



Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Hull and District Chess Association Charitable Trust, held by zoom, on Tuesday 14th January 2021, 19.15.

Present: Graham Chesters (Chairman), Gerry Johnstone, Stephen Greep, Derek Sheppard, Steve Thrower, Douglas Vleeshouwer, John Cooper, Steve King, Andrew Bettley, Jim Miklevicz and Tom Hackett

In Attendance: Richard Atkinson

At the start of the meeting there was a one-minute silence to remember John Bycroft who had sadly died since the last meeting. John Cooper explained that Hull Chess Club were thinking about an appropriate memorial to John Bycroft and that some people had already made a financial contribution. The club would decide in early February what would be appropriate; lots of memories and appreciation of John's contribution to local chess had been received and will be recorded on the Hull Chess Club web site.

1. Apologies for absence: Mike Pollard.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

2.1. The minutes of the committee meeting of 13/10/20 were agreed as a true record with one amendment to 8.1.

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

3.1. **Code of Conduct for Trustees:** SG noted that all except one Trustee had signed the code.

3.2. **Register of interests:** SG noted that there were still a number of Trustees who had not returned their register of interests.

4. Chairman's Business: The President congratulated DV on his success at the British Online Championships winning the Major Open Rapid with 6/7.

GC had begun a series of club meetings with an online discussion with Hull Chess Club; further meetings would be arranged and any Trustee who wished to be involved should contact GC. It was hoped that these meetings, led by GC and SK, would produce a 'blue print' as to how clubs might attract and keep new members. Attention was drawn to articles from Bristol (looking at the five key reasons for attracting new members, particularly emphasising the social side of membership) and Hammersmith (highlighting a 'centre' approach in association with other 'sports' such as Bridge) Chess Clubs. GC to distribute to Trustees.

GC had also discussed 'chess in the park' with Mitch Upfold (Hull Culture and Leisure), an initiative which has in principle support from the Hull City Council portfolio holder and hoped to promote discussions with the library, particularly on how to capitalise on the promotion of women's chess on the back of Queens Gambit.

5. Treasurers report and financial matters: GJ had previously circulated a report (the balance was at 06/01/21). ST asked about the amounts drawn down from the Charities investments. GJ reminded Trustees that we had invested in income units of the COIF funds which delivered a 'natural yield' of approximately £1,250 each quarter. ST agreed to look at benchmarking information for the COIF funds to enable Trustees to monitor the performance of CCLA on a more regular basis.

6. Charity and Trustee matters

- 6.1. **HDCA Fairplay Code:** This had previously been distributed. It was agreed to change the title to Online Fairplay Code and 'Judgement panel' was changed to Fair Play Panel. With these amendments the Code was unanimously agreed, and SG was to circulate to all charity members.
- 6.2. **HDCA support for teams in non HDCA events:** discussion on this item was deferred until the next meeting.
- 6.3. **Charity Commission Governance Code:** GC, SG, DV, GJ and DS had all completed section drafts. GC cautioned against being too self-critical and reminded Trustees that we were a charity with no staff; Trustees were volunteers and not 'overseers'. The exercise was one of self-monitoring. Production of an annual plan and the issue of yearly election of Trustees were also discussed.

AB had pointed out a small number of typo's to be changed. ST raised the issue of collective responsibility and felt this was now accepted – it was agreed that this required monitoring. The Trustee Code of Conduct included a commitment to collective responsibility.

During a discussion on the current membership model, GJ suggested a 'membership document' outlining the benefits of membership and what members received.

Trustees to send SG any more comments within two weeks. The document would then be taken as accepted and consideration could be given to actions required.

7. **ECF Matters:** DV reported that at the ECF Council meeting Nigel Towers (who the Charity had supported) was elected as Director of Home Chess. SG reported that he had been elected to the ECF Governance Committee and was congratulated by GC.

8. Member Events/Issues

8.1 Resumption of over the board chess: TH advised that there was currently no change. Following discussion, it was agreed that TH would contact all captains by way of an informal consultation and to let players know the issue was still under discussion. ST to do the same in respect of cup matches.

8.2. HDCA Online activity: DV reported on HDCA team event which was won by the 'A' team from Beverley, with Hull CC as runners-up.

8.3 2021 Rapid play: DV reported that this was currently scheduled for Sunday 11th April 2021. This would be kept under review. SG had been in contact with the Royal Hotel which was still contracted to host asylum seekers and closed to other visitors.

9. Public Events – Reports and updates

9.1 Hull 4NCL International Congress: SG reported on the 2020 congress which had been held online. It had been the largest 4NCL online Congress to date with over 170 players. A full report had been circulated to all members. Through VHEY we had received a £600 grant from Hull City Council which should cover the full HDCA Contribution for the two online simul's, live commentary and coaching prizes for section winners.

The 2021 congress was still scheduled for October 20th-24th. This would be kept under review.

10. **Officer Reports:** None (excepting the Treasurers report at 5), but the importance of receiving reports, especially from sub committees was stressed. MP to be asked to report on online junior activity under covid restrictions.

11. Any other notified business:

11.1 DS highlighted issues with ChessTempo and the allocation of games. A number of games had been allocated to his name which were not his.

12. **Date of next meeting.** Thursday 25th February, 19.15 to be held by zoom.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 21.21.

Stephen Greep 17/01/21

Following the meeting DV asked for the following online activity to be noted:

1. ***The 2020 ECF Under 18 Online County Championship***: Yorkshire were ranked 4th and ended up coming in 4th place, despite beating 3rd place Oxfordshire, due us drawing with Berkshire. Warwickshire came first, Kent second. Our top scorer was Mate Ther, with 4.5 points out of 5 games. Philip Wood scored 2 out of 4.

2. **4NCL - adults:**

Our 1st team came third in group C in division 2 and thus missed out on a place in the semi-finals. Our 2nd team came last in group B in division 2 and will consequently play in division 3 in season 3, which starts in 2 weeks' time.

We have entered 2 teams again for season 3.

3. **4NCL - juniors:**

Our 1st team won their group so played in the semi-finals for a 2nd season in a row. Unfortunately they lost so again didn't make it to the finals...

Our 2nd team won their group as well and thus secured promotion to division 1! They won their semi-final against East Kilbride Knights but lost the finals, against May the Fork Be With You.

We've joined forces with York, who entered a team in division 4 halfway through season 2. This means we'll have an even stronger 2nd team and it will our weaker players a chance to play against other juniors of similar strength (in division 4).

The junior season starts next week.

4. Yorkshire League. The HDCA have 2 teams playing in Yorkshire's first online team league, which is a 3-round competition. Other teams competing are:

Alwoodley A, Alwoodley B, Bradford, Harrogate, Huddersfield and Sheffield.

Our first team are currently top of the table, as the organiser has quite unusually decided that board matches rather than match points determine the placings:

Team	Play	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Points
Hull DCA A	2	1	1	0	8½	3½	3
Harrogate	2	2	0	0	8	4	4
Huddersfield	2	1	0	1	8	4	2
Sheffield	2	1	1	0	8	4	3
Alwoodley B	2	0	1	1	5	7	1
Bradford	2	1	0	1	4½	7½	2
Alwoodley A	2	0	0	2	3	9	0
Hull DCA B	2	0	1	1	3	9	1

In round one, our first team did very well to draw against Sheffield. Our 2nd team were unlucky to face a very strong Huddersfields and lost 6 nil.

In round two, our first team thrashed Alwoodley A 5.5 - 0.5 and our 2nd team drew 3-3 against Alwoodley B.

The 3rd and final round will be played on Saturday 30th January, in which our first team will be playing against Harrogate and our second team will face Alwoodley A.