

Cumbria Chess Association

Minutes of the 129th Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 28th August 2021 at the Crown Hotel, Eamont Bridge at 2pm

In attendance

D Cole (President), J Rashleigh (Secretary), G Horne (Treasurer), D Shaw (League Controller), J Lydon (Junior Organiser), A McAtear (Match Captain/Grading), P Hanks, N Foxcroft (Ulverston), A Llewellyn (Barrow), E Fruchtenicht (Penrith).

Apologies for absence. P Caulfield (Windermere) and A Todd (Keswick).

Opening Remarks

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting emphasising how pleasing it was that over the board chess in Cumbria could now recommence following the disruption caused by the Covid epidemic. The focus of the meeting would be on trying to help as many people in the county as possible to return to over the board chess.

The meeting paused to remember a number of Cumbria chess players who had died in the two years since the last AGM. Derek Miller, Tony Kirby, Gerry Rowan, Nick Harris and Jim Billsborough.

Re-establishing County chess after Covid

(a) Club availability

Keswick had confirmed that they would not be recommencing any over the board club chess until at least the beginning of 2022 and would not therefore be able to play in the league in the coming season.

There was no representative at the meeting from Maryport but it was anticipated that they would be participating. All the other clubs were represented and were either already open or would be opening in the very near future. There was therefore no reason not to proceed with planning a full season of County chess.

It was agreed that any decisions made at the meeting in order to get league chess going again would not be incorporated permanently into the Constitution but would be in place for just the coming year. The situation would then be subject to reappraisal at the next AGM.

Everything decided would naturally be subject to any changes in the overall Covid situation and changes in government advice.

(b) Playing Venues

All of the participating clubs still had their existing venues available with adequate space for distancing etc. Ulverston now had only one club night on a Wednesday but would still be able to access their venue on a Monday for matches. Windermere would probably only be meeting twice a month.

(c) Venue/Playing Requirements

The meeting agreed that the CCA should provide a list of recommendations for clubs to encourage them to provide as safe an environment as possible for playing. These would not however be requirements and the responsibility for playing conditions must reside with the clubs themselves.

A number of points were raised during the discussion and the consequent list of recommendations is attached to these minutes.

The meeting agreed that the process would to a large extent be about applying common sense and 'playing it by ear' rather than establishing firm rules with the emphasis on getting matches played whenever possible.

(d) Completion of 2019/20 season

It was noted that a match left over from the 2019/20 season had already been organised and played between Penrith and Windermere establishing Penrith as the league champions for that season. It was up to the other open division clubs whether they wanted to play the other outstanding matches which would not affect the overall result.

Penrith and Ulverston were both willing to play the outstanding Whitaker Cup final and a date was being agreed.

There were several games still to be played if the South league was to be resolved. There was a willingness at the meeting between the clubs involved (Ulverston, Barrow and Kendal) to try and schedule these if possible.

(e) Teams for the 2021/22 season

Several clubs anticipated reducing the number of teams entered in the league due to uncertainty as to the numbers who would return to their clubs and be prepared to play in matches.

After discussion, the meeting proposed that for the coming season, teams could be reduced to three players. Teams could be more than three by mutual agreement of the captains as it was important that as many people as possible could get a game.

For this reason, the results of individual games would not be included in the scoring system. There would be a simple system awarding the teams 3 points for a won match, 1 point for a drawn match or 0 points for a lost match. A suitable tie break rule would be introduced to meet that eventuality.

The League Controller reminded the meeting that there was already considerable flexibility within the Constitution for players to play for more than one team. Clause 4(2)(c) states "Within the same league, a player may play for more than one club or more than one team in the same club. If a player plays four or more games for any one team, then the player cannot play more than three such games for another team."

The meeting recognised that imposing strict deadlines for matches to be played could be problematic. The league controller would provide target dates but would use discretion where Covid issues impacted on these being met.

The President suggested that the team of three rule change might enable SASRA to re-enter the league. The League Controller would contact Mark Mallard.

Minutes. of the 128th AGM held on 20th July 2019

These had been circulated to clubs and were approved as a true record. Given their historic nature there were no matters arising.

Accounts for the year to 31st May 2020

The Treasurer circulated these. They showed a small deficit of £29.26 for the period. There was £944.14 in the bank.

Peter Hanks noted that he had the profit from the last Cumbria Individual Championships which would boost this figure.

The Treasurer confirmed that there had been no income or expenditure in the year to 31st May 2021 and that the next set of accounts to be produced would effectively incorporate two years.

The Treasurer recommended no change in League fees for the upcoming season and the meeting endorsed this.

Reports.

(a) NCCU/ECF

The President reported on a recent Zoom meeting of the NCCU. Tim Wall was doing his best to get the concerns of grass roots players reflected at the ECF.

Northumberland would be entering two teams in the County championships for the first time and there could also be a combined Durham/Cleveland team.

(b) Junior

The Junior Organiser had nothing to report but he and Peter Hanks would meet to discuss initiatives within the County.

(c) Grading

The Grading Officer reminded the meeting that the new rating system was in place which would involve grades changing regularly as results were posted. He was happy to assist with entering these if clubs did not wish to do it themselves.

Election of Officers.

The following officers were all re-elected unanimously:

President: Dave Cole
Secretary: Jonathan Rashleigh
Treasurer: George Horne
League Controller: Dave Shaw
Grading Officer: Andy McAtear
Match Captain: Andy McAtear
Junior Organiser: John Lydon
ECF Delegate: Dave Cole
NCCU Delegates: Dave Cole and George Horne
Website Organiser: Dave Shaw
Auditor: Neil Foxcroft.

Any Other Business.

Alan Llewellyn and Andy McAtear were organising a Cumbria team to compete for the first time in the 4NCL. The 8 players needed had already been contacted. The President proposed that up to

£250 of county funds be made available to help mitigate the travel costs involved and this was approved. Alan could decide on a suitable name for the team provided that it contained the word 'Cumbria'.

The possibility of holding the Cumbria Individual Championships again early 2022 was discussed with the Shap hall being the preferred venue. Peter Hanks would review the situation in the new year.

Date of Next AGM.

To be agreed.