

# Huddersfield & District Chess Association

Web site <http://www.geoffpeake.co.uk/HDCA/>

<u>Secretary</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
GM Peake	WF Lumley	C Stratford
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## Minutes of General Meeting Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011 7.30pm At Lindley Liberal Club

### Present

Bill Lumley	President, Netherton
Chris Stratford	Treasurer, Huddersfield
Geoff Peake	Secretary, Holme Valley
Stewart V. Thompson	Holme Valley
Dave Patrick	Calderdale
Peter Shaw	Netherton
Gregory Bailey	Netherton
John Newsome	Netherton
Nick J. Edwards	Netherton
Alec Ward	David Browns
Peter Czerwinski	Huddersfield
David Firth	Huddersfield
Eddie Mellor	Huddersfield

**1. Apologies** were received from Paul Jackson.

### **2. Introduction by the President**

Bill Lumley explained the reason for the meeting was the retirement of Geoff Peake as secretary, and the fact that no-one had come forward to fill that role. He talked about the role of secretary, reminisced about his own 28 years, and talked about how the role of secretary had changed, and how Geoff had taken it into the website age. Bill stated that his

years demonstrated that the Association could function without the undoubted benefits of an active and 'professional' web site. He recalled a conversation he had with Roger Keely, where Roger had stated that it was not essential that the new Secretary had to operate as Geoff had. Bill stressed that what we needed was a willing member to accept the post of 'Secretary' who would do the job within the level of his abilities. We were not in the position of interviewing candidates and rejecting them on the grounds that they did not have the expertise to deliver at the same level that Geoff had achieved, although It is a fact that a willing web expert would be an invaluable addition to the team. He also stated that he had completed 5 years as President and would be retiring from this role, and that a new President would be appointed at the AGM. He thanked Geoff for his 5 years as secretary, and he paid special thanks to David Firth, who had done the Treasurer's job since 1997.

### **3. Secretary's Report**

"Many years ago I had made a mistake about something – it wasn't important at all, but I had a face like thunder. I was walking past a pupil of mine – a chess prodigy called Macey Nettleton, who as sitting at a chess board playing through a game of Alekhine's. He was only 7 years old. He looked up at me smiling and said

"Don't take yourself too seriously otherwise you are your own worst enemy".

That kid knew it in a heartbeat. He understood.

Unfortunately I never managed to conquer those personal demons, I struggled to forgive myself for mistakes, I took life too seriously, and was, indeed, my own worst enemy. Any delusions anyone has do not survive long at the chess board !

I have suffered increasingly nerves and anxiety before a chess game, and depression afterwards. I'm giving up league chess because I failed to conquer those personal demons.

I had hoped to do the Secretary job for 10+ years, which would have taken me well into my seventies. Apologies for pulling out after 5.

I apologise to anyone who has not liked my rather abrasive and blunt style used on my web site. I know one or two people were upset about default comments and so on.

*I have to thank many people*

Bill Lumley, David Firth, {Roger Tuddenham, of course}.

All the Captains such as John Newsome "a giant of a man" ! Peter Czerwinski,.

Hardly a mistake by the Captains in Handicap, Rapidplay etc !

Stewart for his common sense – certainly not for his chess sense !,

People such as Robert Sutcliffe, Matthew Parsons for their enthusiasm for chess.

*Now perhaps it's time for the next generation to stand up and take over !"*

**The full report can be found in the Appendix.**

### **4. The future of the HDCA**

Nick Edwards, Alec Ward and Chris Stratford asked about the website. Geoff Peake stated that a web site host was needed and software needed to transfer information to the web. He pointed out that Paddy Senior {with Mike Dennison's help} had set up Wakefield's site and taken over the Yorkshire website. Paddy used "Fusion". Geoff's host was streamline.net [£40 odd per annum} and he used the software Easy Web Editor.

However a web site has to be constantly updated, otherwise it is ineffective. It is time consuming to run. It is difficult to start at first, but is rewarding when it is up and running. It would be more difficult for anyone who had a full time job to find the time.

The website part of the secretary role was not a priority. It was agreed that this be put on the AGM agenda to see if the new secretary or someone else wanted to run a website.

Geoff stated that his own website would stand for the next year so that anyone could download any information needed from it. This would be useful for the new secretary.

Dave Patrick explained the chess results system in Calderdale. Captains inputted the results into the Calderdale site, then Dave Collinge and Dennis Breen inputted results from the Calderdale site into the Yorkshire Chess Nuts site.

Geoff pointed out that the Yorkshire Grader Jon Griffiths had said

" Eight Yorkshire League Secretaries are already using the chessnuts web-site to help them manage their competitions.

Briefly, **chessnuts takes care of publishing fixtures, results, league tables and bulletins.**"

The Treasurer, Chris Stratford agreed to take responsibility for seeing to the Trophies [i.e collecting, taking for engraving, bringing to AGM]

No fees had been paid to the treasurer so far this season and Geoff agreed to send out an email requesting fees be paid ASAP.

### **The Format for the new season would be:**

*Team entries and Club details* such as list of Captains, venues, contact phone numbers to be sent to the secretary by his nominated closing date for entries.

The secretary to produce a *Fixture list* either by his own means or by using Chess Nuts.

The secretary to produce a HDCA Ratings list from the revised Yorkshire Grading list before the start of the season {normally third week in September}.

Captains would send in results by email to the secretary {John Newsome said he was rubbish at emails!}

The secretary would check results for validity {e.g. ineligible players, wrong board orders, wrong ratings, handicaps / points start etc}, and input the results into Chess Nuts.

Chess Nuts would then automatically produce results, live grades and tables etc. that members could access from the Chess Nuts website.

**Nick J. Edwards agreed to take on the secretary's role.**

Note that **Dennis Breen** who has very kindly volunteered to input this season's results into Chess Nuts. Our warm thanks go to him for this

**5. AGM date** - Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011 was confirmed as the date of the AGM

## **APPENDIX**

### **{A} Role of the Secretary {at present}**

#### Grades/ Ratings

End July/ August go through Yorkshire Grading list to prepare Grading list for HDCA players {327 players in 2010-11 list}.

From this prepare Rating list.

This has to be redone when Grading corrections are issued late August / September.

Update this Rating list throughout the season with new players / remove obsolete entries.

End-season: send all results to Yorkshire Grader for grading.

*{also see Grading News below}*

#### Competitions

Collect Team entries for various competitions

Prepare Club details document with list of venues / Captains' phone numbers / email addresses.

#### Fixtures

Do Fixture list for Watkinson, Examiner, Rapidplay, TeamKO competitions.

Do Fixture list for Watkinson Finals.

Redo Fixture list for postponements etc.

#### Individual KO

Entry form and collect entries, monies, do fixtures and draw for Individual KO.

Update results for Individual KO

Be arbiter for Individual KO.

#### Results

Collect results for each match.

Check results for validity {e.g. ineligible players, wrong board orders, wrong ratings, handicaps / points start etc}.

Publish result details.

#### Tables

Construct and update Tables for Watkinson, Examiner Handicap, Bill Lumley Rapidplay

#### Trophies

Collect all trophies from previous season.

Produce lists of trophy / Individual KO winners and runners up.

Take trophies to engravers for engraving.

Collect trophies from engravers and arrange payment.

Transport trophies to AGM.

#### Correspondence

Deal with any correspondence – email or letter.

#### Enquiries

Deal with phone, text, letter or email enquiries from members {e.g. registering new players, questions about Constitution & Rules, Play-offs, Ratings etc}

### Meetings

Produce and circulate agenda for AGM within required time scale.

Write secretary's report for AGM.

Produce and circulate any necessary or appropriate proposals for AGM within required time scale.

Circulate members' proposals for AGM within required time scale.

Take minutes of AGM.

Write up minutes of AGM after meeting.

Make any amendments necessary to Constitution & Rules following AGM and republish.

Do same for any possible General meetings, Special meetings, Executive Committee meetings.

### Documents

Produce documents such as Guide to Rating System, Being Captain, Notes on Player Eligibility, Procedure at Start of Matches, blank Result forms for matches etc. as appropriate.

### Disputes

Deal with problems and disputes; implement HDCA "The Conduct of the Players rules".

### Executive Committee

Be a member of Executive Committee {with President and Treasurer} and liaise with other Executive Committee members as needed.

### Website

Update website with news, results, tables, photos etc.

Publish chess games online.

***Note that I will leave the HDCA part of my web site running. All the information that I have is on my web site so the new secretary can download from it any information that he wishes.***

Of course the problem with running a web site is that **it has to be kept up to date**. This has been the problem with the Huddersfield web site, for example, and many others.

{B} Secretarial role with regard to fixtures, results, league tables **{in the future}**

Below is a copy of an email from Jon Griffiths, Yorks Grader.

Dear friends

I notice from your web-site that Geoff will retire after five years of diligent service.

I cannot help you to find a new league secretary, but I can offer to help the new secretary to do the job.

Eight Yorkshire League Secretaries are already using the chessnuts web-site to help them manage their competitions.

Briefly, **chessnuts takes care of publishing fixtures, results, league tables and bulletins.**

Please see here how the Leeds League incorporates the chessnuts service into their own web-page:

<http://s230720565.websitehome.co.uk/LCA/page13.html>

So, if you have any potential candidates, please suggest that they take advice from other league secretaries who use chessnuts:

Paul Clarke (Leeds & Bradford Leagues)  
Stuart Johnson (Yorkshire League)  
Paul Johnson (York League)  
Phill J Beckett (Sheffield Lg Divs 1 & 4)  
Simon Dunkley (Sheffield Lg Div 2)  
Steve Bracey (Sheffield Lg Div 3)  
Steve Donoghue (Hull League)  
Dennis Breen & Dave Colledge (Calderdale League)  
Andrew Zigmund (Harrogate League)

Best wishes

Jon Griffith

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Jon Griffith

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Note that the input of results could be done by the new secretary or the home captains.

As you know I {Geoff} put results up and tables up to date the morning after matches. I put grades up a day or so later.

**Geoff writes** :- If I inputted results into chessnuts as well as to my web site this would mean I would have to put results in twice. What is more the system used on chessnuts I find time consuming and irritating - a lot of players are not listed so that you have to add them one by one from the Yorks list which is a bit tortuous. Also a lot of players are missing off their list and so games goes ungraded. On my grades I use an estimated grade when players are not listed. Also I am not sure how chessnuts will be able to cater for the Handicap system.

Another difference from my site is that the grader is now "weighting" results so that results are not of equal weight any more. This I am unable to do on my grades.

Players I have spoken to prefer to use my site rather than go through chessnuts for info, but I understand the advantage of having one central results base. Many secretaries are very slow in putting results in so interest of members soon flags. There would be no photos or interesting articles about matches on the chessnuts site so there may still be a need for HDCA web site.

**Bill Bardelang {Calderdale} says**

Hello Geoff,

Jon Griffith has done a superb job and I think that will be the best option for your successor.

When I started working on my site, the YCA site was a rather basic, updated-once-a-year thing and I was full of enthusiasm. For me it was an interesting project and a means to learn about HTML, PHP programming, the MySQL database, etc. I remember starting work on it Sept-Oct time and we started to use it early the following year. For 3-4 months I worked on it much (my wife would say all)

of my spare time. It was designed specifically for the Calderdale League set-up, so adapting it for another league would be another big job.

I don't know of any commercial software that could be used for the same purpose. Quite likely there is, but configuring it to do just what you want would probably not be easy. Unless you find a sufficiently knowledgeable enthusiast among the Huddersfield chess crowd willing to take on something like this, making use of the YCA chess site is the obvious choice.

All the best, Bill

### Geoff writes

It is unlikely that the new secretary would be able to fulfil the role as outlined in section A {above}.

One possible answer would be to split the role up, with the secretary acting as co-ordinator {e.g. results inputted by Home captains as mentioned above}.

One person could be responsible for Rapidplay Competition for example.

### {C} Future of the Association

Chess leagues don't just happen – Organisers are essential to sort them out and run them. If more Teams drop out of the League and organisers fail to run the League properly then the HDCA could fold. Teams could join other Leagues such as the Calderdale League, though the main problem with this is the travel involved.

Teams could be of 5 players instead of 6.

### {D} Grading News

Exciting changes have been happening in grading recently {apart from “New Grades”}. However this has brought further problems.

ECF grades are inaccurate because they are chronically incomplete. Grades only contain games from Tournaments where ECF have been paid for grading results. HDCA league games etc. are not graded. Players entering tournaments pick and choose as suits them which grade they want to disclose when entering tournaments – Yorkshire or ECF.

Yorkshire grades **are** accurate.

However care is needed – Yorkshire now use “live grades” – This means grades are updated as the season progresses. If anyone looked up their grade they would find an ECF grade {if they are lucky – if you have not played in a Tournament you probably won't have an ECF grade}, they will a Yorkshire “live” grade – and on the HDCA Rating lists or Yorks printed list they will find their start of the season grade. These 3 grades will be different. Example Bill Lumley's grade quoted on ECF is 131, Yorkshire live grade is 121, Bill's grade at start of season {used on Rating list} is 125. All these grades would give different ratings. The grade that must be used in the HDCA Handicap matches is the one on the Rating list.

Note there is another problem – Rapidplay grades are different from Standard play grades. Really it would be better to use Rapidplay grades for Bill Lumley Rapidplay matches.

However this would mean another rating list for the Rapidplay – and there is a lack of

information on Rapidplay grades for many players. This would probably cause confusion and make Captains' work even harder.

*Should we split the Secretary Work ?*

**Results Secretary**

Collect, check, input to Chess Nuts [Tables done by Chess Nuts]

**Fixture Secretary**

**Trophy Secretary**

Collect, organise engraving, bring to AGM

**Minute Secretary**

Do all minutes for meetings.

**Main Secretary**

Do Rating list, collect entries for Watkinson, Examiner, Rapidplay, TeamKO, Individual KO.

Produce Club Details and Contacts list.

Deal with correspondence, enquiries.

Produce Secretary's report for AGM

Deal with disputes etc.

All other matters.

**Web Site ?**

Is this necessary ?

**Our Thanks go to Dennis Breen who has very kindly volunteered to input this season's results into Chess Nuts.**