more volunteers for this area of work was recognised, and two possible routes for finding such people were suggested. Parents of junior chess players could be canvassed for interest in helping with

junior chess events, and more generally with club and Association business; and a volunteering page could be set up on our website. KP and DMA will progress these. **Action – DMA & KP**

5. Leads Competitions (DV/DA) – DA reported on the recent activity in the league and cup competitions: there have been three defaulted boards, and four postponed matches, since the last meeting of the Executive Committee. DS indicated that the second section of this year’s summer competition will be run as a simple league again, after last year’s experiment of a Swiss tournament (which turned out to be less successful).

DMi raised an issue concerning a member of one chess club joining another club mid-season, and then playing for one of the latter’s teams, having already played for his old club. DA described how the new club had checked the rules position with him, and it is clear that a player cannot play in the same competition for two different clubs in one season, unless the transfer of membership is deemed to reflect “special circumstances”. In the current case, the teams played for are in different competitions, and so no rule proscribes what has happened. There was some support, however, for the idea that registration with a club or team, not playing for a team, should be the key condition for restricting the freedom to play elsewhere. This distinction suggests that a re-evaluation of the rules around registration may be appropriate, and this will be considered further. **Action – DA**

6. Lead Chess in the Community (GC)

- 6.1 Amos Burn centenary – Some details of the celebration, and its links with annual events, were discussed. The blue plaque is planned for a site close to Burn’s birthplace, near Charterhouse. The exhibition is planned to be demountable to facilitate moving it to events throughout the year. Some appropriate merchandise will be produced. It was suggested that HERCA could have a presence at the East Yorkshire Show, although it is difficult to be optimistic about this, given that the inherent costs would be high. A page dedicated to Amos Burn will be added to the HERCA website, and the idea of purchasing key domain names, with links to this page, secured support in principle. Look North has been contacted.
- 6.2 Confirmation of the decision made electronically (eight votes for; two trustees not voting) – Support for the planned expenditure was formally noted. The estimated spend on marketing is £1575, covering the design and production of leaflets and posters, and the design and production of banners, and exhibition costs. A further £1900 is estimated for the blue plaque, the exhibition launch, and a subsidy to the Hull chess congress. The costs are expected to be mostly covered by £1500 unspent from the 2024 council grant, a donation of £1000, and a YCA Grassroots grant of £500.
- 6.3 ECF/YCA Grassroots Fund – Our initial bid for £2000 is likely to secure a grant of £500 only.
- 6.4 Plans – please refer to 6.1 above.
- 6.5 Club development fund – The principles behind this were rehearsed – that it is intended to support the innovation and expansion of activities for a club, but not to subsidise recurrent expenses such as rent. (A new activity which involves an increase in rent can be supported, as a priming exercise only.) A number of ideas were proposed for changing the basis upon which grants are made, including clubs having to bid for funds for identified projects. It was agreed to review the operation of this fund with the new Lead for Chess in the Community when they are appointed, but to maintain the existing system this year, with £200 going to each affiliated club subject to a satisfactory response to a request to report briefly on relevant spend from last year.

7. HERCA website (DMa) – Simplification of the navigation elements of the HERCA website has been carried out, and there is evidence from visit statistics that some content not hitherto accessed has been looked at recently. The process will continue. It was suggested that clubs’ website managers could usefully pool their expertise and resources, and DMa will look into inviting key people from clubs to consider this. **Action - DMa**

8. Treasurer’s Report (DV) – The accounts of March 1<sup>st</sup> were received. It was noted that the current value of the CCLA investment was not known. (*The value has subsequently been checked – it was £193,725 on 22 March. This compares with £198,434 on 31 December 2024. The decline reflects general depression of stock markets in the intervening period.*) No major additional costs are anticipated for the current financial year, and the expected end-of-year deficit is expected to be about £1000.

9. Charity and Trustee Matters (GC/KP) – The following were agreed:

- The periods of office of both GC and AB come to an end this year. Both have served as trustees for at least nine years, and so additional scrutiny of any re-appointment is appropriate, in line with the requirements of the Charity Governance Code. KP to manage such scrutiny. **Action – KP**
- DMa, currently an appointed trustee, to be formally proposed as an elected trustee at the AGM.
- DV, currently appointed as treasurer by the Executive Committee, to be formally proposed as such at the AGM
- DA, currently appointed as lead for competitions by the Executive Committee, to be formally proposed as such at the AGM.
- Voting on the above to be in person at the AGM.

10. ECF/YCA Matters (DV/CM) – None

11. Archiving of local chess records (GC/RA) – The circulated proposal was accepted, after some discussion around questions about the ownership of archived material.

12. Any other notified business

- 12.1 Possible breaks in league schedule (DMa) – It was suggested that the winter/spring competitions could be planned with short breaks in the schedule to allow for clubs to run their internal competitions, as the current arrangements leave little free time for these (at least for one club). After some deliberation, DM, DA and DS are invited to discuss the matter further among themselves. **Action – DMa/DA/DS**

13. Date of next meeting: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Planned meetings for 2025:  
AGM June 24th