

Minutes: EGM of the Cumbria Chess Association.

Held at 2pm on Sunday 13th January 2013 at the Crown Hotel, Eamont Bridge, Penrith.

In Attendance:- 12 members from 5 clubs. D Cole (President) Barrow, E Fruchtenicht (League Controller) Penrith, G Horne (Treasurer) Barrow, W Hardwick (Secretary) Carlisle, D Millar (Carlisle), K Southernwood (Penrith), J Rashleigh (Kendal), H Austin (Grange), N Hill (Grange), D Siddall (Carlisle), A McAtear (Penrith) and J Kelly (Carlisle).

1. **Apologies** were received from Ian Mackay (Carlisle).
2. **Minutes of the 2012 AGM (number 121)** were circulated to all present and no objections were raised.
3. **The purpose of the EGM.** It was called to discuss the implications of the ECF decision not to grade Cumbria chess games. It was agreed with DC immediately before the meeting that the wording of the original proposal should be amended slightly to further clarify the position. The amended wording is underlined below.
4. **At the 2012 Cumbria Chess AGM it was decided that Cumbria players be given the option of joining the ECF, on the understanding that all ECF members games would go to the ECF for grading, whilst a new Cumbria grading list would be created to cater for non-ECF members. The ECF have reacted to this by refusing to grade any games in a league where non-members are involved and no game fee is paid. Cumbria therefore needs to decide whether to uphold the AGM decision or, in the light of the ECF action, revert to compulsory membership. (Another option is for non-members to pay game fee, but this would probably be cost prohibitive).**

DC began by summarising the background to the present situation which has already been well documented elsewhere and is as set out above. He said that at our last AGM the decision had been taken to let each individual member decide whether or not to join the ECF on the understanding that all ECF members would have all of their games graded by the ECF. Now that the ECF are saying we either all need to be members or pay game fees for this to happen, we need to consider the implications and the choices now available to us.

If we were to opt for "compulsory" membership of the ECF then it would be difficult to insist that non-members should now have to join, having previously given the option not to. Also, there could be game fee liability that Cumbria would be obliged to pay for those who have played games in Cumbria and who do not become members. At the moment this would amount to over £200. It is impossible to quantify the amount precisely because not all clubs have yet enrolled their players for the season and we therefore do not know exactly how many ECF members there will be.

JK said that players want to have a grade that is valid and comparable with other players across the country. DS was happy with having an ECF grade for competing in Congresses and a Cumbria grade for league matches. DM said it was quite normal when competing in Scotland to use a Scottish grading there and still keep separate English grading.

HA said that the response and attitude of the ECF over this matter has been very poor and this was certainly the feeling across the room. Nevertheless, she felt that it was important to be a member

of a nationwide organisation (this was supported by others) – especially for junior players. All 10 Grange club members were in favour of ECF membership. HA also suggested taking a full poll of Cumbria members views on the matter but DC said that there was no effective system in place to do this and that, rightly or wrongly it needed to be determined by those members attending and voting at meetings such as this. However, DC agreed that voting at General meetings needs to be clarified and he would bring a proposal forward to the June AGM.

Incidentally, the final outcome of the unofficial Website Poll on the subject was 23 votes in favour of ECF membership, 16 votes against and 1 “other”.

There were views expressed that we would be in a better position to be within the ECF if we wished to influence events in future and DC pointed out that Cumbria is, and will remain affiliated to the ECF.

Other points raised included the situation where a club has 100% ECF membership – can they have their internal club games graded? DC says this has been raised with the ECF, but a reply is still awaited. *(Post-meeting – the ECF grader has confirmed that he will grade internal club games if he is assured the competition involves only ECF members).*

Also, if an ECF member plays games in Scotland or abroad (against non-ECF players) can these games be graded? Yes, but only if the EFC are notified beforehand. JK suggested that the league be organised so that there is a division involving only ECF members, so that those games could be graded. DC said that nothing could be done along those lines for this season but it is worth bearing in mind for the future as one possibility.

MG clarified that he will only be grading those games played in Cumbria and will issue a grading list for Cumbria at the end of the season.

DC clarified the position regarding County matches. These games are graded by the NCCU grader and there is no requirement for players to be ECF members for these matches.

There were concerns about the unknown game-fee cost that Cumbria Chess may incur if we now opt for compulsory ECF membership this season.

DC then asked us to vote on the proposal but stressed that regardless of the outcome that it would still need to be covered again at this year’s AGM.

The voting was 6 to 5 in favour of upholding the decision taken at the 2012 AGM.

5. **Next AGM 2013:** already proposed to be held in Barrow in June 2013. Secretary to arrange.
6. **Any other business:** No further matters were raised during the meeting.

Thanks to all and the meeting was closed.

Bill Hardwick (Secretary)

13th January 2013