

Minutes, 119th AGM of the Cumbria Chess Association.

Held at 2pm on Sunday 20th June 2010 at The Union Pub in Kendal.

In Attendance;- 8 members from 4 clubs. D Cole (President) Barrow, S Cassidy (Lge. Cont) A Friars/ Carlisle, T Blower (Barrow), G Horne (Barrow), W Hardwick (Secretary) A Friars/Carlisle, P Caulfield (Windermere), I Hewitson (Windermere) and P Gleizon (Cockermouth).

Although the meeting had been scheduled to be held in the Methodist Hall, having met in the Union Pub beforehand everyone was in agreement to hold the meeting there instead. The venue has also been offered to us in future years, at no charge, if required.

1. Apologies;- Received from Hilary Austin, George King, John Dobson and Bill Henderson.

2. Presidents Address;- Dave Cole paid respects to the late John Moore of Barrow and Bill McFarland of Sasra and Whitehaven, both of whom have passed away in the last year and a minutes silence was observed in their memory

Membership numbers in Cumbria are still fairly steady at 115, which is only a slight reduction on last year. There have been no problems this year and indeed Dave commented that there have been very few problems at all since Syd Cassidy has been the League Controller and thanked him for this. He also thanked Syd again, as well as Hilary Austin and George King amongst others for their fantastic job in promoting Junior involvement in schools and Tournaments.

Thanks were extended to Philippe Gleizon for captaining a team in the NCCU counties jamboree event. Unfortunately five of the other Northern counties entered no team at all and consideration is being given next year to allow counties to enter joint teams.

3. Minutes of the 2009 AGM (Number 118) - Accepted.

Matters arising ;-

In item 10 Dave Cole was to have made enquiries to see if CCA could help at all in the “vetting” process for organising junior players. No progress as such but it seems that this legislation may soon be relaxed.

4. Correspondence;- None received.

5. Secretaries Report;- Bill Hardwick had nothing to report.

6. Treasurers Report;- George Horne provided a statement of the 2010 accounts which were accepted as accurate, but are still to be audited and then placed on the Website. George reported a loss this year of £364.27, mainly due to paying for the British Championship entry and the subsidy for ECF memberships. In view of this he proposed that we should now discontinue the ECF subsidy but keep Registration fees at the same level. This was discussed and agreed upon.

Syd Cassidy enquired about the increase in the Website charges since last year but evidently this is because it includes an additional domain charge only payable once every two years.

Syd also said that about £80 of his £91.30 costs result from circulating paper copies of the newsletter. It was agreed that it will no longer be necessary to do this as all of the information is available on the Website and clubs can easily provide paper copies to anyone who would not otherwise have access.

At present it has been the case that CCA will pay the cost of the entry fee of the top Cumbrian player at the individual Championships into the British Championships, should they choose to enter. The cost of these entry fees has risen sharply (now £200) and it is possible for players to seek financial assistance for this from the NCCU. In the circumstances it was proposed that CCA should in future contribute half of the cost of the entry fee should the player enter the competition. This was voted upon and agreed.

7. Membership Secretaries Report;- Syd Cassidy confirmed that there has been a slight reduction to 115 ECF members and a further 10 or so, “Cumbrian only” members. This continues the steady downturn from 200 members some 15 years ago but it is a problem affecting most, if not all counties

8. League Controllers Report;- Syd Cassidy reported no disputes and was pleased to say that every match in the fixture list was fulfilled, including all of the Whitaker cup ties.

Next year in Division One there will be six teams from the South of the County and two from the North, following Cockermouth’s promotion. It means that in Division Two (North) there will only be teams from Carlisle (two or three?) and Penrith. The possibility of Windermere and/or Kendal playing in the North was raised but both teams have said that they may not be able to field teams anyway. Because of this Syd has enquired of Dumfries if they would be willing to enter a team, if permitted. This was discussed and it was agreed that it would be a welcome move.

9. Grading Officers Report;- Alan Hiatt had nothing to report.

10. Junior Organisers Report;- Syd Cassidy said that the situation is much the same as last year in that it is still just a struggle for numbers. He also mentioned that there is a possibility that he may retire next year and that we may wish to begin considering a replacement for him. His assistant is Hilary Austin and this can be discussed with her.

11. Match Captains Report;- Philippe Gleizon said that we were one of only three counties to enter a team in the under-180 section of the NCCU Jamboree event. Next year we would like to do so again, although possibly within a different grading section and we will also try to enter a junior team, perhaps jointly with another county if necessary.

Dave Cole said that the venue for the Jamboree was very good, but expensive which meant that hoped for refreshments (also expensive) could not be provided. The turnout was 176 but with no North East teams at all. The intention next year is to stage the Jamboree again but at the nearby Latvian Club in Bradford. This will be for the lower graded sections only, as the Open and U180 County matches will take place outside of the Jamboree format. For the Jamboree, a weekend event over two days is being considered, but each of the sections will only take place on one of the days. Other possibilities are to reduce the team sizes from 12 players to 10 or even to 8 and also to be able to provide refreshments. The NCCU will be contacting everyone to canvass views on these matters.

12. Correspondence Captains Report;- Chris Underhill had no report but this is still only half way through their season.

13. ECF Delegates Report;- See below.

14. NCCU Delegates Report;- These two items were dealt with together and Dave Cole's full report will be available on the website.

One particular point of interest is that next year will be Cumbria’s turn to be able to nominate a congress that will incorporate the NCCU Individual Championship, from which the winner will be given an NCCU, British Championships Qualifier place. This was discussed and unanimously agreed that that as the South Lakes Congress is already being fully attended that

it should be awarded to the Cumbria Individual Championships and may help to some extent in further boosting the entry numbers.

15. Matters Arising;- It was suggested that the CCA accounts should include a reference to those officers with no costs to claim, as a reminder that costs could arise under those categories in future. George Horne said that he could include a note of his in his reports in future.

16. Proposals;-

a) Mark Mallard proposed that the fixture list should not clash with any Northern Tournament.

This was discussed and Syd Cassidy said that if anyone contacted him with dates of any particular events, of which there are many, he would always make allowance for these. Equally, clubs can reorganise fixtures between themselves to avoid any such clashes. Because of this Trevor Blower proposed that no change should be made and this was voted on and agreed.

b) Hilary Austin and Jaroslav Vrubl had both made proposals regarding the rules and guidelines for the Cumbria Individual Championships. Dave Cole had also prepared a set of rules to cover this, which are scheduled below. It was decided to discuss these matters together.

It was agreed that if these rules are followed that the Tournament Organiser's decision should still be final, in preference to appointing an Appeals Committee which was considered on balance to be impractical.

The attached rules will therefore be added to the CCA Constitution in place of existing rule 4d which is now deleted.

It was also agreed that Rule 4g may also now be deleted (regarding smoking), as this is a legal requirement now anyway (unless we stage any outdoor Tournaments presumably).

17. Prize Giving;- The Division One trophy was presented to Ian Hewitson on behalf of Windermere Chess Club. What was formerly the Division Three trophy was presented to Philippe Gleizon on behalf of Cockermouth Chess Club as winners of Division Two (North). The Division Two trophy was given to Ian Hewitson to pass on to Kendal as winners of Division Two (South).

No one from SASRA was present to collect the Whitaker Cup and Philippe Gleizon said he would take it and try and arrange delivery to SASRA.

18. Election of Officers and Committee:-

President: D Cole – unanimous.

Secretary: W Hardwick

Treasurer: G Horne

League Controller and Membership Secretary: S Cassidy (The positions are now combined)

Grading Officer: A Hiatt

Junior Organiser: S Cassidy

Assistant Junior Organisers: H Austin and G Horne

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 and G Horne
ECF Delegate : G Horne

19. County Championships 2011 - Date and Venue: Penrith have expressed an interest in arranging this and will be invited to do so on 25/26/27th February 2011, or suitable alternative dates. Otherwise, Carlisle can stage the competition.

Dave Cole particularly wished to say what a fantastic job Hilary Austin and Nick Hill had made of arranging this year's competition at Graythwaite Manor in Grange. The facilities were excellent, the work that went into arranging so many sponsors is well appreciated and overall it was a marvellous weekend with numbers well up on any recent years. Everyone was in full agreement with this and that it was such a pity that a disagreement should have arisen at the end. Hilary and Nick are more than welcome to stage the Tournament again whenever they may wish to.

20. Next AGM 2011 - Date and Venue: Proposed for Kendal in June 2011, either at the Union Pub if their Dining Room facility is still available then either free or at reasonable cost, or in the nearby Methodist Hall. Secretary to arrange.

21. Any other business:

We had the opportunity to enter a 4NCL event which is staged over weekends at Crewe, Darlington and Harrogate but decided against this.

Trevor Blower mentioned the continuing success of the South Lakes Congress with 184 entries resulting in 174 players this year, 38 of whom were newcomers. The low number of Cumbria players (35), especially in the higher sections is something we would like to improve upon. An enjoyable weekend was had by all with no complaints and plenty of compliments from satisfied contestants. Trevor thanks everyone for their continued support.

Thanks to all.

Meeting closed.

Bill Hardwick
(Secretary)