

Cumbria Chess Association

Minutes of the 125th Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 23rd July 2016 at the British Legion Club, Barrow-in-Furness at 2pm

In attendance

D Cole (President), J Rashleigh (Secretary), G Horne (Treasurer), D Shaw (League Controller), M Gawne (Grading Officer), T Blower, Alan Llewelyn, David Martin (Barrow), P Hanks, N Foxcroft (Ulverston), C Bragg (Windermere)

It was noted with regret that there were no representatives present from the Carlisle, Penrith, Maryport and SASRA clubs meaning that the majority of playing members in the Association were not represented at the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence None had been received.
2. President's Address: Dave Cole noted the recent death of Peter Johnson who had at different times played for Windermere, Kendal, Ulverston and Grange. A minute's silence was observed in memory.

It had been a quietly successful season with almost all matches played and no major problems.

The Cumbria Individual Championships held in Ulverston were a success and thanks go to Peter Hanks and his team for organising an excellent event.

There had been contact with a newly formed club in Keswick and it was to be hoped that they would be able to enter a team in the league. The secretary would include them in all future emails and circulars to clubs.

3. Minutes of the 124th AGM held on 20th June 2015 had been circulated to clubs and were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.
4. Correspondence Nothing of note.
5. Secretary's Report Jonathan Rashleigh reported that it had been a quiet year with no unusual items to report.
6. Treasurer's Report. George Horne circulated Accounts for the year to 31st May 2016. There had been a loss of £43.25 in the year as a result of a reduction in registration fees. At the year end there had been £689.95 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.

The accounts for 2015 had been audited without problem.

There was a discussion relating to the fact that ECF did not appear to invoice for sundry game fees payable when non-registered players were involved in league matches. The President would establish how the system was meant to work.

7. Membership Secretary's Report. Dave Cole reported that there were 88 Cumbria players registered in the year compared with 87 the previous year. The breakdown of this number

was Carlisle 21, Penrith 17, Barrow 12, Ulverston 9, Kendal 8, Maryport 8, Windermere 7 and SASRA 6.

8. League Controller's Report. Dave Shaw had not experienced any major problems in his first year in the role. What issues there had been had revolved around the difficulties some teams had in raising a team on the original dates and some matches had not been played until May and June. Various of the proposals to be discussed later were attempts to address this problem.

The new system of drawing lots for each round of the Whittaker had worked well.

Peter Hanks proposed a vote of thanks to Dave for the efficiency with which he had processed match results and maintained the website.

9. Grading Officer's Report: Martin Gawne reported that there had been no issues during the season.
10. Junior Organiser's Report: In the absence of Kevin Southernwood there was no report.
11. Match Captain's Report: In the absence of Andy McAteer, no report was submitted. The President noted that there had been a match against Lancashire in which Cumbria had been well beaten and a friendly match against Manchester which had resulted in a narrow loss.
12. Correspondence Captain's Report: In the absence of Chris Underhill there was no report.
13. ECF Delegate's Report: Dave Cole reported on the Council meeting held in April. Proposed increases in membership rates had been rejected so both membership rates and game fees were unchanged. Most of the proposed project expenditure in the budget had also been rejected by the meeting. Items raised by the Unions had been included at the end of the agenda and were never discussed as the meeting ran out of time. This reinforced ongoing concern about establishing better links between the ECF organisation, the regional Unions and the Northern Counties.
14. NCCU Delegate's Report: George Horne had completed his term as President of NCCU but Barrow members continued to fill most of the officer positions. Penrith had beaten Heywood in the final of the minor club championships. Barrow had won the Seniors championship. The Pennine Cup had been run in Northumberland but Cumbria had been the only other Northern County to field a team. Cumbria have agreed to try and host this next year if there is sufficient take up.
15. Website Organiser's Report: Dave Shaw reported that use of the website did seem to be growing. In the first quarter of 2016 there had been an average of 150 hits a day as opposed to 100 the year before. Some leagues had provided facilities for clubs to input match results directly themselves. This would be possible but would require some rearrangement of the website. After a brief discussion the meeting confirmed that they were happy with the current arrangements of emailing results in for Dave to enter.
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 (original proposals attached):

Proposal 1 – *It was unanimously agreed* that the Cumbria Individual Championships should revert to two sections consisting of a Major and Minor Under 130 section. Within this last,

the Bob Greenhaugh Trophy should be awarded to the best placed Cumbrian player with a grade of 100 or less. The tournament would still be classed as an Open event.

Proposal 2 - *This was defeated as a consequence of the meeting approving Proposal 4* which made the proposal's definition of new members irrelevant.

Proposal 3 – *The meeting rejected by a majority vote* the proposal for reducing teams to 3 players in the event of the original fixture not being honoured.

Proposal 4 – *The meeting approved by a majority* the proposal that all players be able to play two League or Knockout match games before registering with the Association. A game fee would be payable to ECF if a player is not registered with ECF and it remains compulsory for players to register with ECF if playing more than two match games.

Proposal 5 – *The meeting approved by a majority* the proposal allowing board order to be flexible for league matches where there was a maximum of 5 grading points difference between the grades of the relevant players. *The meeting unanimously agreed that this should not apply to Knockout matches.*

Proposal 6 – *The meeting unanimously approved* this proposal to clarify the wording within sections 3.e 3.h and 3.l of the Constitution

Proposal 7 – *Was withdrawn at the meeting by the Proposer.*

Proposal 8 – *The meeting approved by a majority* the proposal that a player could play for another club in the same league in the same season provided that that player could not play more than 3 such games having played more than 3 games for another team.

Proposal 9 – *The meeting unanimously approved* the proposal to amend section 4(2).g to allow flexibility for agreeing a league fixture date within 3 weeks and 1 day of the actual date stipulated in the fixture list. This would be used in conjunction with section 4(2).h. The same change would apply to sections 4(3).c and 4(3).d with regard to the Knockout competition.

Proposal 10 - *The meeting unanimously approved* the proposal to improve the wording of section 4(2).p with regard to the reporting of match results.

Proposal 11 – *The meeting unanimously approved* the proposal to change the wording of section 4(2).q to reflect the change in the maximum number of points now capable of being won in a match.

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 existing officers were all re-elected unanimously:

President: Dave Cole, Secretary: Jonathan Rashleigh, Treasurer: George Horne,
League Controller: Dave Shaw, Grading Officer: Martin Gawne, Junior Organiser: Kevin Southernwood, Match Captain: Andy McAteer, Correspondence Captain : Chris Underhill,
Auditor: Neil Foxcroft, Press Officer: Dave Cole, ECF and NCCU Delegate: Dave Cole,
Website Organiser: Dave Shaw

20. Any Other Business:

Length of Season – There was some discussion of the possible need to extend the playing season beyond the end of April in order to fit in all fixtures. The meeting agreed that there

was no problem in principle with playing games in May but the approved proposal 9 limited this extension to within 3 weeks and 1 day of the last scheduled date in the fixture list which would always be before the end of April. It was acknowledged that this playing matches after the end of April could present practical problems for individual clubs.

Communications – Dave Shaw expressed concerns as to whether all communications were successfully filtered down to all playing members of clubs. It was agreed that the Secretary should remind all club secretaries of their responsibilities to ensure that this happened. He would at the same time remind clubs that all their members should be made aware of the Association website address.

South Lakes Congress – The 2015 congress had been a success with 180 players. However Trevor Blower reported that the Grand Hotel Grange had indicated that they were no longer prepared to host this event without a significant guarantee as to the number of rooms that would be booked by chessplayers. There would be an attempt to negotiate further with the hotel but it was likely that a new venue would need to be found and all ideas would be welcomed by Trevor, especially if anyone in Cumbria knew of a suitable hotel and/or conference facility.

County Individual Championships – Continuing the established principle of alternating the venue between the North and South parts of the county it was suggested that either Carlisle or Penrith may like to organise this again. It was noted that the date in 2016 had clashed with the Northern 4NCL weekend which should therefore be avoided if possible.

County Team Rapidplay – Peter Hanks indicated that he would like to organise a one day team of 3 tournament with teams being limited to a maximum combined grading and 5 rapidplay games to be played by each team in the day. It was agreed that a working party of Peter Hanks, Neil Foxcroft, Martin Gawne and Dave Cole be established to work up this proposal.

21. Date of Next AGM: To be agreed. It would be the turn of one of the clubs from the North of the county to host this. The venue could not be confirmed in the absence of any of these clubs from the meeting.