



**Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Hull and District Chess Association Charitable Trust, held by zoom, on Thursday 18th March 2021, 19.15.**

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

**In Attendance:** Richard Atkinson and Ray Ezra.

At the start of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Raz Ezra as the new observer from St Andrews Chess Club.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Mike Pollard, Jo Hutchinson and Jim Miklevicz
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting**
  - 2.1. The minutes of the committee meeting of 14/01/21 were agreed as a true record.
- 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 three Trustees who had not returned their register of interests.
  - 3.3. **HDCA support for teams and individuals in non HDCA events.** The revised version of this paper was discussed, particularly in relation to the claiming of travel expenses. SG explained that the Charity's Financial regulations already covered travel expenses and any claimed would be expected to follow this. Once budgets were agreed (in line with the papers parameters) budget holders would be expected to manage this budget in line with the agreed scheme of delegation. The paper was unanimously agreed, with a review at 12 months.
- 4. Chairman's Business: HDCA Chess Strategy and Planning**

GC presented a forward-looking Strategic Plan, beginning with a brief assessment of the current situation: a successful external position, but one which had not translated into positive local action and there was a risk of dwindling numbers of players. A SWOT analysis informed by zoom meetings with local clubs and discussions with several local players (non-Trustees) together with a chart of all local chess activities now and into the future, produced by RA were discussed. The presentation was well received and supported by all Trustees. GJ suggested the production of a forward-looking video.

Into the future the centre piece of the Strategy should be a Play Chess campaign. While there were issues of deliverability the next stage would be to create an implementation plan, acknowledging that effort ought to be focused on what was deliverable, including an approach to senior figures in Hull City Council (and wider) for support (which could be used as a blueprint for the East Riding).
- 5. Treasurer's report and financial matters:** GJ had previously circulated a report. There was one correction in that fees owed to the Charity should have read fees owed by the Charity. In response to a question by GC concerning what happened to underspends at the end of the financial year it was confirmed that these were carried forward into the overall Charity's budget for the following year. In response to a question from ST, SG confirmed spend against the Beadham monies to date and that he kept Hull City Council informed when funds had been spent.

GJ proposal that subscriptions paid by clubs for the 2019/20 season should be applied to 21/22 (irrespective of the number of teams entered) was agreed.

## 6. Charity and Trustee matters

- 6.1. **AGM and Roles committee.** It was agreed to keep the date of the AGM (currently scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>) under review with a view to holding a 'live' meeting. TH reported that the Rules Committee would consider changes to the rules in light of the ECF's introduction of four figure grades. There was one further proposal to date.
- 6.2. **Code of Conduct for Observers:** This was unanimously agreed. SG to distribute to Observers with a request that this was signed.
- 6.3. **Charity Commission Governance Code:** GC's paper and implementation of aspects of the strategy he had outlined (item 4) would address some of the issues in the Governance Code assessment. It was agreed that one area, requiring constitutional change, that of three-year terms of office would be taken to the AGM for approval.

7. **ECF Matters:** DV/SG reported that there were two matters to be discussed at the ECF Finance meeting which required a vote – the number of three-year terms people could serve in each post and whether graded online games should count towards the number of votes at ECF Council meetings. Trustees would be consulted when the relevant paperwork was available.

## 8. Member Events/Issues

**8.1 Resumption of over the board chess:** TH recommended that following his consultation exercise the 2019/20 season should now be formally closed. This was supported, although it was agreed that remaining cup games should be completed. It was further agreed that the target would be for a resumption of otb chess for the start of the winter season in September (to be reviewed at the next meeting).

**8.2. HDCA Online activity:** DV reported on a recent HDCA team event. Hull and St Andrews Chess Clubs remained active in online events. In 4NCL the first team were doing well, although the 2nd team were struggling, but should survive in their current division. The first junior team was doing well, but the second struggling, the third team may well be promoted. HDCA won the Yorkshire "Pioneer Online League", by beating Huddersfield 5-1 in the 1st place playoff. We also won our first match in the Yorkshire Farthing Cup, against West Yorkshire, 9-3!

4NCL had indicated that online events would continue, on Tuesdays (adults) and Thursdays (juniors) into the new season and dates had already been published. It was agreed to discuss the possibility of accommodating Tuesday 4NCL online events into the winter calendar. DS, DV and TH to discuss.

**8.3 2021 Rapid play:** Although the booking at the Royal Hotel had been moved to Sunday January 9th It was agreed to keep this under review.

## 9. Public Events – Reports and updates

**9.1 Hull 4NCL International Congress:** Following a discussion with Mike Truran of 4NCL SG suggested that, due to continuing uncertainty, we plan for this year's congress to be just over the weekend (but with more sections) and to postpone the GM Norm event and junior coaching to 2022 and beyond. Although there would be a loss of profile this would be made up by other events in September and October. This was supported and agreed. SG to discuss with the Royal Hotel.

**9.2 Hull and the British Chess championships 2021 and 2023.** SG/GC had been in discussions with the ECF who were supportive of the British Chess Championships in Hull in 2023. The 2021 Championships were to be held online in July, but act as a 'feeder' for live events in early October spread around the country. Hull was a likely recipient of part of the live 2021 Championships.

In answer to a question from DV, SG confirmed that it was still intended to hold a round of the English Blitz in Hull on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

10. **Officer Reports:** None (excepting the Treasurers report at 5),

**11. Any other notified business: None**

**12. Date of next meeting.** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 19.15 to be held by zoom.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 21.27.

SJG 23/03/21