

Cumbria Chess Association

Minutes of the 127th Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 23rd June 2018 at the Crown Hotel, Eamont Bridge at 2pm

In attendance

D Cole (President), J Rashleigh (Secretary), G Horne (Treasurer), D Shaw (League Controller), A McAtear (Match Captain), P Hanks (Ulverston), J Lydon, B Hardwick, J Kelly D Siddall (Carlisle), F Clough (Penrith), W Henderson (Maryport), C Hutchby, R Helps, M Green, N Maxwell (Keswick)

1. Apologies for absence K Southernwood, I Mackay, N Foxcroft, S Jones.
2. President's Address: Dave Cole spoke of the late John Toothill's involvement in Cumbria chess and a minute's silence was held in his memory. The last Cumbria event in which John had participated had been the team rapidplay and Dave suggested that future Cumbria rapidplay events should be played for a 'John Toothill' Trophy. This was supported by the meeting.

The season had generally run well with most matches played and no disputes. The only setback had been the withdrawal of the Windermere team from the Open league towards the end of the season.

Thanks were due to Peter Hanks for running the County Team Rapidplay event and also the Cumbria Individual Championships both of which had been very successful.

3. Minutes: of the 126th AGM held on 1st July 2017 had been circulated to clubs and were approved as a true record.

The idea of re-establishing County correspondence chess had not resulted in any activity.

The approach from Charles Wood noted last year relating to junior chess had not been followed up as Kevin Southernwood had agreed to continue managing junior chess with support from Eggert Fruchtenict.

4. Correspondence: Nothing to record.
5. Reports
 - a) Secretary's Report Jonathan Rashleigh reported that it had been a quiet year. The only new item had been the need to respond to the latest data protection regulations (GDPR) and to check that all those with contact details on the website were happy for that to continue.
 - b) Treasurer's Report. George Horne circulated Accounts for the year to 31st May 2018. There had been a surplus of £187.92 and there was £775.91 in the bank at the year end. The results included a credit of £49 from the 2016/7 Rapidplay event.

A credit of £55 represented a donation made by Windermere Chess Club to the Toothill family following John's death which had in turn been donated by the family back to the county. Expenditure included £36.20 for flowers and a card for John's family from the county.

He also noted that a new base had been added to the Keswick Knight trophy at no cost to the county thanks to the generosity of Peter Hanks.

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.*

- c) Membership Secretary's Report. Dave Cole reported that there were 92 Cumbria players registered in the year, up from 88 in the previous year. 13 were ECF Gold members, 35 Silver members and 44 Bronze.
- d) League Controller's Report. Dave Shaw reported that five matches had not been played as a consequence of Windermere's withdrawal but the rest had been completed but with some taking place after the end of the season. 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 issue would be debated later in the meeting.

Last year's meeting had allowed incremental time controls to be experimented with by mutual agreement of the players but so far as he was aware no-one had yet tried this.

- e) Grading Officer's Report: Andy McAtear confirmed that this had taken place smoothly with no problems to report.
- f) Junior Organiser's Report: Kevin had provided a written report to the meeting. The main issue was the problem of finding a suitable low cost option for staging the Junior Chess Championships and he would be keen to receive suggestions.

New school's leagues were being formed around Penrith and Carlisle which was encouraging.

The meeting noted an email circulated by Ian Mackay referring to the push to introduce the Chess in Schools project into Cumbria which was again a positive development.

The Keswick members present reported that they were also holding one hour junior coaching sessions at the start of each of their club nights with up to 10 juniors attending.

- g) Match Captain's Report: Andy McAtear reported that only one match had been played against Lancashire which had resulted in a 6-6 draw. There were ongoing problems trying to fix a date with Yorkshire.
- h) ECF Delegate's Report: Dave Cole reported on the ECF Finance Council meeting in April. The NCCU proposal for merging Silver and Bronze membership had been defeated but a working group had been set up to reconsider this idea. ECF Membership fees remain the same for next season.
- i) NCCU Delegates Report: A Merseyside team had entered the County Championships for the first time and had won the event.

A one day 8 player per team county rapidplay event was being organised.

An experiment has been proposed to play an NCCU internet match between two North East teams prior to the Club Championship starting in the New Year. Clubs are encouraged to enter.

Cumbria was to nominate this year's Schools Award. A citation from a school is required.

- j) Website Organiser's Report: Dave Shaw reported that Andy McAtear would run the Games page on the website once he had worked out the best way of enabling this technically. Dave would also be happy to give out more of the website work to others if an easy method of doing this could be established. He had however resisted using available 3rd party software

that allowed captains to enter results and which automatically updated the league tables as the current system seemed to work perfectly adequately.

Dave believed that it made sense for the League Controller and Website roles to be merged. At a personal level he was finding the updating process quite onerous and would be happy to retire from the role if a good alternative could be found.

It was suggested that a suitable form be used in order to have documentary proof that individuals were happy for their contact details to be on the site.

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.

An issue was identified with the current wording relating to the Greenhalgh trophy which stipulated a relevant ECF grade of 100. *The meeting unanimously supported an amendment to allow the grading level to be set by the championship organiser in future.*

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

The proposals relating to Rule 4(2) sub-sections f and g were taken together. On behalf of the Keswick club, Clive Hutchby presented to the meeting the background to the proposals. He pointed out the number of matches that had not been completed within the three weeks of the original date as set out in the current rules and the stresses for match captains in trying to arrange matches with the current degree of flexibility.

In the open discussion that followed, the following points were made:

- a) The proposals could only apply to the Open League as the South League did not play its matches at weekends.
- b) The proposals as worded were too inflexible to work in practise
- c) The proposals would present particular problems for clubs with only a few players to call upon.
- d) A number of those present felt that the current flexible system worked adequately

After discussion, an amendment was proposed retaining only the first sentence within the proposal for sub-section f i.e. "Matches shall be played in the week designated for each round of fixtures". *This amendment was voted on and resulted in a 5-5 tie with the Chairman's casting vote then carrying it.* The League Controller to establish dates for the new fixtures.

The proposal relating to Rule 4(2) sub-section h was withdrawn as probably being unworkable.

The proposal relating to Rule 4(2) sub-section t was also withdrawn. The meeting recognised however that rules would be needed to define what should happen in the event of fixtures not being completed within the designated week. *It was agreed that a meeting of the Rules Committee would be convened before the start of the playing season to address this.*

The meeting agreed that the new rule should also apply to Whitaker Cup matches with a suitable amendment to Rule 4(3) sub-section c..

The meeting considered the proposal to amend Rule 4(3) sub-section f such that the away team automatically had White on odd numbered boards in Whitaker matches. *The meeting approved this change on a majority vote.*

8. Prize Giving: Carlisle A had retained the Walker Cup for the winners of the Open League which was not therefore presented.
 - a. The Whitaker Trophy had been won by Penrith 1 and was presented to them.
 - b. The Southern Midweek League Association Cup was again won by Barrow A and was presented to them.
 - c. The Higgins Trophy for the winner of the Cumbria Individual Championship was presented to Dave Siddall.
 - d. The Keswick Hotel Knight for the winner of the Cumbria Individual Minor Championship had been won by Alan Hiatt who was not present to receive it.

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

Clive Hutchby informed the meeting that he had a press related background and would be happy to take on the role of Publicity Officer for the Association. This suggestion was accepted with thanks. This role would replace the position of Press Officer previously performed by Dave Cole.

10. Any Other Business:

11. Clive Hutchby proposed an Open League v South League match be organised to help players across the county meet more often and to generate some publicity. After discussion it was agreed that this should instead be a match between North and South (with Windermere members playing for the South).

It was noted that the Cumbria Individual Championships had already been organised to take place at the Shap Memorial Hall on the weekend of 5th-7th April 2019.

Jonathan Rashleigh informed the meeting that Kendal would have a new club venue for the coming season. Details were on the website.

12. Date of Next AGM: To be agreed.

It was suggested that this could take place in the new venue now used by Kendal and the Secretary agreed to establish the feasibility of this.