



HULL AND DISTRICT CHESS ASSOCIATION

(Charity Number 1155858)



ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

This report is written under unusual circumstances. There has been no over the board chess in HDCA events since 11th March and the season was not completed, with over 50 matches not played. As we write there is still great uncertainty when over the board play will be able to resume and therefore whether the 2019/20 season will be able to be concluded. This report is a true representation of the activities of the Charity during the year. Our commitment to deliver public benefit, through our activities, continues to be demonstrated by our public events, support to schools and the open nature of chess provision throughout the area. Any questions in respect of this report should be made to the Hon. General Secretary, Dr Stephen Greep (sjgreep@gmail.com) who has compiled this report and written the general summary.

The Charity is administered by up to 15 Trustees, who are the officers and committee members of the Association.

Trustees and Officers of The Charity 2019/2020

President (and web master):	S. King
Vice President:	A. Bettley
General Secretary:	S. Greep
Treasurer:	G Johnstone
League secretary (and summer league controller)	D. Vleeshhouwer
Fixture Secretary:	D. Sheppard
Tournament controller:	S. Thrower
Congress Organiser:	S Greep
Publicity Officer:	Vacant
Junior Officer:	M. Pollard
Match Captain:	D. Mills (non trustee)
Trustees without office:	G. Chesters, T. Hackett, J. Hutchinson, J. Miklevicz, and W. Wright

The key strategies of the Charity, which inform all our decision making are:

- **Chess Strategy** – the chess ‘promotion and development’ strategy - what we are trying to achieve over the next five to ten years. This is the key strategy document as the other strategies are, in effect, enablers, to provide for us to deliver the Charity’s objects as set out in our Constitution. This strategy was updated in year.
- **Investment Strategy** – how we decide to invest our funds, the required return and overall longer term view of our investments. In brief we expect the funds to keep pace with inflation and to deliver an annual return of £5,000. In year we have changed our investment managers. The capital element of this fund currently stands at £161,000 (see the Treasurers report below).
- **Reserves strategy** – money we will keep aside for ‘emergencies’ and to minimise any short term financial risk

from variations in the capital provision of the Charities Investment Funds. We have kept this to a minimum of £2,000.

- **Financial Strategy** – how we are going to spend our income from our investments and other income. A budget-based approach reviewed on an annual basis.

All our strategies and policies are available online and can be seen on our web site. They are also obtainable from the General Secretary. In addition, the web site also contains details of our Child Protection Strategy and Privacy Policy. During the year Trustees received Training relating to their roles and responsibilities which led to some suggested changes in the way they work. A Code of Conduct was agreed for Trustees and a separate one for players and clubs.

Our Year : A Summary

Despite the current difficulties there were still good things for Chess in Hull and District, reflected in the various reports which follow this general summary. The headline numbers of players fell from the recorded 145 last year to 133 this year (including two individual members of the Charity); this was mostly due to a ‘cleaning’ of memberships list by clubs reducing the number of constituent members. Approximately 800 individual games of chess were played in league, cups and the Yorkshire League - information on the current state of events may be found in the officer’s reports which follow.



In July we held the fifth Presentation evening and team lightning event, at the Hull Royal Hotel. The President presented the Trophies, including a renaming of the Junior Trophy after Mike Butt, whose wife Barbara was there to award the trophy to Joe Varley (left). The Charity has now completed its trophy replacement programme. In the team Lightning there were 12 teams competing (a small increase on the previous year) with the George Willoughby trophy being won by St Andrews A narrowly on games won, followed by Hull Knights. Both teams ended on eight points.

The Peter Withill Trophy was won by Hull F a point clear of Hull J.

As a charity we are required to demonstrate the delivery of ‘public benefit’. A number of our events are open to chess players and the public outside our area. We continue to support chess at The Brain Jar and Furley and Co in central Hull and further chess related items were purchased for the Brain Jar during the year. With the support of the ECF, in July we held another Chess GrandMaster@The Local event at Furley&Co featuring GM Simon Williams. Simon, buoyed up by a pint or two of Grandmaster ale (right), played solidly for three and a half hours with only the odd comfort break in between. The 18 boards were full for most of that time with both local players and members of the public. Simon also provided our sixth Hull Grandmaster Challenge, held in the Edwardian suite of Hull Royal Hotel. A slightly better result than in previous years for local players who recorded two wins (but no draws) out of 26 players. Mate Ther of Harrogate won the copy of Fritz donated by Chess Direct.



In August we hosted the English Women’s Championships, played at the Royal Hotel. Local players were able to spectate and many took the opportunity to take part in a public simultaneous exhibition at the Holiday Inn Marina with IM Richard Palliser as well as attend an evening reception and talk by Sean Marsh. Through ECF sponsorship we were able to hold a weekend of coaching for junior girls, running alongside the Championships. We also hosted a lunch on women’s chess at the Brain Jar with a talk by WGM Jovanka Houska and Chris Fegan, ECF Director of Women’s Chess (left).

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly our congress, played at the Royal Hull hotel. Congress numbers had been falling in recent years, so we tried a different approach and partnered 4NCL to create the Hull 4NCL International Congress. Alongside the congress itself we ran a 10 player GM norm event which, was spearheaded by GM's Vojtech Plat (Czech Republic), Laszlo Gonda (Hungary) and Matthew Turner (Scotland). While only one GM norm was obtained.... by an existing GM Vojtech Plat (who won the event with 6.5/9) the one FM in the field, Marcus Harvey, obtained an IM norm with 4.5/9 by drawing with GM Matthew Turner in the final round. Games were projected live at the venue for spectators as well as on chess24.com and via the 4NCL web site. They were also picked-up and broadcast by Follow Chess.



Moving on to the actual congress weekend, one of our largest ever, with 160 players (below, left) fitting easily into the Royal suite in good playing conditions and plenty of space. The quality of players was obviously enhanced by our link with 4NCL and apart from the large numbers (last year we had 89) the whole event saw 19 titled players (including five GM's) from 11 different FIDE Federations with 23 players graded over 2150. 34



local players took part - above average, but still only 23% of members of local clubs. There were a number of local prize winners: John Thackray shared first place in the U2000; Milosc Kasprzyk shared second place in the U135; Alec Grice won a grading prize in the U2000; Robin Edwards shared grading prize in the U135; Gabriel Wood won the prize for the best local U116 performance. Importantly arbiter norms we achieved during the congress for Tom Hackett, Bryan Hesler and Douglas Vleeshhouwer

Immediately before the weekend congress there were three days of coaching for juniors led by FM Charlie Storey. This was able to use live games from the actual congress and juniors were obviously able to spectate games live during breaks. All our juniors were able to take advantage of the coaching and free places at the congress. In all over £6,000 was received in sponsorship. Reports on the event have appeared in the ECF Newsletter, on the ECF and 4NCL web sites and an article in Chess Magazine. There were regular facebook and tweets on the ECF social media sites throughout the event.

Our rapid play in January, held in the Royal Suite, Royal Hotel, run by Douglas Vleeshhouwer, was a success, with entries increasing to 83. Milosz Kasprzyk won the minor section other local prize winners were Andrew Bettley, Shaun Culkin, Eric Gardiner, Bruce Oliver, Ian Scott, Joe Varley and Philip Wood. Because of the covid crisis this was the last event held by the Charity this year.



Through our Junior Officer, Mike Pollard, we continue to support schools and junior chess (see the junior report below), with the summer school at Hymers (three days of coaching for 45 children) proving (again) to be a star event. In February, Hymers was also the venue for the third Hull Junior Chess Congress as a part of the Yorkshire Chess Grand Prix. Philip Wood was invited to and played in the European Junior event in Latvia.

We have been fortunate to have received record sponsorship for chess this year - Hull Culture and Leisure, Hull City Council, John Robinson Youth Trust, the English Chess Association, Chess Direct and Women's Enterprise in the Humber. We have also been well supported by Visit Hull and East Yorkshire (VHEY). The receipt of the William Beedham monies which had resided in a charitable Trust administered by the council has been a considerable boost to junior chess. The Treasurers report demonstrates the significant finding we have been able to place with local chess during the year.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who has supported events run by the Charity and clubs during the year, especially those people who have taken on the responsibility of organising events on behalf of all the members of the Charity and the general public. We recognise that time put in by very many individuals often goes unrecognised, but without the efforts of people at Association and club level, local chess would not be possible. We should also not forget that the activities run by the Association would not have been possible without the generosity of the legacy left by Bob Ross for the promotion and development of chess.

Statement of Financial Activities

Key Financial Highlights

At the end of the financial year 1st June 2019-31st May 2020, the Association has the following Assets:

Cash in bank: £10,587.46, plus agreed reserves of £2,000¹

Investments : £161,641.96 (value at 31/15/20)²

Equipment: £6,930 (estimated value)

(includes trophies, DGT live boards, digital chess clocks, chess sets/boards, demonstration boards, display and welcome banners, PA unit, projector, printer)

In July 2019, the Association's funds to support junior chess were augmented by the receipt of £8,157.96 following the transfer of funds from the William Beedham Chess Trophy & Prize Fund (held by Hull City Council) to the Hull and District Chess Association.

The Funds were further enlarged by grants and sponsorship amounting to £7,600:

- £2,500 from Hull City Council towards the English Women's Chess championship;
- £2,000 from Hull Culture and Leisure towards the Hull 4NCL International Congress;
- £750 from the Friends of Chess towards the Hull 4NCL International Congress;
- £1,500 from the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust towards the Hull 4NCL International Congress;
- £500 from the English Chess Federation towards the Hull 4NCL International Congress;
- £500 from the English Chess Federation towards junior girl coaching and a women's chess initiative;
- £250 from the English Chess Federation for the GM@the local event;
- £100 from Women's Enterprise in the Humber for Trophies towards the English Women's Chess Congress;

The Association spent over £14,250 on chess in the region in this financial year.³

Due to the sharp fall in the value of equities resulting from the Covid-19 epidemic, our investments have declined in value (by approx. 8 per cent) during 2020.

Change of investment manager

In October 2019, the Trustees took the important decision to change the management of the HDCA investment funds in order to better help us achieve our goals. This decision was taken as a result of long-term and growing

¹ This includes the Beedham Trust funds (see below) which we hold for the purpose of developing junior chess over a number of years. Taking this into account, the funds in this account have now been fully allocated; see the section below on plans for investment in chess development.

² It is the agreed policy of the Charity that we draw down the income from this capital but do not spend the capital.

³ Including £4,750 on the Hull 4NCL International Congress, mostly covered by sponsorship – see above. For further details, see the section below on investment in chess development.

concerns that our previous investment managers were not delivering on the goals that we had agreed with them. In making this decision, we were guided by the Association's Investment Strategy ([https://www.hullchess.com/public/files/Financial%20strategy/HDCA%20Investment%20Strategy%202018\(1\).pdf](https://www.hullchess.com/public/files/Financial%20strategy/HDCA%20Investment%20Strategy%202018(1).pdf))

The process of identifying and selecting an alternative investment manager was a rigorous one. The task was delegated to Graham Chesters, Stephen Greep, Gerry Johnstone and Steve Thrower (hereinafter the delegated group). Following extensive research and inquiries the delegated group created a long-list of potential investment managers. In November, the Trustees discussed this list and reduced it to a short list of three. In January, the three short-listed managers gave an invited presentation to the delegated group. Following the presentations, the delegated group agreed, unanimously, to recommend that we transfer our investments to the COIF Charities Investment Fund, managed by CCLA Fund Managers Ltd. At a subsequent trustee meeting, the Trustees endorsed this recommendation. The transfer was completed in April 2020.

A Factsheet on the COIF Charities Investment Fund is available at https://www.ccla.co.uk/sites/default/files/COIF%20Investment%20Fund%20Factsheet_0.pdf

Investment in Chess Development

During the financial year 2019/2020, the Association:

- invested approximately £2,250 in chess development. This included providing support for a range of public events such as the St Andrew's Chess Club 50th Anniversary Event; a significant investment in the purchase of digital chess clocks for a number of clubs to enable them to adopt the Association's more modern incremental time controls; the purchase of a number of DGT Live boards to enable live streaming of games from events (from GM games to games between local chess players); and a range of promotional activities around events we organised.
- spent approximately £1,800 on events for its members. This included providing cash prizes for the winners and runners-up in the Peter Hughes Championship; supporting the annual GM challenge, which this year was with GM Simon Williams; providing training for juniors by IM WGM Jovanka Houska; enabling a number of members to undertake training as chess arbiters; holding a presentation evening; and providing facilities to enable our players to compete in Yorkshire Chess League matches.
- used its financial resources to underwrite two highly successful events: The 56th Hull Congress (run in partnership with the Hull 4NCL International Congress) and the Hull Rapid Play 2020 (see the General Secretary's Report).
- invested heavily in the development of junior chess. As well as supporting our highly successful Summer School (see the Junior Officer's report), we awarded a grant to one of our juniors to enable them to represent an English team at the European Youth Rapid & Blitz Championships, Tallinn, Estonia.

Plans for Investment in Chess Development

For the financial year 1st June 2020-31st May 2021 the Committee of Trustees has decided to allocate £2,800 for chess development. This includes a grant of £700 to Hull Chess Club to facilitate a relaunch of its junior chess club, providing facilities for all junior chess players in the region. Over £1,000 will be spent on member events, including arbiter training, player coaching and support for participation in Yorkshire League matches. We will continue to invest heavily in the development of junior chess. Also, we have created an Individual Chess Support Fund, which will try to help ensure that nobody is prevented from participating in chess due to financial hardship.

Through the above expenditure, the Association will ensure that it meets the goals of our financial strategy: achieving public benefit and the delivery of the Association's chess strategy (<https://www.hullchess.com/public/files/Financial%20strategy/HDCA%20Financial%20Strategy%202020.pdf>). In addition, we will at all times retain sufficient funds in our current bank account to enable us to meet the goals of our Reserves Strategy ([https://www.hullchess.com/public/files/Financial%20strategy/HDCA%20Reserves%20Strategy%202018\(1\).pdf](https://www.hullchess.com/public/files/Financial%20strategy/HDCA%20Reserves%20Strategy%202018(1).pdf)).

Competitive Chess : League, Summer League and Cups

(League Secretary and Tournament Controllers Report)



Winter League

Due to the Corona-virus, the decision was made by the Committee, to halt all competitions.

The plan remains to resume the Winter League as early as the circumstances allow us. The hope was to use the months normally occupied by the Summer League to complete the remaining fixtures. However, as things stand, we will most likely be needing to use Q1 of 2021 as well to complete the competitions.

The numbers of remaining matches are:

6-board division 1: 8

6-board division 2: 11

4-board division 1: 18

4-board division 2: 15

Atkinson Cup: 1 – the final, between St Andrews B and Willows A

Ross Cup: 1 – the final, between Withernsea and Hull K

U165 Tournament: 1 – the final, between Stephen Crow and Andrew Bettley

U125 Tournament: None – won by Peter Perkins, beating John Scotter in the final.

Junior Tournament: 5 games (2 from round 4 + 3 from round 5).

Upon completion of these matches, as soon as administratively possible, the 2020-2021 season will start, but will most likely consist of a single round of matches, rather than the usual double round; in other words, teams will meet only once instead of twice.

Summer League 2019

Section 1

This winners of section 1 of the Summer League 2019 were Hull F, winning 4 and drawing 1 match. Runners-up were Beverley A:

Team	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Points
Hull F	5	4	1	0	15	5	9
Beverley A	5	4	0	1	13	7	8
St Andrews X	5	1	2	2	10	10	4
St Andrews A	5	2	0	3	8	12	4
Willows A	5	1	1	3	7½	12½	3
Hull D	5	1	0	4	6½	13½	2

Most individual points were scored by Paul Carter from Willows A, with 3.5 points out of 5.

Several players scored 100%. Amongst them, the player scoring the most points was Ned Carmichael (Beverley A), with 3 out of 3.

Section 2

Section 2 was won by the undefeated Beverley Westwood, with 4 wins and 1 draw. Runners-up were Hull K, who were also undefeated, with 3 wins and 2 draws.

Team	Play	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Points
Beverley Westwood	5	4	1	0	14½	5½	9
Hull K	5	3	2	0	14½	5½	8
Willows B	5	2	0	3	8½	11½	4
St Andrews C	5	2	0	3	7	13	4
Hull X	5	1	1	3	8	11	3
St Andrews B	5	1	0	4	6½	12½	2

Most individual points were scored by F Hal Jorna, from Hull X, with 4 points out of 5 games. Several people scored 100%. Amongst those, the highest scores (3 points) came from Paul Allison (Hull K) and Chris Matthews (Willows B).

As explained above, due to the Corona-virus, there shall not be a Summer League 2020

Fixture Secretaries Report

Usually the report presented for the AGM would cover the Winter League just completed and details regarding what would, under normal circumstances, be the current Summer League. However, the coronavirus pandemic has had a massive effect on local chess and the timings of all HDCA competitions have been thrown into disarray.

In March, as with so many other competitive and sporting organisations, the HDCA suspended all local OTB chess in line with the restrictions imposed by the Government. No OTB chess has been played since then.

We are now at the time when the 2020 Summer League would normally be taking place but because there are many winter matches still outstanding, it is simply not feasible to run the Summer League this year.

The Winter League runs from September to May each year and ideally the 2020-21 winter season will begin on 1st September. However, this may have to be adjusted depending on any Government guidelines issued during the coming weeks and months.

Schools and Junior Chess



The success of the second three day summer school has meant that the immediate plans for the forthcoming season were to maintain the standards that had led to this event being held and to increasing the scope of supporting schools in creating and maintaining chess clubs the use of free training information and also trainers. The latter which had been started by the HDCA and further strengthened by CSC meant that we now have a core group of players who give their free time to go into schools and teach chess.

During the year HDCA benefitted from monies left by a chess player called William Beedham, to be used to further enhance our chess base and improve the facilities for junior players. This will ensure that we can fund the summer school for at least two further years.

The library continues to hold its weekly club and has seen many new faces come to the fore. The club is run by Bill Wright and John Thompson with help from other local players.

In schools we are still limited but Peter Perkins teaches at Stepney and Clifton primary, Bill Wright is at Bricknell and I (Mike Pollard) currently at Thoresby.

We still have connections with a few East Riding Schools including North Ferriby and Elloughton. Just before the enforced break Dave Cooper was going to start helping run a new club at Welton. Ray Ezra is still with schools in Beverley and I had recently received interest from Giles Dunn regarding helping out too. Pupils from these schools also joined the Hull Junior Tournament.

CSC held a training day at the library which is giving more options to run clubs in libraries around Hull and the East Riding plus the possibility of help in schools, one local player Paul Kennedy took the course and has expressed interest in getting involved too.

The above all happened before 'lockdown' So, what has happened since the enforced break? Lichess is our new online platform and with St Andrews, Hull and Beverley creating clubs we have worked together to offer tournaments for players of all abilities to join, from the junior officer point of view this has meant bringing in some of the chess players from schools in this region and beyond. The 4NCL began leagues and a separate junior section has included local juniors, school juniors and a few that attended the summer school.

Sean Marsh of CSC is currently sending out lessons of information to all schools including our own so that they do not miss out during this enforced break but when schools finally reopen it will still be a considerable time before we can once again teach in schools and nurture the talent already produced this season.

Hull and District in the Yorkshire League

Yorkshire Chess Association 2019/2020.

Woodhouse Cup. League Division One.

Sheffield 'A'	8	8	0	0	53	11	16
York R.I. 'A'	8	8	0	0	48½	15½	16
Sheffield 'B'	8	6	0	2	36½	27½	12
Leeds	8	4	1	3	35½	28½	9
Calderdale 'A'	8	4	1	3	33	31	9
Hull & D.C.A. 'A'	8	4	1	3	32½	31½	9
Harrogate 'A'	8	3	1	4	33	31	7
Bradford 'A'	7	2	1	4	20½	35½	5
Bradford Central	8	2	0	6	25½	38½	4
York R. I. 'B'	8	1	1	6	20	44	3
Huddersfield	8	1	0	7	22	42	2
York R.I. 'C'	7	1	0	6	16	40	2

Following the eighth round of matches on 7th March 2020, Hull & D.C.A. 'A' were in sixth place in Division One with the three remaining fixtures against teams below them. The season was subsequently suspended because of the Covid19 emergency and a decision on what should happen remains to be taken.

I.M. Brown Shield. League Division Two.

Doncaster	8	6	2	0	42½	21½	14
Rose Forgrove 'A'	8	6	1	1	44½	19½	13
Alwoodley 'A'	8	5	2	1	40½	23½	12
Sheffield 'C'	8	4	3	1	40½	23½	11
Calderdale 'B'	8	4	1	3	38½	25½	9
Harrogate 'B'	8	4	1	3	33½	30½	9
Hull & D.C.A. 'B'	8	4	1	3	31½	32½	9
Wakefield 'A'	8	3	1	4	32	32	7
Rose Forgrove 'B'	8	1	2	5	27½	36½	4
Pontefract	8	1	1	6	22	42	3
West Leeds	8	1	1	6	21	43	3
York R.I. 'D'	8	1	0	7	10	54	2

Following the eighth round of matches on 7th March 2020, Hull & D.C.A. 'B' were in seventh place in Division Two with the three fixtures remaining. The season was subsequently suspended because of the Covid19 emergency and a decision on what should happen remains to be taken.

The Future?

Andrew Zigmund Yorkshire Chess Association Competitions Controller, has liaised with other Officers and County Captains during the months following the suspension of the County League. In mid-May it was decided that the Annual General Meeting could not be held and views were sought as to what might be done concerning the 2019/2020 competitions. Various views were expressed and the current situation is that we are awaiting developments concerning the pandemic.

If play is not possible until 2021, completing the 2019/2020 season by playing the outstanding matches and making it a 2019/2020/2021 combined competition with trophies and promotion and relegation available.