



**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 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2025.

*Present: Graham Chesters (chair), Keith Porteous, David Atkin, Richard Atkinson, Andrew Bettley, , Douglas Vleeshouwer, Chris Matthews, Dan Malbon (trustees); John Thackray (observer).*

1. Apologies for absence: *Derek Sheppard*
2. Minutes of the last meeting(s)
  - 2.1 Committee meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – item 7.5 was deleted. Two errors were corrected.
  - 2.2 Committee meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> September – minutes are accepted as correct.
3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)
  - 3.1 Volunteering opportunities on the website (item 3.2) (KP/DMa). This was done.
  - 3.2 Club development report to secretaries, and allocation of 2025 allocation (item 4.2) (KP/DV). These were done.
  - 3.3 Promotion and relegation arrangements for 2025 (item 6.2) (KP). These actions were done. The meeting was unsure whether or not promotion and relegation plans for the current season had been communicated to clubs, as rules require. DA will check this with DS. **Action – DA**
  - 3.4 Annual survey and annual report (item 8.1&8.2) (DV/CM/KP). These were done.
4. Safeguarding matter. The details of the case, and what has happened since the meeting of September 4<sup>th</sup>, were shared. KP reported on what the member, and his mother, at the member's request, had said and had wanted to be passed on to this committee. The proposed termination of the individual's membership of HERCA was enacted. KP will write to the ex-member, and inform safeguarding officers, in confidence, of the necessary facts of the case. **Action – KP**  
Arrangements for the appropriate maintenance of the documents relevant to this case were made. KP to copy all files to RA. **Action – KP**  
There was some discussion around whether or not HERCA should include in its membership application form a question, or a disclaimer, concerning criminal records. No final decision on this was made, and the matter will be addressed at a future meeting. **Action – KP**
5. Chair's Business and Chess in the Community (GC)
  - 5.1 Review of the summer's activities. A brief summary of some key aspects of the activities was given. The East Yorkshire Show was a welcome addition to our programme, sadly spoiled this year by heavy rain. Our pitch for the Pride event was less useful than in previous years. The size of the field for the simultaneous event with

Gasarov was disappointing. The entry fees for the planned simultaneous against Gawain Jones have been reduced to £15 and £7 for juniors; this will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> November, at the Ron Dearing UTC. The unveiling of the blue plaque for Amos Burn takes place the following day.

- 5.2 Attracting volunteers. It was noted with some pleasure that a small number of new volunteers had helped at a number of the summer's events. There is still a heavy burden falling on a few trustees, however, and KP asked the committee to consider a scheme whereby volunteers can gain a small financial reward for their clubs. This may produce more volunteers, and it may also help to develop a closer relationship between clubs and HERCA. Doubts were cast on the likely effectiveness of such a scheme, given that a similar arrangement for junior activities had had little impact. KP will produce possible models for a scheme, for a future meeting. **Action – KP**

## 6. Treasurer's Report (DV)

- 6.1 Formal approval of end-of-year accounts. The accounts, which were noted as having been inspected, were approved.
- 6.2 September accounts. As well as presenting the monthly accounts, DV noted that the HERCA capital fund had recovered somewhat from recent falls, standing now at £190 037. Two clubs have their annual fees outstanding (St Andrews and Hull University), but both of these are in hand. The funds remaining in various funds are as follows: Hull City Council - £1901; Beadham Trust - £2349; Brignall Trust – £2000 (with another £3000 to come this year).

7. Lead Competitions (DV/DA). DA noted that there seem to be more postponed league matches this year than is normal. AB reported that the cup events, both individual and team, are in hand. Three open tournaments are in the offing, the blitz (comprising 15 rounds), the simultaneous and the rapid.

DV reported on the Hull Congress. An overall loss of £1258 was incurred. He proposes removing the lowest section, the under 1500, given that this section made the heaviest loss, and the entry numbers, over the last three years of the trial introduction of this additional element, have been significantly lower than in the other sections. Informal canvassing of views of a handful of participants with rating lower than 1500 indicates that the majority in this range would enter the congress even without the separation of the lower part. Arguments against the removal were made, covering amongst other things the value of providing a progression route for improving young players. A decision on this matter will be made at a future meeting, pending further analysis by DV of relevant data. (*This has been circulated post-meeting.*)

DV reported that an approach had been made, to consider including the Hull congress as part of the YCA circuit of chess congresses. Advantages include ease of administration, disadvantages include the loss of the Friday evening, which could differentially impact on an outlying city such as Hull.

A date needs to be decided for the 2026 congress, to allow for the competing pressures of the summer holiday season and the need to avoid being too close to the Scarborough congress. The congress will be considered fully at the next meeting. **Action – DV&KP**

A couple of observations about recent local matches, without subsequent discussion, were made:

- i) A player in the Champion of Champions competition is representing the club he was a member of last year, despite belonging now to a different club.

- ii) A substitute player was fielded in a league match from another team in the same division, when it should have been possible for a sub to have been found from elsewhere in the club. While this is within the letter of the rules, it is not in the right spirit. The rule allowing such things was introduced to ease the pressure on small clubs.
8. Lead Junior Academy (CM). CM reported that the junior clubs league is under way, as are the schools' fixtures, with two new primary schools participating.
    - 8.1 Formal approval of appointment of Chris Matthews as trustee. CM's three-year tenure as trustee came to an end at the AGM in June 2025, and he is unable to accept a further three-year appointment. Immediately following the AGM a proposal was circulated to other trustees that he be appointed as trustee for a period of one year: voting electronically, this was approved by seven votes for and none against. His appointment for one year was ratified at this meeting, and his leadership of the junior academy was also approved.
    - 8.2 Junior strategy, a possible way forward. GC summarised the suggestion from John Cooper as urging a more bottom-up approach to HERCA activities, whereby the Association offers support to grass-roots initiatives. Some top-down work would be necessary, and some commissioning of programmes could provide a middle way. It was noted that the idea could apply to the bulk of HERCA's work, not just the junior section. Further discussion of these ideas will take place in the working group that has already met.
    - 8.3 The under-18 YCA competition. A call for volunteers to help with the three events has elicited just two people, one for Hull and one for the round in Bradford. More are needed.
  9. General Secretary's Business (KP). Following an initiative by CM, KP has met with representatives of the Iranian Community of Hull. The latter is running a weekly chess meeting for two groups of junior players, and is keen to involve them in matches against other clubs. Discussion around the principles of affiliation seem to indicate that it would be fairly easy for an ICOH chess club to meet the required criteria. There was enthusiasm in the group for this, and KP will pursue the matter. **Action – KP**
  10. HERCA website development. A meeting is arranged for interested trustees on November 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 1pm. KP to book the venue. **Action – KP**
  11. Charity and Trustee Business (GC/KP). None, other than a reiteration of the fact that recruitment of new trustees is important.
  12. ECF/YCA Matters (DV/CM). None, other than the above.
  13. Any other notified business. There was some enthusiasm for a Christmas meal out for trustees.
  14. Date of next meeting – January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026?

Planned meetings for 2026:

January 15

March 19

KP

May 14

AGM June 23rd

KP