

Report to the British Chess Federation from the Board of Trustees of The John Robinson Youth Chess Trust

Background

The John Robinson Youth Chess Trust ('JRYCT') was formed following the generous bequest from the late John Robinson, a dedicated supporter of junior chess and well-known and respected arbiter at the British, Hastings and other events.

The key document which formed the operation of the Trust was a Deed of Variation dated 24 June 2006 which sets out the objects of the JRYCT as shown in the following extract:

To advance education by providing or assisting in the provision of facilities for the teaching development and supervision of the playing of chess amongst persons under the age of twenty one years ... and to apply the income and all or such part or parts of the capital for or towards such charitable purposes ... provided that the trustees may at their absolute discretion for the period of twenty one years from the date of this deed instead of applying the income of the charity in any year accumulate all or any part of such income in any of the authorised investments and hold the same as an accretion to and as part of the capital of the charity without prejudice to their right to apply the whole or any part of such accumulated income in any subsequent year as if the same were income of the charity arising in the then current year.

The British Chess Federation Council meeting minutes of the 24 June 2006 which considered the Deed of Variation state:

That the Trustees be requested:

- (i) To retain the capital of the Trust as a permanent endowment and not to expend more than the accumulated income on grants from the Trust.*
- (ii) To give three months prior written notice to the BCF Management Board of any proposed expenditure of capital*

The Trust has been following the above request since 2006 as can be seen in the annual report and accounts prepared each year. It would be helpful to the Trust for this request to be rescinded.

Grants provided

The trust has been a major supporter of the junior chess since 2006. Examples of recent grants awarded include: financial support to individual players, Hastings Congress (*bursaries for juniors playing in the Masters*), British Chess Championship (*event costs & junior coaching*), 1st EJCOA Invitational 2022, NYCA U18, U14 & U12 Championship 2022, She Plays to Win International 2023, The Chess Trust (*development programme*) and IM Mike Basman Memorial Event 2023.

As the pandemic period progressed into 2021 and the income of the English Chess Federation (ECF) dropped significantly, the Trust pro-actively sought to support the ECF through a grant of £19,500 (*equivalent to 500 gold memberships*) and made the same pro-active approach to the Braille Chess Association and made a grant of £2,000.

Income sources

The Trust receives investment income (including interest) arising on its investments and has expended this in recent years as shown below:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	Total excl 2020
Investment income	28,397	26,639	28,749	27,200	25,813	25,887	29,437	192,122	166,309
Expenditure	26,642	30,356	28,270	32,443	8,996	28,958	26,132	181,797	172,801

As can be seen, with the exception of 2020, which was hit by the pandemic, the Trust has consistently spent more than the investment income across the last 7 year period. There are also gains and losses on investments varying from year to year which are not treated as being available to spend.

Plans for future support

The Trustees are committed to continue to support junior chess and consider every application with due care and diligence (*see Grant Process below*). Where there are grant applications in any year which merit award but would exceed the estimated income (current annual estimate £27,000 pa) the trustees will consider these applications and make appropriate awards on merit: the Trustees are not restricted to only expend the income and have no pre-determined limits of annual expenditure, although all decisions of the Trustees are subject to the proper governance and fiscal responsibility obligations as determined by the regulator, the Charity Commission of England and Wales.

The Trustees are also committed to encouraging eligible applications from those who would benefit from the Trust's support. Consequently, the trustees have commissioned the establishment of a stand-alone website for the Trust which will provide information on its areas of support and how applications can be made. The Trustees will seek to encourage other chess organisations to promote the Trust through inclusion of links on their own websites and help raise the profile of the Trust.

Grant Process

- Application received by the Chairman.
- Application reviewed against the objects of the Trust and where necessary, additional information is sought (*via follow up emails, home visits, zoom calls*).
- All eligible applications are presented to the Board of Trustees at their meetings, or considered by the Board between meetings where an early decision is required.
- Confirmation of award is sent by the Chairman. To enable a payment to be made to the correct bank account and for audit purposes, a copy bank statement is required from the grantee. For audit purposes and to fulfil clause 5 (m) in the 2006 Deed of Variation* a letter of confirmation (*in practice a letter of thanks for the Trustee's support*) is required from the recipient.

*Extract from Deed of Variation dated 24 June 2006, clause 5(m):

When making grants of any funds to any charitable organisation or charitable institution to accept as a good discharge in respect of any such funds the receipt of the treasurer or secretary or other authorised officer for the time being of such charitable organisation or charitable institution.