

Hull Chess Club – Minutes of Committee Meeting

Date: 28/04/2023 @ 19:45 Venue: The Charterhouse Hull



Present: Shaun Culkin (Chair), John Cooper (Secretary), Steve Greep (Treasurer) Dave Cooper, Bryan Hesler, Keith Porteous, , John Scotter Steve Thrower, Jack Walker

1. **Apologies for absence:** Paul Stephenson, Bill Wright, Andy Donegan, Shaun Moody

2. Minutes of Last Meeting:

A number of outstanding development actions remain on the table from the previous meeting – which was a ‘brainstorming’ session on the future of the Club (**See Appendix 1**)

- **ACTION:** (Sec/Treasurer) - It was agreed that a nightly sign for the club should be purchased
- **ACTION:** DOs should be encouraged to make an opening announcement each club night c.7.10

3. Treasurer’s Report

- SG presented an update indicating continued relatively healthy and stable financial (**See Appendix 2**)
- On this basis, SG expected to be able to recommend the AGM that subs could be maintained at current levels for 2023-24
 - It was noted however that, in the current circumstances, Charterhouse may increase their rents – so that subs would need reviewing, and making the “18-month-rule” for reserves all the more important.
- A notice of subs levels and categories has been drafted by SG. (**See Appendix 3**). This incorporates a formulation for the agreed ‘family membership’, plus a discount for first-year subs for those who join the Club late in the previous season.

4. Secretary’s Report (**see Appendix 5**)

- **Summer League**
 - Proposed squads have been agreed and fixtures circulated
 - **ACTION:** Summer league Captain’s need to firm up teams and notify secretary of any outstanding issues/concerns before the League starts in June
- **HDCA Rule changes**
 - Concern was expressed about proposed rule change allowing reserves/subs from teams in the same division.
 - **ACTION:** All members are encouraged to attend the **HDCA EGM, Thursday 4th May** to discuss and vote on the proposed rule changes

- **AGM and 2023-24 Planning**

- The AGM will be on Wednesday June 14th
- **ACTION:** Committee members were asked to contact the President or Secretary with any suggestions for the award of Bycroft medals – so that the full Committee can be consulted before the AGM
- **ACTION:** Committee members and captains were asked to let the Secretary know if they do not wish to continue in office 2023-24
- **Further discussion on room/noise issues**
 - **Bryan H** suggested we consider one extra meeting per month (e.g. 1st Thursday or Monday – TBC) – which he would manage - specifically aimed at individual serious games – to help make the main tournaments run better.
 - The Treasurer said that this was financially sustainable
 - **Action:** Bryan or others are asked to submit a formal proposal (inc. specified day) – so that Charterhouse can be consulted before the AGM.
 - John C felt that, in the absence of an extra night, one Friday evening per month can be formally designated as “Championship Games night” – and a more ‘serious’ playing environment for games enforced.
- **Championship tournaments**
 - Bryan expressed disappointment that games had progressed so slowly in some of the main tournaments this year
 - Responses to this were discussed.
 - Structure of tournaments to be reviewed ahead of AGM

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Appendix 1

Development Actions from Committee meeting – November 28- 2022

PRELIMINARY ACTIONS and SUGGESTIONS from 'brainstorm' on 'Building the Club' To be firmed up

Action: - Secretary to produce **Welcome Sheet** for new players **Done – but needs updating and lodging on website**

Action: - Secretary + Andy to produce **Welcome/Starter Pack** for new members **Not yet done**

Action: Duty officers encouraged to make short **welcome announcement** at the start of each evenings play - welcoming visitors; inviting visitors to help themselves to drinks; outlining what is happening that nights; flagging-up forthcoming events etc **Not yet done**

Action: Secretary to consider small/ad hoc tournament structure (over 1 or few nights) to help guarantee new players/members a game when they come in **Done – but needs modifying**

Action: Exec officers to more systemically monitor and report reasons players/members leave the Club (e.g. for AGMs) **Not yet done**

Action: More regular social and/or non-chess events and activities to be considered. Would anyone like to be **Social Secretary?** **Not yet done**

Action: thought to be given to what coaching activity can/should be provided to non-juniors at the Club – and how it can be provided **Not yet done**

Action: Junior Coach and Rota to give more thought to how parents of children attending the junior club can be engaged and employed? **Not yet done**

Action: permanent or nightly Club Sign for Charterhouse gates to be developed **Initial pricing of nightly sign done (£48 for 500 x 200 hanging hard-plastic sign)**

Action: Further discussion of promotional activities needed (e.g. whether a Club banner would be useful? Use of leaflets? Membership cards? Do we need + can we find a Publicity/Promotion officer? **Not yet done**

Other development ideas going forward [SG]:

- Social evenings
- Club branding' to give a sense of ownership and pride
- Representational matches at club level
- A continued online presence - this might be helpful particularly for new members and people who only want to play online [upgrade Charterhouse wi-fi?]
- Develop a newsletter to keep members informed
- Strong junior presence with support/contact for parents
- Direct association with one or two schools who have active chess clubs to act as a feeder into the junior club and perhaps teams
- Club coaching for all strength of player

- Beginner's courses

Appendix 2

Financial Statement: For Committee Meeting 28/04/2023

This is very much an overview of the current financial position of the club. A more detailed account will be made at the AGM. Please note that when I have done the detailed accounts of the year the position might change, so please treat this very much as an interim statement.

1. The headline figures are:

Money in bank (12/04/23) **£5,960**

Against which:

Expenditure to come	£400 (two months' rent and trophy inscribing)
Restricted Funds ¹ (Junior)	£610 (this includes £327 Westra funeral donations and member donations specifically for the junior fund, plus roll over funds from last year. Note a further £250 is expected as a HDCA contribution to junior club funds)
Restricted Funds (promotion)	£250 from HDCA
Agreed reserve	£3500

Total **£4,760**

Unallocated funds: **£ 1,200** (Money in bank less committed, restricted funds and agreed reserve).

2. Some more notes:

- Our unallocated funds stand at £1,200 – compared to £934.68 at the end of last season. The overall financial position is therefore improved (but see comments below about reserves), but against a backdrop of 10% inflation.
- Any additional junior spending (up to [£610+£250] £830).
- Our spend this year includes 3 years' worth of web hosting and catch-up on inscribing trophies. These are non-recurrent items which won't occur next year (but of course will in future years).
- Stripping out all the 'non recurrent items' our 'core' annual spend is around £2600. If we continue our policy of reserves = 18-month club expenditure, we should move reserves to £3900.
- The effect of reducing club fees has led to a reduction of £500 subscription income.
- General donations are down by £75 (that is donations without a specific area attached), but specific donations are up.

¹ The Bycroft Fund (the remaining balance was spent on the remembrance evening), Development Fund (spent on club DVT clocks) and Player support fund (both the club donated fund and fund allocated from HDCA) have all been spent in year.

- In year we have benefited from some significant donations. In particular following the Westra funeral, donations to the Junior budget and £500 from HDCA for promotion and development of the club and its junior club – the latter not yet recieved).

3. Recommendations for the AGM

- Subscriptions remain at the same level, but we should note that this might not be sustainable for future years. Committee should note that subscription income is reduced by £500 from 2021/22.
- The club reserve level is raised to £3900 to keep in line with 18 months of club expenditure.
- I will be seeking formal agreement for the family membership we agreed earlier in the season.
- I will also make a proposal concerning new-member discounts for those who join first late (e.g post-Christmas or post-Easter?) in the previous year?]

4. Reminder

We have agreed three financial ‘targets’:

- Core income (i.e. subscriptions) should pay for core activity (rent, HDCA subscriptions, insurance, web hosting, trophy inscribing). Currently this is a [positive](#) (but not by much).
- Reserves should = 18 months of ‘core’ spend. This is a [positive \(or can be\)](#). Reserves would cover any one off ‘emergency’ funding, such as rent rises.
- Donated sums should be used for ‘club development or club enhancing activities). This is a [positive](#).

5. Looking forward

Firstly, its important to stress that the club remains in a very healthy financial position. Given where we were just a few years ago its important we stay there.

My proposal for subscriptions for 23/24 is that they remain unchanged. I hope that the club committee will support this. But committee should note that it might be necessary to raise subscriptions in 24/25.

Assuming there are no radical changes to the above, the club will enter the new season with an unallocated amount of £585 (£985 less increase in reserves) and a reserve fund of £3,900. Together with amounts for juniors and club promotion (we may well spend some of this in the current financial year, but that won’t affect the underlying position).

Stephen Greep
Club Treasurer 12/04/23

Appendix 3



Hull Chess Club

Membership Categories



The club's financial years runs 1st June until 31st May. Subscription levels will be set on the advice of the Treasurer at the AGM. Members are asked to remit their subscriptions before the start of the Winter Season (1st September) and in any case no later than 1st October.

2023-24 Subscription rates		
	Existing Members	New Members
Membership	£50	£25
Concessionary membership *	£30	£15
Junior/Student **	£20	£10
Family members	Please see below	

*Concessionary Membership

Concessionary membership subscription (currently 'unwaged') will be available for any member who is currently unemployed or in receipt of the state pension and/or over the age of 66. Members otherwise in financial hardship may (in confidence) request reduced fees by contacting the Club Treasurer (sjgreep@gmail.com) or HDCA who maintain a specific fund to support local players who require financial support to enable them to play chess (this also includes ECF fees). Details can be found by following a link on this HDCA web site page www.hullchess.com/organisation.

**Junior/Student Membership

Junior members must be under the age of 18 at the start of the winter season (i.e. their 18th birthday should be after 1st September). Students should be in full-time education.

Family membership

An adult paying a full or concessionary membership will be entitled to a 50% reduction on the junior rate for the first child, 25% for the second and 10% for any subsequent children. In cases of dispute in interpretation of 'family' shall be made by the Secretary and Treasurer whose decision shall be final.

New Members

New members will be entitled to a first year subscription of 50% of the full year cost. Members joining the club after the 1st January will be entitled to a further reduction of £10 in respect of full members and £5 in respect of concessionary or junior/student members.

Payment of subscriptions

The preferred method of payment is by bank transfer: Hull Chess Club, account number 29435471, sort code 55-81-23. Please ensure that include your name in the payment reference. Subs can also be paid by cheque in person or by post to the Treasurer (Stephen Greep, 6 The Redwoods Willerby, Hull, HU10 6DQ) or in cash (to the President, Secretary or Treasurer).

Note: Members are reminded that it is a condition of playing in HDCA organised events that (in addition to being a member of the Club) – they become members of the English Chess Federation. Details of how to join the ECF can be found at: <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-membership-rates-and-joining-details/>

Stephen Greep (Treasurer, Hull Chess Club)

Appendix 4

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. For information: Hull CC membership

1980s	“ around 140 members at one point ” (Roger Noble)		
1995	“ around 100 members ” (reported in <i>The Times</i> (!) –when were ECF Club of the Year)		
1998/99	56	2016/17	44
2000/01	No records	2017/18	46
2001/02	42	2018/19	48
2002/03	49	2019/20	46
2003/04	44	2020/21	34
2004/05	34	2021/22	67
2005/06	No records	2022/23	72
2006/07	37		
2008-16	No records		

2021-22				2022-23			
2021-22 subs paid?	Joined ECF 21-22?	New members	Junior members	2022-23 subs paid?	Joined ECF 22-23?	New members	Junior members
67	52	22	11	72	50	19	12

Note: quite lot of late joining new members this year, including juniors, means that growth is not reflected in subs income

2. Summer League

- Draft Summer league teams – see [this link](#). **Any comments/corrections?**
- League structure:
 - Section 1 – 6 matches (3 home + 3 away)
 - Section 2 - 2 Groups; 3 or 4 matches + a play-off match
 - Group A - Hull X, University, St Andrews B, Hull V and Hull Futures 1
 - Group B - Hull Futures 2, Hull Juniors, Beverley Pirates, St Andrews X and East Hull B
- Fixtures will be released by May 1st

3. HDCA Rule changes **Any comments?**

- See at [this link](#)
- EGM to vote them – May 4th

4. AGM and 2023-24 Planning

- Date - Wednesday, June 14th
- **Any proposals for award of Bycroft medals** (Bronze, Silver or Gold)?
- Trophies /Engraving

● **Election of Officers** *Any thoughts or nominations?*

President	Currently - Shaun Culkin
Vice President	Currently - Dave Cooper
Secretary	Currently - John Cooper
Treasurer	Currently - Stephen Greep
Junior Organiser	Currently - John Cooper
Web Site Manager	Currently – Jack Walker
Library and Equipment Officer	Currently - Bill Wright
Auditor	Currently - Steve Thrower
Tournament Controller	Currently - Bryan Hesler
Duty Rotas Manager	Currently – Keith Porteous
Child safeguarding Officer	Shaun Moody
Other Committee Members	John Scotter (Past President) Paul Stephenson, Keith Porteous Team Captains (ex officio)

Current Winter League Team Captains:

6 D1	Hull A	Bryan Hesler
6 D1	Hull B	Paul Allison
6 D1	Hull C	Jack Walker
6 D2	Hull D	Dave Cooper
6 D2	Hull E	Stephen Greep

4 D1	Hull V	Paul Allison
4 D1	Hull X	Steve Thrower
4 D1	Hull Futures 1	Keith Porteous
4 D2	Hull W	Bill Wright
4 D2	Hull Futures 2	Andy Donegan

5. Future growth and development issues

Any thoughts /additions?



