

ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND VOTING PROCEDURES

The 124th Annual General Meeting of the Cumbria Chess Association will be held on Saturday 20th June 2015 at The Crown Hotel, Eamont Bridge, Penrith commencing at 2pm

Draft Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. President's Address
3. Minutes of the previous AGM and matters arising
4. Correspondence
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
7. Membership Secretary's Report
8. League Controller's Report
9. Grading Officer's Report
10. Junior Organiser's Report
11. Match Captain's Report
12. Correspondence Captain's Report
13. ECF Delegate's Report
14. NCCU Delegate's Report
15. Website Organiser's Report
16. Endorsement of the Revised Constitution as circulated to clubs reflecting the decisions of the 123rd Annual General Meeting
17. Discussion and Voting on Proposals Previously Notified:
 - a. Nominated players (alternative proposals)
 - b. Postal Voting
 - c. Others not yet notified
18. Prize Giving
19. Election of Officers
20. Any Other Business:
 - a. Discussion on the possible future use of Electronic Clocks and alternative time controls that take advantage of these (eg 1½ hours plus 15 seconds a move)
21. Date of Next Meeting

Proposals for Change

Proposals for amendment to the Constitution under item 17 above must reach the Secretary no later than Saturday 23rd May 2015.

The following proposals have already been received:

Nominated Players - From David Shaw and Others

"We do not have nominated players. Any player who has played 4 games for a team cannot then play for another team in the same league."

For the avoidance of doubt, the requirement that no one may play for more than one club in the same League in the same season would still be retained. The proposed rule would only affect clubs with more than one team in the same league by giving some flexibility in team selection without requiring nominations.

Nominated Players - Alternative proposal from Mark Mallard

"That we continue to nominate 3 players for each club's strongest team in any league and that these nominated players may not play for any of that club's other teams in that league. Any player not already excluded by nomination, who has played 4 games for a team cannot then play for another team in the same league. "

Otherwise the dominance of the stronger/bigger clubs will only be further increased to the detriment of the others.

Postal Voting - From the Secretary (Jonathan Rashleigh)

"That the experiment with postal voting be abandoned and that voting on proposals and amendments thereto should only be available to those attending the Annual General Meeting in person."

The aims of postal voting were well motivated in seeking to assist members for who were not able to attend the AGM for any reason. However it is desirable that proposals are fully discussed at the AGM and that amendments can be suggested and acted upon at the meeting if appropriate. Postal voting only really makes sense if no amendments are possible to the original proposal which largely negates one of the main elements of the AGM

Non-graded competition - From George Horne

"An additional club competition of 4 players per team, open to all, with no requirement for players to be ECF members or to pay game fee. The games in this competition will not then be ECF graded."

Games not played - From David Shaw

"If a league match is not played because of mutual agreement then no points shall be awarded to both teams."

Reasonably obvious, I hope, but I think it could be added to the constitution. I even considered proposing that teams lose a few points, but maybe that is a little harsh.

Whitaker - From David Shaw

"As far as is possible, each team shall have an equal number of home and away matches in the Whitaker. Also the away team shall have White on odd numbered boards."

For the last few seasons some teams have had all home matches, and some teams have had all away matches. This is obviously wrong.

Whitaker player defaulting - From David Shaw

"For Whitaker matches a player loses if he does not make a move after 30 minutes if the games is 90 minutes each, or after 1 hour if the game is 2 hours each."

At the moment the constitution says simply 45 minutes.

Players not turning up - From David Shaw

"If player named on the team sheet for a League, or Whitaker game does not turn up after the times stated in the constitution then that player loses and that game counts for grading purposes."

At the moment teams short of players have to default the lower boards, which is correct. If a player is named on the sheet as, e.g. board 1, then that team gains an advantage by not defaulting a lower board. This proposition is really just restating what is in the FIDE laws of chess, which we follow.

Arrangement of Games From David Shaw

" If a match date (league or Whitaker) is not agreed mutually, then the home team should offer 2 dates, giving at least 2 weeks notice. This should be done 2 weeks before the fixture date. If the home team does not do this they forfeit the match, unless the away team then agree to a mutual date. Similarly the away team forfeits if they do not agree to the offered 2 dates, and a mutual date is still not agreed on."

Of course every effort should be made for a mutual date. We just need something in the constitution in case this does not happen.

Latest Grades - From David Shaw

"The latest grades should always be used."

Some teams have been of the opinion we should use August grades for the whole season whilst some teams have been using the January grades when they come out. I suggest we use the January grades as soon as they are out. I cannot see any good reason not to. But we all need to do the same thing.

League Names - From David Shaw

"What we have called the Open League this season should be call Division 1. The mid-week South League should be called Division 2 South."

On the web site there is a list of Division one winners going back to 1885. It would be a shame to break with this long tradition. Similarly for the sake of continuity we should have Division 2 South, We can still apply different rules to the leagues e.g. midweek etc.

Whitaker Ungraded Players - From Bill Henderson

"A proposal for the Whitaker Trophy that players who have no official grade , estimated grades not counting in this instance, must play on the bottom board."

Voting procedures

Notwithstanding the above, Proposals received with due notice can currently be voted on by post or in person at the AGM. The following procedures will be used for managing postal votes and also for managing conflicting proposals or suggested amendments to proposals.

Postal Voting

1. All formal proposals received will be circulated to Club Secretaries no later than 6th June for them to distribute to their members. They will also all be posted on the Association website.
2. Members wishing to use their postal vote must vote individually directly to the Secretary either by email (to jmvrashleigh@gmail.com) or by post (to 'The Old Piggery', Underbarrow, Kendal LA8 8HF).
3. Votes cast must show the name of the individual, the proposal or proposals being voted on and a simple a 'yes' or 'no' beside the relevant proposal without qualification or explanation.
4. It will not be acceptable for a club secretary or anyone else to 'collect' votes from other people.
5. The names of those voting will not be read out at the AGM but the Secretary will check that anyone voting by this means does not also vote in person at the AGM.

Procedure at the AGM

1. When a notified Proposal is tabled, an amendment can be proposed and voted on at the meeting without it having been the subject of a postal vote. Such amendments will be subject to limits of not being new Proposals, but refinements to existing tabled Proposals.
2. If more than one Proposal is received before the meeting on the same subject, the first Proposal received will be treated as the 'substantive Proposal' and the other or others as 'tabled amendments'.

Jonathan Rashleigh
Secretary - Cumbria Chess Association