



Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Hull and District Chess Association, held at Willows Chess Club, Hull, Tuesday 14th May 2016.

The President opened the Meeting at 7.15pm. The Meeting, due notice having been given, was quorate.

Present: Steve King (President), Stephen Greep, Lester Jones, Paul Allison, Steve Thrower, Dave Mills (DaM), Steve Hodge, Roger Noble, Bill Wright and Jim Miklevicz.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Dean Morris (DeM), Andrew Bettley, Graham Chesters, Derek Sheppard

Investment Presentation

The meeting heard a short presentation from Giles Fairburn of Cardales the Charities Investment Manager. The Charity had placed £175,000 with Cardales in June 2015. Although no funds had been withdrawn (the Charity retained £5,000 received from the Ross Fund Trustees for the 2015/16 budget) the fund (after charges) had reduced by 2.6%, although this was still better than the presented benchmarks and was not surprising given the volatility over the last year. Trustees were reminded that this was a long term investment and there was no reason to change our current investment and financial strategy. There were a number of questions. Finally Trustees were told that the offices of Cardales were relocating to Harrogate, although Giles Fairburn would remain in the Hull area and be available for comment/discussion.

- 2. Minutes of the last meeting**

2.1 Committee Meeting of 02/02/16 - unanimously voted as a true record

- 3. Matters arising:** (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

None

- 4. Treasurers report:** – SH spoke to his report, including a budget statement, previously circulated. There was a £500 underspend, although there were still some invoices to come in.

4.1 2016/17 budget and annual subscription proposals: SH explained that it was proposed to produce a budget in line with income expectations and revised according to current year spend. This was agreed by the Trustees. The income from subscriptions remained below the expenditure for 'core' chess activities. It was therefore agreed that the recommendation for a proposal be put to the AGM for a rise in subscriptions of £1 for all events and individual membership. It was confirmed that the amount for teams entering cups was an amount payable per cup entered not one payment for all cups.

Following a question regarding the HDCA insurance SH agreed to distribute a copy of the

insurance to all Trustees.

- 4.2 **Income Tax and Gift Aid matters:** Paul Lyons remained in discussions with HMRC concerning a possible tax refund and gift aid, but these had not yet been concluded. It was, however, noted that the Ross Fund trustees were likely to return to the Trustees around £4,500 of retained funds.
- 4.3 **YCA Games Fees:** nothing further to report.
- 4.4 **Replacement Trophies:** The agreed trophies had been purchased and viewed by SH and SG. They were currently being engraved with the legends SH had distributed for comment. The budget for next year will contain a smaller amount to continue the trophy replacement scheme.

5. Strategy

5.1 2017 Events

- 5.1.1 **Hull v Rotterdam Challenge:** Now scheduled for July 14th-16th 2017. Still in negotiation over prices – finding it difficult to get within the £2,500 allocated (currently nearer £3,000). Further report at the next meeting.
 - 5.1.2 **Hull City Challenge:** SG reported that he had tried to contact the four other cities in Yorkshire (twice) but had not received any interest in this event. It was therefore agreed not to pursue it any further.
 - 5.1.3 **Hull Masters:** it was agreed to utilise the funds allocated for the Hull City Challenge event for this. It was agreed that up to £2,500 could be made available. SG to continue to negotiate with the ECF.
 - 5.1.4 **Hull Junior Congress:** A date of February 25th 2017 had been agreed for this event with the Yorkshire Junior Chess Association. It would form a part of the Yorkshire Junior grand Prix. DeM and PA leading with John Hipson of the YJCA.
 - 5.1.5 **Chess in the Park:** SG had contacted the Arts Officer for Hull City Council who had given some good ideas on how to proceed. It was clear, however, that this was a major undertaking and as no one had come forward to organise the whole event (plus as it was not clear if the tax refund would be available to fund it) it was agreed not to proceed. However it was hoped that the same open day event in Pearson Park would take place.
- 5.2 **ECF Issues** – since the last meeting there had been an ECF Finance meeting (one of two meetings a year where the Association may attend and vote on issues; the other being the AGM). SG alerted the committee to one issue – that potential the raising of fees for ECF membership over the next three years totalling £5 per membership group. This had not been supported at the meeting (HDCA did not support through a proxy vote), although the implications of increased funding (e.g. more support for juniors, the national team, publicity) were excellent.
- 5.3 **Child Protection Policy:** SG reported (for DeM): since the last meeting the ECF had produced its Child Protection Policy. It was agreed to adopt this for the HDCA with a clarification on the cover sheet produced by DeM that although an ECF policy this applied to HDCA. SG agreed to distribute to all clubs.

6. Member Events

- 6.1 **Team Lightening/blitz and presentation evening:** SG reported that a date of Tuesday July 5th had been agreed at Willows Club (thanks to Mike Butt for organising). Colin Hailstone had agreed to be arbiter. Following a discussion regarding alternative formats it was agreed that those in place for 2015 should remain. The Trophy Presentation session needed to run more smoothly. JM had agreed to organise the collection and inscription of trophies.
- 6.2 **2016 Chess Training Day(s):** SG reported that a training day, organised by SH with James Adair was scheduled for 21st May at Willerby Manor. If this was successful we would look to engage him for more training later in the year in a similar manner to the Sheila Jackson training event in 2015.
- 6.3 **2016 AGM, constitution and rule changes**

Constitution Change Proposals

- 6.3.1 **Presentation of Trophies**
- 6.3.2 **Amendments to Rule Changes at the AGM**
- 6.3.3 **Removal of right of past president to automatically become a trustee without**

- election**
- 6.3.4 Change in post title**
- 6.3.5 Change/clarification in Trustee election notice period**

All the above changes were supported by the committee.

Rule Change Proposals

- 6.3.6 To clarify notice period required in the arrangement of cup matches:** was supported by the committee.
- 6.3.7 End date of tournaments:** was supported by the committee.
- 6.3.8 Fixture arrangements for team and individual cup tournaments:** was supported by the committee.
- 6.3.9 Use and grades of reserves:** was not supported by the committee as it felt this was too wide a margin and would particularly benefit the larger clubs.
- 6.3.10 Use of mobile phones (two versions):** while it was acknowledged that the outcome was the same, the second version was supported by the committee on the basis that it placed less emphasis on the 'victim' to claim the game.
- 6.3.11 Role of team captains** was supported by the committee.
- 6.3.12 Changes in time controls:** was not supported by the committee as time controls had only recently been changed with limited opposition. Not every club used digital clocks.
- 6.3.13 Future arrangements team and individual cup tournaments:** was supported by the committee.
- 6.3.14 The elimination of the use of handicapping in Ross League and Cups, the Atkinson, Fenner and Jubilee Trophy/cups:** was not supported by the committee who felt that players liked the four board handicap and while acknowledging it wasn't a perfect system, judging from the number of teams still in with a chance of winning a division right at the end of the year, the handicap had produced a competitive and enjoyable season.

7. Public events

- 7.1 Schools Chess Day:** DeM had organised a Schools Chess day (for the second year running) at Wold School with nearly 40 children. A number of other Trustees had been involved and reported how excellent the day had been. DeM was congratulated. DeM had written a report which SG would distribute on his behalf.
- 7.2 Hull 2016 Congress:** SK reported that the date of the 2016 congress was October 14/16th. The brochure had been produced and distributed. Following a discussion it was agreed to try to move the 2017 congress to a date out of term time so that the accommodation could be utilised. It should also be possible to run the Hull Masters tournament alongside this event.
- 7.3 GM Simultaneous:** SG reported that the simultaneous would take place on Sunday June 5th, Mecure Royal Hotel against Luke McShane. A flyer had been produced and distributed. There were 32 players and seven for a morning blitz. The Mayor and Lady Mayoress (in full regalia) were going to be in attendance to formally open the event.
- 7.4 Public Events 2016:** David Stothard was organising this event – along similar lines to last year. July 2nd at Pearson Park.
- 7.5 National Chess Day:** PA reported on proposals for this event at the library. Following discussion it was agreed that, on a trial basis, expenditure of up to £300 could be made to publicise the event through the HDM (DaM wished his objections to be noted). A further small sum for inks and paper for other publicity.
- 7.6 Event organisation:** Following the last meeting SG had written to all local chess players asking for further help in event organisation. Responses had been very poor

8. Officers Reports

- 8.1- 8.3 League and Fixture secretaries', Junior Chess and Match Captain:** had all produced reports which were briefly discussed. In response to a request from AB it was agreed that this year's cup

events could have an end date of June 22nd. There were no further points for action.

9. Any other notified business

- 9.1 Shirts with HDCA Logo:** RN had costed applying a logo to polo shirts which could be used for HDCA events such as the congress and Yorkshire Matches.
- 9.2 Handbook:** last year the fixtures handbook had not been produced. SG asked, unsuccessfully, for someone to volunteer to produce this.
- 9.3 Web site:** DaM raised the issue of the web site which was out of date and required an overhaul.
- 9.4 Team in the Scunthorpe League:** DaM said that he was trying to get a team together to play in the Scunthorpe league and asked about potential HDCA support. The current idea was to use Anlaby library. After a discussion DaM was asked to come back to the next meeting with a firm proposal.
- 9.5 NCCC:** DaM reported on the success of the Beverley Club in entering teams in these tournaments.

- 10. Date of next meeting** – AGM Tuesday June 14th 2016, Willows Club. 19.15 and then Tuesday July 26th also Willows Club 19.15.

There being no further business the President closed the Meeting at 22.20

Stephen Greep,
Hon. General Secretary
19/05/2016