



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st Oct 2023

Period start date To 30 Sep 2024

Period end date

Charity name: Braille Chess Association

Charity registration number: 263049

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The Objects of the Association are the furtherance of education amongst blind and partially sighted people in relation to the game of chess by:-</p> <p>The promotion of chess tournaments with over-the-board play, and by correspondence. The publication and distribution of chess literature including the provision of an audio service. The encouragement of the participation of blind chess players in mainstream tournaments. Any other activity connected with the promotion of chess among blind and partially sighted people</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>During the year 2023-2024 we were able to run a normal over-the-board programme, including two weekend congresses, the annual chess theme break, and a week-long tournament in the summer. At the same time, we did hold a remote tournament with members playing either by phone/Skype/Zoom or else using online chess platforms such as Lichess. We played our correspondence games and email tournaments as usual.</p> <p>We published our quarterly gazette which is distributed to members in various formats and also published on our website. Our new website was launched in August 2023. We provided audio selections of articles from Chess Magazine to our members. There is an allowance for members who wish to develop their skills through coaching and although coaching weekends weren't possible, online coaching was</p>

		arranged. We supplied adapted chess sets and talking chess clocks to members.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	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.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>We were particularly pleased to be able to send Gary Hogan (Carterton, Oxfordshire) to two international events, the International Braille Chess Association's (IBCA) world individual championships in Rhodes, Greece from 8th to 18th October 2023, his first trip abroad for the BCA, and the IBCA individual European championships in Ploesti Romania from 15th to 25th June. Gary was accompanied by Owen Phillips (Carshalton) as coach. In Greece Gary scored a credible four from nine, holding his own against higher-rated layers. In Romania Gary also scored four from a possible nine points and finished 47th out of 63 players, one place above his seeding. We were proud of Gary's achievements and look forward to him representing us abroad in the future.</p> <p>Our autumn international tournament was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Solihull from 10th to 12th November 2023. Owen Phillips won the Open on tie-break and Mark Hague (London) won the Challengers' section.</p> <p>Our 30th annual chess theme break was held at the Lauriston Hotel, Weston Super Mare starting 27th January 2024. This used to be run by Peter and Celia Gibbs (Hinckley), but this year, trustee Julie Leonard (Tewkesbury) took on the bulk of the organising. A lot of support was also provided by Gerry Walsh (Middlesbrough). The theme break is a relaxed event featuring social activities, some chess training and an all-play-all handicap competition. Bittor Ibanez (London) won the mini tournament.</p> <p>Our AGM and spring congress took place at the Leicester Hilton Hotel from 15th to 17th March 2024. It was held in memory of Peter Gibbs (Hinckley) who had died the previous year. Steve Burnell (North Shields) won the Open and Bittor Ibanez and John Fullwood (Camberley) shared first prize in the Challengers' section. Colin Chambers (Cheltenham) was elected honorary life member in appreciation of his involvement with the association going back to 1972.</p> <p>We ran our week-long, seven-round British Championship from 22nd to 29th June 2024 at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate. The tournament was held in memory of former champion Graham Lilley of St Helen's, and we were pleased to have his brother and sister-in-law,</p>
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		<p>John and Maria Lilley with us. Two new members, Brandan Read (Weston-Super-Mare) and Ben Fletcher-Harris (Sheffield) were playing in their first event. Bill Armstrong (Leek) won the Open while Gill Smith (Bristol), Voldi Gailans (Romford) and Ben Fletcher-Harris shared first place in the Challengers' section.</p> <p>The multi-format event of the year was our remote Summer Cup which started on 13th July. Competitors played a game every two weeks over a ten-week period. The event was put on to offer members the chance to play competitive chess at a time when there is not so much over-the-board chess going on. Brandan Read won the Open and Paul Inglis (Isle of Man) won the Challengers' section. Neda Koohnavard (Erith) won the ladies trophy. A huge effort went into organising and running this event and we must extend particular thanks to Julie Leonard and Gerry Walsh. Voldi Gailans helped with Zoom sessions and Bittor Ibanez compiled a database of games.</p> <p>Regarding correspondence chess, we continued to run our usual league and championship. In the league scheduled to finish on 31st October 2023, Alec Crombie (Uppingham) won division 1 and Malcolm Jones (Birmingham) won division 2. A new league began in January 2024 and is due to run till 31st October 2025. Our 47th correspondence championship began in January 2023. George Phillips (Kingston-upon-Thames) won the Premier group and Voldi Gailans (Romford) won the challengers' section. Our thanks go to Paul Benson (Runcorn) for running these events.</p> <p>We held 2 BCA email competitions. The 19th featured four divisions. Bill Armstrong took first place in division 1. Phil Gordon (Isle of Wight) won division 2, Anton Emery (Stafford) finished first in division 3 and Michael Flood (London) won division 4. The 20th email competition also featured four divisions. Once again the overall winner was Bill Armstrong. Brandan Read, playing in his first email tournament, finished first in division 2. Voldi Gailans won division 3, and first place in division 4 was shared between Tony Elbourn (Gosport), Tony Lawton (Reading) and Gill Smith. A new email tournament is underway.</p>
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		<p>These email tournaments are amongst our most popular events, and we would like to put on record our appreciation of the work Eamonn Casey (County Westmeath) and Philip Doyle (Dublin) put into making them such a great success.</p> <p>We have implemented further improvements to our website. Membership application forms and entry forms for tournaments have proved popular with members and those wishing to join the association. Our thanks go to Olly Leonard for the work he does as Website Co-ordinator.</p> <p>The amount of coaching activity has increased significantly. Several members now take advantage of regular online how good is your chess sessions. Participants must try to work out moves made in a high-level game and are awarded points based on the accuracy of their suggestions. Our thanks go to Voldi Gailans and Gerry Walsh who have put a lot of effort in to getting these sessions up and running.</p> <p>Finally, our Publicity Officer, Abi Baker (London) has been busy. She was interviewed by RNIB Connect and was involved in putting together a video illustrating how visually impaired people play chess which was posted on the ECF's website. We were also involved in a summer Chess Fest in Trafalgar Square in London.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of September we held £121,849 in bank accounts and the value of our investments was £47,815.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The BCA aims to hold funds sufficient to support at least 2 years' worth of activities. This enables us to obtain preferential rates when booking venues and accommodation, and when ordering adapted chess sets and clocks. It also means we can plan participation in international events.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	We currently have £114,329 which can be spent on general purposes.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The majority of our income was raised by a professional fundraiser from grant-giving trusts and foundations.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Several years ago, the charity benefitted from an unexpected and significantly large legacy. We took advice from a financial adviser and chose to put some funds into an investment to increase their value in the medium to long term and meanwhile provide some income. Our investments are held in a Charities Official Investment Fund.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Association.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are elected by Annual General Meeting.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	We are affiliated to the English Chess Federation, Chess Scotland, the English Federation for Correspondence Chess and the International Braille Chess Association.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Braille Chess Association
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	263049
Charity's principal address	58 Earl Russell Street, Leicester, Postcode: LE2 8LH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	William Armstrong	Chairman		
2	Dr B Guy Whitehouse	Secretary		
3	Gill Smith	Treasurer	Until 16/03/2024	
4	Julie Leonard	Gazette Editor		
5	Mark Hague	Membership Secretary	Until 16/03/2024	
6	Mark Kirkham	Audio Librarian		
7	Voldi Gailans	Junior Development and Coaching Officer	Until 16/03/2024	
8	Abi Baker	Publicity Director		
9	Tristram Cole	Treasurer	From 16/03/2024	
10	Gary Wickett	Membership Secretary	From 16/03/2024	
11	John Fullwood	Chair of Tournament Sub-committee	From 16/03/2024	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

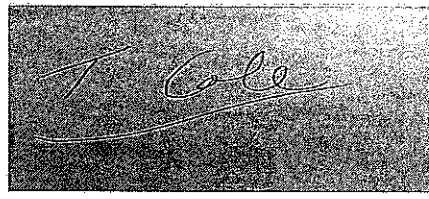
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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T. Cole', is written over a dark, textured rectangular background.

Full name(s)

Tristram Cole

Position (e.g. Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Treasurer

Date

19/05/2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Braille Chess Association

263049

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

Period start date
01/10/2023

To

Period end date
30/09/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations, legacies, grants	66,297	7,510	-	73,807	66,212
Chess tournaments	34,125	-	-	34,125	42,088
Fundraising by members	3,502	-	-	3,502	1,003
Interest	1,725	-	-	1,725	774
Dividends	526	-	-	526	522
Membership subscriptions	990	-	-	990	760
Compensation from bank	-	-	-	-	50
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	107,164	7,510	-	114,674	111,409
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Adapted sets and clocks	1,685	-	-	1,685	2,062
BCA Merchandise	363	-	-	363	241
Sub total	2,048	-	-	2,048	2,303
Total receipts	109,212	7,510	-	116,722	113,712
A3 Payments					
Chess tournaments	64,546	4,010	-	68,556	70,269
Professional Fees	11,696	1,050	-	12,746	13,060
Braille production (including Gazette)	2,200	-	-	2,200	2,282
Committee expenses	283	177	-	460	143
Post, print, stationary	748	-	-	748	517
Subscriptions and publications	390	106	-	495	676
Insurance	661	-	-	661	605
Lottery prizes	385	-	-	385	420
Bank charges	90	-	-	90	113
Sub total	80,998	5,342	-	86,341	88,085
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Adapted sets and clocks	-	2,814	-	2,814	4,527
BCA Merchandise	514	-	-	514	391
Sub total	514	2,814	-	3,328	4,918
Total payments	81,513	8,157	-	89,669	93,003
Net of receipts/(payments)	27,700	- 647	-	27,053	20,709
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	86,629	8,167	-	94,796	74,087
Cash funds this year end	114,329	7,520	-	121,849	94,796

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	80,998	7,520	-
	Lloyds Bank	33,331	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	114,329	7,520	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			


B2 Other monetary assets	Details	OK Unrestricted funds to nearest £	OK Restricted funds to nearest £	OK Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	CCLA COIF Income units	unrestricted	-	19,405
	CCLA COIF Accumulation units	unrestricted	-	28,411
			-	-
			-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Tactile chess sets	unrestricted	-	2,320
	Talking chess clocks	unrestricted	-	311
	BCA merchandise	unrestricted	-	251
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Tristram Cole	19/05/25

**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 Trust) for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust'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 Trust 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

Lisa White FCCA

Dunkley's
Woodlands Grange
Woodlands Lane
Bradley Stoke
Bristol
BS32 4JY

Date:21/05/2025.....

