

Cumbria Junior Chess Tournament 2022 Report

On the day

The day didn't get off to the best of starts as we were about 15 minutes late gaining entry to the venue.

This had a knock on effect as we were late for setting things up.

This was compounded a bit further on account of having had to agree to let people pay their entry fees on the day, due to the Building Society Account not having any on line capacity.

The next hiccup was that 2 pairs of players in the Under 18 section mis read the board and paired up wrongly.

As that section was being played as a round robin, it wasn't too bad as they would have played each other later anyway, but it did add to the delay, as putting it right on the laptop software wasn't possible, so I worked out a manual schedule instead.

As this was my first time of running a tournament, I was a bit slow at some of the admin tasks.

Nearly an hour had been set aside for lunch.

This was reduced as the morning had gone slowly.

Every single person that attended remembered to take a packed lunch, so the emergency rations in case anyone forgot were not needed.

The afternoon went very smoothly.

Tournament format

The Under 18 section was played as a Round Robin over 7 rounds.

The Under 13 section was played as a Swiss, also over 7 rounds.

The time was 15 minutes for each player in both sections.

I think that 15 minute per player and 7 rounds worked very well, and I wouldn't hesitate to keep that for future events.

Whether to play as a Swiss or Round Robin would depend on the number of players in each section.

To make planning easier for the next time, I would keep the Under 18 and Under 13 sections as well.

Entry Deadline

Because I didn't know how many players there would be or their ages, I set a deadline of the 1st to encourage early entry.

I had no intention at all of refusing entry to anyone who missed the entry deadline.

Two people emailed me after the 1st to ask if they could still enter and I told both of them that they could and would be welcome.

It's possible that some people may have seen the deadline, and not contacted me to ask if they could still play.

For the future, I won't have an entry deadline, and I'll use this tournament for the planning guide.

Tournament Cost

It has been an expensive tournament.

The main costs being the venue, newspaper advertisement and trophies.

The account had a healthy balance, and although it's taken a beating it's still not at all bad.

As it was to re-launch Junior Chess, I think that the expense was justified, but we can't just run every event at a loss, so it can't be repeated.

It should easily be possible to reduce costs.

I'll be keeping the contact details of all who entered then they can be sent invitations for future events, so there shouldn't ever be any need for another expensive newspaper ad. I'll attempt to find a less expensive, but equally suitable venue.

As I didn't know the player numbers, I deliberately ordered too many trophies. This has added to the cost in the short term, but the trophies that were not presented can be used in the future so there isn't any waste.

Pre Tournament publicity

As previously mentioned there was the newspaper ad.

All clubs in the league were contacted.

I contacted some schools.

Some flyers/entry forms were placed in libraries.

From the feedback that I've had so far the libraries seems to have been the best.

The Cumbria Chess Association web site publicised it.

Staffing Levels

This sort of tournament needs at least 2 controllers and preferably 3.

It would have been difficult, bordering on impossible for me to have managed on my own.

Most "Adult" Tournaments are 5 rounds spread over 3 days.

7 rounds in a single day means that the bursts of administration

Come thick and fast.

Many of the children were playing in their 1st ever tournament and therefore needed guidance that adults don't.

Pre Tournament Support

Dave Cole organized the Newspaper ad and created the flyer/entry forms.

Dave Shaw updated the Cumbria web site.

Various people in different clubs contacted people that might have been interested.

Peter Hanks helped with the planning, created the certificates and frames, provided the laptop and other equipment.

Very many thanks to everyone who helped.

Going Forward

I think that this tournament should now be an annual event, pandemics and such like permitting of course.

The venue needs to be in the same area, to avoid anyone having to travel too far.

Minimum of 2 and preferably 3 controllers on the day.

This year's participants or perhaps more accurately their responsible adults to be emailed to thank them and ask for their opinions.

This year's participants are to be sent invites for future events.

The tournament format to stay the same for next year, and be reviewed after each tournament.

Enable entries to be paid on line to minimize, and hopefully get rid of pay on the day.

I emailed Tim Wall to let him know that the tournament had taken place, and I've had a response asking if Cumbria would like to enter a team in Northern Counties Championships.

I've asked for more details.

Summary

Peter Hanks and I both think that the tournament went well and was a success. The challenge is now to make future tournaments better.