

## Minutes, 116<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Cumbria Chess Association.

Held at 2pm on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the RAFA Club, Penrith.

**In Attendance;-** 10 members from 6 clubs. D Cole (President/Barrow), S Cassidy (Lge Cont./A Friars), A Baker (Results/Carlisle), W Hardwick (Secretary/A Friars), G Horne (Treas/Barrow), P Gleizon (Cockermouth), T Blower (Barrow), I Hewitson (Windermere), A McAtear (Penrith) and G Rowan (Penrith).

1. **Apologies;-** Received from P Harrington (Penrith), H Austin (Grange), W Henderson (Carlisle), G King (Arnside), M Mason (Ulverston) and C Underhill (Ulverston).
2. **Presidents Address;-** Dave Cole said he was sorry to report the loss of further clubs during the year (SASRA, Whitehaven and Keswick). This has been a general issue which the ECF are aware of and are addressing across the country.
3. **Minutes of the 2006 AGM (Number 115);-** Having been circulated last year these were accepted as a true and complete record. No matters arising.
4. **Correspondence;-** Nothing to report which was not covered elsewhere in the meeting.
5. **Secretaries Report;-** Bill Hardwick said there were no issues or problems to report on during the year.
6. **Treasurers Report;-** George Horne provided a statement of the 2007 accounts which are to be audited and placed on the Website. He reported that the HSBC Treasurers account is now named a Community account. The Junior expenses of £150.00 were for Sian Jones who reached the Terrafinals in Sheffield last August. The credit of £28.00 for medals is a correction of an error made last year. There is an annual deficit of £249.09 leaving Bank balances totalling £1,441.42.  
  
The policy of sponsoring juniors in these circumstances was discussed generally and the award to Sian Jones had been fully approved in advance. In future, any such cases can be considered on their merits.
7. **Membership Secretaries Report;-** Syd Cassidy said there were still about 130 members, unchanged from last year. Although some clubs had withdrawn, extra members had been gained elsewhere. No increase in Junior numbers though.
8. **League Controllers Report;-** Syd Cassidy said there had been no problems at all. All of the Whitaker Cup fixtures were fulfilled in full and in the league, only one club did not complete their fixtures towards the end of the season but these did not affect any relevant league placings. Syd was happy to say there had been no disputes or issues to deal with.
9. **Result Officers Report;-** Tony Baker said that nearly all results had been collected and were ready to be submitted for grading. There were only a few results awaited from his own club, (Carlisle) and these should be ready soon.
10. **Junior Organisers Report;-** Syd Cassidy said that things were much as for last year with some well supported Tournaments at Austin Friars, helped by the venue being free but this cannot be relied upon indefinitely. There was lots of Junior chess taking place in Carlisle and elsewhere, notably in Penrith, Arnside and Seascale.

Information about competitions is circulated to all schools in the County who are potentially interested but we will try to extend the range of contacts for the future. To assist with this it

was agreed that an Assistant Junior Organiser should be appointed, mainly to handle the south of Cumbria.

Dave Cole then said that he had 12 Chess Sets which had been awarded to Rockcliffe and Castle Carrock schools as part of the NCCU, NMS rebate scheme. Syd Cassidy will arrange with Tony Baker for these to be distributed.

11. **Match Captain's Report;**- George Horne, as acting Match Captain, reported a very satisfactory season. In the Preliminary Stages Cumbria lost 4 ½ - 7 ½ to Lancashire but Yorkshire defaulted allowing us to progress to the Quarter-Finals of the National Stages where the result was Cumbria 7 ½ - Nottinghamshire 8 ½ . This was a highly creditable result in the circumstances as we were outgraded on all 16 boards and by as much as 35 points in one case.

Thanks were expressed to George for stepping into this job with such success and he in turn thanked Syd Cassidy and Andy McAtear for their combined help in getting a team together for the quarter-final following a number of very late withdrawals.

12. **Correspondence Captains Report;**- Chris Underhill sent in a written report, the results referred to are posted on the Website.

“ You will see from the attached tables that Cumbria struggled a bit in the various competitions last year! Although finishing last in the C & DCC competition and next to last in the NCCU competition seems disappointing, we were able to raise full teams in both competitions and give everyone who wanted to play, an enjoyable and interesting game and after all, that's what it's all about!

I'd like to offer a big thank you to everyone who took part in the competitions for us, for their support and contribution, although particular credit should go to Wes Bell, who under very difficult personal circumstances, managed to score an outstanding success in the NCCU Individual competition.

As for this year, well, it's pretty clear that correspondence chess is in gradual decline, not just in Cumbria but in the country as a whole. For example, although it looks as though Cumbria is still in Division 3 of the C & DCC competition this year, the previous Minor Counties league collapsed due to lack of participants and the Butler-Thomas (for email players only) and Brown-Pond (for traditional players) competitions, which were both previously Division 4 competitions, became the new Division 3. In addition, the NCCU competition failed to run at all this year due to the lack of a competition controller.”

Dave Cole again asked us all to do all we can to support Chris as much as possible.

13. **ECF Delegates Report, and**

14. **NCCU Delegates Report;**- Dave Cole and George Horne provided a full written report on matters which is available through a link on the Website.

Syd Cassidy raised three points;-

a) At a Rapidplay event in Kilmarnock recently he found that the ECF would charge for grading English players playing in Scottish Tournaments, whereas the SCF would grade equivalent games at no extra cost. It has been a longstanding problem and obviously tends to affect us more in the Borders than most, as many members compete in Scottish competitions.

b) He felt that NCCU were placing too great an emphasis on increasing prize money instead of reducing entry fees. He felt that reducing the £15 entry fee to £10, or even £5 would be a better option.

(Dave Cole said that he would refer these issues on at the next opportunity.)

c) Syd wondered if it would be appropriate for CCA to recover some funds from NCCU and quoted as an example the out of pocket costs incurred for the County Matches. Dave Cole agreed that a claim would be quite reasonable and has asked Philippe Gleizon to deal with this.

**15. Matters Arising;-**

- a) George Horne said that he proposed to leave the registration fees unchanged this year and this was accepted.
- b) During the meeting it transpired that we were unsure as to the location of some of the original, hard-copy archives, although many of these are now available on the Website. Were they placed in a Library? Bill Hardwick is to find out but he would welcome any information from anyone who knows of their whereabouts.
- c) Syd Cassidy mentioned that the cost of the Website varies between £30 and £60 on alternate years, for reasons which he explained. He asked if everyone was happy to continue the Website on this basis and it had full support.
- d) Trevor Blower reported on another very successful South Lakes Tournament, with a total of 178 players being involved including 43 Seniors, 12 Juniors, 6 Ladies and 29 Cumbrian players. The competition is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- e) Dave Cole and Syd Cassidy both reported serious problems which had arisen at the South Lakes Tournament and at the Cumbria Rapidplay, both caused by the behaviour of Guy Shelmerdine (Cockermouth). Dave made it clear that Guy may no longer take part in the South Lakes Tournament and Syd Cassidy said that he cannot allow him to take part again in any competitions involving junior players.
- f) Trevor Blower asked if Clubs could give some thought to the possibility of beginning an 8-man team Premier League, either as well as , or possibly even instead of at some stage the present Division 1. The intention would be to have matches all played over perhaps two or three weekends at fairly central locations in the county.

**16. Proposals : Nine received from Bill Henderson;-**

**(1) The Cumbria County Championship return to a closed one. That is, open to players who are registered with the County Chess Association or play for their local Cumbria County Club, though the latter may not play in the leagues.**

General discussion followed by a vote defeating the motion by 5 – 1.

**(2) That the Cumbria County Championship be played over a weekend but at a “central venue”, ie Keswick, Windermere, Kendal.**

Not seconded.

**(3) That Cumbria County Chess Association pays for the cost of the venue.**

It was agreed that this already effectively happens (per Constitution).

- (4) That the Cumbria County Chess Association pays for the advertising of the event.**

Again this is already done through the usual channels (per Constitution).

- (5) That the Cumbria County Chess Association invites at the AGM a County Club to provide the “arbiters”, to run the event over the chosen weekend.**

Not seconded.

- (6) That contestants are asked to bring their own board and clock to the event, if deemed necessary by the arbiters.**

Not seconded.

- (7) That the County considers whether or not it wishes to award prizes other than the trophies themselves to the individual winners and runners up in each section.**

Not seconded.

- (8) That the County League Division 1 returns to that of a single one by abolishing the current system. However, to cut down on travelling the away team has the right to ask for their match to be played at a mutually agreed halfway venue, but that the away team is responsible for booking the venue and sharing the costs of room hire.**

Syd Cassidy proposed an amendment, that the first sentence should be treated as a separate motion. This was actively discussed but there followed a 4 -3 vote defeating the motion. It was however recognised that this is something which needs to be kept under review. The second part of the motion was therefore not relevant.

- (9) In the event of a dispute over the choice of a place as a halfway venue the League Controller may rule as to whether or not he deems it to be reasonable. If it is not deemed as reasonable then he may either name a more reasonable placed venue or rule that the match be played at the home venue. This is to ensure that no team may seek to take advantage of choosing what may be deemed an “unreasonable” halfway point, ie Arnside versus Carlisle to be played at Penrith for example.**

This was considered not be relevant in view of the decision for Motion number 8.

**These proposals have been put forward with the wish that they may provide a basis for the County to begin to try and “refresh” itself and become more appealing to new and to old members.**

**And one from George King on behalf of Arnside Club;-**

**(10) Should the £10 fee currently payable to the NMS now be paid to Cumbria Chess? And if so, will this payment still be a requirement for anyone playing in the league? Given their limited number of players, Arnside would find it very helpful if those who cannot play regularly but would help out in emergencies; needed only to pay the £6 registration fee.**

This was discussed generally and had a lot of support. George Horne proposed an amendment that a player in these circumstances may be allowed to play two games in a season, only paying the £5 registration fee and not the £10 ECF fee, with the club to pay the game fees involved. A vote was then taken which was in favour of this motion.

**And two from Syd Cassidy on a similar theme;-**

**(11)CCA should withdraw from the NMS as it now serves no purpose.  
(12)All membership fees formerly sent to the NCCU via the NMS should be kept within Cumbria and used to promote chess in Cumbria, with special emphasis on the county championships.**

Syd Cassidy said that following the discussions on motion (10) that these points were no longer relevant and withdrew these two motions.

17. **Prize Giving;-** The Division 2 trophy was presented to the winners Barrow “C” and accepted on their behalf by Trevor Blower. The Division 1 trophy is understood to be still being held by SASRA and now needs to be passed to Windermere. Bill Hardwick will organise this unless the clubs concerned can arrange the handover. The new Whitaker Trophy is with Arnside Club and needs to be handed to Austin Friars, who will make suitable arrangements.

There is some uncertainty about the old Whitaker Trophy which needs to be returned to Arnside for their retention. Andy McAtear has passed the board of the trophy to Ian Hewitson to take to Arnside but there is also a chess set as part of the trophy and Andy is to check initially with Brian Mackay about it's whereabouts.

**18. 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.  
**Assistant Junior Organiser,** To be appointed(New).  
**Match Captain,** P Gleizon (New).  
**Assistant Match Captain,** G Horne (New).  
**Correspondence Captain,** C Underhill.  
**Auditor,** N Foxcroft.  
**Press Officer,** D Cole.  
**NCCU Delegates (2),** D Cole, G Horne.  
**ECF Delegate (1),** D Cole.

**19. County Championships 2008;-**

Proposed for Cockermouth and Phillipe will make enquiries about a venue and cost. Dates are to be 29<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008.

**20. Next AGM – 2008.**

To take place on first suitable weekend in June 2008 with Kendal being the suggested venue. Bill Hardwick will arrange and notify all concerned in due course.

**21. Any other business:** None.

Meeting Closed

Bill Hardwick  
(Secretary)