



**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 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024. 19.15

*Present: Keith Porteous (chair), David Atkin, Douglas Vleeshouwer, Derek Shepperd, Richard Atkinson, Steve Thrower (trustees); Dan Malbon (observer, St Andrews).*

1. Apologies for absence: Graham Chesters, Andrew Bettley, Chris Matthews, Tom Tallentire.
2. Minutes of the last meeting(s)
  - 2.1 Committee meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 – accepted as a correct record, but with a comment from RA which is reported below under item 7.
3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)
  - 3.1 First-aid training (item 6) (KP) – it was reported that the idea of running some first-aid training was circulated to club secretaries, but that no interest was forthcoming.
  - 3.2 Assets register (item 7) (KP) – it was noted that the assets register is now up to date, with the information that had been provided by several trustees regarding serial numbers for clocks, and such like.
  - 3.3 Reserves policy (item 7) (GC) – the circulated policy was approved.
  - 3.4 Provision for lower-rated players (item 9) – it is estimated that about 40 members have ratings under 1300. It was reported that the circulation to club secretaries, of the suggestion that some sort of competition be arranged, restricted to players with rating less than 1300, produced no response; and that a circulation of the idea to members within this category generated just two interested players. It was felt, nevertheless, that the 2025-26 season should include an individual competition at this level, the exact format depending on the number of entries. A further idea mentioned would be to limit the rating of the bottom board in the four-board division two teams to 1300, to ensure that at least one player was playing a lower-rated opponent.
4. Trustee posts – in 2025 the posts of Andrew Bettley, Chris Matthews (lead Junior Academy) and Graham Chesters (President) are due for re-election. Chris has given notice that he will not continue. In addition, the post of lead for Chess in the Community falls vacant, and Tom Tallentire has given notice of wishing to stand down as Treasurer. Richard has indicated that he intends to reduce his commitments to the Association next year.
  - 4.1 Immediate arrangements – it was agreed that DV take over the role of Treasurer, and DA the role of lead (competitions) as soon as practicable.
  - 4.2 Plans for the elections at the AGM in June 2025 – the arrangement in 4.1 would need to be ratified (or not) at the next AGM. It was agreed that the full range of trustee/officer positions should be advertised to members and club secretaries as soon

as possible. Expressions of interest will be welcomed for any of the posts, but it should be emphasised that any interest will be appreciated: flexibility in the arrangement of responsibilities will be necessary (within the constraints of the constitution). DM offered to help where he could. This was warmly welcomed, and some informal discussions outside of this meeting should be held to explore possibilities.

**Action – KP**

**5. Chair's Business (GC) – none**

- 6. Treasurer's Report (TT) – the circulated report was welcomed. It was noted that some invoices still need to be paid. The settlement of club subscriptions was highlighted: DV will remind clubs of this, with a deadline for payment of November 30<sup>th</sup>. It is believed that St Andrews Chess Club has paid theirs (this will be checked). It was recommended that as the change of Treasurer is arranged with our bank a second signatory for electronic banking should be set up, and that the requirement of a double signature for large transactions also be included if possible.**

**Action – DV**

**7. Charity and Trustee Matters (GC/KP)**

- 7.1 Affiliation applications – all the players on the circulated list of HERCA applications were formally approved for membership. After a review of the current position, the following points were agreed:**

**7.1.1 Club members who have not yet joined HERCA should continue to be encouraged to do so.**

**7.1.2 Team captains should be asked to ensure from now on that they select to play only players who are members of HERCA. They may also like to check the membership status of opposing team players.**

**7.1.3 If it becomes known that a non-HERCA member has played in a team, appropriate warning notices will be issued to the player and the club and team captain; this practice will continue until the end of December. From January 1<sup>st</sup> such failures will result in forfeited games.**

**Action – KP**

**7.1.4 A list of a club's HERCA members should be sent to each club secretary.**

**Action – KP**

- 7.2 Constitutional review: working group – the circulated summary paper was noted. It includes a suggestion that the quorum requirement be adjusted to simply fifteen members, of whom at least five must be non-trustees. It is expected that it should be possible to ensure such a quorum by canvassing likely attendees in advance. A final version of the constitutional review will be presented to the Executive Committee meeting in January.**

**Action – GC/RA/DA/KP**

- 7.3 Communications Strategy: working group – the circulated paper was noted. The suggestion that “community” be replace by “Hull and East Riding” was accepted. RA made the point that according to Charity Commission rules, all official documents produced by HERCA should include the statement that HERCA is a registered charity. A final version of the Communications and Marketing Strategy will be presented to the Executive Committee meeting in January.**

**Action – DA/KP/GC**

**8. Strategic Leads Competitions (DV)**

KP

- 8.1 Hull Congress - 2025 dates and 4NCL partnership – the dates (September 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025) and venue (University of Hull) of the congress were confirmed. Consideration was given to the question of whether or not to continue with the collaboration with 4NCL. Hitherto, 4NCL have handled advertising, receipt of entries, chasing of ECF membership, the payment of arbiters, the payment of prizes; while HERCA has booked and paid for the venue. Any profit made by 4NCL comes to HERCA. In 2024 the overall cost to the Association amounted to about £1300. It was noted that 4NCL had been reluctant to add the extra lower-rating category that we wanted; and that the congress would be FIDE-rated whether or not we maintained our link to 4NCL. It was agreed that the 4NCL collaboration should continue, for at least the coming year. It was also noted that DV will take the lead in running the congress, despite his likely change of role within HERCA.
9. Lead Junior Academy (CM) – RA reported that the first Yorkshire under-18 event had taken place at Bradford on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and that 15 players from our region had participated; given the pressures on travelling this distance this was a pleasing turnout. The next event in this series will be in Hull on December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the University of Hull.
10. Lead Chess in the Community (GC) – none
11. ECF/YCA Matters (DV/CM) – it was noted that ECF bronze members now need to pay £15 (juniors £6) if they wish to temporarily upgrade to participate in such events as the congress. If a non-ECF member plays in HERCA events (more than three standard matches or six rapid matches) then fees of £20 are levied on the club concerned and on HERCA.  
It was reported that in the YCA league, our A-team has so far won 3/3, the B-team 0/3, and the C-team 0.5/1.
12. Any other notified business – none
13. Date of next meeting: January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Planned meetings for 2025:

March 20th

May 15th

AGM June 24th