

Cumbria Chess Association

Minutes of the 126th Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 1st July 2017 at the Crown Hotel, Eamont Bridge at 2pm

In attendance

D Cole (President), J Rashleigh (Secretary), G Horne (Treasurer), D Shaw (League Controller), A McAteer (Match Captain), L McAteer, G Rowan (Penrith), P Hanks, N Foxcroft (Ulverston), P Rivers, I Mackay, T Jones, P Walters (Carlisle), T Tyson (SASRA), W Henderson (Maryport)

1. Apologies for absence C Bragg
2. President's Address: Dave Cole noted that the Keswick club had reformed and participated in the Open league which was a very welcome development.

The season had generally run well with only one dispute needing resolution relating to estimated grading.

Thanks were due to Peter Hanks for launching the county team rapidplay event which had been a most enjoyable day for all who participated.

A new trophy (The Jonathan Swallow/John Moore trophy) had been instituted for matches between Yorkshire and Cumbria. Pleasingly, Cumbria had won the inaugural match.

The Cumbria Individual Championships had been poorly attended in part due to the location but had run very smoothly thanks to Peter Hanks and his team.

Penrith were again in the Minor NCCU final.

The South Lakes congress had been held for the first time at the Kendal leisure centre. There were one or two minor teething problems and numbers were slightly down but overall it had been a great success.

Special thanks should go to Dave Shaw for his effectiveness in managing the playing season and keeping the website up to date.

A gentleman called Charles Wood had in the past set up a junior chess academy in Yorkshire. He had now moved to Cumbria and would potentially be considering doing the same here. The President was in contact with him to discuss this in more detail.

3. Minutes of the 125th AGM held on 23rd July 2016 had been circulated to clubs and were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.
4. Correspondence Nothing of note.
5. Reports
 - a) Secretary's Report Jonathan Rashleigh reported that it had been a quiet year with no unusual items to report.
 - b) Treasurer's Report. George Horne circulated Accounts for the year to 31st May 2017. There had been a loss of £101.96. The increase in registration fee income was in large part because £48 of income was included which had been omitted from the previous year accounts. The loss was the result of higher county match expenditure reflecting the number of matches

played, a one off cost of £70 for Cumbria's share of the Swallow/Moore trophy and the initial costs of setting up the County Rapidly event which would hopefully be self funding in future. At the year end there was £587.99 in the bank and the Treasurer proposed that League Fees should remain unchanged at £6 for adults and £1 for juniors. *The report and proposals were approved unanimously by the meeting.*

The accounts for the year and for 2016 had both been audited.

- c) Membership Secretary's Report. Dave Cole reported that there were 88 Cumbria players registered in the year the same as in the previous year. The breakdown of this number was Carlisle 19, Penrith 14, Barrow 11, Ulverston 9, Windermere 9, Kendal 7, Maryport 7, Keswick 6 and SASRA 6.

Registration had proved an easier process this year with over half the registrations in place before the end of October.

- d) League Controller's Report. Dave Shaw reported that only one match had not been played which was a good result but that the attempt to limit matches to be played within 3 weeks of the original date had had to be waived on several occasions in order for them to get played. This rule would be debated later in the meeting.
- e) Grading Officer's Report: In the absence of Martin Gawne there was no report.
- f) Junior Organiser's Report: In the absence of Kevin Southernwood there was no report. It was noted that the Cumbria Juniors championship was taking place on the same day as the AGM.

The President noted the contribution that Kevin Southernwood had made managing the junior section over a number of years. He was now standing down from the role and the meeting recorded a vote of thanks to him.

- g) Match Captain's Report: Andy McAteer reported that two matches had been played. Cumbria had lost the friendly against Greater Manchester but, as recorded earlier, had beaten Yorkshire. A match against Lancashire was being organised to be played in a couple of weeks time.
- h) Correspondence Captain's Report: In the absence of Chris Underhill there was no report. The President suggested that county correspondence matches had effectively died from lack of support and the introduction of computers. Tammy Jones felt that this merited further review as she for one would be keen to play in them. The President agreed to review the position.
- i) ECF Delegate's Report: Dave Cole reported on the Council meeting held in April. The main outcome had been an increase in adult membership fees. Game fee had effectively been abolished, but there had been a change allowing non registered players to play three games in a season before being obliged to register and pay or get their club to pay the full bronze subscription.

Dave Shaw proposed that on that basis it made sense to align the CCA rules and to allow 3 games to be played in the Cumbria league before registration was required. Andy McAteer felt that there should be no flexibility with players being registered before they played any games. *After a lively discussion, there was a large majority vote in favour of increasing the allowance to 3 games.*

- j) NCCU Delegates Report: Dave Cole reported that several questions had been submitted to the ECF CEO at the Yorkshire 2016 AGM, but the reply at the meeting had not yet been received by NCCU (although we are assured it is on the Yorkshire chess website). It remains unclear what relationship or indeed what relevance ECF has to grass roots chess players apart from getting a grade.

A proposal to ECF to replace the current Platinum/Gold/Silver/Bronze membership structure with simpler categories of Patron/Fide Member/Ordinary Member had been met by a negative response from the ECF (albeit unofficially) but the NCCU is to continue to push this agenda with hopefully a proposal at the October ECF AGM.

Merseyside were planning to secede from NCCU but had been urged to reconsider. Cleveland had seceded but had been inactive for a number of years in any event as the county no longer existed as an entity separate from Yorkshire.

A Seniors county jamboree was being planned to take place in Bradford.

The Pennine Cup event for juniors was provisionally scheduled for October

Penrith had retained the NCCU minor club championship for the third consecutive year.

- k) Website Organiser's Report: Dave Shaw reported that a recent review had shown the site being hit around 110 times a day.

He noted that no-one had contributed games for inclusion on the website and that the information on juniors had not been updated for some years which was regrettable.

6. Endorsement of Constitution including changes from the previous AGM: This had been previously circulated and displayed on the website and was endorsed by the meeting without further amendment.

7. Discussion and voting on proposals (original proposals attached):

Proposal 1 – *It was agreed on a majority vote* that the Cumbria Individual Championships should revert to being a closed event for CCA members only.

The desirability of locating the event in a more generally accessible location was agreed in principle but depended on finding a suitable location at an acceptable price. Andy McAteer agreed to review possibilities around the Penrith area.

Proposal 2 – *Changing to Fischer time limits was defeated by a small majority.* The meeting accepted however that change would be inevitable soon. A good case that could be made for delayed time limits as was being used in some current top tournaments rather than using the Fischer method although that was now the default method used by FIDE. Some clubs were not able yet to provide clocks which could accommodate either of these methods. *It was agreed that the constitution should include provision for alternative time bases to be used for any match if all participants were in agreement so that alternatives could be tested.*

The meeting agreed that the number of different grading systems in place was unsatisfactory but that CCA would have to remain tied to whatever ECF used.

Proposals 3 and 4 – Proposal 4 was effectively an amendment to Proposal 3. After discussion, *the amendment that the 3 week limit on arranging games be abandoned was passed by a large majority* thus overriding proposal 3.

8. Prize Giving: The President awarded the cup for the winners of the Open League to Carlisle A. It was noted that Carlisle had not won it for many years and this ended a 7 year run of Windermere victories.

The Whitaker Trophy had been won by Carlisle B but was not available for presentation at the meeting.

The Southern Midweek League cup was again won by Barrow A and was presented to them.

The Swallow/Moore trophy was presented to match captain Andy McAteer.

9. 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 McAteer, Match Captain: Andy McAteer, ECF Delegate: Dave Cole, NCCU Delegates: Dave Cole and George Horne, Website Organiser: Dave Shaw, Auditor: Neil Foxcroft.

The position of Junior Organiser remained vacant. The President would continue his dialogue with Charles Wood referred to earlier to establish whether he would be suitable for this role and prepared to take in on if so. The meeting was reminded of the increasingly complex regulatory issues surrounding working with children that needed consideration whoever was appointed.

10. Any Other Business:

The meeting felt that the County Team Rapidplay event had been a great success and should continue. Peter Hanks was prepared to continue to organise the logistics if a suitable central venue could be found. It was possible that the Crown Hotel could be used for a one day event such as this. Andy McAteer would investigate this option.

11. Date of Next AGM: To be agreed