



THE BRAILLE CHESS ASSOCIATION (Founded 1932)

Registered Charity no. 263049

"Bringing Chess to Visually Impaired People."

TRUSTEES REPORT 1st October 2019 - 30th September 2020

Vision Statement

To spread and advance the playing of chess among blind and partially sighted people throughout the United Kingdom by organising tournaments and providing coaching and reference material.

Structure of the Braille Chess Association (BCA)

The BCA is the sole provider of chess services to blind and partially sighted people in the United Kingdom and caters for people of all ages. It is affiliated to the English Chess Federation, Chess Scotland, the English Federation for Correspondence Chess and the International Braille Chess Association.

The BCA is a registered charity, governed by its constitution adopted in 1982 and last amended in March 2018. The BCA complies with the principles set out in the latest edition of the Good Governance Code for Trustees. We are also mindful of the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission. The BCA is unincorporated being administered by a board of trustees all but one of whom work on a voluntary unpaid basis. The trustees are all elected by the membership on an annual basis. The names of the individuals who have served on the board during the past twelve months are listed in Appendix 1 to this report. The committee are also supported by sub-committees and other members of the association acting as volunteers.

The majority of our income is raised from grant-giving trusts and foundations. We have appointed a new Fundraising Officer, Linda Innes; our

previous fundraiser, Julia Scott, retired on health grounds at the end of November 2019.

The registered address of the association is that of its secretary, Dr Guy Whitehouse: 58 Earl Russell Street, Leicester, LE2 8LH

The Association's annual accounts for 2018/19 were examined by our new accountants Dunkley's, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, and signed off at a committee meeting held via Skype in May 2020.

Mission Statement

To enable blind and partially sighted people to enjoy the game of chess, to improve their chess playing techniques, and to have their voice heard in the world of chess.

Services provided by the BCA

Members can take advantage of a wide range of services including:

- 1 correspondence chess in which moves are sent in Braille, on cassette or by email;
- 2 "over the board" chess tournaments held in this country and overseas, including events not limited to blind players;
- 3 free access to a library of chess books, periodicals and other instructional material in accessible formats;
- 4 chess coaching;
- 5 advice on all chess matters including adapted chess sets and clocks, computers and software suitable for visually impaired players.
- 6 a new multi-format tournament in which games can be played online or by phone.

The BCA runs a lively web site containing news, information, games, etc. (Go to www.braillechess.org.uk). We also run an email discussion list.

Financial Position at 30 September 2020

Currently we are in a strong position financially, thanks to the work of our Fundraiser Julia Scott, who has now retired, and our new Fundraising Officer, Linda Innes.

Several years ago, we invested some funds in a Charities Investment Fund with CCLA in accordance with our investment policy. Our funds held by CCLA continue to do well. This year we received £491 in dividends from our Income Units and they increased in value by 3.6%. Our Accumulation Units increased in value by 6.9%. For comparison, the FTSE 100 index decreased by over 20% over the same time.

Our reserves policy is to aim to hold 24 months expenditure in reserve. This allows us to place bulk orders of adapted chess sets and clocks, and to plan tournament venues in advance to secure advantageous deals.

On September 30 2020, we held funds, including the value of our investments, of £95,246, of which £7,713 is in restricted funds (allocated to specific projects). This means we are on track to be able to commit to maintaining stock of sets and clocks, producing our quarterly Gazette, supporting our membership with coaching and preparing for over the board tournaments as soon as they are possible.

What's been happening?

Sadly our programme of over-the-board tournaments was severely curtailed by the coronavirus. We were forced to cancel our AGM weekend congress scheduled for April 2020 and the Chairman's Cup, usually held every two years and scheduled for June 2020, had to be postponed. We hope to run this event in the summer of 2021 combining it with our British Championships.

The virus also put paid to our plans regarding participation in overseas events. We had intended to enter a team into the Six Nations tournament in Germany and to send representatives to compete in the annual friendly event in Haaksbergen and also the European Individual Championships. Sadly all of these events were cancelled or postponed till 2021.

The one domestic over-the-board tournament we did manage to hold was our autumn international tournament. This took place in Solihull in November 2019 and was dedicated to the memory of two giants of the visually impaired chess world, Hans and Stefi Cohn. Paul Benson (Runcorn) won the open section and Voldi Gailans (Romford) won the challengers event on tie-break. Our thanks go to Voldi for organising the event.

The virus did force us to be inventive and accordingly we did organise a socially distanced tournament in which people could play via Skype or over the phone with the services of a timekeeper or else by email. This event ran throughout the summer and finished just before the end of September 2020.

There were two competitions running simultaneously, one where people played for points and the other where people challenged other players for positions on a ladder. These competitions were then sub-divided by placing players with a grade

of 100 or above into an open section and the rest being placed in a challengers group. In the points competition the winner of the open was Malcolm Jones (Birmingham) with 110 points while Mark Hague (London) won the challengers with 56. Alec Crombie (Uppingham) won the ladder competition with Jermaine Raymond (London) winning the under-100 section.

This event was a great success and well-supported by members. A lot of effort went into organising and running this event and we must extend particular thanks to Julie Leonard (Tewkesbury) and Gerry Walsh (Middlesbrough) in this regard. We have every expectation of running a similar event soon.

Turning to correspondence chess, we continue to run our usual league and championship. A new league competition began in January 2020 and the 2019-2020 championship premier group was won by Guy Whitehouse (Leicester); Voldi Gailans won the challengers group. Our thanks go to Paul Benson for running these events.

Our email competitions run by Eamonn Casey (County Westmeath) and Philip Doyle (Dublin) go from strength to strength.

This year we held our 11th and 12th email tournaments. Peter Gibbs (Hinckley) was overall winner of the 11th with Colin Chambers (Cheltenham), Mark Kirkham (Sheffield) and Michael Flood (London) winning divisions 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Donna Jodhan (Toronto) and Glen Graham (Cullompton) shared first place in division 5.

Rod MacDonald (Honolulu) was overall winner of the 12th competition, with Philip Doyle winning division 2. Gill Smith (Bristol) and Mark Hague shared first place in division 3 while Malcolm Jones and Tony Lawton (Reading) finished equal first in division 4. The next email tournament is already underway and has attracted a large number of entries.

Finally we have continued to provide our usual services to members as far as the coronavirus allows. We publish our quarterly gazette, provide audio selections of articles from Chess Magazine and our new Website Coordinator, Daniel Rugman (London), has begun work on enhancing our website. There is an allowance for members who wish to develop their skills through coaching (although coaching weekends aren't possible at the moment, online coaching is offered) and we continue to plan activities hoping that we would be able to resume something like our normal programme in the spring or summer of next year. We particularly hope to revisit plans for junior development (we have made Junior Development Officer a committee post). Voldi Gailans, who took on this role did manage to visit Royal National College, Hereford before the lockdown was introduced. We also aim to start outreach to other online communities of other visually impaired people.

The effects of Covid-19

The effects on our 2019-2020 over-the-board programme have been noted above. Because many of our members are in the coronavirus high risk group and would be unlikely to be prepared to take the risk of travelling via public transport, we have not felt it right to proceed with over-the-board activities. We have also taken the decision to hold committee meetings via Skype rather than face-to-face as we used to do.

This has reduced the association's financial outgoings, but it has been an extremely difficult financial climate in which to raise funds. It has also meant that our members have missed out on the chance to meet and socialize at our events, vital for maintaining the friendly nature of the association. It was to try to offset the effects of this isolation that we ran our new socially-distanced multi-format tournament. Prior to the end of the 2019-2020 year we took the decision to move our 2020 autumn international tournament online and we will use insights gathered from this event to prepare for an online 2021 weekend congress and AGM. Once the virus situation improves sufficiently, we anticipate being able to resume a normal over-the-board programme. As well as the combined Chairman's Cup and British Championships planned for June 2021, this will include the weeklong chess theme break previously run by Peter and Celia Gibbs currently scheduled for end of January 2022.

What we aim for

Chess is an excellent game for visually impaired people as it can be played against sighted opponents on an equal basis. This means that VI players can become members of sighted clubs and teams which breaks down barriers and increases social integration. Many of our visually impaired members play a full and active part in the sighted chess world.

We in the BCA aim to bring our members competitive and friendly chess experience together with the comradeship of a close-knit Association. Catering for players of all strengths is fundamental.

Essential to this aim is the BCA's quarterly Gazette. It is edited by Julie Leonard with Braille copies produced by the RNIB. We offer the Gazette in Braille, on CD, by email and in print and large print. It is also published on the BCA website. And talking of support, we would like to pay tribute to all friends of the BCA, be you sponsors, guides, associate members, arbiters, stewards, readers - or just plain good friends! We are truly grateful to you all!

Appendix 1: Those who have served on the Committee in 2019 - 2020

Norman Wragg OBE, Chairman – Sheffield
Dr Guy Whitehouse, Secretary - Leicester
Gill Smith, Treasurer – Bristol

Julie Leonard, Gazette Editor – Tewkesbury
Mark Hague, Membership Secretary – London
Chris Ross, Webmaster till January 2020 - Northampton
Mark Kirkham, Audio Librarian - Sheffield
Voldi Gailans, Junior Development Officer – Romford
Daniel Rugman, Publicity Officer and Webmaster from January 2020 - London
Paul Benson, Correspondence Chess Director – Runcorn

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Gillian Smith

Name Mrs Gill Smith

Date 27 April 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Braille Chess Association	263049

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	Oct-19		Sep-20

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations, legacies, grants	19,153	5,920	-	25,073	34,001
Chess tournaments	4,261	2,639	-	6,900	26,806
Fundraising by members	778	-	-	778	1,293
Interest on deposit accounts	492	-	-	492	579
Dividends from investments	491	-	-	491	482
Membership subscriptions	430	-	-	430	234
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	25,605	8,559	-	34,164	63,395
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Adapted sets & clocks	582	-	-	582	607
BCA merchandise	185	-	-	185	46
Sub total	767	-	-	767	653
Total receipts	26,372	8,559	-	34,931	64,048
A3 Payments					
Chess tournaments	16,685	-	-	16,685	53,011
Professional fees	8,867	179	-	9,046	11,233
Braille production (including Gazette)	27	2,310	-	2,337	2,231
Committee expenses	887	-	-	887	1,555
Print, post, stationery	166	-	-	166	931
Subscriptions and publications	527	-	-	527	865
Insurance	493	-	-	493	476
Lottery prizes	420	-	-	420	420
Bank charges	103	-	-	103	139
Sub total	28,175	2,489	-	30,664	70,861
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
Adapted sets & clocks		2,519	-	2,519	
BCA merchandise	390	-	-	390	
Sub total	390	2,519	-	2,909	-
Total payments	28,565	5,008	-	33,573	70,861
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,193	3,551	-	1,358	- 6,813
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	51,701	4,162	-	55,863	62,676
Cash funds this year end	49,508	7,713	-	57,221	55,863

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank	11,562	7,714	-
	Virgin Money	33,572	-	-
	Lloyds Bank	4,374	-	-
	Total cash funds	49,508	7,714	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	WorldPay merchant account	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	CCLA COIF Income units	unrestricted	-	16,480
	CCLA COIF Accumulation units	unrestricted	-	21,544
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Tactile chess sets	unrestricted	-	1,445
	Talking chess clocks	unrestricted	-	600
	BCA merchandise	unrestricted	-	458
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Refund for cancelled events	restricted	2,289	
	Support grants	restricted	300	
	Uncleared cheques	restricted	50	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	<i>Gillian Smith</i>	Mrs Gill Smith	27-Apr-21	

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Braille Chess Association**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Braille Chess Association

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Braille Chess Association ('the Charity') for the year ended 30th September 2020

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Lisa White

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Date: 27/4/2021