**Cleveland Chess Association Annual General Meeting 2025**

To Be Held At:

Hartlepool Chess Club

Athenaeum Club
Church Street
Hartlepool
TS24 7DH

On Monday 30th June at 7.30pm (1930hrs) and finishing no later than 10pm (2200hrs)

**Exec Intention For The 2025/26 Season**

The Exec intends to run the League next season as follows:

i There will be Four Divisions of 8 Teams, with each Division a two round all play all home and away
ii For Clubs in the A Division the top three graded players at the start of the season must be nominated. If a Club has more than one Team in the A Division then then these players can be split between those Teams; each of these three players can ONLY play for the Team they are nominated for. In addition, if a Club has more than one Team in the A Division then the next three highest graded players (for each additional Team) must be nominated and these players can play for any Team in the A Division but not in any lower Division.
iii Tie breaker in the event of two teams having identical Points and Game Difference will be in order: Head-to-Head result – Lowest number of Board defaults – Teams agree on who is highest/lowest – toss of a coin
iv Closing date for entries to be Monday 29th September with the season to start w/c 6th October.

**Agenda**

**1** **Approval of Minutes of 2025 Meeting Published on the CCA website or available by request**

**2** **Apologies**

Peter McKay (Darlington)

Guiseppe Magazzu (Darlington)

Ray Pallister (Middlesbrough)

Derek Simpson (Billingham)

**3 Prize Giving**

**4 Treasurers Report**

**5 Members Proposals**

**5.1 Exec**

As per the constitution, the structure of the League shall be determined by the Exec and any proposals put before an AGM relating to this will be considered advisory only. Members of the exec will not make their own separate proposals on league structure and as a group will announce its proposed structure at the AGM (with flexibility to allow for Clubs positions changing over the summer). Should the meeting wish to reject it, then a Vote of No Confidence in the Exec must be Proposed at the AGM and if carried the Exec will stand down and candidates should be presented with alternative proposals to stand in their stead. This is to avoid structures being voted through that are unworkable.

**PASSED**

**5.2 Exec**

The Cleveland Individual shall consist of 6 Rounds. All games are played on the same date at the same venue. Each club with a player entered hosts 1 round.

Suggest outside of main league season in September and May for Round 1 and 6 and these rounds hosted at the clubs with the most teams (currently Thornaby and Billingham). Round 2 to 5 hosted at other clubs and league fixtures will be generated so that no matches are on these dates.

Players can choose to take 1 half point bye. (Before the round is drawn)

So an example schedule would look something like this (exact dates to be agreed):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ROUND** | **DATE/MONTH** | **HOST** |
| 1 | Tuesday September 23rd | Thornaby |
| 2 | October | Hartlepool |
| 3 | November-December | Middlesbrough |
| 4 | January-February | Darlington |
| 5 | March-April | Great Ayton |
| 6 | May | Billingham |

**PASSED**

**5.3 Peter Harker (Hartlepool)**

The A division moves up to teams of 5 players.

**PASSED**

If the above is passed then two related proposals will be voted on

1. **Peter Harker (Hartlepool)**

The number of nominated players for an A Division team remains at three

**PASSED**

1. **Paul Weightman (Billingham)**

The nominated number of players should be 4

**FAILED**

**5.4 Paul Weightman (Billingham)**

A Division, all players can only play for one team only, just like B, C and D divisions.

**FAILED**

***Exec Comment:***

*The A division was down to 4 teams before this rule with a lack of variation and competitive games for the top players. Several drifted away from the league because they were bored of playing the same few players every week. By allowing the 4th rated player from some of the bigger clubs to play on board 1 for B teams it gives good games for the top players. All players we've talked to at the top end of the CCA ratings have enjoyed the last 2 seasons a lot more than the 2 before that. A breakdown of the league ratings highlights why this is needed. The top 40 players have a rating variation of 500, whereas for the next 40 players it is less than 200:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Rating*** | ***Num*** |
| *2200+* | *2* |
| *2100-2199* | *1* |
| *2000-2099* | *5* |
| *1900-1999* | *9* |
| *1800-1899* | *9* |
| *1700-1799* | *18* |
| *1600-1699* | *18* |
| *1500-1599* | *27* |
| *1400-1499* | *25* |
| *1300-1399* | *25* |
| *1200-1299* | *19* |
| *1100-1199* | *12* |
| *1000-1099* | *18* |
| *900-999* | *3* |
| *800-899* | *3* |
| ***TOTAL*** | ***194*** |

**5.5** **Paul Weightman (Billingham)**

Player Team Cap for playing for a higher division team

All players can play 5 games for a higher division team. On the 6th game that player may no longer play for any other lower division team and is tied to the higher division team!

**FAILED**

***Exec Comment:***

*This was voted through last year, but 5 separate clubs contacted us after the AGM to say it would mean them entering less teams as their number of available reserves would diminish as the season went on. We moved from 2 to 3 nominations per team to try to achieve some of the same effects of this proposal without reducing the number of teams in the league.*

**5.6** **Graham Bartram (Billingham)**

No eating over the board during matches

**FAILED**

**5.7** **Paul Weightman (Billingham)**

To modernise our voting for AGM’s.

To move to an online voting system using the like of Google dive. Where all players of the CCA are registered by email. All clubs to have one adjudicator to oversee the voting system. This is instead of just going on a hand show at AGM.

**FAILED**

**5.8 Exec (For Discussion)**

The Tom Wise Cup has been in a sorry state for a number of seasons with few Clubs entering teams, Teams regularly defaulting and Teams reaching the Final without playing a match. We have been considering various alternatives to replace the existing format with something that would attract more interest and make it a worthwhile competition, the ideas are as below:

1. With the Team as a whole having a total grading cap.
2. With each individual board having a grading limit
3. A Rapid play event with teams of four such that in one evening each member of each team plays every other member of the opposing team; the result being scored over the 16 matches

**6** **Election Of Officers**

Standing:

President Francis Batchelor

Chairman Peter Harker

Secretary Kegan Harrison

Treasurer Joe McGinnis

Match Organizer Chris Swales

Individual Organizer Chris Swales

Grader Paul Weightman

Association Fund Manager Geoff Howsden

NCCU Delegate Dominic Leigh

Webmaster

**7 Any Other Business**

**7.1 Nicola Britton (Billingham) (Discussion)**

Is the grade limit of 1500 too high in the D Division?

**7.2 Nicola Britton (Billingham) (Discussion)**

The Constitution states “The Executive Committee may fill any post which becomes vacant prior to the next AGM", should there be a different system for filling positions in the Exec outside of the AGM?