

**NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION
FOUNDED 1899**

Minutes of the NCCU Annual General Meeting 2017

Held on Saturday June 10th 2017, at the Latvian Club, 5 Clifton Villas,
Manningham Lane, Bradford, BD8 7BY Tel: 01274 546235

PRESENT

Brian Bainbridge (President and Durham representative)
Dave Cole (General Secretary and Cumbria representative)
George Horne (Treasurer and Cumbria representative)
Ihor Lewyk (Yorkshire representative)
Bill Metcalfe (Vice President and Cleveland representative)
Bill O'Rourke (Lancashire representative)
Dave Almond (Lancashire representative)
Paul Bielby (Northumberland representative)
Mike Barrett (Merseyside representative)
Dave Welsh (Merseyside representative)
Eddie Czestochowski (Durham representative)

The President welcomed Eddie Czestochowski to his first NCCU meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Keith Smith, Jim Moran, Simon Woodcock (Rupert Jones sent apologies post meeting).

2. Minutes of the 7th December 2016 NCCU Council Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising (including matters not covered in the Agenda)

The Secretary raised the outstanding issues from the Minutes:

- Questions from the NCCU to Mike Truran (the ECF CEO) at the 2016 Yorkshire AGM were asked and the answers are on the Yorkshire website. **Action: Ihor to provide the link.**
- A new trophy for the U160 Yorkshire v Cumbria match has been created: The Swallow-Moore Trophy, played for the first time in 2017 with Cumbria being victorious. (The trophy paid for by both Counties).
- The Seniors County Jamboree action was briefly discussed (see County report for details).
- The NCCU Individual Championships were held at the 2017 Durham Congress.

4. Officers Reports

a) Report of the President

The President stated that it had been a quiet year and had nothing to report.

b) Report of the General Secretary

The Secretary reported on the response submitted to the ECF on the consultation paper regarding the proposed changes to British Championship qualification. Generally the NCCU viewed the changes as being detrimental to grass roots players and congresses and didn't hold much credence to the 'weak tail' or 'commercial' arguments put forward by the ECF as reasons for change. Bill O'Rourke stated that the Heywood congress which is offering British qualifying places has an increased Open entry. An ECF Council report had been received and also a motion from Merseyside on NCCU participation (both items discussed later on the agenda).

c) Report of the Treasurer

George Horne reported that the NCCU had a balance of £1882.91 in the bank, with total assets of £2348.51 which included £525.60 worth of chess clocks. The surplus for this year was £146.31.

Two clubs owe entry fees for the Club Championship; Leeds clubs owes £15 and Skelmersdale owes £30 from a few seasons ago.

It was agreed that Affiliation fees of £75 per County would be discussed following Item 5 on the agenda. (Following the Item 5 discussion it was agreed to keep Affiliation fees the same).

d) Report of the County Championship Organiser

Jim Moran sent his apologies in at the last minute, so no report was received.

Open winners: Yorkshire

U180: Lancashire

U160: Awaiting Lancashire v Cumbria match – to be played.

U140: Lancashire

U120: Lancashire

U100: Lancashire

In the NCCU stages:

Open: Yorkshire 7.5 v 4.5 Lancashire

U160: Cumbria 6.5 v 5.5 Yorkshire - Yorkshire 7 v 5 Lancashire

U140: Lancashire 7 v 5 Yorkshire

At the National stages (to date):

Open: Lancashire have reached the Open final

Yorkshire are playing Surrey in the semi-finals

U180: Lancashire lost in the Quarter-final 6.5-9.5 to Essex.

U160: Lancashire and Yorkshire in the semi-finals – to be played.

U140: Lancashire and Yorkshire in the semi-finals – to be played.

U120: Lancashire drew 6-6 with Worcestershire but lost on board count.

U100: Lancashire thrashed 4-8 by a good Leicestershire side.

A discussion on promoting County chess in the NCCU ensued to get more Counties involved at the NCCU stages. It was agreed that the Counties in the East would look at fielding combined team(s) in some of the sections.

A jamboree day instead of individual matches was proposed, with the Open – U160 – U120 sections taking place together and the U180 – U140 – U100 sections taking place on another date. It was agreed to explore interest from Counties.

A County Seniors jamboree was also discussed (for 55 and over age group). Ihor proposed Bradford as a good venue with all the facilities and the Secretary is to discuss dates with Ihor and canvas interest.

Action: Reps to canvas County/clubs/Secretaries for possible interest in combined teams, a Jamboree day (x3 County sections per jamboree day and a Seniors jamboree).

e) Report of the Club Championship Organiser

Dave Cole reported that 16 teams had entered the four sections, with Heywood entering all sections and Manchester Social entering four teams in three sections. Effectively all sections are at the finals stage because Manchester Social have not played any games and don't look likely to.

Open: Heywood v Manchester Social

Major: Heywood 2.5 v 1.5 Prescot & Knotty Ash

Minor: Heywood v Penrith

Seniors: Heywood v South Shields

There is no doubt NCCU reps need to encourage teams to enter the Club competition. (*and stop Heywood winning everything!*) Ihor said he would do this at the Yorkshire AGM next week. It was agreed that in the Seniors competition the minimum age to play would be 35 and look at increasing it to 45 dependent on entries and views at the 2018 AGM.

Action:

- **All reps to encourage clubs to enter NCCU Club competition.**
- **The Secretary to amend the Seniors Rules.**

f) Report of the Grading Officer

No Report and Martin Gawne has stood down as grader. It was suggested that a Grader in Northumberland be approached to take over the role.

Action: The Secretary to contact possible new graders.

g) Report of Trophy Officer

The whereabouts of the U180 and U100 and Pennine Cup Trophies are still unconfirmed, but Ihor Lewyk undertook to see if Yorkshire had them.

Bill O'Rourke presented the now defunct Intermediate Club Trophy to which it was agreed that the trophy would now be the new Seniors Club trophy.

Action: All trophies to be presented at the 2018 AGM (for audit and photographic purposes).

h) Report of ECF Delegates

There was no report but the Secretary read a précis of the Silver ECF representatives report on the April ECF Council meeting.

The main items were Game Fee and the new three game limit before becoming an ECF member and the Constitution with the proposal to increase member representation on Council. It was considered that the latter motion was botched to ensure that there was no change.

The new membership fees 2017-18 were relayed to the meeting (apart from Platinum rates).

From September 1st 2017:

Platinum (Adults & Junior) £70

Gold Adult £34

Gold Junior £27.50

Silver Adult £23.50

Silver Junior £17.00

Bronze Adult £16.00

Bronze Junior £9.50

A discussion on the 'metallic' range of membership options concluded that these ranges were unnecessarily complicated and needed to be simplified. This is important for congress and event organisers who have to deal with time delays in member changes from Bronze to Silver and Silver to Gold in FIDE events.

It was agreed that the NCCU would approach the ECF with a simplified membership scheme addressing these issues.

Concern over ECF meeting Proxy vote deadlines were expressed and would look more closely at the rules and deadline dates in future.

An expression of thanks was given to Chris Carcas in her role as ECF membership Secretary. It was recognized that her responses and work in membership were first class.

Action:

- **The Secretary to email reps on participation in a review on ECF Membership.**
- **The Secretary to convey thanks to Chris Carcas.**

5. Issues: Merseyside

The Secretary read out an email from Mike Barrett of Merseyside citing a recent MCA AGM meeting which asked the NCCU to convince the MCA to remain within the NCCU. The default position was that the MCA were to withdraw from the NCCU. The Secretary had also received information that Cleveland had a proposal in their AGM Agenda to not pay the NCCU Affiliation fee.

A discussion ensued outlining the benefits of the NCCU in terms of the different competitions available to Counties, the awards and the representation status as a County under a Union umbrella.

Specifically Junior and Correspondence chess were discussed with the MCA having a good Junior base which could thrive further with County team involvement, especially at U100/U120 level. NCCU Individual and Junior titles were competed for and the Junior Pennine Cup jamboree was something the MCA could participate in.

The NCCU was also the best route to the ECF with the combined strength of 8 Counties providing a voice for Northern chess players. It was recognized on both sides that greater participation was needed for chess to thrive in the NCCU and that all Counties needed to up their game. The MCA reps were encouraged that this could happen and would report back their findings.

6. U16 Pennine Cup

Being organised by Tim Wall and due to take place on July 2nd; although this date is in doubt and Sept/Oct has been suggested as more realistic; taking place possibly in Bradford.

Action: The Secretary to contact Tim Wall on details.

7. Schools Awards 2016/17

BCET Award – Merchant Taylor’s School for Girls Crosby, submitted.

NCCU Award – No nomination received, but Yorkshire to submit citation.

Action: Yorkshire to arrange citation submission to the NCCU.

8. Schools Awards 2017/18

Action:

BCET Awards – Nominations at December meeting: Northumberland

NCCU Award – Nominations at December meeting: Cheshire & North Wales (Reserve: Cleveland)

9. Presentation of Trophies

No trophies were presented – although photographs were taken of the Seniors trophy presented to possible winners: Heywood and South Shields.

10. Election of Officers

President: Bryan Bainbridge

General Secretary: Dave Cole

Treasurer: George Horne

County Championships Organiser: Jim Moran

Club Championship Organiser: Dave Cole

Grading Officer: No election

Trophy Officer: Dave Cole

NCCU Webmaster: Steve Henderson

ECF Delegates: Bill Metcalfe (Reserve: Gareth Ellis)

Vice-Presidents to Council: Bill Metcalfe and Rupert Jones

11. Appointment of Auditor

Neil Foxcroft was reappointed.

12. 2017/18 NCCU Individual British Championship Qualifying Congress

Lancashire: Heywood Congress

Only the NCCU Individual Champion will be awarded free entry.

13. Time and date of next Meeting Saturday 2nd December 2017.

14. Any other Business

George Horne stated that outstanding game fees were owed to the ECF for a number of Counties from previous seasons and handed out details to reps for payment.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 3.55pm.

**Dave Cole
General Secretary**