

Minutes, 121st AGM of the Cumbria Chess Association.

Held at 2pm on Saturday 16th June 2012 at the Conservative Club, Penrith.

In Attendance;- 7 members from 4 clubs. D Cole (President) Barrow, E Fruchtenicht (Lge. Cont) Penrith, G Horne (Treasurer) Barrow, M Gawne (Grading Officer) Barrow, W Hardwick (Secretary) Carlisle, A MacAtear (Penrith), D Phillips (Windermere).

The meeting had originally been planned to be held at the Crown Hotel, Eamont Bridge but had to be rearranged at short notice as that venue was unavailable. Every effort was made to advise all members of the change but unfortunately neither Bill Henderson nor Dave Siddall were aware of this and went to the Crown Hotel.

Apologies have been given to both for the inconvenience caused.

1. **Apologies;-** Received from Ian Mackay, Drew Millar, Kevin Southernwood, Mark Mallard, Trevor Blower, John Kelly, Nick Hill, Hilary Austin and Chris Underhill.
2. **Presidents Address;-** Dave Cole said that it had been a year of transition since Syd Cassidy left, with a lot of personnel changes arising because of this. Understandably there have been some teething troubles but basically all has worked well. The Cumbria individual championship at Barrow went well (apart from the power cut) and it was pleasing to see quite a number of non-Cumbrian entrants. It was also very good to see Syd Cassidy at the competition but very sad to hear of the loss of his wife Liz very recently. Condolences were extended to Syd and his family. Condolences were also given to the family of Bill Smith of Whitehaven club who we were advised had passed away a few weeks ago.

Dave wanted to thank Kevin Southernwood in particular for his sterling efforts for junior chess since taking up the role only last year. Cumbria's victory in the under-16s Pennine Cup was a notable achievement for all concerned.
3. **Minutes of the 2011 AGM (Number 120);** were accepted as being a true and correct record.
4. **Correspondence;-** None received, other than items covered elsewhere and e-mails which have been circulated to all members.
5. **Secretaries Report;-** Bill Hardwick had no issues to report.
6. **Treasurers Report;-** George Horne provided an audited copy of the 2011/12 accounts showing a deficit of £149.24 and also an audited set of the 2010/11 accounts, which showed a loss of £50.57. The closing bank balances now total £800.70. County Match expenses are again high and George wanted to know if members find this acceptable. **In view of these figures he recommended an increase in the Cumbria registration fee from £5.00 to £6.00 for adults, but to retain the junior fee at £1.00. This was voted upon and passed unanimously.**

7. **Membership Secretaries Report;-** Dave Cole said that each year clubs are requested to submit their membership lists and subscriptions by 30th September at the latest but many clubs do not do so until very much later. **The difficulties are understood but it would be appreciated if all clubs could provide their registration lists and subscriptions much more promptly in future.**

Dave was able to report that membership numbers have increased slightly to 101 from 99 last year. Martin Gawne commented that it is still difficult to attract junior members in the south of the county, but that he would like to encourage membership through schools in the area. Dave suggested that he liaise with Kevin Southernwood about approaching schools.

8. **League Controllers Report;-** Eggert Fruchtenicht said that having taken up the role only last year that at first he had experienced some difficulty in collecting results and updating league tables etc but that it seems to be working satisfactorily now. He is also now able to update the Website directly. He has had no real problems or issues to resolve and overall has had a good response from match captains with results.

Eggert and Martin did say that when results are submitted that it would be useful if they could be copied in to both of them and to John Kelly as well so that the grading and website updates can be fully covered.

We went on to discuss the structure of the League with regard to the “split” of Division 1 in the second half of the season and in Division 2 the breakdown of teams playing in the North and the South. Arranging the fixtures in the second half of the season caused some problems because of the short notice and a clash with the Easter holiday. **It was suggested by Andy MacAtear that Division 1 should revert to “all play all, home and away. With 7 teams in the division this means each team playing 12 matches. This was voted upon and agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that Cockermouth should remain in Division 1 as neither of the Division 2 winners wished to accept promotion.**

For Division 2, because only 2 teams from Penrith and 2 from Carlisle contest the North Division, Eggert suggested that Windermere and Kendal should be asked if they will compete in the North Division, but this would only be done if either or both teams wished to do so.

9 Grading Officers Report;-

Martin Gawne has also completed his first year in this new, and it has to be said, very demanding role, but he thanks everyone for their help during this time. He reported no major issues or problems at all and said that results had been provided for

him very smoothly. **One way in which in which club secretaries could help is to ensure that for all junior players that their dates of birth are provided on the registration lists as it makes a big difference in processing the junior information. Also, if anyone new**

full and should join a club from outside of the area then can secretaries please provide information of the previous club and the member's ECF membership number and grading code.

With the introduction last year of half-yearly grading updates **Martin would prefer to receive the results of internal club competitions either on an ongoing basis or in bulk as at the end of December and then at the end of the season.** The reason being that players gradings will have changed on 31st December and it helps enormously to be able to differentiate between games played in the first or the second half of the season. Can secretaries therefore try not to send in club competition results just at the end of the season. Martin is happy to receive either a list of match results or a cross-table with the players details shown.

10 **Junior Organisers Report;-**

Kevin Southernwood; (yet another first year appointment) has kindly submitted a full report and also a set of the Junior Chess accounts for 2011/12 which are now attached. Dave Cole read out the report at the meeting and having thanked Kevin he highlighted again just how good the under-16s result was in the Pennine Cup for which we must have been rank outsiders but still won;-

Cumbria 20.5, Northumberland 19.0, Merseyside 14.5. – very well done!

11 **Match Captain's Report;-** George Horne reported that Cumbria had played two matches in the U160 section, losing 5 -7 to Lancashire and 2 -10 to Yorkshire. We played our home match against Yorkshire at the Crown Hotel in Penrith which was agreed to have been an excellent venue. The NCCU Controller has said that 30th September 2012 is the final date for entries for next season.

12 **Correspondence Captains Report;-** Chris Underhill sent in a report which Dave Cole read out at the meeting and he also sent in details of the correspondence results which will now be on the Website. He reported that Cumbria finished as convincing champions in their division in the C&DCCC competition, but that no-one could catch Yorkshire in the NCCU competition.

For some reason the C&DCCC competition has failed to run this year. All seemed to be going well in the run up to the start of the season, but since then Chris has heard nothing from the competition controller, John Philpott, despite several attempts to contact him. Perhaps he has given up in despair! Chris imagines that his role is a difficult one, but he always seemed extremely well organised and it is surprising that Chris has had no contact from him. Hopefully, things will be back to normal for next season.

The NCCU competition is running smoothly, but was late starting, so there are too few results in yet to have much idea of how things are going.

Chris is happy to continue as correspondence captain and as ever, if anyone wishes to take part then please feel free to get in touch with him.

13 **ECF Delegates Report} &**

- 14 **NCCU Delegates Report**;- Dave Cole dealt with these two items together, with the NCCU AGM minutes now being available on the Website. Dave ran through the details of the meeting but the main point covered was that the proposal for the NCCU to operate a membership/grading scheme separate from the ECF was not carried.
- 15 **Website Organisers Report**;- John Kelly was not present but asked to be advised of any comments or questions about the Website. Eggert says that he has looked at many of the County Websites and regards ours as being easily the best. A number of issues were raised including that that the site can take a long time to open. Is this a problem with functionality? The Website costs were mentioned – apparently cheaper sites are available but Eggert thought that they may be relatively limited. We really want confirmation that we are getting value for money.

Dave Phillips said that a Google search for “Cumbria Chess” leads to the old site. I have since checked this and it is no longer the case and seems to be OK now. However, a similar search for “Carlisle Chess Club” does lead to an old page, with what is now very misleading information. It was our understanding that a lot of “archive” information is still held on the “old” site. If that is the case is it quite safe there or can it be transferred to the new site?

It is worth mentioning at this point that although some members have commented that the results and league tables on the website are out of date, that there has been some confusion over their location. The heading “League Tables” does not actually lead to the up to date information. Further down on the Website are headings for “Division 1” and “Division 2” and all of the fully updated information is shown there.

These points have all now been raised with John Kelly to clarify for us and comment upon.

- 16 **Matters Arising**;- These were all covered later under “Any other business”.
- 17 **Proposal**;- From George Horne; **To have an optional Cumbria grading Scheme with participants paying the £5.00 (now £6.00 as approved above), Cumbria registration fee and receiving a grading.**
This was discussed at length and Martin Gawne confirmed that he would be happy to provide the “internal” gradings. Andy MacAtear asked if these could be ELO ratings and while it was felt that this was not our main concern, Martin said that he could probably provide both figures for us. Dave Cole explained that in essence the scheme would be aimed at those members who do not compete in congresses but only play in Cumbria league or Club matches. At present this would be the case for about 70 of the 101 members. Anyone wishing to join the ECF scheme can still do so and will receive an ECF grading as normal. **This was voted upon and approved by 4 - 2.**
- 18 **Prize Giving**;- the Division 1 trophy was presented to Dave Phillips on behalf of Windermere Chess club. **The Division 2 North trophy is still with Penrith and they will arrange for it to be given to Carlisle C team. The Division 2**

South trophy is with Barrow who will arrange for it to be handed to Windermere B team. Arrangements are also being made for SASRA to collect the Whitaker Trophy from Carlisle. This needs to be engraved for two years which is being done and George Horne said that the County will cover this cost.

19 Election of Officers and Committee:

President: D Cole
Secretary; W Hardwick
Treasurer; G Horne
League Controller; E Fruchtenicht
Membership Secretary; D Cole
Grading Officer; M Gawne
Junior Organiser; K Southernwood
Assistant Junior Organisers (2); H Austin and D Millar
Match Captain; A MacAtear (new)
Assistant Match Captain; Vacant
Correspondence Captain; C Underhill
Auditor; N Foxcroft
Press Officer; D Cole
NCCU Delegates (2); D Cole and G Horne
ECF Delegate; G Horne
Webmaster; J Kelly

20 County Championships 2013;- To be held in Penrith, provided a suitable venue is available, otherwise in Windermere in late February or early March 2013.

21 Next AGM 2013;- proposed for Barrow in June 2013. Secretary to arrange.

22 Any other business:-

As agreed last year we would like to invite Robert Patla, as the County Individual Champion to play a "Simultaneous" event for a charity of his choice, should he wish to do so. Last year's event was very well received and a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Thanks to all and meeting closed.

Bill Hardwick
(Secretary)