

Minutes, 114th AGM of the Cumbria Chess Association.

Held at Methodist Hall, Union St, Kendal at 2pm on Saturday 25th June 2005.

In Attendance;- 15 people from 8 clubs. D Cole (President/Barrow), S Cassidy (Lge cont/A.Friars), A Baker (Results/Carlisle), W Hardwick (Sec/A. Friars), G. Horne (Treas/Barrow), P Gleizon (Cockermouth), T Blower (Barrow), M.Walker (Kendal), B Mackay (Penrith), H Austin (Grange), N Hill (Grange), G Phillips (Windermere), G Shelmerdine (Cockermouth), J Dobson (Kendal), I Hewitson (Windermere).

1. Apologies:- Received from Peter Shaw of Windermere club.
2. Presidents Address:- Dave Cole said that it has been a satisfactory year with no problems or complaints having arisen since the North/South split of the leagues. We agreed that the list of club secretaries and county officers to whom these minutes need to be sent requires updating as does the county and club information currently listed in the BCF yearbook. Secretary will attend to this.
3. Minutes of the 2004 AGM (No 113) :- Having been circulated last year were accepted as a true and complete record. No matters arising.
4. Correspondence:- Nothing of significance other than matters relating to NCCU and new Northern Membership Scheme (NMS), covered separately.
5. Secretaries Report:- Bill Hardwick – Nothing to report other than need to update list of club secretaries and County Officers for issue of these minutes and to update information for BCF Yearbook.
6. Treasurers Report:- George Horne – There is a loss this year of £214.69 mainly due to a rise in Game Fees from 36p to 43p, together with a shortfall in the registration fees fixed last year. Therefore, as Game Fees will no longer be collected by the CCA he recommended that Registration Fees should be reduced next year to £4 for adults and £1 for juniors.

(Copy of annual accounts attached)

Sid Cassidy pointed out that after allowing for the cessation of Game Fee payments that the proposed, reduced registration fees would still not cover the other anticipated outgoings for the year ahead. He suggested that we may not actually require as many copies of the BCF Yearbook as have been ordered in the past (16 copies last year for clubs and County Officers). This was discussed and agreed upon and decided that perhaps only 3 copies were really necessary as long as at least one copy was available for anyone requiring reference to it. In fact, since the meeting I see that the BCF (last year anyway) offered 4 copies at £8.00 as a standard order, and additional copies at £12 each. I shall order 4 copies if the arrangements are the same, unless any club specifically asks for extra editions.

Bill Hardwick asked about the £100 annual donation to the South Lakes Tournament when this has been such a financial success in recent years. Dave Cole explained that this is purely for the purposes of providing additional prizes at the tournament for Cumbria chess players and it was accepted that this should continue.

Bill Henderson - asked if the Treasurer could confirm that the club funds were being held on an account offering the best terms. George Horne confirmed this was so as far as he knew. Bill Hardwick- said he would try to check out the options available but has since found that

details of Club/Treasurers accounts offered by various institutions are no longer readily to hand.

A vote was taken on reducing the registration Fees as proposed by the Treasurer and this was passed unanimously.

7. Membership Secretarys Report:- Sid Cassidy said that numbers have been static this year at 160, of whom only 12 are juniors. The number of members ten years age was 220.

8. League Controllers Report:- Sid Cassidy said there had been very few problems this year and only one league match and two Whittaker Cup matches had been defaulted. He was disappointed that the play-offs at Keswick had been very poorly supported. After hiring a large room only 3 matches were actually played. Previously at Windermere the event had been well attended.

Dave Cole suggested placing an item in the Newsletter asking clubs for their preferences with the intention of providing voting slips for completion so that views can be considered at Christmas time.

9. Results Officers Report:- Tony Baker said that all was well; he only awaits results from Penriths Club Championship and all games will then be submitted for grading. He confirmed that the switch to the NCCU/NMS system will not affect the way in which he has to process results in future and also that it is not necessary for him to know who are NMS members. Sid Cassidy will need to know this as League Controller but Bill O'Rourke can and will provide weekly updated membership lists.

It was confirmed that everyone taking part in all Cumbria competitions, including the Cumbria Individual Championships must be NMS members. The Constitution has been amended accordingly.

Bill Henderson asked if BCF have considered a switch to the Elo grading system? Dave Cole said that had carried out a survey around the country which was 95% in favour of retaining the present system but no doubt this would be raised again in due course.

10. Junior Organisers Report:- Sid Cassidy said there were a lot of events and coaching activity in the Carlisle area and particularly thanked Tony Baker and Ian Mackay helped by David Bird, Richard Bandoni and Bill Hardwick for their support. That apart he was only aware of Alan Davis holding competitions at Penrith and Peter Tipper providing coaching at Seascale School. Position was discussed and Bill Henderson does give coaching at Great Broughton school, Hilary Austin at Cartmel and Grange and there is also training provided at Allithwaite school.

Sid says that it continues to be the case that interest at junior level fades rapidly by secondary school and could all clubs try to promote more initiatives towards generating involvement amongst juniors.

11. Correspondence Captains Report:- No report available but Dave Cole said that Cumbria had finished mid-table in the Sinclair Trophy and new players were always welcome.

12. BCF Delegates Report:- Full details from Dave Cole attached. Dave highlighted the fact that the BCF will become the ECF in October and that some new FIDE chess rules come into force on 1st July details of which are available on the website. He also confirmed that the increase in game fee will be from 43p to 44p.

13. NCCU Delegates Report:- Full details from Dave Cole attached. Here Dave highlighted the fact that Cumbria still enter no County teams and wondered if there was any interest as he would very much like to support these competitions. Bill Henderson said he wished to abstain from this discussion as he had been involved in the past and encountered many difficulties.

Collectively there was a willingness to take part as a County and Dave asked if anyone would be prepared to organise a team. Guy Shelmerdine offered to do so on behalf of Cockermouth club and was voted as new Match Captain, filling this currently vacant position. There are various categories of competition but Guy, initially at least will be looking at the under 150 section and will be interested to hear from anyone wishing to take part. He is lodging a registration form with the organiser Jim Moran.

Dave Cole highlighted a problem raised at NCCU concerning the scoring when matches are defaulted which can cause some distortion. Sid Cassidy is to look at viability of possible alternative scoring methods in these circumstances.

As League 1 winners SASRA can enter the Northern Club Championships and their entry fee will be funded by CCA. Any clubs are able to enter and it was felt that supporting the competition should be encouraged. More information is available on the website.

All clubs are to encourage members to join the NMS scheme, as this is the way forward. Clubs will be provided with updated membership lists via Dave Cole.

Phillipe Gleizon was concerned that club members who play only occasional games may be put off by the £10 fee. However, this will be offset to some extent by a £2 reduction in the Cumbria registration fee (as covered above), and clubs can also consider fund raising schemes such as football sweep cards.

14. Matters Arising:- None, other than those already covered.

15. Full Proposals:- 2 as set out in full in agenda for this meeting. One further late proposal was submitted by Phillippe Gleizon and accepted for discussion. In addition, Dave Cole had realised that a formal proposal was required for a constitution amendment following the Special General Meeting on 14th May 2005.

Proposal 1 (Bill Henderson) re proposer needing to be present at AGM. This was discussed but view expressed that sound proposals may be unnecessarily lost in this way. Vote taken and motion defeated by 6 votes to 2.

Proposal 2 (Bill Henderson) re setting dates for matches. The proposal was discussed with the issue at question being last years amendment that allowed clubs to declare that matches would be played on their club night instead of the stated fixture date. Vote was taken and motion carried by 11 votes to 1.

Proposal 3 (Phillipe Gleizon) "I suggest that all teams in the same division be due to play on the same (day, or at least the same) weekend. With at least a fortnightly frequency, the 1st and 3rd divisions could play one weekend and the 2nd division the next in order to avoid stretching players who could potentially play in both divisions"

Sid Cassidy explained that present arrangements are intended to assist clubs with multiple teams to avoid fixture clashes for them. He suggested that teams could also make use of Sundays. At present he has to stipulate Saturday dates for fixtures. Discussion followed and Malcolm Walker proposed an amendment to the wording that was to delete those words now shown in brackets and this was accepted. Vote taken and proposal carried by 8 votes to 1.

Proposal 4 (Constitution Amendment)

Following the adoption of Proposals A & B on the NMS scheme at the CCA Special General Meeting held on 14th May 2005 in Penrith, it was agreed that the Cumbria Chess Association Constitution needs to be amended.

Accordingly the following is proposed:

Section 2 (a). The second paragraph in this section that reads:

“The Association shall register appropriate events with the BCF Game Fee Scheme, and for team events the Game Fee shall be collected in the form of entry fees” – this shall be deleted and replaced with the following:

“The Association shall encourage Cumbria Chess players to become members of the BCF and in so doing shall require such a membership in order to participate in any and all Cumbria Chess Association events; recognising and reflecting the NCCU requirement of players (at least) being NMS (Northern Membership Scheme) members in order to participate in NCCU sponsored events”

The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

16. Prize Giving:-

The second division trophy was presented to Brian Mackay on behalf of Penrith club.

Sid Cassidy then said that he had the following individual medals and presented those to clubs who were present to collect them.

Division 1	1 st	SASRA	gold medals
	2 nd	Barrow	silver medals
Division 2	1 st	Penrith C	gold medals
	2 nd	Ulverston	silver medals
	3 rd	Barrow D	bronze medals
Whitaker Cup	1 st	Penrith Knights	gold medals
	2 nd	Barrow	silver medals

17. Election of Officers and Committee:-

President D Cole, Secretary W Hardwick, Treasurer G Horne, League Controller S Cassidy, Results Officer A Baker, Junior Organiser S Cassidy, Match Captain G Shelmerdine (new), Correspondence Captain C Underhill, Auditor N Foxcroft (New), Press Officer still vacant, NCCU Delegates (2) D Cole, G Horne, BCF Delegate (1) D Cole, Membership Secretary S Cassidy.

18. County Championship 2006:-

Penrith club have apparently offered to consider staging this, if not then Barrow would be prepared do so. Tentative dates suggested are 25th/26th February 2006.

19. AGM 2006:-

Possible venues suggested were Kendal, Windermere or Barrow. To be held in June 2006, preferably choosing a date to avoid clashing with Heywood Congress. Bill Hardwick to arrange.

20. Any Other Business:- Bill Henderson proposed a vote of thanks to Trevor and Janet Blower for once again organising the South lakes Tournament so successfully. Hilary Austin said that on behalf of all members she would like to thank all of the County organisers for their efforts during the year.

Dave Cole raised an issue about the Whitaker Trophy which, although very fine is physically very large and heavy, making it impractical to hand on to new holders each year and also makes engraving difficult to arrange. He proposed that the original trophy be donated back to Arnside club and that we buy a new, smaller trophy, suitable for regular engraving at a maximum cost in the region of £100. The Whitaker Trophy is currently with Brian Mackay at Penrith and George Horne will arrange the purchase of a replacement trophy.

Meeting closed

Bill Hardwick
(Secretary)