

Cornwall Chess Trust (CCT) – David Saqui R.I.P.

Introduction for chess players in Cornwall

This outline is addressed to to anyone with an interest in chess whether or not they are already part of Cornwall's chess community. We hope that it will be of interest to anyone wishing to play, whatever their level of skill, or simply help to encourage the development of the game among all age groups in the county. We hope it encourages discussion and we look forward to hearing your ideas.

Background

David Saqui died in early 2019, and left part of his estate to local chess. According to his wishes, a charitable trust has been set up. The trustees are: John James (Chairman), Ian George (Secretary), Percy Gill (Treasurer), Lloyd Retallick (Investment Manager) and Robin Kneebone (Publicity). Although there is obviously some overlap with the Cornwall County Chess Association (CCCA), with two committee members also being trustees, the trust is an independent body, completely separate from the CCCA.

This generous bequest to chess amounts to about £130,000. The trustees are gradually investing this, aiming to generate around £4,000 per year to support chess in Cornwall and, possibly, the chess activities of local players when they travel out of Cornwall.

Objects of the CCT

We are a charity, and all expenditure must meet these two very broad aims that have been agreed with the charity commission:

(a) The advancement of amateur sport by promoting the study and practice of chess in all its forms for the benefit of the residents of the County of Cornwall and persons in attendance at educational establishments in the County of Cornwall.

(b) The advancement of education in the County of Cornwall by providing or assisting in the provision of facilities for the teaching, development and supervision of the playing of chess in the County of Cornwall, in particular but not exclusively amongst children and young people and those new to chess.

Powers of the Trustees

Trustees are also authorised to exercise other powers, for example:

1. Raising funds
2. Buying or hiring property (equipment, venues)
3. Working with other charities, voluntary bodies (e.g. CCCA), statutory bodies (e.g. schools) and community groups.
4. Remunerating people
5. Carrying out projects, on the trust's initiative, for the benefit of chess in Cornwall

Actions of trustees May 2019 - January 2021

Regular meetings were held to draw up criteria to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission. Brief discussions have taken place about what the trustees would like to see implemented, but it was felt that ideas must come from as widely as possible across the membership. Probate was granted in Autumn 2020; the large donation arrived in November 2020. A small part of the money has been invested; more investments will be bought when they meet the Investment sub-committee's criteria. A spending budget of £5000 (five thousand pounds) has been agreed for the financial period starting April 2021.

Trustees decided to use April and May 2021 to inform current registered players of these funds; and to urge Cornish chess players to consider how chess provision can be improved locally.

Request for ideas

An important role of the trustees is to discuss, and approve where possible, plans for the development of chess in Cornwall as they are submitted to us by the Cornwall County Chess Association, clubs, schools, community groups and individuals. Club members are invited to discuss together, presumably online or by phone at the moment, their ideas on how their clubs can be improved by an injection of funds. The trust may, in principle, be open to suggestions on a subsidy for a venue; for training; equipment; Congress expenses, such as a venue hire or a fee for a Controller; a school chess club. Consideration would be given to covering advertising costs.

We have not had any discussions applicable to online chess, but we welcome suggestions.

On behalf of the trustees, Robin Kneebone will make contact with the secretary of each club in the near future to discuss possible ideas further. There is no deadline for the receipt of bids as trustees realise that the notion that chess actually has some funds may come as a bit of a shock!

Coronavirus

Although UK's vaccination scheme is proceeding well, trustees are aware of the modelling that, to avoid mass illness, suggests public policy should prevent gatherings of any useful size this calendar year even though vaccinated individuals should be safe from serious disease. CCCA hopes to begin OTB chess from September 2021; but this is still uncertain as are the conditions under which OTB play will be possible. The ECF intends to issue guidance on this in June.

Please ring or respond with suggestions to Ian George 3a.roskear@gmail.com 01209 719727
or Robin Kneebone chesscornwall@gmail.com 01209 418412
by the end of March 2021.