

## Cumbria Chess Association

### Minutes of the 131st Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at the Crown Hotel, Eamont Bridge at 2pm

#### In attendance

D Cole (President), J Rashleigh (Secretary), G Horne (Treasurer), D Shaw (League Controller), J Lydon (Junior Organiser), A McAtear (Match Captain/Rating), P Hanks, N Foxcroft (Ulverston), G Sharkey, J Todd (Maryport) , W Hardwick, J Ovens (Carlisle).

#### 1. Apologies for absence.

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#### 2. Minutes of the 130<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022

These had been circulated to clubs and were approved as a true record.

#### 3. Correspondence

None

#### 4.a) President's Report

The President reported on a positive year with most clubs gaining an influx of new members and the League having operated smoothly with all matches completed and no disputes.

John Lydon was getting some momentum into the development of Junior chess in the County after several years where there had been no activity. The NCCU were also supporting juniors with the NCCU Schools Award for 2024 slated for Cumbria to put in a citation to the NCCU Secretary. The Pennine cup, an U16 Junior team competition, is intended to be held in 2024 organised by the Manchester Chess Federation.

The simultaneous display with Grandmaster Keith Arkell organised by Maryport had been fully attended.

It was regrettable that neither Keswick nor SASRA had been able to field teams. The President felt that efforts should be made to keep in touch with them to try and encourage them back.

The President thanked the Association for their increased contribution towards the South Lakes Congress. Attendance had been adversely affected by a train strike and, in part because of that, numbers were down and the Congress had lost money this year.

#### 4.b) Secretary's Report

A quiet year with nothing out of the ordinary to report.

#### 4.c) Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

There had been a deficit of £230.71 in the year with the balance at bank reducing to £747.45.

County match expenses had increased significantly due in part to higher room hire charges.

With all costs likely to increase with inflation, the Treasurer recommended an increase in the adult registration fee from £6 to £8. The President suggested a larger increase to £10 to catch up with rising costs. After discussion the meeting voted to support the recommendation of £8 with juniors remaining at £1.

The meeting also agreed that £200 should be contributed by the Association towards the prize costs of the South Lakes Congress.

#### 4.d) Membership Secretary's Report

Although clubs were reporting increased local membership, there had been a drop in the number of players registered with the Association and members of the ECF from 105 to 93. The breakdown of this was: Carlisle 23, Penrith 13, Maryport 13, Kendal 15, Barrow 9 and Ulverston 15 with 5 others registered elsewhere.

The Membership secretary reminded the meeting that the first year of ECF membership for juniors was free and that clubs should therefore try and encourage juniors to join to try and tie them in for the future.

#### 4.e) League Controller's Report

It had been a good year with all matches played on time and no problems being raised.

The Controller had noted that the season for the Open League had been very short with so few matches being played and he wondered whether the league should play teams both home and away in the coming season. The clubs involved indicated however that they were likely to be putting more teams into the league so things should be left as last year for the present.

The meeting supported the continuation of 3 man teams for matches with the option to play larger teams if mutually agreeable. This had worked well in practise last year.

#### 4.f) Rating Officer's Report

It had been an easy year with the new Rating system having settled down and there having been few problems.

#### 4.g) Junior Organiser's Report

The first junior tournament for some years had been held last year and have been successful. The Junior Organiser thanked Peter Hanks for the help he had provided with that. It had made a small but manageable loss.

A second tournament was being organised to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Costs this time round would be considerably reduced so it should be able to at least break even on the basis of a £5 entry fee.

There was a chess Summer School being held for five days in the coming week for chess beginners. Details had been posted on the Cumbria website.

The Junior Organiser would consider arrangements for playing the Pennine Cup referred to by the President.

The meeting noted that the Junior Section had its own bank account under the control of the Junior Organiser which currently contained £725. Given the difficulties in setting up an account with joint signatures for small non-profit organisations at any of the banks, the meeting confirmed that it was happy for the funds to remain under the sole control of the Junior Organiser.

#### 4.h) Match Captain's Report

There had been three inter-county matches played during the season. The first against Merseyside at home had been a win 8-4. The second where Cumbria were heavily outrated by a very strong Yorkshire team was lost 2-10. The third against Greater Manchester was lost 3.5 – 8.5. Greg Millar deserved special mention having played in all three matches, winning one game and drawing both the others.

The meeting confirmed that the County should continue to enter teams at U1850 level which had worked much better than U1650 in terms of player availability.

#### 4.i) & 4.j) ECF and NCCU Delegate Reports

The President reported that, although Greater Manchester had now been accepted into the NCCU after a long hiatus, Lancashire had now effectively disaffiliated by not paying the affiliation fee. It is hoped that they will return in the future and play in the County Championship. Cleveland has now re-affiliated to the NCCU although it has been incorporated as a political entity back into Yorkshire.

Next year would be the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCCU and various ideas were being proposed in order to recognise this including a Grand Prix event which would promote Northern congresses with additional prizes for best scores in a number of congress events during the course of 2024. Details are being formulated presently. Also a 1 day Jamboree is being considered for the NCCU Club competition with different sections (Open, Major, Minor & Seniors) for the 4 player team event; awaiting announcements.

The ECF had announced in the national press the promise of a £500,000 grant from Government to support the wider development of chess in England but there was as yet no indication of how these funds might be used.

#### 4.k) Website Organiser Report

The Organiser had nothing to report. The membership continued to provide very positive feedback on the effectiveness of the site.

#### 5. Presentation of Trophies

The President made the following presentations:

Whitaker Trophy champions - to Carlisle B received by James Ovens

Cumbria South champions – to Ulverston A received by Peter Hanks

Open League champions – to Penrith A received by Andy McAtear.

#### 6. Discussion and Voting on the Proposals previously notified (proposals attached)

6.a) Proposal relating to the timing of events prior to the AGM – The meeting agreed that the wording of sections 3.4 and 3.5 of the Constitution should be merged into a single section providing a consistent framework for notice of the AGM to be provided whilst allowing the maximum time for clubs or members to submit Proposals. The Secretary would redraft these sections and agree the final wording with the Committee.

6.b) Proposal relating to the use of email in match organisation in section 4.2(h) – This proposal was supported unanimously.

6.c) Proposal regarding the wording of the fixture list on the website with regard to the time limit of 4 weeks and 2 days for matches to be played per section 4.2(f). Maryport proposed that some extra time should be allowed increasing the deadline to 5 weeks and 2 days from the stipulated fixture date. The meeting supported this unanimously. The meeting agreed that it remained necessary to keep a time limit in place regardless of how it was shown on the website. The meeting also agreed that there was no restriction on playing matches before the due date if both clubs agreed.

## 7. Election of Officers

The President confirmed his intention not to stand again as President. There was no-one in the room willing to take on the role and a candidate would therefore have to be sought from within the clubs as a matter of urgency.

The following officers were all elected unanimously:

Secretary: Jonathan Rashleigh

Treasurer: George Horne

League Controller: Dave Shaw

Membership Secretary: Andy McAtear

Rating Officer: Andy McAtear

Match Captain: Andy McAtear

Junior Organiser: John Lydon

ECF Delegate: Vacant

NCCU Delegates: George Horne and the President when one is elected

Website Organiser: Dave Shaw

Hon. Auditor: Neil Foxcroft.

## 8. Any Other Business

In answer to a question from Bill Hardwick, the secretary confirmed that he no longer received or contributed to a ECF Yearbook now that everything is recorded in digital format. It was not clear from the ECF website that information on Regional and County Structures was available any more.

There was no longer space on the existing Whitaker Trophy for adding the names of winners. After discussion, it was agreed that a new trophy was required – preferably one that was a little less cumbersome. Peter Hanks agreed to work on the design of a replacement trophy.

## 9. Date of Next AGM.

To be agreed.

## **Proposals Previously Notified**

From David Shaw:

*Amendments to the following sections of the Constitution:*

*3.4 I suggest at least two weeks (rather than four as at present), so people can send in proposals after receiving notice of the AGM §but before the agenda is sent out.*

*4.2(h) I think should say "email, if possible". It has proved impossible to insist on people using emails. Also, in the same paragraph the wording should say "inform" the League controller instead of "cc".*

From Andy McAteer:

*That the dates on the fixture list be "to be played by". This would make it easier for everyone. As it is, captains need to calculate how long they have and often find that they are struggling to get the match played If, in the league, round 5 gets played before round 3 then what's the problem?*