

Cumbria Chess Association

Minutes of the 134th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 18th July 2026 at the Beacon Social Club, Penrith at 13:00

Attendees

E. Fruchtenicht (President), M Haworth (Secretary), D Shaw (League Controller & Website Organiser), N Cooper (Treasurer), J Lydon (Junior Organiser), A McAteer (Match Captain & Rating Officer), G Sharkey (Maryport), D Cole (Barrow), P Hanks (Ulverston)

1 - Apologies for Absence

Neill Foxcroft (Auditor) & Jonathan Rashleigh (Kendal)

2 – President's Address

There was nothing major to report this year. Both Andy & Eggert attended the NCCU AGM where there were no real major developments or points to feedback on. No new NCCU president was voted in.

3 – Minutes of the 2025 AGM & Matters Arising

The minutes from the previous AGM were accepted unanimously

4 – Correspondence

Nothing to report

5 – County Officers' Reports:

5a – Secretary (M Haworth)

Discussions around a safeguarding policy were continued from the previous AGM. The secretary had undertaken some benchmarking against other country chess websites and their policies. The findings of these were that most websites had simply copied the ECF's safeguarding policy.

It was noted that there had been previous drafts of a safeguarding policy however they had not been uploaded onto the website. It was agreed that these should be found and reviewed. It was also agreed that the CCA should adopt the ECF's policy (as other county chess associations have done) and reference this within the website.

5b – Report & Accounts (N Cooper)

It was reported that all championships held in Cumbria were able to provide the allotted prize money in full. It was noted that county matches were more expensive than previous years.

Rheged was also more expensive this year since there was no ECF community fund available to support it.

It was noted that the South Lakes Chess Congress made a £500 loss, however some funds were reserved from previous years to be able to cover the difference.

South Lakes was discussed in detail, as it was noted that following Neil Druggan's review video on the tournament, it would use Swiss Manager in future to allow pairings to be made available online to players prior to matches starting. Other ideas such as running a junior tournament at the same time to allow for use of the additional room was also discussed. It

was also noted that the CCA agreed to support the event with a sum of £200 for 2025 and £200 for 2026.

Based on the accounts from this year, there was no need to increase subscription fees. This was approved by committee.

5c – Membership Secretary

Membership since last year has decreased slightly, since there were 79 members this year when compared to 88 last year. The numbers of juniors had increased by 3 since last year, and the number of female players had increased by 1.

It was noted that 2 members' ECF memberships had expired.

5d – League Controller

There were a couple of issues noted with teams not playing their games on time. An instance of this occurred with Barrow chess club, whereby a game was organised before Christmas however the organiser was not aware of an event that was already taking place in the room. This led to the match being cancelled.

It was reaffirmed that the fixture date is the date that clubs should aim to play by rather than leaving it too late. Games should be planned 6 weeks before the fixture date, and it is encouraged to play any game at any time before the fixture date.

Going forward, 'if a game is not played by the last date to be played by date- which is 5 weeks and 2 days after fixture date, unless it can be shown that one of the teams actually followed the rules then **both teams would not receive any points** unless it can be shown that one team was particularly at fault for the match not going ahead.

5e – Rating Officer

One issue was raised around an individual who had played 1 league game but 5 club games. The individual's membership is due to expire soon anyway, so it is not anticipated that this will cause any issues.

5f – Junior Organiser

John paid a visit to Haverigg Prison last December. All those involved remarked that it was a very positive experience. Courtesy of John's work, the prison have received a generous donation of books and DVDs from chess clubs and individuals. Sets and clocks have also been donated from Barrow Chess Club.

The Cumbria Junior Championship went ahead, although with lower numbers than previous years.

Other tournaments have been ongoing. Peter Hanks has successfully run 3 tournaments in the Coronation Hall in Ulverston. Similarly, Neill Copper has also held a couple of tournaments for schools and has also had involvement with online chess tournaments.

It was noted that, for the first time ever, the government intends to put funding towards encouraging chess in schools, particularly in deprived areas (the criteria being >30% of children claiming free school meals). More detail to follow.

5g – Match Captain

Cumbria won a county chess game this year! The final result of the year was a 6.5-4.5 win over Greater Manchester. Cumbria lost the other two games earlier in the year against Merseyside (held in the Jubilee Club in Torrisholme) and Yorkshire (held at Barnard Castle)

Discussions were held around putting forward an U1450 team into the country circuit and using this as an opportunity to encourage juniors to play. It was agreed that this option should be explored further.

5h & I – ECF & NCCU Matters

Nothing further to report

5j – Website Organiser

It was noted that the website will now cost the CCA £100-£150 per year to run.

The website organiser will not post any pictures of juniors unless permission is received by the website organiser from the parent/guardian.

It was asked that any requests to put descriptions or summaries of events or tournaments should be sent to the website organiser in full so they can be uploaded onto the website directly.

6 – Presentation of Trophies

Whitaker Trophy – This was won by Ulverston 1. The old shield was presented to Peter Hanks on behalf of the Ulverston team.

South League Trophy – This was won by Ulverston A. The trophy was presented to Neill Cooper on behalf of the Ulverston team.

Open League Trophy – This was won by Maryport A. The trophy was presented to Gary Sharkey on behalf of the Maryport team.

7 – Discussion & Voting on Proposals Previously Notified

N/A

8 – Election of Officers

The President was re-elected unanimously.

The following officers were re-elected unanimously:

Secretary: Matthew Haworth

Treasurer: Neill Cooper

League Controller: Dave Shaw

Membership Secretary: Andy McAtear

Rating Officer: Andy McAtear

Match Captain: Andy McAtear

Junior Organiser: John Lydon

ECF Delegate: Eggert Fruchtenicht

NCCU Delegates: Egger Fruchtenicht and Andy McAtear

Website Organiser: Dave Shaw

Safeguarding Officer: John Lydon

Hon. Auditor: Neil Foxcroft

It should be noted that John Lydon intends to step down from his roles at next year's AGM.

9 – Any Other Business

The question was raised about using Rheged as the North vs South Match venue next year. It was agreed that a cheaper alternative should be sought out.

10 – Date of Next Meeting

TBD