



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 21st March, 2024.

Present – Graham Chesters (chair), David Atkin, Andrew Bettley, Richard Atkinson, Chris Matthews, Steve Thrower, Keith Porteous, Derek Sheppard (trustees), Tom Tallentire (Hull Chess Club) (observer).

Graham welcomed Tom to the meeting. He is attending as a potential trustee who has qualifications and experience as an accountant, and who could be a replacement for Graeme, who has indicated his wish to stand down.

1. Apologies for absence: Graeme Reid, Douglas Vleeshouwer, Bethany Mount (trustees), Jim Miklevicz (observer)

2. Minutes of the last two meetings – Committee meeting of 18th January 2024 – accepted as correct.

Committee meeting of 15th February 2024 – accepted as correct, but with the addition of a written record of the follow-up email discussion which completed the business of the adjourned meeting. This related to the Committee's decision on any adjustment to the penalty imposed on St Andrews.

3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)

- a) Charity Commission registration. It was reported that the CC has revised the way in which it communicates with charities, and this necessitates the completion of some technicalities on the part of HERCA. These have been initiated.
- b) Chess Strategy – this has been circulated to members and club secretaries. No responses have been received, and so no amendments to it have been made.
- c) St Andrews. It was reported that the club had responded by the due date to the HERCA proposal for an agreement, to seek clarification regarding the circumstances that might trigger the imposition of the suspended part of the penalty. Some guidance has been provided to St Andrews on this, including an example of a recent statement by the former secretary of the club which clearly aimed to bring the Association into disrepute. A further response has been requested by 25th March.
 - i. It is noted that there is a view of the HERCA rule 4.1 (from HERCA Rules, 2023-24), expressed by one trustee, that is inconsistent with the current approach. It is agreed that this apparent ambiguity needs to be addressed. **Action – KP**
- d) Club development funds – the summary of 2022-23 activities, and the offering of £200 for the current year, have been circulated to club secretaries. The mechanism for payment has to be determined, and clarification is required of the actual spend for those clubs who have not yet committed any of last year's grant. **Action – KP & GR**
- e) Deadline for proposed rule changes – March 31st: club secretaries have been reminded of this.

KP

4. Chair's Business (GC)

a) **Review of Financial, Investment and Reserves strategies.** The circulated report was explained and discussed. The main points made were:

- i. The overall performance figure of 9.3%, which includes the c£5000 which is drawn down to fund HERCA activities and the increase in the total value of the investments, should be better known to members. To this end a short presentation is to be made to the HERCA AGM. **Action – KP**
- ii. There is no minimum number of units applicable when selling units; but there are fees payable for the management of the funds.
- iii. No proposal was included regarding the individual membership fee of HERCA. Currently this is £5 per year. **Action – Finance Group**
- iv. If no funds are drawn down from the investment (beyond the usual c£5000), there is a risk that planned projects would have to be abandoned or curtailed if other income (such as grants) were insufficient to cover them.
- v. Formal terms of reference should be devised for the Finance Group **Action – Finance Group**
- vi. Should HERCA nominate a deputy contact with CCLA, the management company handling our investment? There was no overwhelming support for this.

All ten recommendations from the Finance Group were adopted:

- 1) That HERCA keep CCLA as its financial managers, subject to annual review.
- 2) That HERCA keep its funds as currently invested, including maintenance of the risk level.
- 3) That HERCA's investment strategy embrace the principle of aiming to retain the value of the original investment, based on the Bank of England's inflation calculator.
- 4) That the trustees accept the notion of accessing investment funds (other than the annual dividend) and agree that the mechanism outlined in the Finance Group First Report be applied to the way in which this is done.
- 5) That the group should revise the Investment Strategy accordingly and then proceed to revise the Finance Strategy and Reserves Policy.
- 6) That there be no change in the club subscription levels for 2024-25.
- 7) That the Executive Committee set up a subcommittee, the Finance Group, to fulfil the functions outlined above.
- 8) That the signatories' list be reduced and brought up to date.
- 9) That HERCA explore the practicality of requiring dual authorisations for payments exceeding a defined level.
- 10) That the serving Treasurer replace Stephen Greep as the main contact point for CCLA.

b) **British Championships.** It was reported that Hull City Council will give £5000 to support the social programme, which will dovetail with the Play Chess Festival.

5. Treasurer's Business (GR)

a) Financial report, including performance against budgets. In his absence, the treasurer's comments were reported: that the bank balance is £13859.46 and this agrees with the spreadsheet circulated. All transactions / payments are up to date. One question was posed,

regarding some funds paid to a HERCA member: this was justified as a planned cost of coaching delivered in accordance with the CSC contract.

- b) Current investment performance. The current valuation of our CCLA COIF Charities Investment is £199119.23.

6. Competitions (DV)

- a) Congress 2024. In his absence, the competitions' lead comments were reported:
 - i. Sections and prize money have been agreed with 4NCL.
 - ii. University has been booked.
 - iii. Arbiters team has been agreed (DV will be Chief Arbitrer). There will be 32 live boards again.
 - iv. It should be advertised on the 4NCL website soon, which will include a link to booking player accommodation in the university halls.
- b) Summer league (DS). Entries to this are being received. Depending on numbers, section 2 may be split into two, with possible play-off arrangements to be kept in mind. Fixtures will be arranged not to coincide with the British Championships or with key Euro football matches.

7. Junior Academy (CM). Arrangements are being made for the entry of juniors into the British Championships in appropriate sections, with HERCA support. There are likely to be 16 such entries. It is also hoped that there will be some public-facing activities involving juniors during the championship week.

It is reported that Hymers have dropped out of the KCOM Online league due to technical issues. The junior school league is progressing, and the knock-out events are at the semi-final stage.

This year's summer school will take place on 28th to 30th August.

8. Chess in the Community (GC)

- a) Chess in the Parks funding. The two chess tables are now installed, with appropriate publicity.
- b) Play Chess Festival. This will be planned to dovetail with the programme of the British Championships.

9. Governance

- a) Update on affiliation process (KP). A certificate of affiliation has been constructed, to act as a public document within an affiliated organisation, letting their members know of the relationship with HERCA. A combined document involving both this certificate and the affiliation criteria will constitute what is actually signed by an organisation and HERCA to formally establish the affiliated status. Progress has been made with all clubs, as potential affiliated organisations, although work with St Andrews is in abeyance, pending the resolution of the current dispute. Affiliation of Hull University Chess Club will be handled by their new officers, after their imminent AGM.
- b) HERCA Assets Register. It was agreed that the treasurer should take charge of the seniors' assets register (the juniors' already being done), and TT agreed to take on this task. It was noted that the trophies need to be gathered in good time for this year's presentation event

(following the AGM), and that a new trophy for the individual regional champion event needs to be purchased. Engraving will be arranged by JM.

- c) **Appointment and re-appointment of trustees** – The term of office for Graeme, Richard and Douglas comes to an end this year. Formal re-appointment (or otherwise) will be made at this year's AGM. Tom Tallentire was appointed as a trustee.
- d) AGM. It was agreed to hold this on June 18th, probably at the Goodfellowship Inn again, but without the full buffet provided last year. A draft agenda will be circulated to clubs and members and due formal notice will be given. **Action – KP**

10. Any other notified business: none.

11. Date of next meeting: May 16th, 2024.