

**CUMBERLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION 1884  
TO  
1984 CUMBRIA CHESS ASSOCIATION**

**A SHORT HISTORY**

by

M. J. Armstrong

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## 1. THE FORMATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Quite when chess was first played in Cumberland is obviously impossible to determine, but it was in the 1840's that groups of players began to appear in the Mechanics' Institutes (the Working Mens' Clubs of the day) in the larger towns, especially Workington and Whitehaven. In Carlisle, the librarian, Mr. Morrison, taught young players and organised competitions for trophies which included a gilt king and a silver queen. In Maryport, chess was played in the Athenaeum Club, and Mr. Robert Adair led a team from the club in correspondence matches against several Scottish clubs in the 1850's.

The first actual chess club to be formed in Cumberland was the Carlisle club, which was founded by Dr. Robert Walker in 1870. The club initially had around 12 members and met weekly in a room above a restaurant in Castle Street, opposite the cathedral. The first club president was the Rev. T.C. Durham, who was the headmaster of the Carlisle Grammar School. The club contested its first match in 1871, against a group of players from Whitehaven, although the Whitehaven Chess Club was not formed until 1883. This match, the first chess match to be played in Cumberland, was held in Carlisle and resulted in a home victory. The return match, held the next year in Whitehaven, was won by Whitehaven, although Mr. Henry Cockbain, a member of the Carlisle team, related that "they beat us by one game and I was blamed for it. I played a hard game and my opponent offered to resign, but seeing the others occupied and believing I had an advantage, I induced him to play on. I lost, and was not allowed to forget it." However, within a few years there was a decline in the Carlisle membership, which resulted in the club closing down until 1881 when it was reformed.

Meanwhile, a club had been formed in Workington in 1878 by John Higgins and Robert Peat. Amongst the founder members was the local M.P. Mr. C.J. Valentine who became its first president. John Higgins was the strongest player in the club, and in the years before the formation of the County Association it was he who was recognised as the unofficial county champion.

Although chess had been played for many years in the Mechanics' Institute and the Liberal Club, making Whitehaven the busiest chess centre in the county, it was not until 1883 that the Whitehaven Chess Club was formed, meeting in the Coffee House in Tangier Buildings. Much of the credit here must go to the Rev. J.F. Welsh, who was a lecturer at the St. Bees Theological College and an extremely enthusiastic chess player.

Also in 1883, chess clubs were formed in Maryport and Cockermouth, both towns where casual chess had been played for a long time previously. To celebrate the opening of the Cockermouth club, John Higgins and D. Harkness travelled over from Workington, and each played five games simultaneously against Cockermouth players, scoring +5, =2, -3. Cockermouth was one of the largest clubs in the region at the time, numbering about 30 members, although the playing strength of the club was not great. The strongest player was Alfred J. Watson, who was the first secretary, but who unfortunately died in 1884.

So, in the winter of 1883/4, the five clubs of Carlisle, Cockermouth, Maryport, Whitehaven and Workington competed in what can be regarded as the first county team tournament, won by Whitehaven. It was these five clubs that provided the players who comprised the first representative Cumberland team, which, on 8th March, 1884, met a team from Newcastle and Gateshead. The match was played in the Bush Hotel, Carlisle and the Cumberland team, which had been brought together by Mr. J.G. Oldfield of Whitehaven, performed creditably despite losing by  $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $13\frac{1}{2}$ . Two games were played at each of 12 boards and the complete score of this historic match is given on the next page. Speaking at a dinner attended by the two teams after the match, Mr. Oldfield expressed the hope that "the formation of a county team may be the means of bringing to the various clubs in the county players as yet unknown to fame, so that in future the county may play at its full strength". Mr. Hewan, the captain of the visiting team, also expressed a wish for the match to become an annual fixture.

Cumberland v Newcastle & Gateshead, played in Carlisle on 8.3.1884

<u>CUMBERLAND</u>		<u>NEWCASTLE &amp; GATESHEAD</u>	
1. Dr. R. Walker (Carlisle)	00	Mr. Hewan	11
2. Mr. J.B. Mason (Maryport)	10	Mr. Downey	01
3. Rev. J.F. Welsh (Whitehaven)	$0\frac{1}{2}$	Mr. Smith	$1\frac{1}{2}$
4. Mr. J. Higgins (Workington)	10	Mr. Green	01
5. Mr. H. Chicken (Carlisle)	10	Mr. Wilkin	01
6. Mr. G.M. Tickle (Maryport)	$\frac{1}{2}0$	Mr. Caro	$\frac{1}{2}1$
7. Mr. W. Johnstone (Whitehaven)	10	Mr. Wiehl	01
8. Mr. D. Harkness (Workington)	01	Mr. Mitcheson	10
9. Mr. H. Adair (Whitehaven)	01	Mr. Vaughan	10
10. Mr. T. Blain (Maryport)	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Mr. Watson	$0\frac{1}{2}$
11. Mr. A.J. Watson (Cockermouth)	01	Mr. Godsall	10
12. Mr. J. Richardson (Maryport)	$\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}$	Mr. Roberts	$\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}$
	<u><math>10\frac{1}{2}</math></u>		<u><math>13\frac{1}{2}</math></u>

Two months later, Cumberland met a team from the Bradford Exchange Chess Club, one of the most powerful Northern clubs of the time, and a 10-18 defeat was certainly no disgrace. The match was again held in Carlisle, and the complete score is given below.

Cumberland v Bradford Exchange, played in Carlisle on 10.5.1884

<u>CUMBERLAND</u>		<u>BRADFORD EXCHANGE</u>	
1. Dr. R. Walker	01	Mr. R. Whitaker	10
2. Mr. J. Higgins	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Mr. G.F. Onions	$0\frac{1}{2}$
3. Mr. J.B. Mason	10	Mr. G.E. Mallett	01
4. Mr. G.M. Tickle	10	Mr. R.N. Macmaster	01
5. Mr. H. Adair	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Mr. T. Spencer	$0\frac{1}{2}$
6. Mr. W. Johnstone	00	Mr. C.D. Knapton	11
7. Mr. D. Harkness	00	Mr. S. Hudson	11
8. Rev. J.F. Welsh	01	Mr. A. Schott	10
9. Mr. T. Blain	10	Herr Cassel (Pres.)	01
10. Mr. H. Chicken	0	Mr. E.B. Hussey	1
11. Rev. C. Chapman (Millom)	$0\frac{1}{2}$	Mr. T. Fieldsend	$1\frac{1}{2}$



12. Mr. A.J. Watson	$\frac{1}{2}$	Mr. J.H. Tetley	$\frac{1}{2}$
13. Dr. W. I'Anson (Whitehaven)	10	Mr. E.B. Stead	01
14. Mr. J.G. Oldfield (W'haven)	00	Mr. H. Butterfield	11
15. Mr. G. Richardson	00	Mr. A.P. Wilson	11
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	10		18
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Note: Presumably time only permitted the completion of one game at Boards 10 and 12.

The Bradford players were somewhat surprised to find that they were not in fact playing a team representing the Cumberland Chess Association, and it was the suggestion of their President, Herr Cassel, that such an Association be formed, to co-ordinate chess in Cumberland. And so on 9th August 1884 a meeting was held at the Coffee Tavern, Marsh Side, Workington, "for the purpose of considering the desirability of forming a County Chess Association for Cumberland." The meeting was attended by players from all of the clubs in the county and the Association was duly formed.

The first officers were:

President	:	Dr. R. Walker (Carlisle)
Secretary	:	Rev. J.F. Welsh (Whitehaven)
Treasurer	:	Mr. J.B. Mason (Maryport)

In addition, the committee consisted of one member from each of the five member clubs, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Maryport, Whitehaven and Workington. At this inaugural meeting, Dr. Walker donated a cup for the Inter-Club Challenge Competition, and this was awarded initially to Whitehaven for their triumph in the previous winter's competition.

The first match which was contested by the Association was an away match against the Bradford Exchange, in January 1885, and resulted in a defeat. Later in 1885, the secretary, Rev. J.F. Welsh left the area to go to Warminster College. Although he had only lived in Cumberland for about 4 years, he had done much to set the Association off on a firm footing. The post of secretary was taken over by another Whitehaven player, Mr. George Stalker.

The first victory for the Cumberland chess team came on 20th February 1886, when an encouraging  $16\frac{1}{2}$ - $13\frac{1}{2}$  victory was gained over an admittedly weakened Bradford team in the third annual fixture.

## 2. EARLY YEARS

In 1888, Dr. Walker was elected County Individual Champion without a contest, and for the next four years the title was contested on a challenge basis, with a match of three games generally being held between champion and challenger. In 1892, the structure of the championship was changed to a knock-out competition. Contestants were paired by ballot and the first player to score two wins, draws not counting, proceeded to the next round. The rate of play was 20 moves per hour and the rounds were held at approximately monthly intervals.

Meanwhile, the Team Championship was being held on an annual basis, and was dominated by Whitehaven in the early years. They triumphed in the first four years, 1884-7, and after Carlisle's victory in 1888 the Workington players strung together a fine sequence of victories, interrupted only by Keswick in 1895. This triumph by Keswick was remarkable in that the club had only been in existence for one season. The club was founded by Professor Richard Pendlebury of St. John's College Cambridge, who regularly spent his summer vacation in the Keswick region. He played regularly both in Keswick Library and in his Church Street home with friends who became founder-members of the Keswick Chess Club. An initial membership of 26 soon drifted away from the area, however, and the club closed down between 1898 and 1906 when it was reformed by H.M. Jenkins, a solicitor who came to Keswick from the Basingstoke region and who went on to win the County Championship.

It is interesting to note that the league match between Workington and Maryport in 1888 was played by telephone, and it is very probable that this was the world's first chess match to be conducted in such a manner.

In 1893, Dr. Walker left Carlisle to live in Clovelly and so a new President of the Association had to be elected. He was the Rev. A.D. Firth of Harrington, a member of the Workington club, who had just one year earlier returned to his native Cumberland from South Africa, where he had been a chaplain.

It was in the same year that the first in a series of matches was held in Birmingham between the North of England and the South. The match was played over an astounding 106 boards, but Cumberland had just two representatives in the Northern team - John Higgins (Workington) on Board 43 and Arthur C. Haines (Whitehaven) on Board 46. Higgins won and Haines lost as the South gained the narrowest of victories,  $53\frac{1}{2}$ - $52\frac{1}{2}$ . It was matches such as this which led to the formation of the Northern Counties Chess Union, and Cumberland sent three delegates to a meeting in Manchester on 28th January 1899, which was also attended by representatives from Northumberland, Westmorland, Durham, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. The first secretary of NCCU was Mr. Charles Platt, who was also President of the Carlisle club and Treasurer of the County Association. The first NCCU inter-county championship was contested on a knock-out basis in the 1900/1 season, and Cumberland were drawn away to Yorkshire in the first round. Unfortunately, travelling problems resulted in Cumberland defaulting the match. The next season saw the same first round pairing and this time the match was played in Carlisle.

Cumberland v Yorkshire, NCCU County Championship Round 1 - played in Carlisle on 18.1.1902

<u>CUMBERLAND</u>		<u>YORKSHIRE</u>	
1. W.A. Butler (Workington)	0	W. Atkinson (Hull)	1
2. S.H. Hall (Carlisle)	$\frac{1}{2}$	F.P. Wildman (Leeds)	$\frac{1}{2}$
3. H. Doyle (Egremont)	1	J.A. Guy (Bradford)	0

4. J. Burchell (Workington)	1	A. Denham (Huddersfield)	0
5. J. Higgins (Workington)	1	H. Gray (Hull)	0
6. J.H. Brooksbank (Workington)	1	J.A. Woolland (Keighley)	0
7. A.R. Davies (Carlisle)	0	R.H. Philip (Hull)	1
8. J.H. Wilson (Keswick)	0	J.M. Brown (Bradford)	1
9. H. Needham (Workington)	0	J. Spencer (Leeds)	1
10. H. Adair (Whitehaven)	0	A.E. Mercer (Sheffield)	1
11. R.J. Brown (Carlisle)	$\frac{1}{2}$	J.J. Shields (Hull)	$\frac{1}{2}$
12. G.M. Tickle (Maryport)	0	M. Jackson (Hull)	1
13. D. Harkness (Workington)	0	A. Macdonald (Bradford)	1
14. A.P. Abraham (Keswick)	1	J. Jones (Leeds)	0
15. J. Cosnett (Carlisle)	0	C.F. Lines (Huddersfield)	1
16. J.S. Macwhirter (Brampton)	0	G. Howill (Bradford)	1
17. J.T. Crelling (Workington)	0	J.L. Peach (Malton)	1
18. Canon J.T. Pollock (C'mouth)	0	E. Rowe (Leeds)	1
19. W. Kilminstre (Carlisle)	1	S. Chrispin (Huddersfield)	0
20. J.H. Walker (Cockermouth)	0	S. Holden (Leeds)	1
21. J. Bakewell (Keswick)	0	S. Walker (Bradford)	1
22. J. Blain (Maryport)	1	H.P. Coulton (Leeds)	0
	<hr/> 8 <hr/>		<hr/> 14 <hr/>

Cumberland played annually in this competition until 1907, when the AGM decided "with regret but unanimously" not to enter. It was to be another 47 seasons until Cumberland re-entered.

Cumberland chess suffered a big loss later in 1902 with the death of John Higgins of Workington, and in his memory a trophy, the Higgins Trophy, was donated to the Association to be awarded annually to the Individual Champion. This trophy, which is a solid silver rook on an ebony plinth, is still awarded today, and bears the inscription:

"Cumberland County Chess Association. In memory of John Higgins of Workington, for many years chess champion of Cumberland. 1902"

### 3. PIONEERS IN CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

Meanwhile, correspondence chess was becoming very popular with the Cumberland players, and Cumberland was one of the first counties to play inter-county correspondence matches. The first such match was held in the winter of 1904/5, the opponents being Northumberland, many of whose players came from the strong Newcastle club, so the narrow victory gained was an excellent result. The match was played over 27 boards, with the rate of play being 48 hours per move, Sundays not counting. The Cumberland team was as follows, in board order with individual results in brackets:

1. J.T. Crelling (0)	2. H. Doyle (0)	3. Dr. S.H. Hall (1)
4. W.A. Butler ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )	5. J.H. Brookshank (1)	6. Father A.D. Firth (1)
7. Dr. R. Walker (0)	8. J.R. Whiting (1)	9. G.M. Tickle (0)
10. R.J. Brown (1)	11. C. Platt (1)	12. H. Needham (1)
13. A.R. Davies ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )	14. J. Higgins (Jr.) (1)	15. W. Kilminstre ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )
16. E. Hawkesworth (1)	17. J.E. Shipman (1)	18. Rev. A.R. Hall ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )
19. Col. A. Aglionby (0)	20. A. Kennard ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )	21. J.W. Watson (0)
22. J.S. Macwhirter (0)	23. B. Green (0)	24. Rev. W. Burrows ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )
25. G. Yeomans ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )	26. F. Drakeford (0)	27. Mrs. E.A. Hall ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )

Despite leaving the area some eleven years earlier, Dr. Walker always kept abreast with the affairs of Cumberland chess, and he took his place at Board 7 in this match.

Until World War 1 caused a temporary cessation in the Association's activities, 13 inter-county correspondence matches were contested and Cumberland more than held their own, winning eight and losing only four.

These matches were as follows:

1904/5	v	Northumberland	:	won	14-13
1905/6	v	Devon	:	lost	12-13
1906/7	v	Sussex	:	won	14½-10½
1907/8	v	Devon	:	lost	13½-14½
1908/9	v	Sussex	:	drew	14-14
"	v	Kent	:	won	8-7
1909/10	v	Kent	:	lost	8½-16½
"	v	Cheshire	:	lost	13½-18½
1910/11	v	Cornwall	:	won	20-15
1911/12	v	Shropshire	:	won	12-10
1912/13	v	Cornwall	:	won	17-8
1913/14	v	North Wales	:	won	10½-9½
1914/15	v	North Wales	:	won	15-9

After a lapse of some five years due to lack of entries, surprising since both the Individual Championship and the Correspondence matches were contested by many players from all over the county, the Team Championship was again contested in the 1907/8 season. There were only three entries - Carlisle, Cockermouth and Keswick - and the Walker Trophy went to Carlisle after a 4-2 victory over Keswick in the final, with 4 boards being adjudicated by Blackburne, who, though past his best as a player, was a regular visitor to several county clubs where he gave simultaneous displays, occasionally playing blindfold. One such game against Charles Platt is given later. It is recorded that Blackburne once made the draw for the County Individual Championship, as well as giving a simultaneous display at the 1895 AGM.

The Association ceased functioning during World War 1, and activities were not resumed until 1923, when it became clear that local interest in chess was as keen as ever, with 28 entries for the Individual Championship and an incredible 50 entries for the Junior Championship, which was restricted at that time to players under 30 years of age. It is interesting to note that the winner in this year was William Jones of Crosby-on-Eden, a member of the Carlisle club, who later became President of the County Association.

After winning a friendly Correspondence match against Hampshire by 18½-11½, Cumberland decided to enter the County and District Correspondence Championship in 1924/5. This competition had only been in existence for three years, and the first winners were Cornwall, who had been convincingly beaten by Cumberland on two occasions prior to the war. However, the success enjoyed in friendly matches did not carry

over to the more serious competition, and with a score of only  $9\frac{1}{2}/30$  Cumberland came last, a performance on which little improvement was to be made in the ensuing years.

In July 1928, Robert Fawcett Chambers of Keswick died, aged 71. His return from London to his native town had done much to strengthen the Keswick Chess Club, where he was secretary for nine years, during which time he was twice runner-up in the County Individual Championship, and Keswick were twice victors of the Walker Trophy. He was also secretary of the Keswick Golf Club, treasurer of the Literary and Scientific Association, and a leading Freemason. In his memory a trophy, the Chambers Trophy, was donated to the County Association, to be awarded annually to the Junior Individual Champion.

In 1929, Cumberland contested their first over-the-board county match for over twenty years, losing  $6\frac{1}{2}-8\frac{1}{2}$  to Northumberland in Carlisle. Despite re-affiliating to NCCU in 1932, Cumberland did not yet enter for the Inter-County Championship, but instead played a series of friendly matches against Northumberland and Lancashire. The President of the time, J. Ritson Whiting of Wasdale Head, a member of the Keswick Chess Club, laid stress upon "the necessity of forming an adequate county team to uphold the prestige of the county." The scores of these matches are given later, but one of these matches deserves more attention; the 11-10 victory gained over Lancashire in 1935. Although, to be fair, Lancashire were by no means at full strength, they did win the BCF County Championship in 1934/5 season.

Cumberland v Lancashire, played in Carlisle on 2.2.1935

<u>CUMBERLAND</u>		<u>LANCASHIRE</u>	
1. J.R. Whiting (Keswick)	$\frac{1}{2}$	H.B. Borland (Heaton Park)	$\frac{1}{2}$
2. J.H. Brooksbank (Workington)	0	H.W. Calvert (Blackpool)	1
3. J.E. Shipman (Brampton)	$\frac{1}{2}$	C. Johnston (Preston)	$\frac{1}{2}$
4. W. Spark (Lancaster)	$\frac{1}{2}$	A. Milner (Manchester)	$\frac{1}{2}$
5. J.T. Crelling (Workington)	$\frac{1}{2}$	C. Green (Old Mancunians)	$\frac{1}{2}$
6. C.R. Mitchell (Kendal)	1	T. Butler (Colne)	0
7. H. Baton (Whitehaven)	$\frac{1}{2}$	F.W. Morrell (Old Mancunians)	$\frac{1}{2}$
8. J. Higgins (Whitehaven)	1	F. Heywood (Barrow)	0
9. A.R. Davies (Carlisle)	0	R.W. Watkinson (Lancaster)	1
10. B. Crossley (Whitehaven)	0	J.F. Frackleton-Bailey (Lanc'r.)	1
11. Rev. H.W. Joyce (Carlisle)	$\frac{1}{2}$	J. Routledge (Colne)	$\frac{1}{2}$
12. E.F. Yates (Keswick)	1	J. Miller (Blackpool)	0
13. W. Veevers (Whitehaven)	0	E.L. Stuart (Liverpool)	1
14. Rev. R.T. Sivewright (C'sle.)	0	C.N. Ilard (Liverpool)	1
15. H. Wilkeley (Brampton)	1	R.J. Hustler (Blackpool)	0
16. J. Douglas (Keswick)	$\frac{1}{2}$	R.B. Harland (Lancaster)	$\frac{1}{2}$
17. T. Salkeld (Carlisle)	0	J.T. Boyd (Waterloo)	1
18. M. Hopper (Keswick)	1	W. Costain (Lancaster)	0
19. W.F. Watson (Carlisle)	$\frac{1}{2}$	A.W. Butler (Oldham)	$\frac{1}{2}$
20. W.T. Ellison (Carlisle)	1	J.H. Mandlebury (Manchester)	0
21. E.V. Slee (Lancaster)	1	R.L. Crookhart (Barrow)	0
	<hr/> 11		<hr/> 10



#### 4. THE CUMBERLAND, WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS CHESS ASSOCIATION

It was in 1938 that the Association amalgamated with the Westmorland Chess Association, and a team representing the new Cumberland and Westmorland C.A. competed in the 1938/9 B.C.F. Correspondence Tournament, finishing last out of the 26 entries. The amalgamation was made principally due to an application by the Kendal Chess Club to play in the Cumberland competitions, with Westmorland county chess having ground to a halt. However, it is not clear why this did not happen earlier as Kendal players had contested the Individual Championships and played in the Correspondence team since 1933/4.

During World War 2, no over-the-board Association matches took place, although Correspondence activities carried on as normal. An Inter-Club Correspondence Tournament was held on two occasions, won by Kendal in 1944/5 and Carlisle & Grange-over-Sands jointly in 1945/6. Immediately after the war, the presidency was taken over by another member of the Keswick Chess Club, Ashley P. Abraham, who had long been a staunch supporter of chess in the region. Indeed he had played in the Keswick team which won the Walker Trophy in 1895. Besides chess, his main pastime was mountaineering, at which he was held in international repute, regularly lecturing on the subject. Unfortunately, he held the office for only three years before resigning due to ill health, and he died soon after.

Playing in the B.C.F. Correspondence Tournament, little success was enjoyed and, as can be seen from the results table later, the Cumberland team was regularly to be found in the depths of the tournament table. However, in 1951/2, the following excellent result was recorded:

#### B.C.F. Counties Correspondence Tournament (Ward-Higgs Trophy) 1951/2

<u>CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND</u>			<u>COMBINED COUNTIES TEAM</u>		
1.	J. Jackson (Associate)	1	J.M. Craddock (Bedfordshire)		0
2.	F.M. Steward (Carlisle)	0	F.W. Shaw (Northamptonshire)		1
3.	A.E. Raynes (Workington)	1	C.A. Nightingale (Berkshire)		0
4.	F.M. Gregory (Associate)	1	Dr. A.F. Devonshire (Glos.)		0
5.	E.V. Slee (Associate)	0	T.H. George (Essex)		1
6.	J.H. Bavin (Kendal)	1	L. Turnovsky (Wiltshire)		0
7.	G.F.D. Rawlings (Keswick)	0	J.H. Staples (Lincolnshire)		1
8.	F.G. Sowerby (Carlisle)	1	J. Wolstenholme (Lancashire)		0
9.	Mrs. W. Lattimer (Keswick)	1	F.W. Boff (Sussex)		0
10.	L. Gazzi (Whitehaven)	1	K. Whyld (Nottinghamshire)		0
11.	G.H. Haines (Arnside)	$\frac{1}{2}$	G.O. Feather (Yorkshire)		$\frac{1}{2}$
12.	J.G.D. Whitaker (Arnside)	1	M.G. Radford (Cornwall)		0
13.	R.F. Evans (Kendal)	0	S.H. Willetts (Worcestershire)		1
14.	M. Hopper (Keswick)	1	H. Watson (Kent)		0
15.	A.D. Barnes (Kendal)	1	L.A. Daymond (Devon)		0
16.	J.N. Fielding (Arnside)	1	A.E. Lawrence (Cambridgeshire)		0
17.	K. Wilkinson (Workington)	1	T.C. Hughes (South Wales)		0
18.	J. Graham (Workington)	$\frac{1}{2}$	M.C. Punton (Durham)		$\frac{1}{2}$
19.	D.W. Holloway (Arnside)	1	H. Tallis (Somerset)		0
20.	H. Towers (Keswick)	0	L. Lymer (Staffordshire)		1
21.	J.H. Evans (Carlisle)	1	W.L. Wakefield (Warwickshire)		0
22.	J.L. Elvey (Kendal)	0	J.R.V. Prescott (Northumberland)		1
23.	E.C. Foulkes (Kendal)	$\frac{1}{2}$	C. Thomlinson (Oxfordshire)		$\frac{1}{2}$
24.	J. Wilkinson (Carlisle)	$\frac{1}{2}$	F. Hodgson (Dorset)		$\frac{1}{2}$
25.	W.R. Sculpher (Arnside)	1	A.J. Cooper (Hampshire)		0

26. W. Lattimer (Keswick)	$\frac{1}{2}$	W. Cushing (Suffolk)	$\frac{1}{2}$
27. C.E. Atkinson (Carlisle)	1	K.J. Nisbet (Shropshire)	0
28. S.W. Hetherington (Carlisle)	$\frac{1}{2}$	B. Williams (Monmouthshire)	$\frac{1}{2}$
29. C.W. Davis (Carlisle)	0	K.R. Holmes (Middlesex)	1
30. T. Couch (Brampton)	0	R.W. Dennis (Leicestershire)	1
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	19		11
	<hr/>		<hr/>

This performance gave Cumberland & Westmorland seventh place out of the 35 participating counties. John Jackson, playing here on top board as he had done since Cumberland's debut in the competition in 1925 (his results including draws against England OTB Internationals B.H. Wood of Warwickshire and P.S. Milner-Barry of Cambridgeshire) was on several occasions the Irish Correspondence Chess Champion. Formerly of Caldbeck, he was now living in Sheffield and playing as an Associate Member.

in 1953/4, a Cumberland & Westmorland team entered the NCCU Counties Championship, after much debate at the previous AGM on the merits of doing so. The team was captained by John Bavin of Kendal, and the first match played was against Yorkshire. It resulted in a heavy defeat, as recorded below.

Cumberland & Westmorland v Yorkshire, NCCU Counties Championship, played in Carnforth on 21.11.1953

<u>CUMBERLAND &amp; WESTMORLAND</u>		<u>YORKSHIRE</u>	
1. J.H. Bavin (Kendal)	0	D. Paffley	1
2. F.M. Gregory (Associate)	0	J.E. Povey	1
3. J.N. Fielding (Arnside)	$\frac{1}{2}$	E.G. Berg	$\frac{1}{2}$
4. E.V. Slee (Associate)	1	J.D. Brogden	0
5. A.D. Barnes (Kendal)	0	D. Smith	1
6. G.H. Haines (Arnside)	0	J. Elvin	1
7. T. Fuksa (Kendal)	0	T.G. Hagarth	1
8. J.G.D. Whitaker (Arnside)	0	Dr. C.G. Addingley	1
9. J. Everett (Kendal)	$\frac{1}{2}$	J.W. Narcross	$\frac{1}{2}$
10. R.F. Evans (Kendal)	0	S. Wilkinson	1
11. E.C. Foulkes (Kendal)	0	W. Oddy	1
12. A.L. Parkin (Kendal)	0	J. Rushton	1
13. C. Sanders (Kendal)	0	M. Morgan	1
14. L.J. Hobbs (Arnside)	0	J.G. Cockcroft	1
15. W.R. Sculpher (Arnside)	0	A. Schofield	1
16. B. Barnes (Kendal)	0	R.W. Ives	1
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	2		14
	<hr/>		<hr/>

The county regularly propped up the table in this competition, being by far the weakest of the six participating counties. As it had been at the turn of the century, travel proved to be the main difficulty in raising the strongest possible team and in this Yorkshire match there were no Cumberland players in the side. A full table of results is given later.

Around this time the Association was expanding, both geographically and numerically, with the Barrow, Millom, Seascale, Windermere and Heversham School (Milnthorpe) clubs all affiliating. The Barrow club joined only after the Lancashire Chess Association and NCCU had agreed to a "transfer". This led to the Association becoming the Cumberland, Westmorland and

Furness (C.W. & F.) Chess Association in 1958, and made the change in title to Cumbria Chess Association after local government re-organisation in 1974 a formality.

In 1961, the first in a series of "friendly" matches between Cumberland and Westmorland took place. Altogether, nine such matches have taken place, of which five have been won by Cumberland, two by Westmorland and two have been drawn, as follows: (Cumberland first)

1960/1	:	6½-4½	1971/2	:	8 -7	1974/5	:	12½-7½
1962/3	:	6½-5½	1972/3	:	6½-9½	1975/6	:	8 -13
1963/4	:	7 -7	1973/4	:	10 -10	1976/7	:	12½-11½

## 5. TO THE PRESENT DAY

In March 1967, the NCCU Individual Junior Championship was held in Carlisle, thanks to the efforts of the Association's Junior Organiser, D. Phillips of Whitehaven, with the assistance of several members of Carlisle Chess Club. A ten player Swiss Tournament was won by Cheshire's R.G. Eales with home representative Peter McDowell of Whitehaven finishing in eighth position. Compared with most other regions of the country, very few chess congresses have been held in Cumbria. Several did take place in Keswick in the late 1960's and in Millom in the early 1980's, but the geographical problems involved in obtaining enough entries to make such events financially viable have prevented any more taking place.

A series of friendly matches in Carlisle against the Glasgow Chess League took place between 1968 and 1976, each resulting in comfortable victories for the visitors as follows:

1968/9	:	5-11	1970/1	:	3½-12½	1974/5	:	6½-9½
1969/70	:	5-15	1973/4	:	5½-10½	1975/6	:	4 -12

After 96 previous attempts which had produced only one draw, victory in an NCCU county match was finally achieved in 1972. It came against Northumberland, and the details are as recorded below:

### Cumberland, Westmorland & Furness v Northumberland, NCCU Counties Championship, played in Carlisle on 22.1.1972

<u>CUMBERLAND, WESTMORLAND &amp; FURNESS</u>			<u>NORTHUMBERLAND</u>		
1.	J. Toothill (Windermere)	1	J. Steedman		0
2.	C. Pollitt (Arnside)	1	J.F. Turnock		0
3.	P. Griffiths (Carlisle)	0	K. Southern		1
4.	R. Brownsord (Windermere)	1	J. Gibb		0
5.	W.B. Smith (Whitehaven)	½	K. Loveys		½
6.	P. Cloudsdale (Windermere)	0	K. Watson		1
7.	C.F. Jex (Arnside)	½	E.W. Jarah		½
8.	M.J. Lamping (Whitehaven)	½	J. Morton		½
9.	F.K. Kneale (Kirkby Lonsdale)	0	T. Wells		1
10.	Mons. B.J. Kershaw (KL)	0	L.V. Whittle		1
11.	B. Wallace (Carlisle)	1	M. Rogers		0
12.	A. Place (Carlisle)	1	P. Cooper		0
13.	L.J. Hobbs (Arnside)	0	D. Woolrich		1
14.	G.V. Glover (Carlisle)	1	J. Ainsley		0
15.	R.W. Burnes (Carlisle)	0	B. Alderson		1
16.	A. Yoxall (Kirkby Lonsdale)	1	default		0
		8½			7½

A county second team first took part in the NCCU Second Team Championship in the 1973/4 season, providing opportunities for more players, especially juniors, to play county chess. The second team has not enjoyed much success, having won four matches out of 70 played in its eleven years of existence, as can be seen from the results table later.

In the 1973/4 Minor Individual Championship, 10-year-old Ian Wells of Workington tied for first place, losing the title to another junior player, David Phillips of Windermere, on tie-break. The next season he tied for second place in the Major Individual Championship, which was incidentally won by his father! Ian's playing strength rose very quickly indeed and he was by far the youngest player ever to play for the county first team. He shot onto the national scene, playing in the 1979 British Championship and World Under-17 Championship (finishing 11th out of 50 competitors) in 1980. He played for Cumbria until 1980, after which time he played for Lancashire until his tragic death in 1982, and he was posthumously awarded the title of FIDE Master by the International Chess Federation.

Cumbrian chess was dominated in the 1970's by Windermere, who won the Team Championship a record nine times in succession. Top board throughout this period was John Toothill, who won the County Championship three times in succession and has achieved the titles of British Candidate Master (1977), British Master (1980) and International Correspondence Chess Master (1983) this last title being awarded for his performances for Great Britain in International Team Competitions.

So we arrive at the present day, having examined the events of over a century of Cumbrian chess. It can, unfortunately, hardly be described as a glorious history, but rather one which relates the efforts of many men in ensuring that, if nothing else, Cumbrian chess has been efficiently organised and that hundreds of players have had the chance to participate in Individual Championships, Team Championships, representative matches, etc.. Our thanks are due to everyone who made this a tale worth telling, and let us all hope that, should someone sit down in 2084 to write a bicentary history, he will be able to recall some famous moments of success over the chequered board.

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#### OFFICERS

<u>Presidents:</u>	1884 - 1893	Dr. R. Walker (Carlisle)
	1893 - 1894	Father A.D. Firth (Whitehaven)
	1894 - 1897	Dr. W. I'Anson (Whitehaven)
	1897 - 1909	Canon J.T. Pollock (Cockermouth)
	1909 - 1911	J.W. Watson (Cockermouth)
	1911 - 1914	A. Mitchell-Dawson (Keswick)
	1914 - 1926	Father A.D. Firth (Whitehaven)
	1926 - 1947	J.R. Whiting (Keswick)
	1947 - 1950	A.P. Abraham (Keswick)
	1950 - 1953	Canon A.L. Gracey (Kendal)
	1953 - 1960	W. Jones (Carlisle)
	1960 - 1974	E.F. Yates (Keswick)
	1974 -	J.G.D. Whitaker (Arnside)

Vice-Presidents:

NOTE: The following 94 gentlemen have, at some time, been Vice-Presidents of the Association. I apologise in advance for any omissions.

A.P. Abraham, G.D. Abraham, L.D. Ackerley, H. Adair, Col. A. Aglionby, Dr. Atkinson, A.D. Barnes, J.H. Bavin, J. Blain, M.W. Bott, J. Brash, W. Broome, B.J. Broughton, F. Brown (Hon. V.P.), R.J. Brown, J. Burchell, R.W. Burnes, W.A. Butler, I.H. Carrington, P.J. Chambers, Rev. M.H. Cockett, W. Costain, T. Couch, J.T. Crelling, W. Dixon, F. Brakeford, I.H. Ellwood, Father A.D. Firth (first V.P., elected in 1892), W.H. France, L. Gazzi, Canon A.L. Gracey (Hon. V.P.), Dr. R. Greenhalgh, R.C. Greenhalgh, P. Griffiths, G.H. Haines, Canon A.R. Hall, Dr. S.H. Hall, R. Harding, J.H. Harkins, D. Harkness, A.E. Hebron, J. Higgins (Jnr.), L.J. Hobbs, A.G. Hock, D.W. Holloway, R.J. Holloway, M. Hopper, R.G. Humphreys, Dr. W. I'Anson, J.P. Irving, H.M. Jenkins, D. Johnson, W. Jones, Rev. H.W. Joyce, A. Kennard, Mons. B.J. Kershaw, F.K. Kneale, Rt. Hon. W. Leif-Jones M.P. (later Baron Rhayader), E.C. Lowe, B.S. Mackay, J. Milburn, A. Mitchell-Dawson, J.F. Moore, Prof. R. Pendlebury, D. Phillips, C. Pollitt, Canon J.T. Pollock, J. Pooley, Sir J.S. Randles M.P., E.K. Richardson, J.B. Richardson, W. Roberts, H.C. Rothery, E.V. Slee, W.B. Smith, W. Snook, F.M. Stewart, F.W. Tee, K.H. Thompson, T.W. Thompson, G.M. Tickle, C.J. Valentine, M.P., W. Wandless, E.J. Waters, J. Watson, J.W. Watson, J.G.D. Whitaker, J.R. Whiting (Hon. V.P.), J. Wilkinson, A.B. Wilson, J.B. Wivell, J. Wood, T.S. Woods, E.F. Yates (Hon. V.P.), G. Yeomans.

<u>Secretary:</u>	1884 - 1886	Rev. J.F. Welsh (Whitehaven)
	1886 - 1888	G. Stalker (Whitehaven)
	1888 - 1893	G.M. Tickle (Maryport)
	1893 - 1897	J. Higgins (Jnr.) (Workington)
	1897 - 1903	J. Burchell (Workington)
	1903 - 1907	Dr. S.H. Hall (Carlisle)
	1907 - 1911	C. Platt (Carlisle)
	1911 - 1913	Dr. S.H. Hall (Carlisle)
	1913 - 1914	J.H. Frankland (Keswick)
	1914 - 1923	W.A. Butler (Workington)
	1923 - 1929	J. Drakeford (Brampton)
	1929 - 1937	R.C. Greenhalgh (Carlisle)
	1937 - 1946	J. Watson (Carlisle)
	1946 - 1949	J.H. Bavin (Kendal)
	1949 - 1962	G.H. Haines (Arnside & Windermere)
	1962 - 1970	F. Brown (Penrith)
	1970 - 1978	P. Griffiths (Carlisle & Whitehaven)
	1978 - 1979	G.V. Glover (Carlisle)
	1979 - 1981	W.R. Ball (Alston)
	1981 - 1984	G.V. Glover (Carlisle)
	1984 -	D. Everett (Whitehaven)

<u>Treasurer:</u>	1884 - 1895	J.B. Mason (Maryport)
	1895 - 1898	D.J. Mason (Maryport)
	1898 - 1911	C. Platt (Carlisle)
	1911 - 1923	J.W. Watson (Cockermouth)
	1923 - 1929	J. Drakeford (Brampton)
	1929 - 1937	R.C. Greenhalgh (Carlisle)
	1937 - 1946	J. Watson (Carlisle)
	1946 - 1949	J.H. Bavin (Kendal)
	1949 - 1954	G.H. Haines (Arnside & Windermere)



	1954 - 1959	E.F. Yates (Keswick)
	1959 - 1961	M. Hopper (Keswick)
	1961 - 1969	R. Harding (Windermere)
	1969 - 1975	J.P. Irving (Carlisle & Arnside)
	1975 - 1981	Dr. R. Greenhalgh (Keswick)
	1981 -	Dr. W.R. McConnachie (Alston)
<u>Match Captain:</u>	1949 - 1956	J.H. Bavin (Kendal)
	1956 - 1972	J.G.D. Whitaker (Arnside)
	1972 - 1978	J. Toothill (Windermere)
	1978 - 1980	M.J. Lamping (Whitehaven)
	1980 - 1981	G.V. Glover (Carlisle)
	1981 - 1984	D. Everett (Whitehaven)
	1984 -	T.S. Woods (Barrow)
<u>Correspondence</u>	1949 - 1978	As above
<u>Match Captain:</u>	1978 -	B. Sanders (Barrow)
<u>Auditor:</u>	1950 - 1959	J.G.D. Whitaker (Arnside)
	1959 - 1964	T.W. Thompson (Windermere)
	1965 - 1981	A.E. Hebron (Windermere)
	1981 -	F. Brown (Penrith)
<u>Grader:</u>	1965 - 1969	B.J. Broughton (Keswick)
	1969 - 1976	B.S. Mackay (Penrith)
	1976 -	J. Billsborough (Millom)
<u>Junior Organiser:</u>	1965 - 1968	D. Phillips (Whitehaven)
	1968 - 1973	Dr. R. Greenhalgh (Keswick)
	1973 - 1976	R.W. Burnes (Carlisle)
	1977 - 1979	A.R. Bailey (Carlisle)
	1981 -	P. Robson (Whitehaven)
<u>Tournament</u>	1968 - 1969	D. Phillips (Whitehaven)
<u>Controller:</u>	1969 - 1970	P. Cloudsdale (Windermere)
	1970 - 1971	W.D. Johnson (Whitehaven)
	1971 - 1978	P. Griffiths (Whitehaven)
	1978 - 1980	W.R. Ball (Alston) (Individual)
	1978 - 1983	J. Billsborough (Millom) (Team)
	1983 -	E.G. Fleet (Barrow)

#### INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

Until 1892, the County Championship was decided by individual challenges. Between 1888 and 1892, the following players held the title:

Dr. R. Walker (Carlisle), J.B. Mason (Maryport), J. Higgins (Workington), J. Bellman (Whitehaven), Rev. J.C. Chatto (Carlisle), and T. Blain (Maryport).

1892/3	A.C. Haines (Millom)	1938/9	A.P. Abraham (Keswick)
1893/4	A.C. Haines (Millom)		
1894/5	A.C. Haines (Millom)	1946/7	W. Lazarus (Carlisle)
1895/6	R.C. Haines (Millom)	1947/8	F.W. Tee (Keswick)
1896/7	R.C. Haines (Millom)	1948/9	*
1897/8	J. Burchell (Workington)	1949/50	F.M. Stewart (Carlisle)
1898/9	J. Burchell (Workington)	1950/1	F.W. Tee (Keswick)
1899/00	H. Doyle (Egremont)	1951/2	A.D. Barnes (Kendal)
1900/1	W.A. Butler (Workington)	1952/3	F.M. Stewart (Carlisle)
1901/2	Rev. A.D. Firth (Whitehaven)	1953/4	F.M. Stewart (Carlisle)

1902/3	H. Doyle (Egremont)	1954/5	R.G. Humphreys (Seascale)
1903/4	J.T. Crelling (Workington)	1955/6	W. Broome (Barrow)
1904/5	Dr. S.H. Hall (Carlisle)	1956/7	P.W. Hempson (Carlisle)
1905/6	W.A. Butler (Workington)	1957/8	J.H. Bavin (Kendal)
1906/7	Dr. S.H. Hall (Carlisle)	1958/9	F.M. Stewart (Carlisle)
1907/8	Dr. S.H. Hall (Carlisle)	1959/60	(F.M. Stewart (Carlisle) (R.S. Holloway (Arnside))
1908/9	H. Needham (Workington)	1960/1	R.H.K. Mann (Arnside)
1909/10	H.M. Jenkins (Keswick)	1961/2	R.H.K. Mann (Arnside)
1910/1	H.M. Jenkins (Keswick)	1962/3	R.H.K. Mann (Arnside)
1911/2	J.H. Brooksbank (Workington)	1963/4	C. Pollitt (Carlisle)
1912/3	W.A. Butler (Workington)	1964/5	I.H. Carrington (Barrow)
1913/4	A. Kennard (Carlisle)	1965/6	W.G. Armstrong (Whitehaven)
1914/5	W.A. Butler (Workington)	1966/7	B.S. Mackay (Carlisle)
1915/6	W.A. Butler (Workington)	1967/8	I.H. Carrington (Barrow)
1923/4	J.E. Shipman (Brampton)	1968/9	J. Woodburn (Barrow)
1924/5	J.R. Whiting (Keswick)	1969/70	J. Toothill (Windermere)
1925/6	J.R. Whiting (Keswick)	1970/1	J. Toothill (Windermere)
1926/7	J.E. Shipman (Brampton)	1971/2	J. Toothill (Windermere)
1927/8	J.E. Shipman (Brampton)	1972/3	R. Brownsord (Windermere)
1928/9	J.E. Shipman (Brampton)	1973/4	P. Cloudsdale (Windermere)
1929/30	C.O. Griffiths (Carlisle)	1974/5	W.K. Wells (Workington)
1930/1	J.R. Whiting (Keswick)	1975/6	P. Cloudsdale (Windermere)
1931/2	A.P. Abraham (Keswick)	1976/7	D. Everett (Whitehaven)
1932/3	J.R. Whiting (Keswick)	1977/8	D. Everett (Whitehaven)
1933/4	Rev. A.L. Gracey (Kendal)	1978/9	P. Scott (Whitehaven)
1934/5	J.H. Brooksbank (Workington)	1979/80	R.H. Mellor (Carlisle)
1935/6	A.G. Hock (Workington)	1980/1	D.A. Phillips (Windermere)
1936/7	C.R. Mitchell (Kendal)	1981/2	D. Graham (Carlisle)
1937/8	Rev. R.T. Sivewright (Carlisle)	1982/3	D. Everett (Whitehaven)
		1983/4	W.B. Smith (Whitehaven)

NOTE: The 1948/9 final between E.F. Yates (Keswick) and E. Saulitis (Carlisle) was not played within the allotted time period and the Championship was declared void.

#### MINOR INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

1928/9	J. Campbell (Whitehaven)	1959/60	I.A. Leeder (Workington)
1929/30	W. Cowen (Keswick)	1960/1	D. Phillips (Cockermouth)
1930/1	W. Veevers (Whitehaven)	1961/2	W. Baker (Carlisle)
1931/2	B. Crossley (Whitehaven)	1962/3	J. Irving (Carlisle)
1932/3	H. Wikeley (Brampton)	1963/4	E. Dowker (Kendal)
1933/4	R.L. Brooks (Whitehaven)	1964/5	R. Bumstead (Windermere)
1934/5	J.W. Tomlin (Workington)	1965/6	P. Cloudsdale (Windermere)
1935/6	E. Haynes (Whitehaven)	1966/7	P. McDowell (Whitehaven)
1936/7	W.F. Watson (Carlisle)	1967/8	G.H. Phillips (Windermere)
1937/8	A. Potts (Carlisle)	1968/9	D. Johnson (Whitehaven)
1938/9	M. Hopper (Keswick)	1969/70	M.J. Lamping (Whitehaven)
		1970/1	M. Rolton (Windermere)
1946/7	L. Gazzi (Whitehaven)	1971/2	G.W. Chapman (Keswick)
1947/8	R. Roberts (Carlisle)	1972/3	A. Place (Carlisle)
1948/9	K. Evans (Workington)	1973/4	D.A. Phillips (Windermere)
1949/50	F. Brown (Penrith)	1974/5	A.R. Bailey (Carlisle)
1950/1	J.L. Elvey (Kendal)	1975/6	V. Hinchcliffe (Barrow)
1951/2	L. Sniatinsky (Carlisle)	1976/7	R. Hopkins (Barrow)

1952/3	E.C. Foulkes (Kendal)	1977/8	W.R. Ball (Alston)
1953/4	J.M. Gibson (Carlisle)	1978/9	J.W. Brown (Alston)
1954/5	J. Smith (Brampton)	1979/80	W.F.N. Henderson (Workington)
1955/6	P. Edwards (Carlisle)	1980/1	E.G. Fleet (Barrow)
1956/7	H.A. Madgwick (Arnside)	1981/2	St. Pallister (Penrith)
1957/8	J. Metcalfe (Brampton)	1982/3	T.S. Woods (Barrow)
1958/9	J. Dearling (Carlisle)	1983/4	A. Eadington (Penrith)

#### JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

1893/4	D. Bell	1946/7	R. Daglish (Carlisle)
1894/5	D. Bell	1948/9	K. Evans (Workington)
1895/6	J.H. Brooksbank (Workington)	1950/1	R.J. Holloway (Arnside)
1896/7	J.H. Walker (Cockermouth)	1951/2	R.J. Holloway (Arnside)
1897/8	J.H. Walker (Cockermouth)	1952/3	R.J. Holloway (Arnside)
1898/9	J.T. Crelling (Workington)	1954/5	M.E. Hisom (Heversham School)
1899/00	J.H. Walker (Cockermouth)	1955/6	D. Glasgow (Barrow)
1900/1	F. Adair	1957/8	D.E. Holloway (Arnside)
1903/4	A. Kennard (Carlisle)	1959/60	A.E. Harding (Windermere)
1904/5	A. Stevens	1960/1	A.E. Harding (Windermere)
1909/10	A. Hetherington (Brampton)	1962/3	P. Cloudsdale (Windermere)
1911/2	W.E. Horsnall (Keswick)	1963/4	P. Cloudsdale (Windermere)
1912/3	H. Swallow (Keswick)	1964/5	W.A. Farrell (Whitehaven)
1913/4	J.H. Frankland (Keswick)	1965/6	R. Thompson (Windermere)
1914/5	J. Swinburn (Keswick)	1966/7	J. Woodburn (Barrow)
1923/4	W. Jones (Carlisle)	1967/8	D. Willacy (Barrow)
1926/7	M. Johnstone (Whitehaven)	1968/9	D.N. Robinson (Keswick)
1927/8	C.H. Ray	1972/3	D.A. Phillips (Windermere)
1928/9	D. Irving (Workington)	1973/4	B. Moore (Wyndham)
1929/30	W. Todhunter (Whitehaven)	1974/5	G. Roscoe (Wyndham)
1930/1	G.D. Rawlings (Keswick)	1975/6	J. Lloyd (Ulverston)
1931/2	W. Wilkinson (Keswick)	1976/7	P. Bestley (Keswick)
1932/3	J.F. Rowe (Cleator Moor)	1977/8	M. Connolly (Whitehaven)
1933/4	W. Wilkinson (Keswick)	1978/9	S.M. Pallister (Penrith)
1934/5	G.D. Rawlings (Keswick)	1979/80	K.J. Walsh (Penrith)
1935/6	E. Haynes (Whitehaven)	1980/1	R. Hayley (Millom)
1936/7	W. Langley (Mell Fell)	1981/2	S. Greenwood (Carlisle)
1937/8	J. Langley (Mell Fell)	1982/3	A. McConnachie (Alston)
1938/9	J. Langley (Mell Fell)	1983/4	A. McConnachie (Alston)

#### TEAM CHAMPIONS

1884	Whitehaven	1924/5	Whitehaven	1958/9	Barrow
1884/5	Whitehaven	1925/6	Whitehaven	1959/60	Arnside
1885/6	Whitehaven	1926/7	Keswick	1960/1	Arnside
1886/7	Whitehaven	1927/8	Whitehaven	1961/2	Carlisle
1887/8	Carlisle	1928/9	Whitehaven	1962/3	Carlisle
1888/9	Workington	1929/30	Carlisle	1963/4	Carlisle
1889/90	Workington	1930/1	Carlisle	1964/5	Whitehaven
1890/1	Workington	1931/2	Keswick	1965/6	Carlisle
1891/2	Workington	1932/3	Whitehaven	1966/7	Carlisle
1892/3	Workington	1933/4	Whitehaven	1967/8	Barrow
1893/4	Workington	1934/5	Workington	1968/9	Carlisle
1894/5	Keswick	1935/6	Carlisle	1969/70	Whitehaven

1895/6	Workington	1936/7	Keswick	1970/1	Windermere
1896/7	Workington	1937/8	Workington	1971/2	Windermere
1897/8	Workington	1938/9	Keswick	1972/3	Windermere
1898/9	Workington	1946/7	( Carlisle	1973/4	Windermere
1899/00	Workington		( Kendal	1974/5	Windermere
1900/1	Workington	1950/1	( Carlisle	1975/6	Windermere
1902/3	Workington		( Kendal	1976/7	Windermere
1907/8	Carlisle	1952/3	Keswick	1977/8	Windermere
1908/9	Keswick	1953/4	Carlisle	1978/9	Windermere
1911/2	Keswick	1954/5	Keswick	1979/80	Carlisle
1913/4	Cockermouth	1955/6	Barrow	1980/1	Carlisle
1915/6	Workington	1956/7	Carlisle	1981/2	Penrith
1923/4	Whitehaven	1957/8	Windermere	1982/3	Whitehaven
				1983/4	Windermere
				1984/5	Barrow

#### MINOR TEAM CHAMPIONS

1927/8	Keswick	1953/4	Keswick	1967/8	Carlisle
1928/9	Keswick	1954/5	Windermere	1968/9	Carlisle
1930/1	Carlisle	1955/6	Brampton	1969/70	Carlisle
1931/2	Carlisle	1956/7	Arnside	1970/2	Windermere
1932/3	Brampton	1957/8	Arnside	1972/3	Millom
1933/4	Carlisle	1958/9	Ambleside	1973/4	Millom
1934/5	Whitehaven	1959/60	Windermere	1974/5	Millom
1935/6	Carlisle	1960/1	Cockermouth	1975/6	Furness
1936/7	Mell Fell	1961/2	Windermere	1976/7	Alston
1937/8	Carlisle	1962/3	Carlisle	1977/8	Whitehaven
1938/9	Workington	1963/4	Arnside	1978/9	Whitehaven
1946/7	Kendal	1964/5	Windermere	1979/80	Carlisle
1950/1	Kendal	1965/6	Arnside	1980/1	Millom
1952/3	Keswick	1966/7	Barrow	1981/2	Whitehaven
				1982/3	Alston
				1983/4	Carlisle
				1984/5	Workington 'B'

#### DIVISION 3 TEAM CHAMPIONS

1976/7	Windermere	1979/80	Carlisle	1981/2	Barrow
1978/9	Wyndham				

NOTE: No games were played in this competition in the 1890/1 and 1891/2 seasons, but it was decided that Workington should have their name engraved on the trophy as holders.

NCCU COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP

	<u>CHESHIRE</u>	<u>CLEVELAND</u>	<u>DURHAM</u>	<u>LANCASHIRE</u>
1900/1				
1901/2				
1902/3	6-10			
1903/4				4½-10½ (1)
1904/5	3-12 (1)			
1905/6				
1906/7	2½-12½ (1)			
1953/4	6½-9½		2½-13½	1-15
1954/5	3-13		5-11	6-10
1955/6	4-12		6½-9½	2½-13½
1956/7	2½-13½		2-14	1-15
1957/8	2-14		7-9	2-14
1958/9	2-14		5-11	4½-11½
1959/60	4-12		5½-10½	3-13
1960/1	2½-13½		4½-11½	5½-10½
1961/2	4-12		3½-12½	1½-14½
1962/3	5½-10½		3½-12½	3-13
1963/4	2-14		7-9	3-13
1964/5	4½-11½		4½-11½	5-11
1965/6	3-13		4½-11½	3-13
1966/7	4½-11½		4½-11½	4½-11½
1967/8	1-15		5½-10½	1½-14½
1968/9	4-12		-----	0-15 (1)
1969/70	1½-14½		6-10	2½-12½ (1)
1970/1	1½-14½		1½-14½	3-13
1971/2	2-14		2-14	4-12
1972/3	2-14		4½-11½	5½-10½
1973/4	5½-10½	8½-7½	5½-10½	4-12
1974/5	5½-10½	4½-11½	7-9	3-13
1975/6	6½-9½	9½-6½	5½-10½	4½-11½
1976/7	6-10	4½-11½	7½-8½	4½-11½
1977/8	7-9	8-8	8-8	5-11
1978/9	3½-12½	9-7	8-8	5-11
1979/80	8½-7½	7½-8½	7½-8½	5-11
1980/1	4-12	5½-10½		3-13
	4-12			
1981/2	*	5½-10½		5-11
1982/3	4-12	3-13		4½-11½
	4½-11½			
1983/4	6-10	4½-11½	2-14	3½-12½
1984/5	4-12	2-14		3½-12½

Notes:

(1) Match contested over only 15 boards.

\* Match agreed drawn without play.

----- Match not played.

Since 1980/1, this competition has been divided into Preliminary and Final stages, as a result of which Cumbria play one county twice each season and do not meet two other counties.



	<u>Merseyside</u>	<u>Northumberland</u>	<u>Yorkshire</u>	<u>Season's % Score</u>
1900/1			-	
1901/2			8-14	36.4
1902/3				37.5
1903/4				30.0
1904/5				20.0
1905/6			-	
1906/7				16.7
1953/4		5½-10½	2-14	21.9
1954/5		5½-10½	1½-14½	26.3
1955/6		5½-10½	7-9	31.9
1956/7		3-13	1-15	11.9
1957/8		4-12	5-11	25.0
1958/9		2½-13½	1½-14½	19.4
1959/60		3½-12½	2½-13½	23.1
1960/1		7-9	½-15½	25.0
1961/2		5½-10½	2½-13½	21.3
1962/3		5½-10½	1½-14½	23.8
1963/4		4-12	2½-13½	23.1
1964/5		6½-9½	½-15½	26.3
1965/6		3-13	3½-12½	21.3
1966/7		4½-11½	1-15	23.8
1967/8		4½-11½	3½-12½	20.0
1968/9		4-12	2-14	15.9
1969/70		8-8	3½-12½	27.2
1970/1		4½-11½	6-10	20.6
1971/2		8½-7½	3½-12½	25.0
1972/3		7-9	4-12	28.8
1973/4		5½-10½	1½-14½	31.8
1974/5		6½-9½	5½-10½	33.3
1975/6		8½-7½	6-10	42.2
1976/7		5-11	6½-9½	35.4
1977/8	3-13	8½-7½	3-13	37.9
1978/9	6-10	7-9	5½-10½	39.3
1979/80	7½-8½	7½-8½	5½-10½	43.8
1980/1	4-12	4-12		25.5
1981/2	7½-8½	6-10		37.5
	+			
1982/3	3-13	6½-9½		26.6
1983/4	4½-10½ (1)			25.6
1984/5	3½-10½ (2)	1½-14½		19.2

Notes: (1) Match contested over only 15 boards.  
 (2) Match contested over only 14 boards.  
 + Match awarded to Cumbria by default.  
 - Match defaulted by Cumberland.

<u>SUMMARY</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>%</u>
v Cheshire	36	1	0	35	142½	431½	24.8
v Cleveland	12	3	1	8	72	120	37.5
v Durham	27	0	2	25	136	296	31.5
v Lancashire	33	0	0	33	117	408	22.3
v Merseyside	8	0	0	8	39	86	31.2
v Northumberland	31	3	1	27	168½	327½	34.0
v Yorkshire	28	0	0	28	96½	357½	20.6
TOTALS	175	7	4	164	771½	2026½	27.5

(This summary does not include defaulted matches).

NCCU COUNTIES SECOND TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

	<u>Cheshire</u>	<u>Cleveland</u>	<u>Durham</u>	<u>Lancashire</u>
1973/4	3-13	8-8	6-10	3-13
1974/5	3½-12½	7-9	2½-13½	2-14
1975/6	8-8	4½-11½	8½-7½	3½-12½
1976/7	6-10	7½-8½	4½-11½	4-12
1977/8	4-13 (2)	7-9	6-10	3-13
1978/9	3½-12½	8-8	3½-12½	9-7
1979/80	6-10	4½-10½ (1)	8½-7½	10-10 (3)
1980/1	1½-14½	7½-8½	6-10	½-15½
1981/2	=	5½-10½	7-9	2½-13½
	4½-11½			
1982/3	3½-12½	1-15	3-13	1½-14½
	2½-13½			
1983/4	5½-10½	5-11	7-9	1½-14½
1984/5	3½-12½		7½-7½ (1)	1-15
	<u>Merseyside</u>	<u>Northumberland</u>	<u>Yorkshire</u>	<u>Season's % score</u>
1973/4		5½-10½	6-10	32.8
1974/5		3½-12½	2½-13½	21.9
1975/6		6-10	4-12	35.9
1976/7		5-11	3½-12½	31.8
1977/8	4-12	4-12	2-14	26.5
1978/9	9-7	5-11	6½-9½	39.7
1979/80	8½-11½ (3)	5½-10½	6-10	41.2
1980/1	1-15			19.8
1981/2	4½-11½			30.0
1982/3	½-15½			12.5
1983/4	6½-9½			31.9
1984/5	1½-14½	-		21.4

Notes:

- (1) Match contested over only 15 boards.
- (2) Match contested over 17 boards.
- (3) Match contested over 20 boards.
- = Match agreed drawn without play.
- Match defaulted by Cumbria.

<u>SUMMARY</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>%</u>
v Cheshire	13	0	1	12	55	154	26.3
v Cleveland	11	0	2	9	65½	109½	37.4
v Durham	12	2	1	9	70	121	36.6
v Lancashire	12	1	1	10	41½	154½	21.2
v Merseyside	8	1	0	7	38	110	25.5
v Northumberland	7	0	0	7	34½	77½	30.8
v Yorkshire	7	0	0	7	30½	81½	27.2
TOTALS	70	4	5	61	335	808	29.3

BCF COUNTY & DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

<u>Year</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Position</u>
1925	9½	18/18	1954/5	13	24/36
1926	10	18/20	1955/56	11½	31/38
1927	10		1956/7	11	27/34
1928	10½	17/18	1957/8	9	29/34
1929	12	17/19	1958/9	15	8/30(Div.2)
1930	11½	18/20	1959/60	11½	
1931	14	13/22	1960/1	11½	23/27
1932	13	15/22	1961/2	13	20/26
1933	12½	17/24	1962/3	12½	21/26
1934	12½	19/34	1963/4	n/a	
1935	13½	15	1964/5	13½	16/22
1936	12½	20/26	1965/6	14½	14/22
1937	13½	19/25	1966/7	12½	
1938	10	22/36	1967/8	8	22/22
1939	9	26/26	1968/9	14	12/22
1940	8 (20)	21/26	1969/70	13	14/19
1941	7½ (20)	17/20	1970/1	7½	17/17
1942	5 (20)	22/23	1971/2	10	15/16
1943	6½ (20)	20/23	1972/3	16	8/20
1944	6 (20)	27/27	1973/4	13	16/20
1945	10½ (20)	11/26	1974/5	13	14/20
1946	14½	18/29	1975/6		2/20
1947	14		1976/7	15	(Div.1)
1948	13	20/32	1977/8	14½	
1949	12½	25/31	1978/9	13½	10/16
1950	14½		1979/80	13½	13/16
1951	11½		1980/1	5½	16/16
1952	19	7/35	1981/2	17½	5/16(Div.2)
1953	9	31/32			
1954	8	33/36			

All scores are from 30 games unless otherwise indicated.

Unfortunately, my records of the performances in the NCCU Counties Correspondence Championship are too sparse to give here, but it should be recorded that Cumbria won this competition in 1975/6 and 1976/7.

CUMBRIA INDIVIDUAL CORRESPONDENCE CHAMPION

1979/80	J. Billsborough (Millom)
1980/1	P. McHugh (Workington)
1981/2	K. Wells (Unattached)
1982/3	K. Wells (Unattached)

GAMES

W. J.H. Blackburne  
B. C. Platt (Carlisle)

Simultaneous Display, 1899

- |               |                  |  |
|---------------|------------------|--|
| 1. P-K4 P-Q4  | 12. PxB N-Q4     | 23. N-N3 RxP                             |
| 2. PxP QxP    | 13. N-N3 NxB     | 24. P-KR4 RxRP                           |
| 3. N-QB3 Q-Q1 | 14. PxN B-Q3     | 25. P-R5 R-R8+                           |
| 4. N-B3 N-KB3 | 15. P-KB4 P-KB4  | 26. K-R2 Q-R3                            |
| 5. B-B4 N-QB3 | 16. R-B2 R-B3    | 27. Q-B6 K-B1                            |
| 6. P-Q3 B-KN5 | 17. R-N2 R-N3    | 28. Q-Q7 P-K4                            |
| 7. B-K3 P-K3  | 18. Q-B3 P-B4    | 29. Q-Q8+ K-B2                           |
| 8. B-QN5 B-N5 | 19. K-R1 R-N1    | 30. Q-Q7+ K-B1                           |
| 9. O-O O-O    | 20. QR-KN1 Q-KB1 | 31. Q-Q8+ K-B2 $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 10. BxN PxB   | 21. N-R5 RxR     |  |
| 11. N-K2 BxN  | 22. RxR P-N3     |  |

W. Dr. S.H. Hall (Carlisle)  
B. J. Borthwick (Glasgow)

Played on Bd. 11 in the North of England  
v Scotland match, 1911.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>P-Q4 P-Q4</u>   | 11. <u>N-K5</u> (Thematic and very strong. The threat is 12. NxN QxN 13. BxN, winning the KRP.)   |
| 2. <u>P-QB4 P-K3</u>  | 11. .... <u>N-B1</u>  |
| 3. <u>N-QB3 N-KB3</u>   | 12. <u>P-B4</u> (A mistake; 12. B-N5 wins as in the game)   |
| 4. <u>B-N5 B-K2</u>   | 12. .... <u>P-B4</u> (With White having missed a chance, 12 .... P-QR3 was vital, when Black could hope to obtain some play by ... P-B4. Now he loses by force.)            |
| 5. <u>P-K3 QN-Q2</u>  | 13. <u>B-N5 N(3)-Q2</u> (if 13 .... N(1)-Q2, 14. BxN(B6) wins the exchange.   |
| 6. <u>N-KB3 O-O</u>   | 14. <u>Q-B5 P-B3</u> (Presumably hoping to regain his material. But nothing else is any better, e.g. 14 .... BxB 15. PxR NxN 16. BxR, or 14.... NxN 15. BPxN (or 15. BxR).) |
| 7. <u>Q-B2 P-QN3</u> (Not a particularly good move here; much better is the sharper 7 .... P-B4, seeking central counterplay)   | 15. <u>NxN B-B1</u> (Or 15 .... PxB 16. N-K5)   |
| 8. <u>PxP PxP</u>   | 16. <u>QxQP+ K-R1</u>   |
| 9. <u>B-Q3 B-N2</u>   | 17. <u>QxR BxN</u>  |
| 10. <u>O-O R-K1</u> (Here Black should play 10 .... P-KR3, intending either (1) 11. P-R4 P-B4, to follow up with .... N-K5 leading to simplifying exchanges, or (2) 11. BxN NxB 12. N-K5 P-B4. The Rook is misplaced on K1 and by omitting ... P-KR3 in his opening Black can never exchange off the White Knight which soon appears on his K4 without losing his KRP). | 18. <u>CxQ 1-0</u>  |

W. R.P. Gray (Whitehaven & C.W. & F.)

B. G. Nicholson (Crewe & Cheshire and North Wales)

Played on Bd.20 in the 1968/9 Sinclair Trophy, this game won the Boyd Best Game Prize.

1. P-K4 P-K4
2. N-KB3 N-QB3
3. P-N5 P-QR3
4. P-R4 N-B3
5. O-O P-QN4
6. P-N3 B-K2
7. P-B3 (Black's slightly inaccurate move order could be met by 7. P-Q4, when 7 .... P-Q3 (7 .... PxP 8. P-K5; 7 .... QNxP 8. NxN PxN 9. P-K5; 7 .... KNxP 8. PxP, threatening Q-Q5) 8. P-QR4 P-N5 9. P-B3 is good for White)
7. .... O-O
8. R-K1 P-Q3
9. P-Q4 B-N5
10. P-Q5 N-QR4
11. B-B2 P-B4? (Better is 11 .... P-B3, challenging the White centre. Now Black finds Q-side counterplay very difficult to come by.)
12. QN-Q2 N-QN2
13. P-KR3 B-R4
14. N-B1 P-KR3?
15. P-KN4 B-N3
16. N-N3 N-R2
17. K-R2 N-N4
18. N-R4! (Heading for KB5. That the KP is not really en prise is demonstrated in the game!)
18. .... BxKP?

19. NxB NxN
20. N-B5! N-B3 (20 .... N-N4 21. P-KR4 N-R2 is better)
21. P-N5 N-R2
22. Q-R5! BxP
23. R-KN1 K-R1 (Black is in a bad way, e.g. 23 .... Q-B3 loses to 24. P-KR4 BxB 25. RxP+ K-R1 26. RxN+, amongst others)
24. BxB PxB (Or 24 .... NxB 25. NxrP N-B6+ 26. QxN PxN 27. Q-B5, mating)
25. NxNP! KxN
26. FxN! (Keeping the Black King exposed)
26. .... P-KB3
27. R-N3 Q-K1
28. RxP+! (A fine finish)
28. .... PxR
29. QxP+ K-R1 (If 29 .... KxB, White has 30. R-KN1 RxP+ 31. K-R1, when mate is unstoppable)
30. B-B5 1-0 (30 .... RxB 31. Q-R6+ K-N1 32. R-KN1+ K-B2 33. Q-N7 mate)

A game well worth the award for being the best game played in the entire competition that year.

W. J. Toothill (Windermere)

B. B. Cafferty Played in Rd.1 of the 1981 British Championship

- |                              |                                |                              |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <u>P-K4</u> <u>N-KB3</u>  | 10. <u>Q-N3</u> <u>P-KN3</u>   | 18. <u>RxR</u> <u>PxB</u>    |
| 2. <u>P-K5</u> <u>N-Q4</u>   | 11. <u>O-O</u> <u>N-B3</u>     | 19. <u>QxP+</u> <u>K-B1</u>  |
| 3. <u>N-QB3</u> <u>NxN</u>   | 12. <u>KR-K1</u> <u>Q-B2</u>   | 20. <u>QxKP</u> <u>N-Q5</u>  |
| 4. <u>QPxN</u> <u>P-Q4</u>   | 13. <u>B-N5</u> <u>P-KR3</u> ? | 21. <u>BxP+</u> <u>RxB</u>   |
| 5. <u>B-KP4</u> <u>P-QB4</u> | 14. <u>P-B4</u> <u>PxP</u>     | 22. <u>QxR+</u> <u>K-B2</u>  |
| 6. <u>N-B3</u> <u>B-N5</u>   | 15. <u>QR-Q1</u> ! <u>P-R3</u> | 23. <u>Q-R5+</u> <u>K-B1</u> |
| 7. <u>P-KR3</u> <u>BxN</u>   | 16. <u>BxBP</u> <u>R-Q1</u> ?  | 24. <u>P-QB3</u> <u>N-B3</u> |
| 8. <u>QxB</u> <u>P-K3</u>    | 17. <u>BxKP</u> ! <u>RxR</u>   | 25. <u>P-K6</u> 1-0          |
| 9. <u>B-K2</u> <u>B-K2</u> ? |                                |                              |