

Cumbria Chess Association

Minutes of the 124th Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 20th June 2015 at the Crown Hotel, Eamont Bridge, Penrith at 2pm

In attendance

D Cole (President), J Rashleigh (Secretary), G Horne (Treasurer), D Shaw (Kendal), T Blower (Barrow), N Foxcroft (Ulverston), P Hanks (Ulverston), G Rowan (Penrith), K Southernwood (Penrith), A McAteer (Penrith), L McAteer (Penrith), F Clough (Penrith), W Henderson (Maryport), N Hill (Grange), D Phillips (Windermere)

1. Apologies for absence had been received from H Austin, W Hardwick and P Walters
2. President's Address: Dave Cole noted the recent death of Bruce Wallace and the meeting held a minute's silence in memory. The new league structure had appeared to work well and it had been a season with few major problems. Dave Shaw deserved special mention for the work he had done on recreating the website and then keeping it up to date very efficiently. He noted that the Cumbria Open Championship had been won by a young player which was encouraging for the future.
3. Minutes of the 123rd AGM held on 28th June 2014 had been circulated to clubs and were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.
4. Correspondence The Secretary had received nothing of note. Dave Shaw noted that he had been contacted by someone seeking to re-establish a club in Keswick but he had heard no more since.
5. Secretary's Report Jonathan Rashleigh reported that it had been a quiet year. He recorded thanks to Bill Hardwick for enabling a smooth handover of the role and for providing sound advice when appropriate. The Secretary had carried out a full review of the Constitution and the latest version had been circulated to clubs.
6. Treasurer's Report. Audited accounts for the year to 31st May 2014 were circulated. For the year to 31st May 2015, George Horne reported that there had been a loss of £42 with a slight reduction in registration fees. It was noted that a surplus on the Cumbria Individual Championships had been retained by the organising club. The President considered this acceptable, the main concern being that there was not a loss that would have to be absorbed by the Association. It was agreed that the treatment of profits in future should be clarified. At the year end there had been £733 in the bank. The Treasurer proposed that League Fees should remain unchanged at £6 for adults and £1 for juniors. The report and proposals were approved unanimously by the meeting.
7. Membership Secretary's Report. Dave Cole reported that there were 80 Cumbria and ECF players compared with 99 last year, although this reduced to 87 when non-ECF members were excluded. He outlined the procedure for paying ECF membership via the Association if clubs or members did not want to register directly. Cheques for this should be sent directly to the President who would co-ordinate the registration.
8. League Controller's Report. Steve Murdoch had provided a written report in which he thanked all the individuals and clubs that had helped make the season a resounding success.

At the time of writing, only two league games had remained unplayed and no disputes had been reported. There had been no problems regarding player nominations where the situation needed clarification. The season had started in late September but run on into May. Perhaps an earlier start should be considered. The draw for the Whitaker had been made in its entirety at the start of the tournament. There was a case for doing the drawing on a round-by-round basis. Steve had confirmed that he would not be available to continue in the role next season. The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Steve for his good work before his departure to New Zealand.

9. Grading Officer's Report: Martin Gawne had been unable to attend the meeting but had indicated that there had been no issues during the season.
10. Junior Organiser's Report: Kevin reported that things were just about ticking over but that he was lacking assistance with Drew Miller having dropped out. In particular he needed support in the South of the County. John Kelly had been unable to organise a secondary schools competition but Kevin was trying to set this up as a one-off tournament. The Cumbria Junior individual championship was scheduled to be played on 11th July.
11. Match Captain's Report: Andy reported that two matches had been played against Yorkshire and Lancashire. Cumbria had been heavily outgraded and had lost both. There had been an inconsistency of approach in terms of board order with Cumbria applying the January grades but the other captains using the August grades. This could do with clarification.
12. Correspondence Captain's Report: In the absence of Chris Underhill there was no report. The President noted that there had been a lower level of activity and he believed that only three teams were involved in the inter-county matches.
13. ECF Delegate's Report: Dave Cole reported that an increase in membership rates had been approved with Bronze membership increasing from £13 to £15, Silver from £19 to £22 and Gold from £25 to £32. A sponsorship deal with Tradewise had recently been agreed which was welcome but called into question the need for these increases. The ECF had issued a Strategy document and Governance review to individual members. It was agreed that the Governance Review should be circulated to clubs and players for comment.
14. NCCU Delegate's Report: Dave Cole noted that George Horne was still President and Treasurer of NCCU. He was the Secretary and Martin Gawne was the Grading Officer so the union was largely run from Barrow! Penrith would be playing Heywood in the final of the minor club championships. The Pennine Cup would be run next year in Northumberland. The NCCU Individual Championships next year would be held within next year's South Lakes Congress with two British Championship places to be played for. Dave also noted that the Northen NCL was recruiting for players. This involved five weekends in the year and would provided good competitive chess for anyone interested.
15. Website Organiser's Report: Dave Shaw reported that the revamped website had generally been well received. His aim was for the whole county to use it as the means of communications thus doing away with the need for emails to individual clubs. He was starting to monitor the number of website hits to see how much it was used. The meeting expressed their thanks to Dave for the quantum improvement in the timeliness and accuracy of the information put on the site and for the fact that it was easy to navigate.

16. Endorsement of Constitution including changes from the previous AGM: This had been previously circulated and displayed on the website and was endorsed by the meeting without further amendment.
17. Discussion and voting on proposals : The Secretary reported that he had only received one postal vote which would be taken into account wherever applicable.
- a. *Nominated players from David Shaw* - after considerable debate this was adopted on the Chairman's casting vote with voting from the floor and post tied at 5-5.
 - b. *Alternative nominated players from Mark Mallard* - this had been included in the previous discussion as a potential amendment but received no seconder and was therefore rejected.
 - c. *Abolition of postal voting from Jonathan Rashleigh* - This was seconded by Dave Shaw and passed by 7 votes to 2.
 - d. *Non-graded competition from George Horne* - This was not seconded and therefore not passed. It was pointed out that George could organise an unofficial version of this if he wished to without the need for AGM approval.
 - e. *No points for matches not played by mutual agreement from David Shaw* - Seconded by Bill Henderson and passed unanimously
 - f. *Seek more even home and away fixtures in Whitaker from David Shaw* - It was agreed that this should be sought by making the draw after each round but that colours should still be decided by toss of coin. Seconded by Andy McAteer and passed 7-0
 - g. *Time limits for Whitaker defaults from David Shaw* - Seconded by Andy McAteer and passed unanimously
 - h. *Ungraded players on bottom board in Whitaker from Bill Henderson* - This proposal was discussed but not seconded and so failed.
 - i. *Default loss included for grading from David Shaw* - The meeting was of the opinion that this was not possible within FIDE/ECF grading rules so was withdrawn.
 - j. *Rules if mutually agreed dates not easily found from David Shaw*- The meeting agreed that something needed to be codified but that the specific wording needed more thought and this should be addressed by the President, Secretary and League Controller.
 - k. *Use of January Grades from David Shaw* - The meeting passed this unanimously.
 - l. *Using the old names for the new league structure from David Shaw* - The meeting rejected this by 4 votes to 6.
18. Prize Giving: The President awarded the cup for the winners of the Open League to Windermere A. and the Whitaker Trophy to Ulverston. The Southern Midweek League cup was not available to be presented to Barrow A - Maryport to action.
19. Election of Officers: The following were elected unanimously:
- a. President: Dave Cole

- b. Secretary: Jonathan Rashleigh
- c. Treasurer: George Horne
- d. League Controller: Dave Shaw
- e. Grading Officer: Martin Gawne
- f. Junior Organiser: Kevin Southernwood
- g. Match Captain: Andy McAteer
- h. Correspondence Captain : Chris Underhill
- i. Auditor: Neil Foxcroft
- j. Press Officer: Dave Cole
- k. ECF and NCCU Delegate: Dave Cole
- l. Website Organiser: Dave Shaw

20. Any Other Business:

- a. George Horne indicated that he would like to establish the appetite for an unofficial ungraded competition via the website.
- b. Ulverston volunteered to host the Cumbria Individual Championships next year
- c. There was discussion on the use of electronic clocks and the scope for changing the league time limits through their use. The meeting showed little appetite for moving formally towards a change but agreed that captains could agree to use them and also to change the time limit provided that the resulting time controls were still adequate for a long play graded game and the two teams were in agreement.

21. Date of Next AGM: To be agreed. There was consensus that it should take place in the South of the county either in Barrow or Ulverston.