

Minutes Of Cleveland Chess Association Annual General Meeting 2022

Held At:

Great Ayton Working Mens Club

Whinstone View

Great Ayton

TS9 6AT

Wednesday 17th August at 7.30pm (1930hrs)

In Attendance

Peter Archer (Great Ayton)
Francis Batchelor (Thornaby)
Nikhil Bhandari (Middlesbrough)
Steven Booth (Great Ayton)
Gordon Dickinson (Great Ayton)
Brian Ellis (Thornaby)
Andrew French (Great Ayton)
Steve Gatenby (Great Ayton)
Peter Harker (Hartlepool)
Kegan Harrison (Great Ayton)
Geoff Howsden (Thornaby)
Allan Jefferson (Great Ayton)
Peter McKay (Darlington)
Martin McLoughlin (Great Ayton)
Jim Rogers (Great Ayton)
Andrew Smith (Redcar)
Carl Stevens (Darlington)
Chris Swales (Thornaby)
Virgil Szekely (Great Ayton)
Nick Tadd (Thornaby)
Paul Weightman (Billingham)
Brian Whitaker (Billingham)

Apologies

Ernie Lazenby (Great Ayton)

Joe McGinnes (Thornaby)

Prize Giving

League

Division A Winners: Darlington A

Division B Winners: Darlington B

Division C Winners: Darlington C

Cup

Tom Wise K/O Cup winners (£40): Middlesbrough Rooks

Jeremy Burnett Plate winners (£25): Great Ayton B

Individual

Individual champion (£40): Nick Tavoularis

u1650 best score (£20): Gary Leighton

u1440 best scores Geoff Howsden & Bernie Callaghan

Ernie Lazenby Game Of The Season

Brian Ellis & Steven Booth

Agenda

1 Approval of Minutes of 2021 Meeting: Posted on CCA website and any Matters Arising

Approved without comment

2 Officers Reporting: Posted on CCA Website are there any questions?

Peter McKay thanked Paul Weightman and the other officials for sorting out the difficulties at the start of the season

3 New Rules And Constitution Review (Peter McKay)

There were two amendments made to the Rules:

(i) Playing for one Team in a Division – Passed without discussion save to correct the word 'League' to 'Division'

(ii) Rating for ungraded players – Passed after a brief discussion in which it was agreed to replace 'unrated' with 'provisional grade or unrated'

4 Members Proposals

4.1 Geoff Howsden (Thornaby)

I would like to propose a new team – my idea is the Nomads.

They would play in the bottom division -only requiring 4 players.

The maximum grade would be 100 (subject to discussion) – any higher more than likely playing regularly already

They would only play away games – hence Nomads.

Geoff Howsden: Players wanting to play couldn't get games so a solution could be to add this extra team but accepted that a grade limit for this needed to be discussed

Carl Stevens: How do people get to a venue from different places? Driving would be an issue

Steve Gatenby: Said it was a good idea if players can travel

Paul Weightman: Fixtures could be a problem to arrange and it would likely extend the length of the C Division season

Brian Whitaker: Considered that 4.7 was a similar solution and these proposal should be considered at the same time

Chris Swales: Agreed

Nick Tadd: For the Team playing the Nomads it would be a Home game.

Steve Gatenby: The fixtures should be fitted in between the other fixtures

Peter McKay: Hoped that the idea worked and agreed we should hold the proposal over to 4.7 was voted on

Nick Tadd: If people wanted more chess they could play in the Individual

Geoff Howsden: Young players did not want to play in the Individual

The Proposal was carried over to be voted on with 4.7 by was

NOT PASSED

4.2a Chris Swales (Thornaby)

Nominations should be fixed for the season

They already are so the Proposal was

WITHDRAWN

4.2b Chris Swales (Thornaby)

Monthly grades used for board order

In light of the Rule change in 3 the Proposal was

WITHDRAWN

4.3 Chris Swales (Thornaby)

Add a membership officer and a publicity officer to the committee.

Chris Swales: Just an idea to get someone to publicise the CCA

Brian Whitaker: Thought that the President did this

Carl Stevens: Facebook page could do this generally if it was made public

Francis Batchelor: A good idea but should it be in the Presidents role?

Peter McKay: The President should be a figurehead

Chris Swales: Offered to stand

The Proposal was

PASSED

4.4 Chris Swales (Thornaby)

Go back to teams of 5 in the B division.

Chris Swales: Felt that most Clubs had sufficient players to allow for teams of 5 in the B Division

Nick Tadd: Agreed that 5 players would be good

Peter Harker: Hartlepool would struggle with 5 players in the C Division

Nick Tadd: If you don't have the players available for this then don't enter a Team

Francis Batchelor: With bigger Teams in the B Division would mean more nominated players and so less available for the C. This should be an objective not a forcing measure and should be decided by the Exec once the Teams are clearer

The Proposal was

PASSED AS ADVISORY

4.5 Chris Swales (Thornaby)

Have a D division that can be registered for in January and starts in February

Chris Swales: Some Clubs acquire players in the first half of the season and may need an additional Team to accommodate them

Paul Weightman: It was technically easy to create on the LMS system

Chris Swales: It would only happen if Clubs wanted it to

The Proposal was

PASSED

4.6 Chris Swales (Thornaby)

Move to be in line with the ECF rules and allow players to play up to 3 games in the league without registering with the ECF.

Andrew French: This Proposal was against existing Rules

Paul Weightman: It could mean 63 ungraded/unregistered games and it would be very time consuming for him to implement on the LMS. Should an error be made and a player play 4 time the ECF would fine the CCA. It was much easier to have all players registered at the start of a season and why should some people get free games when others had to pay. New players can already try chess in their own Clubs in internal tournament or friendly games with other Clubs

Chris Swales: Could it work for the last 3 games of a season?

Paul Weightman: It was unfair to those who play against these players as their games would be unrated even though they have paid

Chris Swales: There was a free game option in the 1990's

Paul Weightman: Juniors have reduced membership costs anyway

Chris Swales: It would allow for parents traveling with the Juniors to play in a match if no-one else was available at short notice

Andrew French: It was likely to cause chaos

Chris Swales: The Durham Leagus has this Rule

Steve Gatenby: It could get unregistered playerd interested by playing a game ad hoc

Chris Swales: Aimed at players joining mid-season

Nick Tadd: We all join so why not everyone?

Chris Swales: This option was open to anyone

Peter Archer: Players could play friendly games with their Clubs alongside matches to give then a feel for chess

Carl Steven: Players are fully aware of the costs before they begin

Francis Batchelor: It seems like too much work and doesn't seem popular

Geoff Howsden: What would happen if the games were played?

Paul Weightman: They couldn't be entered onto the LMS since the players are not registered so the game would disappear

The Proposal was

NOT PASSED

4.7 Chris Swales (Thornaby)

Players "on loan" playing for other Clubs.

Item 4.1 was voted on at this time

Nick Tadd: This would be very difficult to organise

Andrew French: Whose detail would the Captains have to have to organise this?

Francis Batchelor: Could the LMS cope with this?

Paul Weightman: Players can only play for one Club except for 1 occasion with the permission of the Match Organizer, in effect this was a player transfer

Geoff Howsden: This could have saved The Buffs season last year

Steve Gatenby: Could be open to loaned players tactically losing

Francis Batchelor: Was more in favour of the Nomads especially if the C Division had an odd number of Teams

The Proposal was

WITHDRAWN

4.8 Chris Swales (Thornaby)

Season should end in May

Chris Swales: This would allow for summer sports and holidays

Paul Weightman: If there were 6 Teams in the A Division the Season would end in late April anyway, there are currently four free weeks for Cup competitions

Brian Whitaker: The CCA had always managed to achieve this in previous years

Paul Weightman: Compressing the season may cause problems to Clubs only able to play one Team at home at a time

Francis Batchelor: Felt there was not too much chess and asked was it not possible to play 2 games in a week – one League, one Cup

Paul Weightman and Francis Batchelor discussed various scenarios of matches

Martin McLoughlin: Why not start the Season in September?

Francis Batchelor: Not keen on chess in June

Nick Tadd: Enter the individual if you want more chess

The Proposal was

PASSED AS ADVISORY

SUB-PROPOSAL (a) Each Team in a Division shall only play two games (Home and Away) against each other team.

Was **PASSED** without debate

SUB-PROPOSAL (b) Introduce a Best 11 Competition (either a Cup or a 3/4 Round Swiss) with teams of 11.

Peter McKay: Is this in addition to the League?

Kegan Harrison: Yes it was

Martin McLoughlin: Redcar don't have 11 players

Paul Weightman: Neither do Hartlepool

Francis Batchelor: Was this was a Competition to fill the gaps in the Season?

Chris Swales: It should be played within the season

Paul Weightman: It would be difficult to get player/Captains as there are too many players

Nick Tadd: It was the best players in the CCA that played the least chess

The Proposal was

NOT PASSED

4.9 Brian Ellis (Thornaby)

Swiss League Competition

Teams of four, from a club, will enter a Swiss league competition. A club may field as many teams as it wishes. There will be five rounds in the competition. In each round the teams will play each other home and away; hence 10 matches. Home drawn team will be white on even boards. Players to play in rating order. The points awarded for each match will be sum of the individual board results. The average rating of the team will be calculated for each match based on opening ratings for that season. A player may only play for one team. The final results will determine three winning teams based on highest number of points at predetermined average rating cut-off points. e.g. open, <1700 and <1400. (League organiser and CCA committee to decide)

Amendment Kegan Harrison (Exec)

Should the earlier proposal regarding having only 2 rounds in each Division against every opponent be passed (4.8a) then I would like to amend this to add 'This competition will be a four round Swiss to be run alongside the existing League and Cup structure'.

Brian Ellis: This is a radical change designed to remove the many complications in the League eg games not fairly divided between players, each Team will play Home and Away against the same opponent within a calendar month, this will create plenty of time for Cups and Individual competitions

Paul Weightman: Teams would not know the date of their next fixture until the end of the previous round, there would also be less Teams possibly 12 compared to the 19 in last seasons League, this is because players can only play in one team and not overlapping ones as now

Brian Ellis: Thornaby could have 4 Teams

Carl Stevens: Is this intended to run alongside the League?

Andrew French: No replace it

Francis Batchelor: Would all Teams play in the same week?

Brian Ellis: No, they just need to be played within the calendar month

Peter McKay: It may be difficult to arrange fixtures as there was no structure

Brian Whitaker: Good idea to get rid of nominated players

Peter Archer: There would be more arguments over dates as both dates would have to be agreed and some Teams would try to arrange them when they had there best players available

Paul Weightman: It would be possible to fix which weeks games should be played

Brian Ellis: Preferred more flexibility

Peter Archer: Flexibility is not necessarily a good thing in this context

Jim Rogers: Play all matched on one night in place

Brian Ellis: Teams dropping out would be less of a problem than now

Carl Stephens: Odd number of Teams would mean a bye and no games for a month

Francis Batchelor: Likes the amendment

The Amendment was

PASSED

The Amended Proposal was

PASSED

8 Election Of Officers

President Francis Batchelor
Chairman Andrew French
Secretary Kegan Harrison
Treasurer Nikhil Bhandari
Match Organizer Paul Weightman
Individual Organizer Peter McKay
Grader Chris Swales
Association Fund Manager Geoff Howsden
ECF Delegate vacant
Webmaster Chris Swales
Press & Publicity Officer Chris Swales

NOTE: The position of President was vacant at the time of the meeting due to the retirement of Ernie Lazenby. There was a discussion about who would stand prior to Francis Batchelor agreeing to

do so, no contemporary record was kept of this however a member has requested that it is included in part and here is his recollection verbatim:

Francis Batchelor: Asked what the post involved.

Brian Whitaker: It's anything you want it to be as the post is not defined in the constitution!

Kegan Harrison: It's a 'Figurehead' position.

Brian Whitaker: Asked Mr. Harrison if this was his personal opinion?

The question was unanswered and Francis Batchelor volunteered for the role and was duly elected.

9 AOB

(i) Nick Tadd: Is there anything to be done to get people to play in the Individual Competition?

Peter McKay: He wrote to all Club Secretaries and posted on the CCA website and Facebook page

Peter Archer: Like the competition because he got to play different players

Nick Tadd: Clubs should notify all members

(ii) Paul Weightman: There are a lot of spam emails coming from having our addresses on the website

Brian Whitaker: There is a contact form on the website, was anyone monitoring this?

Chris Swales: He was

Paul Weightman: Captains emails are available on the LMS system if you log in

Chris Swales: Would remove anyone who requested their email removed

(iii) Paul Weightman: Away Captains need to verify match results which they are not doing since this affects the monthly gradings

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