



MINUTES

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Hull and District Chess Association: Held in the James Reckitt Reading Room, Hull Central Library. Thursday 13th July 2023.

Present – Graham Chesters (chair), Keith Porteous, David Atkin, Chris Matthews, Derek Sheppard, Douglass Vleeshhouwer, Steve Thrower.

1. Apologies for absence: Graeme Reid, Richard Atkinson, Andrew Bettley.
2. Minutes of the last meetings
 - 2.1 Committee meeting of 11th May 2023 – accepted as accurate
 - 2.2 Extraordinary Committee Zoom meeting of 5th July 2023 – accepted as accurate
3. Matters arising
 - 3.1 Meeting with Lloyd's Bank, GR and GC. Contact with a local Lloyds bank manager led to being given a telephone number for the bank's central fraud office; this in turn led to the bank committing to send us the promised letter about the issue. It is noted that the account into which the sum had been paid has been closed, making the chances of recovery somewhat diminished. It will continue to be pursued.
 - 3.2 Missing trophies. DV reported that the trophies for the summer league sections 1 and 2, and for the winter league 4-board division 2, were missing. There was some discussion around the criteria for the awards for "player of the year" in various categories: this is an issue which may be returned to at some point.
4. Chair's Business (GC) – several matters require attention:
 - 4.1 Do entrants to all HDCA events have to be HDCA members? GC's circulated paper was briefly discussed. It was agreed that entry to "closed" HDCA events and leagues was open only to HDCA members (which includes all local club members, unless they have opted out). The stipulation is not applicable to junior players (those under the age of 18).
 - 4.2 The position of St Andrew's. It was noted that this club has settled its debt to HDCA. It was also agreed that close monitoring of invoicing and payment checking is needed during the coming year.

Action – GR

There was some discussion around possible financial pressures at St Andrew's. Earlier correspondence with the club, when HDCA was asked what it intended to do to support clubs during the rising cost of living crisis, was rehearsed: the principle that recurrent costs of clubs need to be covered by recurrent club membership income and/or reserves was re-iterated.

- 4.3 Affiliation to HDCA, and the process of helping clubs to gain formal affiliation. A wide range of difficult areas around formal affiliation were identified and briefly discussed, and the importance of supporting clubs through the process was highlighted. A plan of action will be formulated. **Action - KP**
- 4.4 Change of name from HDCA to HERCA. Given the support in principle from the recent AGM, it was agreed formally to make the change on January 1st, 2024. The Charity Commission will be informed immediately, and a list of other necessary actions drawn up. **Action – KP**
Less legally formal changes will be implemented as soon as possible.
- 4.5 Review of HDCA/HERCA strategies. Some recent events, including consultations with clubs, and reflections on some remarks made at the AGM, have led to perceived need to review our various strategies. It was noted that this should be preceded by a deeper consideration of our charitable objectives, something that ought to involve club presidents. A plan for such consultations will be drafted. **Action – KP/GC**
- 4.6 Review of rationale for subscriptions. This will be included in the review of the financial strategy (which is included in 4.5).

5. Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 2023-24 Budget. In GR's absence, GC reported that the HDCA year-end figures (as at May 31st, 2023) were – income £20471, expenditure £24048, reserves standing at £15383. It was noted that the expenditure included an item that more properly belongs in 2021-22. Our investment sum (as of July 13th 2023) is £180462. It was noted that the committee could benefit from some more detailed information about investment performance: it is believed that this is currently provided to GR. The budget for 2023-24 is being drafted by GR in consultation with budget-holders.
- 5.2 Possible late payment fee for the summer league. It was noted that current practice is for a single payment for entry to winter and summer leagues is made by clubs in September/October, this covering the summer season just finished and the winter season just started. It may be wise to invoice separately for summer and winter entries: this question will be considered at a later date.

6. Charity and Trustee Matters. None, beyond what is mentioned in 4.4.

7. Strategic Leads reports

- 7.1 Lead 'Competitions'. DV reported that there are currently 27 entries for this year's congress, and that dates for Yorkshire League and 4NCL have been decided. DS indicated that for the coming winter season, there will be three 4-board divisions, and that the 6-board divisions each have seven teams, so that each "round" of matches will involve one club not playing. Teams will find that there are therefore two spells in the season when there will be a longer gap between fixtures.
- 7.2 Lead Junior Academy. CM reported that there are currently 30 entrants for the summer academy, and that a request for new coaches has been issued. John Cooper is drawing up ideas for development plans for juniors to help conduct them through increasing ratings. Six secondary schools are to participate in a school league this winter, and an interest in chess has been expressed by a number of more far-flung schools in the East Riding.
- 7.3 Lead Chess in the Community. GC circulated fliers for the Play Chess Festival, pointing out that the Beverley event, planned for August 5th, needs to be added. It is

pleasing that Hull University are now participating in HDCA leagues. The less formal HDCA-supported activities in Chanterlands Ave, Hull, Brough, and Bridlington are still going strong.

8. ECF/YCA Matters. CM reported that the attempt to change the timings of YCA matches, to accommodate pressures of travelling, has failed, due to restrictions for one club in the availability of their venue.
9. Any other notified business: None
10. Date of next meeting: August 10th, 2023.

The suggestions from Stephen Greep for dates for subsequent meetings are below. These are provisional.

2023

November 9th

2024

January 18

March 21st

May 16th

The AGM could then be June 16th

KP