

CUMBRIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1884 as the Cumberland Chess Association)

Affiliated to the Northern Counties Chess Union and the British Chess Federation.

CONSTITUTION

Revised May 1st, 2008

1. TITLE AND OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association title shall be 'The Cumbria Chess Association'. Its objects shall be to promote, encourage and foster the playing of chess and to advance the interests of chess players in the Area by:-

- (i) Affiliation to the Northern Counties Chess Union and the English Chess Federation.
- (ii) Matches in competition between its own affiliated clubs and with other Associations, also matches and competitions between individual affiliated members.
- (iii) Participation in such other activities of the NCCU and the ECF as may be practicable.
- (iv) Any other means applicable and desirable.

2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) The Association shall consist of all chess clubs in the Area which affiliate by requiring no fewer than four of its members to pay an annual registration fee to the Cumbria Chess Association as determined at the AGM.

The Association shall encourage Cumbria chess players to become members of the ECF and in so doing shall require such a membership in order to participate in any and all Cumbria Chess Association events, except where a CCA member plays only up to two games a season in total in all Cumbria competitions.

- (b) All members of affiliated clubs and Associate Members, who are in good standing and have paid the annual registration fee, shall be fully accredited members of the Association and entitled to all the rights and privileges thereof, including the right to vote at a General Meeting, provided that this does not involve any breach of the rules of the NCCU or the ECF.
- (c) A player eligible under existing ECF Rules to represent the County in the Counties Championship may become an Associate Member upon payment of the appropriate fee.
- (d) The Secretary of each Affiliated Club shall supply to the Membership Secretary a list of members to be registered, together with the appropriate fees. Names and fees for new members to be registered shall be submitted as they arise.
- (e) Affiliation or Membership may be withdrawn from any Club or individual by a majority vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting. The Association shall not be bound to give any reason for such withdrawal.

MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) The Officers of the Association (who shall be elected at the Annual General meeting) shall be:- President, Treasurer, Secretary, Auditor, Competition Controller, Match Captain(s), Correspondence Captain, Grader, Membership Secretary, Junior Organiser(s), Press Officer, NCCU Delegates and ECF Delegate, all of whom shall be Honorary. All Officers serve for a maximum of one season before a fresh election is held. Newly elected officers take up their duties immediately on appointment.
- (b) Also elected at the Annual General Meeting shall be such Vice-Presidents as shall pay an annual subscription as determined by the AGM and Honorary Vice-Presidents whom the Association may wish to honour for life without any obligation to subscribe.
- (c) The management of the Association shall be in the hands of an Executive Committee comprised of the President, Treasurer, Secretary, Competition Controller and Junior Organiser. Such Committee shall have the power to deal with normal management, administration and non-constitutional matters arising during its term of office.
- (d) Additions to, or alterations of, the Constitution may only be made at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting. Such items must be notified to the Secretary, in the case of the AGM, four weeks prior to the Meeting for inclusion on the agenda. Amendments or alterations to such motions may be made and passed at these General Meetings.
- (e) The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the first Saturday in June or such other date as shall have been fixed at the previous AGM. The AGM should be held at a club venue if possible and at zero cost to the association. At least two weeks notice of agenda and venue shall be given to all members through the Club Secretaries, and to Associate Members.
- (f) The purposes of the AGM are:
- To receive and approve the Treasurer's Annual Statement of Accounts, which shall previously have been audited by the Hon. Auditor.
 - To receive the Annual Reports of the Officers and of the Rules Committee.
 - To present trophies and prizes
 - To elect the Officers and any additional Vice-Presidents and Honorary Vice-President
 - To appoint an Honorary Auditor
 - To define and determine the annual subscriptions/fees payable
 - To consider amendments to the Constitution of which the required notice has been given
 - To transact other business included on the Agenda
 - To consider any other business at the discretion of the President
- (g) With the exception of a proposed withdrawal of affiliation, all resolutions shall be determined on a simple majority of votes cast. Any attendee with the right to vote at the commencement of a General Meeting, retains that right until the end of the Meeting, unless the attendee is disaffiliated under 2 (e).
- (h) A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee to discuss and deal with any business of a special character, acting either upon its own responsibility or upon a requisition of not less than twelve members representing at least three clubs. The special general meeting must be held within four weeks of such a requisition. At least two weeks notice of agenda and venue shall be given

to all members through the Club Secretaries, and to Associate Members.

- (i) The Secretary shall record the proceedings of a General Meeting, including all resolutions dealt with, in Minutes which shall be produced and distributed to Officers and Club Secretaries within four weeks. Such Minutes will subsequently be presented, but not generally distributed, for formal approval at the next AGM.
- (j) All resolutions passed at an AGM or SGM shall be carried into effect by the Secretary or other Officer concerned, with such assistance as may be required from the Executive Committee.
- (a) Championships shall be conducted in accordance with Rules attached as Section 4 to this Constitution. Copies of the Rules shall be distributed, as appropriate, by the Competition Controller.
- (a) The Secretary shall keep a record of the results of all Tournaments, Competitions and Matches held under the auspices of the Association.
- (b) A copy of this Constitution shall be presented to each of the Officers and to all Club Secretaries. Copies shall be purchasable at a nominal charge by any member.

4 **RULES FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

(1) **GENERAL**

- (a) The Association Championships shall be contested annually and shall consist of:-

The CLUB League Division One Championship	The winners to hold the "Walker" cup for the current year.
The CLUB League Division Two Championship	The winners to hold the "Association" Cup for the current year.
The CLUB League Division Three Championship	The winners to hold the "Cumbria Shield" for the current year.
The CLUB Handicap Knock-out Championship	The winners to hold the "Whitaker Trophy" for the current year.
The INDIVIDUAL Championship	The winner to hold the "Higgins" Castle for the current year.
The INDIVIDUAL MINOR Championship	The winner to hold the "Keswick Hotel" Knight for the current year.
The INDIVIDUAL JUNIOR Championship	The winner to hold the "Chambers" Cup for the current year.

Such other Championships as may be instituted.

- (b) Club Championships are open to teams from any affiliated club or from conjoint teams drawn from two individual affiliated clubs. The entry of a conjoint team shall be at the discretion of the Competition Controller.
- (c) No club or player may compete if the annual registration fee is unpaid. In the Club Championships, teams shall consist only of bona-fide club members registered with the Association. Any club playing un-registered players shall forfeit the game on that board.

- (d) All competitions run under CCA auspices will also require ECF membership in order to take part, see rule 2 (a).
- (e) If the holder of any Championship is not challenged in any season, such club or player shall be deemed the holder for that season.
- (f) Cups and trophies are the property of the Association and must be returned for the next AGM. Cups and trophies are presented on the understanding that they remain within the County. A holder unable to comply must return the cup or trophy to the Association at once.
- (g) Players are prohibited from smoking inside the match room whilst play is in progress on any board.
- (h) All games shall be governed by the "Laws of Chess" as published by the English Chess Federation.
- (i) In the event of a dispute, in the Club Championships, the matter shall be referred to the team captains for a decision; if they fail to agree, the matter shall be referred to the Competition Controller for decision. In the case of a claim for a draw in accordance with the ECF Rules for Quickplay finishes, this provision shall also apply in the first instance.
- (j) Any club or player may appeal against the decision of a Competition Controller in writing to the Association President who, in determining the resolution of the issue, may, at his discretion, form an Appeals Committee of three disinterested parties, not including the Competition Controller who made the original decision.
- (k) Any matter not covered in these Rules shall be decided at the discretion of the relevant Competition Controller.

(2) CLUB LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- (a) Teams shall consist of four players, and any club playing fewer than this number shall forfeit the unplayed game or games. No one may play for more than one club in the same Division in the same season. There shall be a maximum of six teams in each Division. In the lowest contested Division, the Competition Controller may increase this number at his discretion.
- (b) Each club shall submit annually to the Competition Controller at the beginning of each season and before a Club Championship match is played by the club three nominated players for each team other than the lowest/weakest team as follows.

No player so nominated shall be eligible to play in a lower/weaker team whether in the same division or another division. All Non-nominated players are deemed to be in the weakest team.

Further more, no player in a lower/weaker team, who is stronger than the lowest player nominated for a higher/stronger team, shall be allowed to play for that higher/stronger team, whether in the same division or another division.

Teams will be registered A, B, C etc such that A is stronger/higher than B etc.

These nomination lists cannot be changed during the year unless the competition controller is sure no unfair advantage is being sought. The only exception being that new players may be registered before they have played a game and other players lowered as a result. Nominated players must be bona-fide members of the club and be registered with the Association.

For the purposes of nomination, if a club's estimate of its members' playing strength differs from grading order, according to the grades published in the current Cumbria Grading List and List of Estimated Grades, then evidence of playing strength must also be submitted to the Competition Controller. In this case should the controller agree the grade of the player(s) affected will be altered in the list for that season.”

- (c) Matches shall be arranged as stipulated in the Fixture List. The match shall be played on the date given in the Fixture List unless both teams agree an earlier date. The Competition Controller shall endeavour, in so far as is practicable, to establish fixture dates so as to enhance flexibility of player selection for Clubs with more than one team, and within a playing period utilising available dates in the full season of September to May.
 - (d) The Home Team is responsible for providing all the necessary equipment and for arranging the venue, and must provide confirmation of the arrangements to the Away Team at least two weeks before the stipulated or agreed fixture date.
 - (e) Before a match begins, the captains shall exchange their team lists written out in order of playing strength and no subsequent alteration shall be permitted. If a team knowingly has insufficient players it must default the bottom boards first. Where two teams play each other at home and away during the same season then the away team will have white on the odd numbered boards. If the two teams only play each other once during the season then the captains shall toss for colours and the winner shall take white on the odd-numbered boards in all games.
 - (f) At the agreed commencement of the match all clocks must be started. The game of any player still absent after 45 minutes shall be forfeited.
 - (g) One game only shall be played between each pair of players. Clocks must be used, and in all such games the time limit shall be all moves in 1½ hours (in an evening match) or all moves in 2 hours (in an afternoon match), subject to the ECF Rules for Quickplay finishes and Rule 4(1)(h).
 - (h) Matches will be decided by the total of game points for each team, with one game point for a win and half a point for a drawn game. Defaults count as wins unless both players default. Teams total game points will determine league placings.
 - (i) Within one week after the match is played, both teams shall send one copy of the Match Score Sheet to the Competition Controller.
 - (j) The Competition Controller shall have the power to default and impose a penalty of up to 4 game points on teams who do not participate in the competitive spirit of the League or otherwise bring the game into disrepute.
 - (l) At the end of the season the top team in both Division Two and Three shall be promoted to Divisions One and Two respectively; teams finishing in bottom place in both Divisions One and Two shall be relegated to Divisions Two and Three respectively. Should two or more teams involved in Championships or promotion/relegation finish with equal points, then the final placings shall be decided by the elimination of the bottom board(s) until a winner is resolved.
 - (m) Should a club enter less teams than a previous year or withdraws a team mid season then it is the weakest team that should be removed except if the competition controller agrees otherwise.
- (3) **CLUB HANDICAP KNOCK-OUT CHAMPIONSHIP**
- (a) Teams shall consist of four players, and any club playing fewer than this number shall forfeit the

unplayed game or games. No one may play for more than one team in the same season.

(b) Matches shall be completed in each round on the date specified by the Competition Controller unless both teams agree an earlier date. The Home Team shall notify the Away Team of the venue at least two weeks before the fixture date.

(c) The Home Team is responsible for providing all the necessary equipment.

(d) Before a match begins, the captains shall exchange their team lists written out in grading order according to the grades published in the current Cumbria Grading List and List of Estimated Grades, and no subsequent alteration shall be permitted. Ungraded players may only compete if an estimated grade is obtained from the Results Secretary prior to the game's commencement. The captains shall toss for colours and the winner shall take white on the odd-numbered boards in all games.

(e) At the agreed commencement of the match all the clocks must be started. The game of any player still absent after 45 minutes shall be forfeited.

(f) One game only shall be played between each pair of players. Clocks must be used, and in all such games the time limit shall be all moves in 1½ hours (in an evening match) or all moves in 2 hours (in an afternoon match), subject to the ECF Rules for Quickplay finishes and Rule 4(1)(h).

(g) Teams shall be handicapped as follows:

Excluding defaulted games, gradings of each team's players will be added together and the difference between the teams' total grades will determine the Match Points Handicap as in the following table:

Total grade difference	Match points handicap
200-163	3 ½
162-138	3
137-113	2 ½
112-88	2
87-63	1 ½
62-38	1
37-13	½
12-0	0

If, on any board, there is a grade difference of more than 50 points, then the difference shall be counted as only 50 and the Total Grade Difference be adjusted accordingly.

On completion of the match, the Match Points Handicap shall be deducted from the score of the higher-graded team. If the scores are then level, the elimination of the bottom board(s) shall apply (each time using the above table) until a winner is resolved. If the scores are still level, then the winner shall be the team whose total grades are the lower; if the teams' total grades are equal, then the winner shall be decided on the toss of a coin.

(4) INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- (a) The Championships shall be organised in such a way as may be decided from time to time by the AGM, and they shall be in the complete control of a Competition Controller.
- (b) Championships must be concluded by 30 April.
- (c) The Individual Minor Championship shall be restricted to players with a grading not exceeding 130. The Individual Junior Championship shall be restricted to players who will not have attained 18 years of age on the first day of a season i.e. 1 September.
- (d) In the event of two or more competitors tying for first place after the scheduled number of rounds, each of the said competitors having gained the same total number of points, the Championship shall be decided in accordance with the ECF rules for tie-splitting.