



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hull and District Chess Association Charitable Trust, held at Holiday Inn Express, Ferens Way, Hull. Tuesday 18th June, 2019.

The President opened the meeting at 19.15

Present: P. Perkins, G. Johnstone, D Vleeshhouwer, T. Hackett (Beverley); W Wright, S Thrower, S King (President), R Noble, P. Allison, R. Ezra, S. Culkin (Hull), D. Mills, M. Pollard, C. Clayton, L. Jones (St Andrews); J Miklevicz (Victoria Dock); S Taylor, P. Canton, C. Matthews, J. Thompson, N. Whetton, M. Oggleby, T Harper (Willows), P Tuplin, J. Sugden (Withernsea).

The Annual General Meeting, due notice having been given, was quorate. 25 members were in attendance.

1. **Presidents Opening remarks:** The President of the Association declared the AGM open. A minute's silence was held to remember HDCA region chess players Mike Butt (formerly HDCA President) and Ian Bell, who passed away this year.
2. **Apologies for absence:** R. Atkinson, A. Bettley, S. Greep, S. Hodge, P. Kendall, J. Scotter, D. Sheppard.

Dan Staples, Yorkshire Co-ordinator of Chess in Schools and the Community (CSC), was invited to give a presentation on their work.
Dan explained the core mission of CSC: to promote and support the use of chess for children's educational improvement. He described the chess curriculum for primary schools, with accompanying workbooks, developed for this purpose. He explained how their course worked. He also outlined a range of other work undertaken by CSC, including a chess in prisons programme and a scheme to introduce the game of chess to older people.
Dan was congratulated on his organisation's excellent work and thanked for his inspiring presentation.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting (2018 AGM):** were unanimously voted as a true record.
4. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
5. **Proposal for Subscriptions for 2019/20:** The treasurer proposed the annual fees specified in Appendix A. These are unchanged from the previous season. This was unanimously supported.
6. **Rule Changes** (These minutes are to be read in association with Appendix B, detailing the agreed rule changes. These are a formal part of these minutes).
 - i. *Proposal to change the rule relating to penalties for late entry and verification of match results in LMS.* Following discussion, this motion passed with 15 votes for and 0 against.
 - ii. *Proposals to change the rule relating to electronic devices.* Following discussion, this motion passed with 15 votes for and 4 against.

- iii. *Proposal for change to knowing of and applying the rules.* Following discussion, this motion passed with 20 votes for and 0 against.
- iv. *Proposal to change the rule relating to the date by which the names of team players must be provided.* Following discussion, this motion passed unopposed.
- v. *Proposal for change to time control – introduction of increments.*
D. Mills proposed an amendment of the motion: ‘75 minutes’ to be replaced with ‘80 minutes’ throughout. The proposed amendment was not seconded.
Following discussion (during which it was indicated that to enable compliance with the proposed time controls, the HDCA would sponsor the purchase of new digital clocks by Willows and an extra clock for Withernsea, on the same basis as has been done for other clubs) the (unamended) motion passed with 13 votes for and 12 against, the Chair using his casting vote to support the motion.

7. **Officers Reports:** These had been circulated to all members. The format conforms with Charity Commission requirements for an annual report. On the reports on Competitive Chess, the League Secretary and Tournament Controllers congratulated the teams and individuals which had won the various competitions. On the report on Hull and District in the Yorkshire League, D. Mills commented that some sections of the report he submitted were not included in the annual report. Otherwise, there were no additional remarks from officers. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the officer’s present.

8. **Election of Officers and Trustees**

The following nominations had been received and were unanimously elected as officers of the Association and Trustees of the Charity.

President	Steve King
Vice President	Andrew Bettley
General Secretary	Stephen Greep
Treasurer	Gerry Johnstone
League Secretary	Douglas Vleeshhouwer
Cup Controller	Steve Thrower
Summer League Controller	Douglas Vleeshhouwer
Fixture Secretary	Derek Sheppard
Publicity Officer	Vacant
Congress Organiser	Stephen Greep
Junior Officer	Mike Pollard
Match Captain	Dave Mills (non Trustee)

Trustees (without Office):	Graham Chesters
	Thomas Hackett
	Jo Hutchinson
	Jim Miklevicz
	Bill Wright

9. **Any other notified business**

There was no other notified business.

D. Mills raised a number of issues concerning (i) the casting of HDCA votes in English Chess Federation meetings and (ii) the decision to host the Hull 4NCL International Chess Conference in conjunction with the Hull Chess Congress in 2019.

Steve King informed those present that he still had a number of copies of the book *Rank and File* by Roger Noble, which they were welcome to have in return for a donation to the charity nominated by Roger.

There being no further business the President closed the Meeting at 21:00

Gerry Johnstone, Treasurer (18/06/19)

Appendices

Appendix A: FEES FOR THE 2019/20 SEASON

	2019/20
Per 6 Board Winter League/Cup Team if paid by 31 st October	18.00
Per 6 Board Winter League/Cup Team if paid after 31 st October	24.00
Per 4 Board Winter League/Cup Team if paid by 31 st October	15.00
Per 4 Board Winter League/Cup Team if paid after 31 st October	20.00
Per 4 Board Summer League Team	9.00
Individual Membership	5.00

Appendix B: Rules Changes agreed at the 2019 HDCA AGM

Proposals to Change the rule relating to penalties for late entry and verification of match results in LMS (3.1)

(Agenda Item 6.1)

The current rule 3.1 reads as follows:

The home team captain/deputy shall provide the only result sheet of the match, whereby they only enter their team details on the home side of the sheet. The away team captain/deputy shall provide their team names only on a separate piece of paper to the home captain/deputy. These are to be copied, along with other subsequent details, onto the original sheet with no deviation from his/her original list. The result sheet must be completed by both captains/deputies at least 5 minutes before the start of the match. All result sheets must have two sets of handwriting accompanied with a signature. All results sheets must be retained until the end of the season.

Results must be reported on the League Management System by the home team within four days of the match being played and verified by the away team within four further days. Failure to submit or verify will result in a loss by default by non-submitting team. Game results will still count for grading. (New 2018 AGM)

The proposal is to change the second part of this rule as this doesn't cater effectively for a number of scenarios:

- 1) The offending party had lost the match already, so the penalty is not a deterrent.
- 2) The home team was later entering the result and the away team was late in verifying the same match result.

Lastly, awarding the match to the team that lost just because the other team didn't enter or verify the result in time, seems unfair to the other teams in the league.

To address these matters, the proposal is to change the second part of the rule to:

Results must be reported on the League Management System (LMS) by the home team within four days of the match being played and verified by the away team within four further days. Failure to submit or verify within this period will result in the deduction of 1 league match point, to be applied in LMS as a "Season Penalty"

Proposed by: Douglas Vleeshhouwer

Seconded by: Derek Sheppard

Proposals to Change the rule relating to electronic devices

(Agenda Item 6.2)

1. Abolish rule 3.19

This rule states: "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." (New 2016 AGM).

Rationale: This rule, by placing on a player who has suffered from a breach of the rules the onus of making a decision on whether to enforce the rules, is unfair to players. Simply being faced with this choice, as a result of a breach of a rule by one's opponent, is itself a significant distraction from the game.

2 Replace 3.19 with a new rule which states:

3.19.1 During a game, mobile phones or other electronic devices which a player takes into the playing area must be completely switched off.

3.19.2. Players may submit a request to both captains to be allowed to keep a mobile phone on, in silent mode, due to exceptional circumstances. If both captains agree that the circumstances justify an exception, the player must not use the phone for any purpose other than that cited as the exceptional circumstance. If, during the game, the player leaves the playing area for any other reason, they must not take the phone with them.

3.19.3. If it is evident that a player has breached the rule in 3.19.1 or 3.19.2, the player shall lose the game. The opponent shall win.

Rationale: This is based upon article 11.3 of the FIDE Laws of Chess, with an allowance made for exceptional circumstances. The adoption of the rule will help improve the chess playing environment.

The rule is fair to all players.

Note: These proposals have been discussed and are supported by the Committee/Trustees

Proposed by: Gerry Johnstone

Seconded by: Douglas Vleeshhouwer

Note: It is further proposed that the committee draft a short code of conduct for spectators (including players who have finished their games) and others in the playing area, designed to minimise distractions to players with games in process.

Proposal for change to knowing of and applying the rules

(Agenda Item 6.3)

We would like to propose that the rules are changed to put more onus on the players to know the Laws of Chess and allow for a more active role from the Captains in their capacity as arbiters.

The reasons for this are as follows:

- 1) The current rule 4.3 is ambiguous because of the semi-colon in the middle of the sentence. It may suggest to some that it isn't just in case of disputes that the Captains should act. Other people might interpret it as only when there is a dispute that they should act as arbiters.
- 2) Arbiters are expected to act upon illegal moves and illegal actions if they witness them. In my view, Captains should do the same.
- 3) Not all the players are currently aware of the rules; in my opinion they should be.

We would therefore like to propose the following rule changes:

Rule 3.11 to include the statement that the Captains shall place the chessclocks to the side of each board in such a way that all chessclocks used in the match can easily be seen from a central position in the room (i.e. it is not the player with the black pieces who decides where to place the chessclock).

Rule 3.16 to be rewritten as follows:

3.16.1 All players are expected to be familiar with these Laws

3.16.2 Team Captains are required to be also familiar with the Hull and District Chess Association's playing rules.

Playing Rules.

Rule 4.3:

4.3 During a match Team Captains (or their deputy in their absence) are regarded as joint Arbiters. However, players are expected to try to resolve any issue between themselves in the first instance, especially if one or both Captains are also playing in the match. In the event Captains' assistance is required, whilst they are playing a game and if it is their move, then they are entitled to stop their own clock for the duration of dealing with the issue.

New rules:

4.4 If a player completes an illegal move, the opposing player should pause the clock and add 2 minutes to his/her time, in accordance with the Laws. If the player does not know how to add time, he/she should pause the clock and request assistance from one of the Captains. If it not noticed by either player, the Laws of chess apply with the Captains acting as arbiters.

4.5 If the falling of a player's flag isn't noticed by the opposing player, the Laws of chess apply with the Captains acting as arbiters.

4.6 If a player conducts an illegal action (rather than an illegal move), e.g. moving the pieces and pressing the clock with different hands or not writing down the moves when the player has more than 5 minutes left on the clock, the opposing player should mention this to the player. The opposing player should also attempt to mention the offence to both Captains as soon as reasonably possible. Where both Captains agree that a player's actions have been disruptive or allowed them to gain time illegally, the Captains should take immediate action. Repeat offences by a player must be reported in writing to the Controller by both Captains, who may decide the issue a warning to or sanction the offending player.

The old rule 4.4 to be rewritten and renumbered:

4.7 If a dispute arises, the Captains are jointly responsible for a decision as to how to proceed. If a dispute cannot be settled between the Captains, each Captain must submit a concise written report of the matter to the Controller, who may submit the matter to the Executive Committee.

The old rules 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 to be renumbered to 4.8, 4.9 and 4.10 respectively.

Note: These proposals have been discussed and are supported by the Committee/Trustees

Proposed by: Douglas Vleeshhouwer

Seconded by: Gerry Johnstone

Proposals to Change the rule relating to the date by which the names of team players must be provided (5.2.1)

(Agenda Item 6.4)

It is proposed to move the date by which the names of the players for each of teams must be registered from 1st July to 1st August. The names of teams will still need to be registered by 1st July, with both the League Secretary and the Fixture Secretary. For clarification rule 5.2.1 will be split into 2 rules, as follows:

5.2.1.a. All teams intending to compete in the Winter League must register team names with the League Secretary and the Fixtures Secretary by 1st July. This registration will be valid for all HDCA events for the following season.

5.2.1.b. All teams intending to compete in the Winter League must register all players for each team with the League Secretary no later than 1st August. This registration will be valid for all HDCA events for the following season.

Rationale : This change allows clubs more time to register players.

Note: These proposals have been discussed and are supported by the Committee/Trustees

Proposed by: Douglas Vleeshhouwer

Seconded by: Derek Sheppard

Proposal for change to time control – introduction of increments

(Agenda Item 6.5)

It is proposed that from next season (2019-2020), the HDCA moves to using increments in all of its competitions, changing the time control from the current 90 minutes for the whole game to 75 minutes + 10 second increment from move 1. This will involve a change to rule 6.2.

The reduction from 90 minutes to 75 minutes gives each player 15 minutes for moves under increments, equating to a minimum of 90 moves for each player. This is over and above any moves already played in the 75 minutes.

Rationale:

- 1) Rather than simply running out of time after the allotted time (currently 90 minutes), the player is given the opportunity to continue playing by giving him or her a little bit of time for their next move, after he or she presses the clock.

- 2) It prevents a player who is ahead of time but has a losing position, to win on time by just making moves until the other player's time runs out; the player with less time will always have at least a little bit time to think about and make his or her next move.
- 3) The 2-minute draw claim rule is no longer applicable, which means less need for captains to get involved as arbiters and make unpopular decisions which in turn may lead to disputes.
- 4) FIDE are phasing out quickplay finishes, which our current time control is considered to be.

In summary: Rule 6.2 will be changed to allow for the introduction of increments

Rules 3.11 and 3.12 (relating to the use of clocks) will be deleted and replaced by a new rule (6.2 – current 6.2 becomes 6.3) which stipulates that digital clocks must be used in all HDCA fixtures. Clubs will be expected to be in possession of adequate number of digital clocks for this purpose.

Note: These proposals have been discussed and are supported by the Committee/Trustees

Proposed by: Douglas Vleeshouwer

Seconded by: Derek Sheppard

Note: 30-second increments are typical in many congresses. This is not proposed because it reduces the number of moves that can be made within the match window by a significant amount, introducing the risk of a game taking longer than the venue's opening hours. For illustration, if we go with 60 minutes + 30-second increment, the reduction of 30 minutes would only cater for 60 moves for each player, instead of the minimum 90 that they would get with 10 seconds.

The below is a notification of changes which are simply for clarification, so do not require a separate agenda item

Clarification of Rule Application

It is proposed to add the following to the rules. This is not a rule change, but just a clarification of the fact that existing rules apply to league as well as cup matches.

2.0 Arrangement of Cup (all rules) and League (2.4, 2.6-9, 11-12) Matches

Standardisation of Terminology

The rules currently use the terms "Tournament Controller" as well "Controller" and "Controller of the competition. It is intended to standardise as Tournament Controller, accepting that leagues are tournaments as well as cup events.
