

## **Minutes; 123rd AGM of the Cumbria Chess Association.**

**Held at 2pm on Saturday 28th June 2014 at The Crown Hotel, Eamont Bridge, Penrith.**

In attendance;- 20 members from 7 clubs. D Cole (President) Barrow, E Früchtenicht (Lge Cont) Penrith, G Horne (Treasurer) Barrow, M Gawne (Grading Officer) Barrow, A McAtear (Match Captain) Penrith, D Shaw (Website Organiser) Kendal, W Hardwick (Secretary) Carlisle, L McAtear (Penrith), F Clough (Penrith), J Rashleigh (Kendal), G Sharkey (Maryport), W Henderson (Maryport), S Murdoch (Penrith), H Austin (Grange), N Hill (Grange), T Blower (Barrow), P Blackmore (Maryport), J Pallister (Maryport), D Phillips (Windermere), G Boswell (Grange).

1. **Apologies;**- were received from R Hart, I Mackay, D Millar, K Southernwood, J Dobson and M Mallard.
2. **Presidents Address;**- Dave Cole said that it had been an eventful year, mainly with regard to the problems which arose with Division 2 which were dealt with later. Division 1 however was completed with no difficulties at all. Membership numbers were slightly up on the year having fallen a little previously. He was pleased to report that Penrith had won the NCCU Minor Championship and as far as he knows are the first Cumbria Club to have won one of these competitions. He was very pleased with the new Website and thanked David Shaw for a first class job with reliable, speedy updates of information. David was also to be thanked for having looked into Cumbria Chess archives and establishing that these are held not only at Whitehaven but also at Kendal and Barrow libraries too. The Junior Championships all went well for which Kevin Southernwood is to be thanked. Dave went on to advise us that George Horne is now President of the NCCU and that Martin Gawne is now the NCCU Grading Officer.
3. **Minutes of the 2013 AGM (Number 122);**- were accepted as being a true and correct record of the meeting. Dave Cole explained here that last year it had been highlighted that some steps should be taken to recruit new members and new clubs if possible. He has prepared a "flyer" for use in say, libraries and has compiled a list of past clubs and of possible towns and areas that could be targeted. These details will be circulated and anyone is welcome, indeed encouraged to make full use of these.
4. **Correspondence;**- Bill Hardwick said that no external mail has been received and any correspondence of relevance has already been circulated to all members. We decided to dispense with this as a separate topic in future as any matters of relevance will inevitably be raised elsewhere.
5. **Secretaries Report;**- Bill Hardwick said that the main issue through the year had clearly been the Division 2 problem but this did not really directly affect the Secretary. The introduction of "Postal Voting" and the need to create systems to facilitate this have caused a lot of extra work. Otherwise all has gone well.
6. **Treasurers Report;**- George Horne passed around copies of the 2013/14 annual accounts and these will also be available on the website. He reported that the bank balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 was £775.70 with a surplus of £34.95 for the year, mainly due to the Individual Championship having recorded a surplus of £103.00. The Website outgoings include a 2-yearly "domain charge" but it is understood that this service will be free of charge in future. He recommended that subscriptions should remain unchanged next year at £6.00 for adults and £1.00 for juniors and this was accepted.
7. **Membership Secretaries Report;**- Dave Cole confirmed that numbers have risen slightly to 99 this year of whom 87 are ECF members. Penrith club now has the largest membership.
8. **League Controllers Report;**-Eggert Früchtenicht reported that Windermere club have had an excellent season winning not only Division 1 but also the Whitaker Trophy. He has not been provided with all of the results of Division 2 matches but it has been confirmed that this was won by Maryport club. He said that the second half of the season for Division 2 was disastrous and this was covered later in the meeting. Dave

Cole explained that at last year's AGM it had been agreed that Division 2 should be a "merged" competition with details to be finalised. It was decided to play the first half still with a North/South split which went well, but when the "merged" fixtures were announced it became clear that a number of clubs were not prepared to travel to all venues and consequently many matches were simply not played.

9. **Grading Officers Report;**- Martin Gawne was pleased to say that everyone had co-operated in getting all results to him promptly and he had no problems at all.
10. **Junior Organisers Report;**- Kevin Southernwood has apologised for not having yet been able to prepare his report but will do so soon and this will be placed on the Website. Hilary Austin wished to extend her thanks to Kevin for all that he has done and in particular for the Junior Championships in Carlisle at which 5 Grange juniors took part and they were all very impressed with the day. Eggert also said what a good job Kevin has done and this was a view shared by all.
11. **Match Captain's Report;**- Andy McAtear said that unfortunately this year had not been as successful as last, the team having suffered defeats against both Lancashire and Yorkshire but both matches featured many close games which could have gone either way. The team suffered because a number of players who had previously taken part had seen their gradings move up to just above the upper limit for the competition. There is still a possibility of there being a friendly match against Greater Manchester at some stage but we are waiting to hear from them about this. Apparently their AGM is also being staged today so it may be discussed by them there.
12. **Correspondence Captains Report;**- No report has been received from Chris Underhill but this is still "mid-season" for correspondence competitions. Martin Gawne said how well Chris has done, not only to organise matters but also to boost the number of participants as well. Fred Clough said that games are now generally played on a "Web-server" which largely eliminates recording errors etc which previously tended to arise. It was interesting that at least 6 people at the meeting are active correspondence players. They explained that the use of computers is no longer forbidden, which came as a surprise to those who don't play, but that players can agree between themselves to have "non-computer" matches if they wish.
13. **ECF Delegates Report;-)**
14. **NCCU Delegates Report;-)** Dave Cole reported on these two items together and full minutes of the meetings will be available on the Website. He said that the ECF have confirmed that membership fees and game fees will both remain unchanged next season.
15. **Website Organisers Report;**- There were thanks from everyone to David Shaw for all that he has done this year – and a round of applause too. He says that he tries his best to keep all of the information as up to date as possible but he would still welcome any contributions that anyone wishes to make, including perhaps some photographs.

**16. Matters Arising;-**

**Points for Discussion;-**

**(1) Steps to be taken in the event of unexpected noise, or any other, disruption to a match. Specifically relating to Windermere v Penrith where a band had been booked to play at the Marchesi Centre.**

The issue was discussed at some length with it being accepted that noise disturbance affect some players much more than others. There are so many varied possibilities which could arise that it is not possible to set out any rules to follow but essentially teams may decide either to move elsewhere, postpone the match or simply carry on. Ideally the team captains can reach some agreement on this and if the match has already commenced then they may wish to consider making a note of the board positions with a view to having the games adjudicated.

**(2) From Mark Mallard (SASRA), that the season shall begin earlier with at least two more fixtures before Christmas than usual, allowing more time to re-schedule any postponements. Perhaps have two fixtures in December instead of one as there are few Congresses on at that time.**

Everyone agreed with this in principle but the League Controller first needs to be advised of which teams are competing, particularly where a club may be entering a

number of teams, so that a fixture list can be prepared. In many cases clubs will wish to hold their own AGMs before deciding upon how many teams they wish to enter in the leagues. Bill Henderson suggested that if the starting date for the League was announced well in advance that it would then be up to clubs to hold their AGMs in time to be able to decide on this. It was therefore decided that in future the starting date for the league will be the third Saturday in September, so this year we will begin on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The other issue which may arise is providing details of nominated players and Trevor Blower suggested that if a club has not submitted any player nominations by the time of their first match then the players who take part could be treated as "nominated" but then amended later if wished and this was agreed.

**(3) From Mark Mallard (SASRA), that postal votes should be lodged on the Forum and thus can be easily collated.**

This general subject was discussed separately a little later in the meeting but it was accepted that this should be kept in mind as a possible means of registering voting wishes.

At this point Dave Cole recapped the procedures regarding postal votes. These votes had been collected by the Secretary and not made known to anyone. The proposals will be discussed as normal, then a vote taken and only then will the postal votes be declared and added to the show of hands in the room. If however, an amendment or improvement to a proposal is put forward and accepted then the vote in the room will be taken on that amended proposal and any postal votes will be disregarded as they related to what was a different proposal. Bill Hardwick also confirmed that no-one who had registered a postal vote was actually also present at the meeting.

#### **Proposals-**

- (1) From Trevor Blower (Barrow) – that Cumbria should run two leagues. An open league for 10 or 11 teams to play each other once with fixtures reversed the following year. If more than 11 teams join then split into A & B sections with the top teams to play off for the title. Also, a new Cumbria South Mid-week league open to Southern teams within one hours travelling time of each other with home and away fixtures depending on the number of teams entering.**
- (2) From Bill Hardwick (Carlisle) – that from season 2014/15 the Cumbria League should comprise Division 1 – as at present. Division 2 – for those teams wishing to seek promotion to Division 1 and are prepared to travel for any away games. Division 3 – For those teams who are not seeking promotion and prefer not to travel to all away games. At present it would only be "Southern" county teams in the Division 3 category which should avoid any travel problems.**

These two proposals were discussed together and the points raised related mainly to travel issues and the fact that not all teams can play regularly at weekends. The proposals were then voted upon and the outcomes were that for Proposal 1 there were 8 votes in favour and 4 against. There were then 3 postal votes against the proposal giving a total vote of 8 – 7 in favour. For Proposal 2 there were 6 votes in favour and 6 against and then 3 postal votes in favour, giving a total vote of 9-6 in favour. Dave Cole said that we must treat Proposal 2 as being a proposed amendment to Proposal 1 and as Proposal 1 was passed then this should stand. **(Postscript from Dave Cole: recognising too late that Proposal 2 should have been treated as an amendment and voted on first, then Proposal 2 would have carried the day and Proposal 1 fallen. We can see how the new format works next season and if need be re-introduce Proposal 2 for the following season).**

- (3) From David Shaw (Kendal) – To reintroduce the feeling of playing for a team against another team, that 1 point should be awarded for each individual win, ½ for an individual draw, 4 points for a team win and 2 points for a team draw. This is for all leagues.**

This was discussed in general and Martin Gawne proposed that the present scoring system should be retained but the meeting voted against this by 10-2. There was therefore a broad feeling in support of the proposal but Steve Murdoch put forward an amendment whereby team points should instead be added on the basis of 2 for a win and 1 for a draw and this was carried by 11 votes to 1. (In this instance the postal votes did not apply as the original proposal had been amended).

- (4) From Bill Hardwick (Carlisle) – That the use of Postal Voting should now be discontinued on the grounds that it is proving to be very cumbersome to administer and may also have the effect of discouraging members from actually attending AGMs.**

Views were expressed both in favour of the principle of enabling all members to be able to cast votes on issues without the need to attend the AGM and also in support of the need to actually attend the meeting to be able to hear the views of all sides. The possibility of allowing proxy voting was raised but generally discounted on the grounds that it could effectively allow for “block voting” by clubs. The proposal was then voted upon and supported by a show of hands of 8-7. When postal votes were then added the total voting was 8-10 against, so that postal voting will be retained.

17. **Prize Giving;**- the Division 1 trophy and also the Whitaker trophy were both presented to Dave Phillips on behalf of Windermere. The Division 2 trophy was presented to Gary Sharkey on behalf of Maryport club.

All other trophies had already been presented to the winners or were already held by them.

18. **Election of Officers and Committee:-**

**President;**- D Cole

**Secretary;**- Bill Hardwick retired and D Cole will act as Secretary until a new appointment is made.

**Treasurer;**- G Horne

**League Controller;**- Steve Murdoch (new)

**Membership Secretary;**- D Cole

**Grading Officer;**- M Gawne

**Junior Organiser;**- K Southernwood

**Assistant Junior Organisers (2);**- D Millar (North) and M Gawne (South)

**Match Captain;**- A McAtear;-

**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;**- D Cole

**Website Organiser;**- D Shaw

19. **County Championships 2015;**- these are due to be held in the North and it is probably the turn of Carlisle to do so but at present there is no suitable venue to use. Because of this Penrith have offered to stage the competition unless any other clubs volunteer to do so. The date will be announced in due course but is likely to be in February or March 2015.

20. **Next AGM 2015;**- This will be decided by the new secretary in due course and details will be announced then.

21. **Any other business;**-

Bill Henderson proposed that Bill Hardwick should be made an Honorary Vice-President of Cumbria Chess and this was agreed.  
Dave Cole reported that the South Lakes Congress had once again been a great success. It was very sad that Conrad Jowett who had been attending the congress for many years fell ill and died during the weekend as many of those taking part will have known him.

Thanks to all for attending and meeting closed.

Bill Hardwick  
(Secretary)