



Hull and East Riding Chess Association (Registered Charity 1155858)

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 15th May, 2025.

Present: Graham Chesters (chair), Keith Porteous, David Atkin, Richard Atkinson, Andrew Bettley, Derek Sheppard, Douglas Vleeshouwer, Chris Matthews (trustees).

1. Apologies for absence: *Dan Malbon*
2. Minutes of the last meeting(s)
 - 2.1 Committee meeting of 20th March 2025 – accepted as correct, after the amendment of one spelling error.
3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)
 - 3.1 Transfer of Treasurer's responsibilities (item 3.1) (DV) – all the required arrangements have now been made with the bank and with CCLA. The current value of the investment is £192 032.90.
 - 3.2 Volunteering opportunities with HERCA events (item 4) – the combined list of activities that require voluntary support has been circulated, initially to the small group of members who have shown an interest in helping, and then to the whole membership. The first call produced one positive response. The list is to be posted on the HERCA website. **Action – KP&DMa**
 - 3.3 Possible re-evaluation of the role of registration of players (item 5) (DA) – after due consideration it has been decided that no action is needed.
 - 3.4 Re-nomination of long-serving trustees (item 9) (KP) – the canvassing of trustees regarding re-nomination of GC and AB generated unanimous support, and so they are to be re-nominated by the Executive Committee at the AGM.
 - 3.5 Possible breaks in league schedule (item 12.1) (DMa/DA/DS) – it was decided that such breaks were not needed, as there is already a facility for clubs to request the protection of some dates for internal activities, and this should suffice for the purposes proposed.
4. Chair's Business and Chess in the Community (GC)
 - 4.1 This year's activities – the circulated list was amended a little:
 - 4.1.1 The Freedom Festival will take place in Trinity Square, not Princes Quay, and it is hoped to be able to use some space in the Minster in case of inclement weather. A simultaneous display is planned, by the Ukrainian champion, Eldar Gasanov.
 - 4.1.2 The Amos Burn blue plaque will be unveiled on November 25th, the exact centenary of his death. It is hope to be able to offer

refreshments afterwards in Charterhouse, and then a simultaneous display by GM and British Champion Gawain Jones (possible in the Guildhall).

- 4.2 Club development fund – following consideration of the clubs’ reports on their spend of the 2024 allocation, and their draft plans for 2025 developments, it was agreed to allocate each club £200 again for 2025. Also a summary of the club’s responses will be circulated, as a way of disseminating ideas. **Action – KP&DV**

5. Treasurer’s Report (DV) – the circulated accounts were briefly discussed, the various credits and deficits in the budgets being noted. The end of year accounts will be very little different from these: they will be presented to the AGM. An independent inspection will be made in the next few weeks, a meeting of the finance committee will receive and examine the end of year accounts, and formal approval sought from the Executive Committee, the latter being done by email.

Action – DV&KP

6. Lead Competitions (DV/DA) – the following were considered:

6.1 Trophies are being collected, ready for engraving for the presentation evening on June 24th.

6.2 It was suggested that in the HERCA individual “Champion of Champions” competition, the winner of one year’s event could have automatic entry to the following year’s, giving them the right to defend their title. Pros and cons for this were considered, before a vote carried the idea by four votes to two, with two abstentions.

6.3 The emailed query from John Thackray, concerning the number of teams to be promoted and relegated between the divisions of the 6-board and 4-board competitions, was considered. It was decided that there will be one promotion and one relegation between divisions 1 and 2 of the six-board league, and two of each in the four-board league. It was noted with regret that these decisions had not been made and published at the start of the season, as had been intended. Club secretaries will be informed.

Action – KP

7. Lead Junior Academy (CM) – the following were noted:

7.1 In the junior league, Beverley Rhinos have won division 1, and Hull Rooks division 2.

7.2 In the schools’ league, Newbald Primary have won the primary section, and the secondary section is not yet finished.

7.3 The junior finals cannot be played on the planned finals evening, so another date has to be found. (*Post-meeting note – these will be played on May 20th, 7.15pm, at Victoria Dock.*)

7.4 Chess in Schools and the Community will circulate all schools in Hull and the East Riding to publicise their offer. A HERCA leaflet to all schools will give a push to the schools’ league for 2025-26.

8. General Secretary’s Business (KP)

8.1 Annual survey – the information gathered so far from club and other organisations was discussed, with clarification where it was needed. It was noted that there has been pleasing progress regarding the increase in the number of active chess players in our

region. Data concerning chess events, and school numbers, will be welcomed by KP.

Action – DV&CM

- 8.2 Annual report to AGM – an abstract from the survey results will form the backbone of the annual report to HERCA members at the AGM. This to be prepared and circulated for formal approval by the Executive Committee. **Action – KP**

9. HERCA website development – the circulated report from DMA was discussed.

9.1 The increase in the number of viewings was welcomed, albeit with reservations about over-interpretation of the data, many of the hits coming from Russia.

9.2 Several of the actions noted in the report as being still to do will be completed imminently.

9.3 The planned meeting of key trustees and club representatives will be scaled back a little to include trustees only in the first instance. **Action – KP**

10. Charity and Trustee Business (GC/KP) – none.

11. AGM preparation – it was agreed to book the Goodfellowship Inn again for the AGM and presentation evening. The AGM to run from 6.30 to 7.30; refreshments to be provided from 7.30; the presentations beginning at 8.00. A draft agenda, to include the summer programme and something of key significance from the annual survey, will be circulated for comment to trustees prior to being issued to all members. Sarah Brignall is to be approached with a view to her presenting the junior awards and trophies. **Action – KP&GC**

12. ECF/YCA Matters (DV/CM) – the YCA AGM will take place on June 28th, at Anlaby Library. In the Yorkshire League Woodhouse Cup, Hull A finished second, Hull B finished 10th and are thereby relegated; and Hull C finished second in the AG Sunderland trophy and will be promoted to the Silver Rook for next season.

13. Any other notified business – none.

14. Date of next meeting – the meetings for 2025-26 will follow the same pattern as for the current year. **Action – KP**

Planned meetings for 2025:

AGM June 24th

KP

KP