

Minutes, 117th AGM of the Cumbria Chess Association.

Held at 2pm on Saturday, 21st June 2008 at The Methodist Hall, Union St, Kendal.

In Attendance;- 10 members from 6 clubs. D Cole (President/Barrow). S Cassidy (Lge Cont.) A. Friars, W Hardwick (Secretary/A Friars), T Blower (Barrow), M Mason (Barrow/Ulverston), I Hewitson (Windermere), D Shaw (Kendal), J Dobson (Kendal), G Horne (Barrow), P Gleizon (Cockermouth).

1. **Apologies;**- Received from T Baker (Carlisle).
2. **Presidents Address;**- Dave Cole was happy to say that there have been no complaints of any nature and in Cumbria all is going well. He mentioned that it is likely that Carlisle and Austin Friars clubs will merge in some way for the forthcoming season, but hoped that they would keep their own identity.
3. **Minutes of the 2007 AGM (Number 116);**- Having been circulated last year these were accepted as a true and complete record with no matters arising.
4. **Correspondence;**- Nothing to report which was not covered elsewhere in the meeting.
5. **Secretaries Report;**- Bill Hardwick said that there were no issues to report on. Dave Cole asked if there was any news about the whereabouts of the Cumbria Chess Archives which were discussed last year. Details of this were included in the minutes and circulated but no-one has offered any suggestions. **Dave Cole said he will make further enquiries** and believes they may be stored in a Library, either at Whitehaven or Workington. Any further information would still be welcome. **(Post-meeting; Bill Hardwick found the archives in Whitehaven library. Dave Cole to visit and see what is there).**
6. **Treasurers Report;**- George Horne provided a statement of the 2008 accounts which are to be audited and placed on the Website. The income section of the accounts shows the Cumbria share from the NCCU-NMS scheme as £119.19. There is an annual deficit of £85.45 leaving a balance in hand totalling £1,355.97. The Treasurer recommended that Cumbria registration fees for 2009 should remain unchanged at £5.00 (Juniors £1.00) and this was agreed. **Dave Cole suggested that in future the accounts should show fuller details of both income and expenditure for the Cumbria Individual Championships, instead of simply a net profit or loss amount. This was agreed.** There followed a brief discussion about the loss of £162.00 incurred on the Tournament this year. Philippe Gleizon explained that the turnout was rather low and that the Globe Hotel had given him misleading information about the cost of the room hire and refreshments. This was accepted and all present said how good the tournament had actually been and congratulated Phillippe for arranging this.
7. **Membership Secretaries Report;**- Syd Cassidy said that there had been a slight increase in numbers from 130 last year to about 140 to 150 now. Cockermouth's Website had led to a number of positive enquiries. **The ECF Website includes a list of club contacts and clubs should send the ECF details of their e.mail address in order to be included on this list.**
8. **League Controllers Report;**- Syd Cassidy said that there had been no real problems other than at the beginning of the season when Carlisle were unable to play a number of games in Division 2. More recently he said that there had been some difficulty in staging the play-off match between Ulverston and SASRA but that that this too had all been sorted out. **Syd said that it was unfortunate that Keswick still cannot play on Saturdays and that Penrith cannot play midweek on their club nights. Dave Cole said he would see if any progress might be made to improve this situation.**

9. **Result Officers Report ;**- Tony Baker had left a message confirming that the Grading updates were all progressing well and he only now awaits some club results which are still to be included.
10. **Junior Organisers Report;**- Syd Cassidy said all was much the same as last year; a similar number of players and the same tournaments being held. Around 300 to 400 juniors take part in the various competitions. He hopes to soon be starting a Secondary Schools competition in the Carlisle area. Cumbria juniors have recently been invited to join Lancashire for county matches as Cumbria no longer enters teams for these events. It was agreed that this was a welcome offer which we have no objections to.
11. **Match Captain's Report;**- Philippe Gleizon reported that we had played Lancashire and Yorkshire but unfortunately lost both matches having been heavily out-graded on both occasions. He had found Yorkshire difficult to contact and make arrangements with.
12. **Correspondence Captains Report;**- Dave Cole read Chris Underhill's report, "I'm pleased to report that the restarted NCCU Correspondence Chess Competition has been a success and with the participation of teams from Lancashire, Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland and Cumbria we have been able to organise a full set of games in the Sinclair Shield. Unfortunately, there was insufficient interest to extend this to a Turner Plaque competition and an Individual competition". Anyone interested in taking part is urged to get in touch with Chris.
13. **ECF Delegates Report;**- (See NCCU Report below)
14. **NCCU Delegates Report;**- Dave Cole reported on the situation in the ECF regarding the organisation and membership: his full report will shortly be available on the Cumbria and NCCU websites. All recent ECF meetings have been in the South and he has been unable to attend these. He has however attended the NCCU meetings in December 2007 and June 2008. He said that there is currently a "Chess for Schools" campaign underway with 250,000 chess sets being provided for schools across the country (10 sets each), by a private manufacturer. So far there have been some distribution difficulties but the scheme is ongoing and ECF plan to link it with a coaching scheme but further details are awaited. The Finance Director, Robert Richmond was at the NCCU meeting and he is to ask the ECF for £100,000 towards this coaching project. Dave said that a bequest of £3,000 had been left to the NCCU last year by the late Michael O'Hara, in addition to which a further sum is due by way of a refund from the ECF to the NCCU in the profit-share arrangement through membership. **Dave has invited all members to offer suggestions to be put forward, as to how these additional funds may be used.** Next year's NCCU county competitions will, in some categories be staged as a one-day jamboree at a venue or venues still to be decided. **The Match Captain is to contact members about taking part in this as either an Open or U175 team. Alternatively, we can stay as last season in the U150 competition which is not subject to a jamboree: enquiries are also to be made to see if at least some travelling costs may be reimbursed.** Next year Cumbria is to be given two places to award for entry into the British Chess Championships, this is only offered every 8 years. The South Lakes is taking up one place and Dave Cole suggested that the winner of the Cumbria Individual Championships could also be offered a place. At the moment players pay their own entry fees but Dave proposed that we should sponsor the Cumbria Open Individual winner by paying the entry fee, of around £165, provided that the player wishes to take part in the event. This was fully supported.
15. **Matters Arising;**- None
16. **Proposals:** - Both proposals on the agenda were essentially the same issue of whether the league should be combined, instead of North and South as at present, or not. It was felt that an open discussion first on the subject would be the best way to establish the general feeling on the preferred way forward. It was considered that any change should only be to Division 1 and that

Divisions 2/3 should remain regionalised. The discussion clarified matters and the proposals were restated as follows;-

1. **That from 2008/2009 Division One should comprise 8 teams, namely Windermere “A”, Windermere “B”, Barrow “A”, Kendal, Cockermouth, Penrith “A”, Carlisle/Austin Friars “A” and SASRA.** This was carried by 6 votes to 2.
2. **That only one team should be “eligible”, for promotion to Division One each year but that this should be optional on their part.** This was carried by 7 votes to 0.
3. **Should Division One teams play each other once or twice in a season, ie 7 or 14 matches in a season?** It was carried by 7 votes to 1 that teams should play twice, home and away, giving a 14 match season, but only if this was acceptable to the clubs concerned. **Dave Cole would like all of the clubs involved to make their views on this known, before the new season begins.**

17. **Prize Giving;-** The Whitaker Trophy was presented to Phillipe on behalf of the winning Cockermouth team. Other trophies are all with existing holders except for Division 1 which is believed to be still at SASRA (with Ron Nixon?) and needs to be given to Windermere. The Division 3 trophy was again not competed for and remains with Syd Cassidy. The old Whitaker Trophy has been returned to Arnside but we understand that they only have the Board and that the Chess set could be with the Penrith club.

18. Election of Officers and Committee:-

President, D Cole

Secretary, W Hardwick

Treasurer, G Horne

League Controller, S Cassidy

Results Officer, A Baker **(Post to be renamed as Grading Officer)**

Junior Organiser, S Cassidy

Assistant Junior Organiser, G Horne (New), appointed to fill vacant position

Match Captain, P Gleizon

Assistant Match Captain, G Horne

Correspondence Captain, C Underhill

Auditor, N Foxcroft

Press Officer, D Cole

NCCU Delegates (2), D Cole, G Horne

ECF Delegate (1) D Cole

Dave Cole as Press Officer asked if clubs can provide information for publication.

19. **County Championships 2009;-** Proposed for Carlisle and/or Austin Friars, in late February/Early March 2009.
20. **Next AGM – 2009;-** To take place on first suitable weekend in June 2009, avoiding South Lakes and Northern Counties meeting, therefore likely to be 19th or 26th June but to be confirmed and to be held at either Penrith or Kendal.
21. **Any other business; -** Trevor Blower reported that the south Lakes Tournament had 199 entries this year, with some people also being turned away. For the past four years Cumbria Chess has donated £100 to be awarded as prizes to the top Cumbria player in each of the 5 sections and it was proposed that from 2009 this should be increased to £150 and this met with full agreement.

Meeting closed.

Bill Hardwick
(Secretary)