

Cumbria Chess Association

Minutes of the 128th Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 20th July 2019 at the Abbott Hall Social Centre, Kendal at 2pm

In attendance

D Cole (President), J Rashleigh (Secretary), G Horne (Treasurer), A McAtear (Match Captain), P Hanks, N Foxcroft (Ulverston), N Maxwell (Keswick), M Thistlewood (Kendal)

1. Apologies for absence. P Walters, J Dobson and D Shaw. The Secretary reported that Dave Shaw had suffered a heart attack and had undergone heart bypass surgery two days before the meeting. The President would send Dave a get well soon card on behalf of the Association.

The President noted that there were only 8 people attending the AGM with three clubs (Carlisle, Maryport and Windermere) not being represented at all. This was regrettable – particularly as the choice of a Kendal venue had been partly on the basis of its accessibility.

2. President's Address. The season had run well with all matches played. There had however been a further decline in membership numbers. Thanks were again due to Peter Hanks for running the County Team Rapidplay event and also the Cumbria Individual Championships both of which had been very successful.

Neil Maxwell asked whether it would be possible to schedule more matches to take place before Christmas to prevent the fixture congestion towards the end of the season. The meeting agreed that this should be raised with Dave Shaw.

3. Minutes. of the 127th AGM held on 23rd June 2018 and the Special General Meeting held on 1st September 2018 had been circulated to clubs and were approved as a true record.

It was noted that the idea of a match between the Open League and the South League had not been pursued. The Secretary would circulate clubs and something would be put on the website to establish the potential for such a match on the basis of perhaps 12-16 boards.

4. Correspondence. Nothing to record.

5. Reports.

- a) Secretary's Report. Apart from the need to arrange the Special General Meeting following on from last year's AGM, it had been a quiet year with nothing to report.

- b) Treasurer's Report. George Horne circulated Audited Accounts for the year to 31st May 2018 and the unaudited results for the year to 31st May 2019. These showed a surplus of £197.49 and there was now £973.40 in the bank.

League fees were down mainly as a result of the withdrawal of SASRA from the league but costs were also reduced with the discontinuance of expenditure on the ECF Yearbook and the fact that only one county match had been played.

There was a suggestion from the floor that fees should be reduced on the basis of the significant reserve now held. Alternative suggestions were made that some of the reserve should be specifically ring fenced for use to try and help clubs promote chess in their area.

The meeting agreed that £250 should be allotted for this purpose and the President would establish a working party to consider ways of achieving this.

On this basis, the Treasurer proposed that League Fees should remain unchanged at £6 for adults and £1 for juniors and this was approved.

- c) Membership Secretary's Report. Dave Cole reported that there were 84 Cumbria players registered in the year, down from 97 in the previous year.

- d) League Controller's Report. Dave Shaw had provided a written report as follows:

All league matches were played.

On only 2 occasions was rule 4 (2) h used (i.e. home captain offering 2 dates and away captain picking one of them) when there had been some difficulty in agreeing a fixture date.

There was a little confusion over the rule of rule 4 (2) f during one match when some people thought the limit was 4 weeks and 2 days, not 4 weeks and 1 day, to play games. Bill Hardwick said that he had originally intended to type 4 weeks and 2 days but that it came out as 4 weeks and 1 day. I have suggested changing to 4 weeks and 2 days in a proposal.

The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Dave for the work he did and to the League team captains for helping to make the fixture arrangements work.

- e) Grading Officer's Report. Andy McAtear confirmed that this had taken place smoothly with no problems to report.
- f) Junior Organiser's Report. No report had been submitted. Kevin Southernwood was stepping down. The President would contact John Lydon and Eggert Fruchtenicht to establish what could be put in place.

Peter Hanks informed the meeting that he was running some junior sessions in Ulverston to try and attract more youngsters to chess.

Peter Cloudsdale from Yorkshire was trying to organise some county junior matches and to continue the Pennine Cup.

- g) Match Captain's Report. Andy McAtear reported that only one match had been played against Lancashire in which Cumbria had been heavily outgraded and well beaten 9-3. There were ongoing problems trying to fix a date with Yorkshire.

The President reported that there was a very keen captain of the Yorkshire U140 team. The meeting agreed that Andy should try and set up an U140 team for the coming season as there was a better chance of fielding a competitive team and the matches being arranged.

- h) ECF Delegates and NCCU Delegates Report. Dave Cole reported on the recent NCCU AGM. Tim Wall was the NCCU Delegate to the ECF. A NCCU proposal that ECF Membership increases should be limited to inflation had been heavily defeated. Increases of between 11% and 14% had recently been imposed for 2019 with similar further increases proposed for 2020.

NCCU had also proposed that there should be a cap on the amount allocated to the International Fund but this had again been defeated.

It was noted that a questionnaire on grading that had gone to all ECF members earlier in the year had resulted in a large majority in favour of moving to a four digit grading system with monthly updates.

The meeting discussed the basis of team selection grading criteria for matches within NCCU given that there were already August and January alternatives and the situation would become further confused when monthly grading was implemented. The President would check the current position.

- i) Website Organiser's Report. In a written report, Dave Shaw had noted that the website was getting about 130-180 hits a day on average and sometimes in excess of 200.

Andy McAtear was now running the Games page and the County Chess pages of the website.

6. Discussion and voting on proposals previously notified (original proposals attached).

The proposed change in section 4(2)(f) to 4 weeks and 2 days was passed unanimously.

The proposed amendment to section 4(2)(e) that boards should be played in grading order without any flexibility was rejected. It was noted that monthly grading could present interesting challenges in relation to this section when introduced.

The proposal to penalise a team by an additional penalty point if they played an ineligible player was passed unanimously.

7. Prize Giving. Carlisle A had retained the Walker Cup for the winners of the Open League which was not therefore presented. Similarly, Barrow A had retained the Southern Midweek League Association Cup.

The Whitaker Trophy had been won by Barrow 2 and was presented at the meeting.

The Higgins Trophy for the winner of the Cumbria Individual Championship had been won by Roger Hart.

The Cumbria Individual U130 Championship had been won by Alan Hiatt and the U100 by Tim Bowler.

8. Election of Officers. The following officers were all elected unanimously:

President: Dave Cole, Secretary: Jonathan Rashleigh, Treasurer: George Horne, League Controller: Dave Shaw, Grading Officer: Andy McAtear, Match Captain: Andy McAtear, ECF Delegate: Dave Cole, NCCU Delegates: Dave Cole and George Horne, Website Organiser: Dave Shaw, Auditor: Neil Foxcroft.

9. Any Other Business.

Andy McAtear suggested that consideration should be given when doing the round by round draw for the Whitaker to the previous home or away record of each team and the location reversed if one team had already played an excess of home fixtures and the other team an excess of away fixtures.

A venue was needed for next year's County Individual Championships. The Secretary would establish the availability and cost of the Kendal venue. Alternatives were to hold them in Barrow at either the British Legion Club or the Walney Island hall with Trevor Blower organising or to continue at Shap.

The Secretary would also investigate availability and costs of Kendal for the rapidplay event to be held in the Autumn.

In the context of holding events to promote chess in the county, Peter Hanks questioned where the large outdoor sets were. He had one but there used to be another one. Maybe Hilary Austin or Bill Henderson would know. It was agreed that one could be purchased if needed.

Date of Next AGM. To be agreed.

Proposals for discussion and voting (agenda item 6)

From Dave Shaw:

Amendment to Section 4(2)(f)

1. That games are played before the fixture date, or within 4 weeks and 2 days.

This simply changes the Constitution to how we are now actually doing it. Bill Hardwick said he initially intended this so that a Sunday is also included.

Amendment to Section 4(2)(e)

2. That boards are played in ECF order, or estimated order.

Moving boards around if less than 6 points difference does not really achieve much and takes us away from FIDE rules.

Additional section in 4(2)

3. If teams play a player not eligible for any reason then not only does that board default but there is also a penalty point applied to the team total.

The current situation is that the board is defaulted but any extra penalty is left to the controller. To make life easy I would like a standard rule so that I do not have to think and also things are consistent.

All of the above amendments, if passed, would also flow through to section 4(3) relating to the Knockout Championships.