

Minutes, 115th AGM of the Cumbria Chess Association.

Held at 2pm Saturday June 24th 2006 at the Methodist Hall in Union St, Kendal.

In Attendance;-11 people from 6 clubs. D Cole (President/Barrow), S Cassidy (Lge Cont./A.Friars), A Baker (Results/Carlisle), W Hardwick (Secretary/A.Friars), G Horne (Treas/Barrow), P Gleizon (Cockermouth), T Blower (Barrow), G Shelmerdine (Cockermouth), I Hewitson (Windermere), G King (Arnside) and J Woodburn (Barrow).

1. Apologies;- Received from J Dobson (Kendal), W Henderson (Carlisle) and M Mason (Ulverston).
2. Presidents Address;- Dave Cole said that this had of course been the first year of the NMS scheme which had been broadly successful. It is believed that three members dropped out because of the introduction of the scheme. NMS itself has generated a huge amount of e/mail and has been especially time consuming this year. Differences with the ECF appear to have been settled but confirmation of this is awaited as they are holding their AGM at the same time as our own. The North is expecting a payment of some £3,000 from the ECF in respect of a share of membership fees received. It is not yet known how this will be divided between the counties. Dave hopes that at least some this cash may be used for publicity to drive up membership and perhaps to fund an extra Junior NCCU event. He was very pleased to be able to report the success of the newly re-established County Team in winning the under-150 trophy. It is the first such trophy to be won by Cumbria and he extended congratulations and thanks to Guy Shelmerdine and all of his team members.
3. Minutes of the 2005 AGM (no 114);- Having been circulated last year these were accepted as a true and complete record. No matters arising.
4. Correspondence;- Nothing to report which isn't covered elsewhere.
5. Secretary's Report;- Bill Hardwick had no issues or problems to report on and hoped that everyone was receiving information regularly by post or by e/mail.
6. Treasurer's Report. George Horne provided a copy the 2006 accounts and an audited copy of 2005 accounts. He reported that there are no game fees this year due to NMS. A new Whitaker Trophy was purchased as requested at the last AGM. Overall there has been a significant increase in expenditure this year leading to a deficit of £532.43, in view of which he recommended that registrations be increased by £1 to £5 per adult member. The County team incurred large costs, mainly for the hire of a coach for a match against Cambridgeshire. It was explained that this was because of late withdrawals leading to a shortage of car drivers being available. Dave Cole had approved the coach hire in advance. It was agreed that County funds are there to a great extent to fund participation in events such as this. A vote was taken on the proposal to increase the fees and passed by 5 votes to 3.
7. Membership Secretary's Report;- Syd Cassidy reported that membership numbers were down a little further at 130 and pointed out that this compared to 220 members 10 years ago. Dave Cole said this highlighted the need for publicity to attract members and various possibilities were discussed. It would certainly provide a much needed boost to annual income. Syd Cassidy said that it would for many reasons be much more convenient if the £10 NMS fee and the new £5 annual could be combined as a single £15 payment and this was accepted.
8. League Controllers Report;- Syd Cassidy's report is attached. Discussion of this led to a proposal from Philippe Gleizon that the Cumbria Individual Championships should be open to non-Cumbria players, but that trophies for the respective events would still be awarded to the top Cumbrian player in each section. This was partly in response to steadily reducing numbers

at the event. Syd Cassidy suggested that a switch to a three day format may be beneficial as there have been a very large number of players taking byes for the third Saturday games. This would be subject to facilities being available for three days. These proposals were voted on and carried.

9. Results Officer's Report;- Tony Baker said that virtually all results had been collected and will be submitted for grading by the end of the month. Results are only awaited from two clubs but these are expected very shortly. Dave Cole said that the ECF intends to issue a new provisional grading list in July and a full list in August.
10. Junior Organiser's Report;- Syd Cassidy's report is attached. He said that there is a lot of junior chess in the Carlisle area but relatively little in most other areas. However a lot is done by Steve Murdoch, Peter Tipper, Mrs Reay and Hilary Austin on a regular basis. George King explained that Arnside have a regular junior session for an hour each week before their own club night begins.
11. Match Captains Report;- Guy Shelmerdine was justifiably proud of his team's efforts in beating both Lancashire and Yorkshire by scores of 7-5 before losing narrowly to Cambridgeshire. In all three games they were hindered by late withdrawals and Barrow provided a number of last minute substitutions each time. Guy praised all his players for their camaraderie and team spirit. Dave Cole asked if Guy could provide a photo of the trophy presentation with a view to this being used for publicity.
12. Correspondence Captains Report;- No report available but Dave Cole asked for anyone who is interested to contact Chris Underhill. We take part in the Sinclair Trophy in which everyone plays two games and moves can be notified by post or by e/mail.
13. ECF Delegates Report, and
14. NCCU Delegates Report;- A full report and update from Dave Cole and George Horne are attached. Dave said that he would like every club to consider entering the Club Competitions. He pointed out that entry levels and average gradings in each section, even the open, are not especially high so that prizes are there to be won. He also mentioned that when dealing with annual membership renewals that there is a white, ECF membership application which everyone should complete and doing so will help to ease some administration problems which have arisen.
15. Matters Arising;- None, other than those already covered.
16. Proposals; One received from Trevor Blower, (Barrow) – Add to rule 4 (2) (h), "A bonus point will be scored for each board win. Defaults count as wins unless both players default". Various options were discussed of alternatives to the current system of "2 match points for a win and 1 match point for a draw". Trevor's proposal was then amended to "Matches will be decided by the total of game points for each team, with 1 game point for a won game and ½-game point each for a drawn game. Teams total game point scores will determine league placings. Defaults count as wins unless both players default". This amended motion was then voted on and carried. Syd Cassidy is to ensure the change is notified to all clubs before the start of next season and the Constitution is to be amended with this new rule.
17. Prize Giving;- The new Whitaker Trophy was presented to Arnside. The old trophy is understood to be still with Penrith who are to arrange for this to be delivered to Arnside as agreed at the last AGM. The NCCU County Championship under-150 Trophy was presented to Guy Shelmerdine on behalf of his winning team. Syd Cassidy provided medals for the team members of the Whitaker Cup winners, and of the league play-off winners and runners-up. It is understood that the Division One trophy is still with SASRA and needs to be handed to this

years winners Windermere and that the Division Two trophy is still with Penrith who are to arrange for this to be given to this years winners Windermere. The Division 3 trophy was not competed for this year and is with Syd Cassidy.

18. Election of Officers;-President D Cole, Secretary W Hardwick, Treasurer G Horne, League Controller S Cassidy, Results Officer A Baker, Junior Organiser S Cassidy, Match Captain G Shelmerdine, Correspondence Captain C Underhill, Auditor N Foxcroft, Press Officer D Cole (New), NCCU Delegates (2) D Cole, G Horne, ECF Delegate (1) D Cole, Membership Secretary S Cassidy.
19. County Championship 2007;- Barrow have offered to stage the event next year with likely dates being Fri 2nd/Sat 3rd/Sun 4th March 2007 or Fri 23rd/Sat 24th/Sun 25th February 2007. As confirmed above this will be a competition open to non-Cumbrian players and on a three-day format, availability of facilities permitting.
20. AGM 2007;- Bill Hardwick to arrange this and notify everyone in the usual way. It was agreed that a central county location is convenient to all, so that Kendal, Windermere or Keswick tend to be preferred venues. The date is yet to be decided upon but there are a number of events which it would be useful to avoid clashing with. Hawick Congress - probably 23/6/2007, Heywood Congress-16/6(?), NCCU meeting-9/6(?), South Lakes Congress 2/6(?). Prior to that, 26th May 2007 is believed to be a Bank Holiday weekend so Saturday 19th May 2007 at Kendal again has been pencilled-in for the moment.
21. Any Other Business;- None

Meeting closed.

Bill Hardwick
(Secretary)