



Agenda

Annual General Meeting of the Hull and District Chess Association Charitable Trust to be held at Willows Club, Hull, 19.15 on Tuesday 13th June, 2017.

1. Presidents opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence:
3. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated)
4. Matters arising

Presentation: Mike Truran : Chief Executive English Chess Federation

5. Officers Reports – previously circulated.
 - 5.1 General Secretaries Report (SG)
 - 5.2 Treasurers Report (SH)
 - 5.3 League, Cup and Summer League Secretaries Report (AB/DS/SG)
 - 5.4 Fixture Secretaries Report (DS)
 - 5.5 Junior Officer (Dean Morris)
 - 5.6 Match Captains report (DaM)
6. Proposals for Rule Changes (SG)
 - 6.1 Proposal that all players in HDCA league and cup games are required to be ECF members (SK)
 - 6.2 Proposal to clarify the number of games a player can play in one evening (DS).
 - 6.3 Proposal to split rule 5.3 (AB)
 - 6.4 Proposal to remove handicaps from the four board league and fours and six board cups (Ted Stamp)
 - 6.5 Proposal to change Atkinson cup rule 4.3 and RP Ross four board league & cup rules (AB)
7. Proposal for Subscriptions for 2016/17 (SH)
8. Election of officers and Trustees (SK)

The following nominations have been received:

President	Steve King (SK)
Vice President	Andrew Bettley (AB)
General Secretary	Stephen Greep (SG)
Treasurer	Steve Hodge (SH)
League Secretary	Andrew Bettley
Cup Controller	Andrew Bettley
Summer League Controller	Derek Sheppard (DS)
Fixture Secretary	Derek Sheppard
Publicity Officer	Roger Noble
Congress Organiser	Steve King
Junior Officer	Mike Pollard
Match Captain	David Mills
Trustees (without Office):	Graham Chesters
	Steve Thrower
	Lester Jones
	Jim Micklevicz
	Scott Nicholson
	Douglas Vleeshouwer
	Bill Wright

9. Any other notified business

SJG (17/05/17)



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hull and District Chess Association Charitable Trust, held at Willows Social Club, Hull, Tuesday 14th June, 2016.

The President opened the meeting at 7.16pm

Present: S King (President), Stephen Greep, Stephen Hodge, Roger Noble, Andrew Bettley, Richard Atkinson, Steve Thrower, John Thompson, Jim Miklevicz, David Stothard, Paul Allison, Mike Butt, Tony Southern, Trevor Harper, Ted Williamson, Kevin Chilvers, Lester Jones, Ted Stamp, Derek Sheppard, Malcolm Oggelsby, Shaun Moody, Granville Mellor, Dave Cooper, Olegs Dukelevs, Dmitris Ivanovs, John Thackray, Nick Whetton, Michael Martin-Smith and four others (who did not sign the attendance register).

The Annual General Meeting, due notice having been given, was quorate.

1. **Presidents Opening remarks:** The President of the Association welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked them for their time. He declared the AGM open.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Philip Tuplin, John Scotter, Bill Wright, David Mills, Graham Chesters, Jason Clemmey, Paul Lyons and Dean Morris.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting (2015 AGM):** were unanimously voted as a true record
4. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
5. **Officers Reports:** These had been previously circulated. Each officer briefly introduced their report. The Treasurer answered questions in respect of the auditing of the accounts and how, because we received the Ross Funds in year, we may be subject to more scrutiny by the Charities Commission. Questions regarding the investments with our chosen investment manager, Cardales, were answered with the offer of more details outside the AGM for anyone who requested them. The Cup controllers discussed problems with fixture completion during the season. All but one of the cups should be complete by 22nd June. Proposals discussed elsewhere at the AGM should resolve problems encountered in recent years.
6. **Proposal for Subscriptions for 2016/17:** The Treasurer outlined the Charities policy of ensuring subscriptions met the 'day to day' running costs of the Association, such as insurance, web hosting, cup engraving, league and cup expenses. Following a debate concerning the potential higher cost per game played of entering cup tournaments relative to league matches (following which the Treasurer agreed to review this in year) the proposed increases were agreed unanimously. It was indicated out that if the number of cups events were reduced (item 8.8) there would be a loss of income to the Association which would mean that subscriptions for other events would need to rise next year.
7. **Proposals for Changes to the Constitution.** (These minutes are to be read in association with the appendix, detailing the agreed constitution changes. These are a formal part of these minutes).
 - 7.1 **Presentation of Trophies**
 - 7.2 **Amendments to Rule Changes at the AGM**

7.3 ***Removal of right of past president to automatically become a Trustee without election***

7.4 ***Change in post title***

7.5 ***Change/clarification in Trustee election notice period***

Stephen Greep introduced each of the proposed changes. All the amendments to the constitution were agreed unanimously.

8. Proposals for Rule Changes (These minutes are to be read in association with the appendix, detailing the agreed rule changes. These are a formal part of these minutes). Not being votes, abstentions have not been listed, but there were 31 members present at the AGM (34 last year).

8.1 Proposal to clarify notice period required in the arrangement of cup matches

Andrew Bettley introduced this item. There were no questions. A vote was taken resulting in:

For 31 : Against 0:

The rule change was therefore was agreed.

8.2 Rule clarification/confirmation of rule in respect of end date of tournaments. Andrew Bettley introduced the item. There were no questions. A vote was taken resulting in:

For 31 : Against 0:

The rule change was therefore was agreed.

8.3 Proposal regarding completion of fixture arrangements for team and individual cup tournaments run by the HDCA. Andrew Bettley introduced this item. There were no questions. A vote was taken resulting in:

For 31 : Against 0:

The rule change was therefore agreed.

8.4 Proposal relating to the use and grades of reserves: Paul Allison introduced this item and answered questions on the implications. Following a debate the following votes were cast:

For 9 : Against 9:

As the votes cast for and against were equal, in accordance with paragraph 16 (1) of the constitution the President had the casting vote. He supported the motion which was therefore carried.

The rule change was therefore agreed.

8.5 Proposals relating to the use of mobile phones: There were two proposals. Paul Allison (first version) and Stephen Greep (second version) introduced their proposals. Following questions both proposals were put to the vote:

Version One: For : 4 : Against 21:

Version Two: For: 25: Against 0:

Version two of the proposal was therefore agreed.

8.6 Proposal relating to the role of team captains in dispute management: Following a discussion it was agreed to delete from the proposal the words 'If necessary they may stop their own clocks as well as those of the disputed board'. A vote was taken resulting in:

For 29 : Against 0:

The rule change was therefore agreed.

8.7 Proposal that the time control from the winter season 2016/17 in all league and cup tournaments should be 35 moves in 1 ¼ hours plus 15 minutes. As neither proposer nor seconder were present this went straight to a vote:

For 0 : Against 24:

The rule change was therefore not agreed.

8.8 Proposal regarding future arrangements team and individual cup tournaments run by the HDCA: The proposal was introduced by Andrew Bettley. Following a debate a vote was taken:

For 24 : Against 0:

The rule change was therefore agreed.

8.9 Proposal relating to the elimination of the use of handicapping in Ross league and cups, the Atkinson, Fenner and Jubilee cups: This proposal was introduced by Ted Stamp. Following a long presentation the proposal was put to a vote:

For 5 : Against 23:

The rule change was therefore not agreed.

9. Election of Officers and Trustees

The following nominations had been received and all were duly elected as officers of the Association and Trustees of the Charity. There were 29 votes for and no votes against.

President	Steve King
Vice President	Andrew Bettley
General Secretary	Stephen Greep
Treasurer	Steve Hodge
League Secretary	Andrew Bettley
Cup Controller	Paul Allison/Andrew Bettley
Summer League Controller	Derek Sheppard
Fixture Secretary	Derek Sheppard
Publicity Officer	Roger Noble
Congress Organiser	Steve King
Junior Chess Officer	Dean Morris
Match Captain	Dave Mills
Trustees (without Office):	Paul Allison
	Graham Chesters
	Lester Jones
	Jim Miklevicz
	Steve Thrower
	Bill Wright

10. Any other notified business

The officers and members of the committee, together with everyone who had contributed to chess events over the last year were warmly thanked for all their work on behalf of chess players in the association.

A number of future events were highlighted – Chess in the Park (July 2nd), Presentation Evening and Team Lightning (July 5th), Hull Chess Congress (14th-16th October).

There being no further business the President closed the Meeting at 21.00

Stephen Greep,
Hon. General Secretary (20/06/16)

Appendix : Changes to the Constitution Agreed at the AGM

Presentation of Trophies

Paragraph 11 (3) Annual General Meeting – Present Trophies

To add the words ‘*unless they are to be presented at a separate event/occasion*’

Amendments to Rule Changes at the AGM

Paragraph 12 (7) new paragraph added to state in relation to amendment’s to proposals at the AGM

‘The only exception to this rule shall be that at general meeting amendments to proposals for rule and constitution changes may be made with the consent of the original proposer and at the chairman of the meetings discretion. The Chairman of the meeting will determine that an amendment is that and not a new rule’.

Removal of right of past president to automatically become a Trustee without election

Paragraph 18(3) is deleted

Change in post title

Paragraph 18 (4) refers to the Youth Development Officer – now read Junior Chess officer.

Change/clarification in Trustee election notice period

Paragraph 19 (4) relates to the appointment of Trustees. It now reads: No- one may be elected a Trustee or an officer at an Annual General Meeting unless *at least 14 days* prior to the meeting the charity is given notice that....

Rules Change Proposals agreed at the 2016 HDCA AGM

NOTICE PERIOD REQUIRED IN THE ARRANGEMENT OF CUP MATCHES

Six Board Cup Tournament Rule 2.1 states 7 days’ notice now reads 14 days’ notice

RULE CLARIFICATION/CONFIRMATION OF RULE IN RESPECT OF END DATE OF TOURNAMENTS

Rule 2.9 is prefixed with the words. All matches in HDCA league and cup tournaments (both team and individual) must be played by 31st May. Any fixtures not played by this date.....

COMPLETION OF FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL CUP TOURNAMENTS RUN BY THE HDCA

New rule at 2.10 (current 2.10 and 2.11 to become 2.11 and 2.12) : All Cup games must be played by period stated on cup draws. (A 2 week extension can be allowed if there is difficulty in arranging matches and correspondence is shown to the cup controller to support this). If any match is not played on time the match will be awarded to the away team/individual.

USE AND GRADES OF RESERVES

Rule 3.9 now reads: Any player playing as a reserve in a league match should have a grade no higher than 20 points above that of the regular team member in whose place they are playing. (This is not applicable to the Four Board League).

USE OF MOBILE PHONES

New rule 3.18: Unless by prior agreement with the captains, players must ensure all electronic communication devices are switched off in the playing area. Failure to do this will result in the loss of the game, although an opponent may waive this right.

THE ROLE OF TEAM CAPTAINS IN DISPUTE MANAGEMENT

Addition to rule 4.3 as follows: During a match Team Captains (or their vice-captain in their absence) are regarded as joint arbiters; if a dispute arises they are jointly responsible for a decision as to how to proceed. In the event of any dispute which cannot be settled between the captains.....

FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL CUP TOURNAMENTS RUN BY THE HDCA

The Fenner and Jubilee events as well as the individual handicap tournament have been removed from the HDCA calendar.



HULL AND DISTRICT CHESS ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE TRUST

2017 AGM : PAPERS

Rule Changes for discussion at the AGM

(Agenda Item 6)

PROPOSAL THAT ALL PLAYERS IN HULL AND DISTRICT LEAGUE AND CUP GAMES ARE REQUIRED TO BE ECF MEMBERS

(Agenda Item 6.1)

Proposed New Rule (inserted as 5.1)

All players registered in league/cup competitions must be members of the ECF and provide a valid ECF membership number. Any club that fields a player who is not a member of the ECF will be charged the appropriate fee as defined under ECF rules¹.

Background and Justification

The issue of individual English Chess Federation (ECF) membership for our HDCA competitions has previously been debated and rejected. However the Committee now feels the time is right to review and implement this change. It believes there is a strong case for having a coordinating and organising function in English Chess and this should be supported locally as it is throughout most of the country. Our relationship with the ECF has improved significantly over the last year and we are now deriving direct benefits for both local players and the Association. The Association itself is already a member and has voting rights as the Hull Congress is graded via the ECF.

The ECF is the governing body for chess in England and it is now very active in promoting chess at all levels across the country.

¹ The new ECF rules allow for individuals to play three graded games for free. More games require membership or the Organisation is charged £16 (the same amount as bronze membership). Congress entries for non ECF silver players are still allowed at £7.50p.

- It is responsible for the selection of English teams and individual representatives to all FIDE events, including: European and World Team Championships; Chess Olympiads for Men and Women; World Championship Zonal Tournaments and World Junior Championships.
- It participates in the process of updating the Laws and in communicating them to organisers and players. It represents English interests at FIDE.
- the ECF runs a number of competitions including the British Championships (with events for everyone from Under-8 to veteran); National Club Championships (Major, Intermediate and Minor); English Chess Federation Grand Prix (Congress competition); County Championships and the National Schools Chess Tournament.
- the ECF runs the national grading system which is currently used by the Hull Congress and Yorkshire League as well as most other Congresses and Leagues across England.
- it supports Junior Chess across the country by running events and providing training including a national junior academy. ECF junior members are eligible for access to all programmes in the ECF Chess Academy (including an annual event in the north, as well as the midlands and the south). ECF juniors are also eligible to play in the English Youth Grand Prix as well as the ECF junior prizes in the Prix. The association has access to the Director of Junior Chess & Education for advice and information. Local coaches can apply to be ECF accredited which supports our junior chess.
- It provides training and accreditation for arbiters which is essential for running our congress and others throughout the country.
- It provides registration and maintains lists of accredited coaches.

The Association has successfully worked more closely with the ECF recently and the benefits of this can now be seen.

- the ECF has sponsored local events open to all local players such as the Master@TheLocal where we have had James Adair and this summer Michael Adams to play at Furley & Co
- the Association and the ECF are in the process of setting up a Hull Masters Event to run alongside the 2018 Congress.
- the Association has sought advice and been supported by the ECF in such areas as child safeguarding policy (saving us a huge amount of work), prison chess, and congress software.
- the Association benefits financially in reduced price insurance via the ECF to cover local events.

Overall this is just the start of building a better future for chess in this area and the ECF has shown a willingness to support us in achieving this.

A key benefit of membership of the ECF will be that all Hull League and Cup games will be graded by the ECF and this will bring a greater consistency to our national grades with all the main local events now being included. Currently both the Hull Congress and Yorkshire League games are graded by the ECF but the Hull League is not. Chessnuts is an excellent system for Yorkshire grades but faces an uncertain future² and does not include some competitions that local players participate in.

There are also direct benefits for individual members such as discounts for home insurance, purchases from Chess Direct, the British Chess Magazine and Fred Olsen Holiday Cruises.

² The current situation is that Jon Griffiths indicated at the YCA 2016 AGM that the current season would be his last. However no one has come forward to replace him. The YCA have informed us that: *Jon is continuing for at least one more year and we will be advertising for volunteers to come forward to work with him and eventually take over when he retires. If nobody comes forward then it is likely that the free Yorkshire grading service will cease*

Proposed Membership Subsidy

The committee appreciates that there will be an additional cost for many players to join the ECF (next season £16 for Bronze membership) and therefore proposes to provide a membership fee subsidy. The Association will provide, on individual player request, via Clubs, a 50% subsidy (against the ECF bronze membership fee) for every player who becomes an ECF member in 2017. It is hoped that this will make the transition to ECF membership easier for clubs and individuals.

Implementation

It is proposed that this new rule will come into effect from the start of the 2017/18 season and the HDCA will use ECF grades from the start of the 2018/19 season.

Rationale: This is contained within the background and justification section of this proposal

Note: This proposal has been discussed and **is supported** by the Committee/Trustees

Proposed: Steve King (President)

Seconded: Stephen Greep (Secretary)

PROPOSAL TO CLARIFY THE NUMBER OF GAMES A PLAYER CAN PLAY IN ONE EVENING

(Agenda Item 6.2)

Addition to General Rules: 3.20

No player shall arrange to play more than one standard-play game for any one evening. Failure to observe this rule will result in the loss to the player of all the games concerned.

Rationale: There has been an instance of a player playing two games on the same evening by very quickly resigning the first game. This is contrary to the spirit of local chess.

Note: This proposal has been discussed and **is supported** by the Committee/Trustees

Proposer: Derek Sheppard

Secunder: Stephen Greep

PROPOSAL TO SPLIT RULE 5.3

(Agenda Item 6.3)

The current rule 5.3 needs to be split as sections 1 and 3 refer to reserves and 2 and 4 substitutes. This has caused confusion in year. Furthermore, lines 2 and 4 of the current rule 5.3 are covered by rules 3.8 and 3.9 so can be deleted.

It is therefore proposed to

- remove rule 5.3 (and adjust numbering system for section 5)

- create a new rule, 3.10, (and adjust numbering of other paragraphs in this section), to include lines 1 and 3 of the current rule 5.3. This is better placed here as section 3 covers conduct of matches, section 5 registration.

New 3.10 (lines 1 and 3 of existing paragraph 5.3) shall read

Where a club has more than one team, a player may only play as a reserve in a higher or lower division than the player's registered team. The player can do this at most 5 times (a game where a default occurs shall not count as one of the 5 possible games).

For reference purposes only: The current rules 3.8, 3.9 and 5.3 state:

- 3.8 (unchanged) If one player does not arrive within half an hour of the start time they lose by default however, a substitute may play if they make a move within the half hour, and also their grade is no higher than that of the player replaced.
- 3.9 (unchanged) Any player playing as a reserve in a league match should have a grade no higher than 20 points above that of the regular team member in whose place they are playing. (This is not applicable to the Four Board League). (New – AGM 2016)
- 5.3 (to delete) Where a club has more than one team, a player may only play as a reserve in a higher or lower division than the player's registered team. A player may be used as a substitute for his own team or a team in a higher or lower division than the player's registered team. The player can do this at most 5 times (a game where a default occurs shall not count as one of the 5 possible games). A player's grade is to be no higher than that of the player replaced. Failure to observe this rule will result in the loss of the board concerned and the loss of all the boards below it. (Amended AGM 2009)

Rationale: The current rule (5.3) is confusing and misplaced in the rule sequence.

Note: This proposal has been discussed and **is supported** by the Committee/Trustees

Proposer: Andrew Bettley

Seconded: Stephen Greep

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE HANDICAPS FROM THE FOUR BOARD LEAGUE AND FOUR AND SIX BOARD CUPS (Agenda Item 6.4)

A HANDICAP is an artificially introduced advantage, or disadvantage, for a team with the purpose to level the chances.

Proposal

The systems used to decide the result of the 4 board league and cup matches and the 6 board cup are not handicap systems as defined and the Association should stop misleading members by telling them that they are.

If the members think it is a good idea to have a handicap system they should get together, possibly with outside help, and come up with a system in line with the definition and the theory of handicapping.

Meanwhile in the absence of such a system all team matches should be decided in the orthodox manner...

Rationale

At the end of a match, regardless of the number of boards, the points difference between the teams is either zero when the match was a draw or it is an integer. It follows that if you give a start including a half point that match cannot end in a draw. All the starts in the 6 board system for over 20 years have included half points so that the match cannot end in a draw and that is diametrically opposed to the definition. Given the ease with which this has been explained and the fact that it has been going on for so long it is unreasonable for the Association to claim it understands about handicapping.

The Theory of Handicapping

The idea of a handicap system is to reward a team that plays better than expected.

There are lots of misunderstandings about handicapping. Some people think that if you have a system which gives any start whatever then it is a handicap system but this is wrong. It is only a handicap system if the start given is the specific start necessary to make the expected result a draw. Otherwise you forfeit all the logic associated with a proper system. The handicapper predicts the score of the match and gives the lesser team the start necessary to make the expected result a draw. It then follows automatically:-

 If a team plays better than expected it will win

 If it plays as expected it will draw

 If it plays worse than expected it will lose.

Our system makes no attempt to predict the score and for this reason alone it is not a handicap system. Moreover a chess match consists of individual boards which means you cannot predict the score of a match without considering each board separately.

The grades are also a problem. They get more and more out of date and by the end of the season are almost a year out of date, despite the fact the players can have played 40 or more games since the grade was allocated. This applies particularly to the Cup Finals which are all played at the end of the season.

You can only handicap today's match using today's grades The present system handicaps every match as if it was played on June 30th.

Note: This proposal has been discussed and **is not supported** by the Committee/Trustees

Proposer: E. Stamp

Secunder: L. Jones

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE ATKINSON CUP RULE 4.3 AND RP ROSS
FOUR BOARD LEAGUE & CUP RULES**

(Agenda Item 6.5)

The current Atkinson Cup rules state:

In the event of one of his originally listed players not turning up, whether he is substituted or not, the handicap is not recalculated, once the match has commenced.

The current RP Ross Four Board League & Cup rule states:

The handicap must be calculated on 4 boards. If a board is defaulted due to the non arrival of a stated player after the exchange of score sheets and calculation of the handicap then the handicap is not recalculated whether the player is substituted or not. If it is known prior to calculation of the handicap that a board(s) will be defaulted then Table B must be used to establish the grade for the missing board(s).

It is proposed to change rules to:

Atkinson Cup

In the event of one of the originally listed players not turning up, if the player is substituted the handicap remains the same. If the board is defaulted and the defaulted board table grade is higher than the player not turning up the handicap is recalculated to show the defaulted table grade.

RP Ross Four Board League & Cup

The handicap must be calculated on 4 boards. In the event of one of the originally listed players not turning up, if the player is substituted the handicap remains the same. If the board is defaulted and the defaulted board table grade is higher than the player not turning up the handicap is recalculated to show the defaulted table grade.

Rationale: Teams defaulting boards could gain advantage under present rule.

Note: This proposal has been discussed and **is supported** by the Committee/Trustees

Proposer: Andrew Bettley

Secoded: Jim Miklevicz

PROPOSAL FOR FEES FOR THE 2017/18 SEASON

(Agenda Item 7)

Background

At the 2016 AGM there was a concern that the fees for entering cup competitions were disproportionately expensive compared to league fees based on the number of games likely to be played. The treasurer agreed to take this away and bring forward a revised fees structure.

Proposal

Fees for cup competitions will be abolished and league fees increased to ensure the same income for the Association. Entry into the cup competitions will be free to any eligible club team that has entered the league.

Summary of Proposed Changes

	2016/17	Proposal for 2017/18
Per 6 Board Winter League Team if paid by 31 st October	12.00	18.00
Per 6 Board Winter League Team if paid after 31 st October	21.00	24.00
Per 4 Board Winter League Team if paid by 31 st October	9.00	15.00
Per 4 Board Winter League Team if paid after 31 st October	9.00	20.00
Per 4 Board Summer League Team	9.00	9.00
Per Cup Team	6.00	0.00
Individual Membership	5.00	5.00

This would maintain a similar income for the Association and a similar cost for each club (assuming they currently enter each team in the league and cup). It also more closely balances the costs per game played in the various competitions.

The proposal also introduces penalty fees (if not paid by the 31st October) for the 4 board league to make it consistent with the 6 board league.

Note: This proposal has been discussed and **is supported** by the Committee/Trustees

Proposer: Steve Hodge

Seconded: Steve King
