

CUMBRIA CHESS ASSOCIATION A.G.M.
held July 4th 1998 at The Methodist Church Halt, Southey Street, Keswick

Minutes of the Meeting

Present F) Cole, W F.N.Henderson, G Horne, E.Fleet, R.Greenhalgh, T.Blower, R.Nixon. S Cassidy, D Everett, W B.Smith. G Rowan, A .Baker, D.Richardson, P.Haig, R.Broadbent, and A N Other [no signature]

The Secretary's Opening Remarks: No objection was raised to the Secretary's indication that Bob. Greenhalgh had agreed to act as Minute Secretary for this meeting. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Hilary Austin and Trevor Jones. The Secretary asked members to stand for a one minute's silence in memory of Cliff Cheetham.

President's Address : The highlights of the season had been the success of the Cumbria Individual Championships held at Cockermouth and the introduction, in several parts of the County, of "Pavement Chess ". Thanks were due to Hilary Austin for her hard work and enthusiasm in promoting these events and for her extensive work in the field of Junior Chess. It was suggested that Mrs Austin be elected an Honorary Vice president in recognition of her contributions to chess in Cumbria. The President said he would write to Mrs. Austin on behalf of the Association.

Minutes of the 1997 A.G.M. The minutes were approved after the following amendments had been noted :

1. E Fleet and D Everett had been present at the meeting [not recorded].
- 2 The donation from the Carlisle club to the South Lakes Congress had been £75 and not the £ 150 recorded in the minutes.

Correspondence :

1. From Hilary Austin to the President noting that she would be leaving the area.
- 2 From Hilary Austin to the Secretary re. Junior chess
- 3 From J.Billsborough to the Secretary re the position of League Controller
- 4 Information for the BCF Year Book submitted by the Secretary from information supplied by the Association clubs.

Reports

[a] **Hon. Treasurer.** Copies of the Statement of Accounts for the 1997-98 season were available for inspection at the meeting The Treasurer stated that because of the surplus shown for the season he would recommend that there should be no need for an increase in the registration fees for the coming season Two major contributions to this surplus of £ 647.65 had been the Sponsorship of Pavement Chess [£200] and the profit from the Cumbria Individual Championships - Junior and Senior events - ! £141.94]. Expenditure included the purchase of two Pavement Chess Sets/boards [£163.56 1 and a Demonstration board [£100] The Treasurer stated that the finances remain in a healthy position. The accounts had not yet been audited. Subject to a satisfactory audit in the near future, the accounts were approved.

[b] **Honorary Membership Secretary.** The number of members registered with the Association was 217 which included 180 adults and 2 Associate members. This total membership was up 18 on the previous season but still fell short [by 14] of the largest recorded membership. Eric. Fleet thanked all the club secretaries and treasurers for their assistance. The report was accepted.

[c] **Correspondence Match Captain.** In the absence of Chris Underhill, the Secretary said that he had had a note indicating that the results of this season's matches were creditable judging from the games completed so far. There was a plea from the Match Captain for more correspondence players for the coming season particularly in view of the fact that three of the Association's long standing players- KThompson, W.A.Broome and C.Cheetham - would not be playing next year. The President said that he would send a circular to all clubs on the subject of correspondence chess. The match results to date will accompany these minutes.

[d] **County Match Captains' Reports.** Syd Cassidy reported that for the U-100 team only two matches could be played [Cleveland: 8-4 loss and Yorkshire 9.5 - ZS loss] and the difficulties of raising a team for these matches were considerable. Dave Cole reiterated the comments of Syd Cassidy , the response to the circular to clubs requesting players for the three U-175 matches was nil. All three matches were lost but defaults did not help. He suggested that for the coming season only one team [U 175] be entered. This was agreed by the meeting. It was generally felt that interest - even for the stronger counties- in county matches was on the wane, probably because of increasing competition from congresses etc.

[e] **League Controller and County Grader .** The league program had run smoothly but there had been a problem regarding nominated players wishing to play for more than one club. It was suggested to the meeting that the Rules Committee should have a close look at this problem and that the league Controller should clarify the present position with a note to clubs before the start of the new season.

The grading had been completed but it would be mid-August before the C.C.A figures would be available. A list of the " Conditions for Grading ` had been received from the League Controller and the Secretary said that he would include these with the AGM minutes for circulation to clubs. Jim Billsborough had notified the Secretary that he would not be continuing in the post of League Controller, but would wish to continue as Grader. The meeting appreciated the excellent work and long service of Jim Billsborough and the President agreed to send a letter on behalf of the CCA_ thanking him.

[f] **Junior Chess Organisers.** A full report with a list of proposals had been received by the Secretary from Hilary Austin. Although the full report was not read to the meeting it was indicated that junior chess was in a healthy state and that many congresses and events had been field in the past season. The appreciation of Syd Cassidy's work was recognised. The Lanes Shopping Centre had sponsored Pavement Chess to the extent of £200 and as a consequence two Pavement chess sets/boards had been bought for use by any interested clubs. It was agreed to attach the full report and proposals from Hilary Austin to the copy of these minutes for circulation to the clubs. A report from Syd Cassidy was available at the AGM on results of the One-Day junior Tojurnaments, County Matches and the Secondary Schools Championship held in 1997-8. At the meeting Mr Cassidy stressed the importance of keeping the momentum going and the need to expand the work in junior chess to other areas of the county and to get the clubs involved.

[g] **B.C.F & N.C.C.U. delegates** Three BCF meetings [2 in London] were held and a report from the Finance Council Meeting held in Leeds was made available by Dave Everett for this AGM. Our delegate considered that " the BCF continues to blunder on" and it was the feeling of the it this "South - biased" organisation had little to offer the C C A. The main change affecting the CCA for the 1998-99 season was the setting of the standard game fee at 27p. A report of the iNCCU Council Meeting was made available by Dave Cole and a report was given by Bill Henderson of the NCCU meeting held in June. Plans for the

NCCU Centenary Year 1 1999] were outlined and information was available for clubs in the form of a Competition Calendar for eVents throughout Northern England. A proposal was seconded and passed by the meeting that a sum of £100 be donated from CCA funds to the NCCU to assist in the promotion of the Centenary Year and its events.

h] **Press Officer.** No report was available. The need for a publicity drive was noted and it was agreed that the Executive Committee should take responsibility for assisting clubs where financial help is needed with publicity expenses,

Prize Giving

County Major Individual Champion: Ron Nixon (Sasra)
County Minor Individual Champion : Trevor Jones (Barrow)
County U - 100 Individual Champion : Robert Jackson (Penrith)
County under 11 Champion : Alex Hoose (Great Salkeld, Penrith)
County Under 15 Champion : Daniel Bearn (Austin Friars)
County Under 18 Champion : Javier Alvargonzalez (Austin Friars)
Division 1 League Champions : Sasra
Division 2 League Champions : Keswick
Division 3 League Champions : Austin Friars
Whitaker Trophy Winners : Barrow B

Members were reminded that when signing for receipt of a trophy the recipient is also signing an obligation to ensure that the trophy is returned so that it is available for the next AGM

Election of Officers

The following were proposed, seconded and elected to serve for 1993-99 :

President : D.Cole
Secretary : W F.N.Henderson
Treasurer : G.Horne Membership Secretary: E.Fleei
League Controller : S.Cassidy
County Grader: J.Billsborough
Junior Organiser: S.Cassidy Match Captain [U-150) D. Cole
Corresp. Match Capt: C.Underhill
Auditor M.Mallard [subject to acceptance]
Press Committee: Executive Committee members
BCF delegate: D Everett
NCCU delegates : D Everett. D.Cole. Reserve: WF.N.Henderson
Rules Committee: Ron Nixon[chairman], D.Everett, S Cassidy,, I Hewitson R Greenhalgh

The 1999 Cumbria Individual Championships on the agreed principle of the NorthCentralUSouth rotation of the venue, Syd Cassidy offered to run the 1999 event in Carlisle. The meeting accepted the offer. D.Everett emphasised that this is a C.C.A. event and consequently the Association has a responsibility to safeguard the financing of the event organised by an individual Association club.

Any Other Business

1. The Secretary said that he had been in contact with the County Archivist who had agreed to sort and collate the valuable Association documents . The Archivist would arrange to hold the originals and the question of the safest way of making suitable copies would be looked into.
2. Since only one Austin Friars team wished to be promoted from Division 3 it was agreed that the promotion place be offered to SASRA instead.
3. The Association trophies have had no insurance cover for at least five years. The Committee are investigating the BCF insurance scheme which could possibly offer a blanket cover for trophies held by all the member clubs of the Association as well as Association trophies. It was agreed to send a circular to clubs asking if they would ^{wish} to have their own trophies covered under such a scheme. The conditions attached to such a scheme would have to be carefully scrutinised and made clear to all clubs.

Date of the 1999 A.G.NL The first Saturday in June [strictly according to the Constitution]

SEASON 1997-98 COMPETITION CONTROLLER'S REPORT

	CHAMPIONS	PROMOTED	RELEGATED
DIVISION ONE	SASRA "A"		ULVERSTON I KENDAL
DIVISION TWO	KESWICK	NORTH COPELAND	WINDERMERE III WHITEHAVEN
DIVISION THREE	AUSTIN FRIARS II	AUSTIN FRIARS I	

The season ran quite smoothly with most Match Score Sheets being sent in promptly. For the past four or five seasons there have been problems over nominated players and this has been aggravated by players wishing to play for more than one club.

There are two) alternatives:

Either a) no-one may play for more than one club in, a season.
or b) a player may play for more than one club in the same season only with the permission of the competition controller.

GRADER'S REPORT

I have completed grading calculations for the following: Cumbria Chess League, Whitaker Trophy, Individual Championships and the club tournaments of Barrow, Carlisle, Keswick, Millom, Penrith and Windermere and these have been posted to the BCF.

I hope to publish a Cumbria Grading List mid-August or as soon as possible after I receive a copy of the BCF grading list.

The proposal to charge game fee for club tournaments has been dropped by the BCF as it would be too difficult to collect.

! For those clubs who are unsure if their tournaments qualify for grading here are the conditions:

Games must be played under acceptable conditions with clocks.

(a) At least a 30-move session is played at a speed no faster than an average of 2 minutes a move.

(c) When a rapidplay (allegro) finish is applied, at least 10 minutes extra are allowed to each player after a session of 40 moves or more, and at least 15 minutes extra are allowed to each player after a session 30 moves or more **and** the BCF Rules for Rapidplay Finishes are adhered to..

(d) Where each player has to complete all moves in a fixed time, the fixed time is not less than 1 ¼ hours and the BCF rules for rapidplay finishes are adhered to. This can be reduced for tournaments which consist solely of younger players.

Jim Billsborough, Competition Controller & Grader 10th June 1998

Junior Organiser's Report 1997/8

The year began with three Pavement Chess events using large plastic patio sets, in Keswick, Cockermouth and Carlisle (The Lanes). These events helped to create publicity and thanks to the clubs in those areas they helped to attract adult members of the public as well as children. The publicity generated brought several new members to the Cockermouth club, junior and senior.

During the autumn term the under 11 Cumbria Individual Competition got under way. I organized it along the lines Barry Sanders had initiated, continuously pairing those with similar scores for an hour and a half, and finishing each competition with a play-off in the last session using clocks for those with 100%, to get a clear winner from each area. I ran zonal qualifiers in Carlisle (with help from Mr D Bird, Inglewood Junior School), Penrith (Mr A Davis, Plumpton School, Barbara Mowbray and Andy McAtear) and at Cockermouth (with help from Bob Greenhalgh, Bill Henderson and Jonathan Erskine). Furness qualifier was kindly run by Barry Sanders with help from Croftlands School and Mike Mason. Another was arranged for Kendal but had to be cancelled owing to only four entries. Those children were invited to go through to the final, as were four children from Whitehaven St James' School, and some others from around the county who had been unable to attend a qualifier. The aim was to involve as many primary age children as possible and in all around 80 children played in the qualifiers from 22 schools.

In the final, two side by side tournaments were held on Saturday 17th January at the Methodist Church Rooms, Southey St, Keswick. The controller for the under 18s was Bob Greenhalgh, while I and Nick Hill jointly organized the under 11s, with Bill Henderson and Dave Cole acting as arbiters.

The under 18s had 16 players while the under 11 was contested by 39 players. The qualifying tournament also had the effect of giving the children extra experience. A few in outlying areas were unable to get to a preliminary round.

The five-round Swiss tournaments were played very competitively but in the best possible spirit, with great concentration and silence prevailing during the matches in both sections. Clocks were used and BCF rapidplay rules adhered to. Every entrant received a certificate and these together with prizes were distributed by the president, Dave Cole. Congratulations to winners Javire Alvargonzalez U 18 champion, Daniel Bearn U 15 champion (both Austin Friars) and Alex Hoose U 11 (Great Salkeld, Penrith), who was unbeaten both in qualifying and the final.

In March Cockermouth Primary Congress took place in Eaglesfield, with its usual excellent sponsorship of medals and certificates from the West Cumberland Times and Star. Jonathan Erskine and Bill Henderson assisted me and Nick Hill. Ten schools were represented from as far away as Penrith, Maryport and Seascale and interestingly many of the entrants had not played in the county junior individual championship earlier in the year. Fifty children took part, far fewer than in previous years, because many of the teachers who had been teaching chess had either retired or stopped running extra-curricular activities owing to pressure of work. However it was well contested and much enjoyed by all taking part. The paper made a wonderful display of the event, giving half of their back page to the event.

Mike Basman's RIBI International Children's Chess competition was supported by 7 organisations (schools/clubs) from Cumbria and children from some of these qualified for the final at Rossall Prep School in Fleetwood. A huge hall was seething with well over 100 small, tense bodies intent over the chess board. Cumbria acquitted itself well with Neil Jones (Keswick School and Cockermouth Club) winning the under 18 section and Sophie Mason (Croftlands School, Ulverston) winning her age group. Ian Hayton (Y6 Paddle school, Cockermouth Club) also qualified on a score of 5/6 to go forward to the national finals in Nottingham.

The last event this year was another pavement chess day, held outside the old town hall in Carlisle town centre. Many clubs travelled from great distance (good representation from Barrow and Ulverston) to support the event and with great help from more local clubs. Again it generated publicity in the local newspaper and helped to raise public awareness. Several people of varying ages joined in against the club players, who usually dominated the newcomers.

In stepping down from the position of Junior Organiser as I leave the county for Cheshire I should like to thank all those individuals who have supported my efforts in whatever capacity. One person cannot hope to cope alone in such a widely-flung county and it is due to the tremendous help I have been given by so many folk this year, particularly Bob, Bill and David and not forgetting all the Junior events organized at Austin Friars School by Syd Cassidy which have enabled so many youngsters to get involved in playing in chess events in our county. I hope they will continue to grow in numbers and enthusiasm.

Hilary Austin, Junior Organiser