

**NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION  
FOUNDED 1899**

**Minutes of the NCCU Annual General Meeting 2016**

Held on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> 2016, at the Latvian Club, 5 Clifton Villas,  
Manningham Lane, Bradford, BD8 7BY Tel: 01274 546235

**PRESENT**

George Horne (President, Treasurer and Cumbria representative)  
Dave Cole (General Secretary and Cumbria representative)  
Ihor Lewyk (Yorkshire representative)  
Paul Bielby (Northumberland representative)  
Bryan Bainbridge (Durham representative)  
Dave Welch (Merseyside representative)  
Mike Barrett (Merseyside representative)  
Bill Metcalfe (Cleveland representative)  
Martin Gawne (NCCU Grader and Cumbria)  
John Reyes (ECF Delegate and Lancashire)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Jim Moran, Simon Woodcock, Dave Almond, Bill O'Rourke, Keith Smith, Graham Matthews, Rupert Jones.

**2. Minutes of the 5th December 2015 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 went through the list of actions in the minutes where all had been actioned and completed apart from the draft proposal to the ECF on possible changes to the County National stages where the NCCU would like to see reduced sections and reduced number of boards from 16 to 12. (It was noted that the ECF Council in April had a proposal to amend the County rules on staggering the dates of matches and that the Open section be FIDE rated).

**4. Officers Reports**

a) Report of the President

The President reported that everything will be covered in later reports, but would like to say that there was friendly U160 County match played between Cumbria and Greater Manchester, where the Manchester captain re-iterated that they were still keen to join the NCCU.

b) Report of the General Secretary

An email had been received by John Reyes from Phil Ehr (former ECF CEO) requesting support at the April ECF Council on PQASSO proposals where the ECF would apply a new governance model through a Quality Mark for voluntary organisations. The Secretary responded with a number of questions to Phil and subsequently decided to support the proposal, although had reservations about its effectiveness.

c) Report of the Treasurer

George Horne reported that the NCCU had a balance of £1531.52 in the bank, with a loss this year of £108.98. The NCCU also had x16 digital chess clocks as future prizes worth around £700. Club Championship entry fees were still owed from Leeds club from a number of years ago. Ihor said he would follow up with Rupert.  
It was agreed that Affiliation fees remain the same at £75 per County.

d) Report of the County Championship Organiser

Open: Yorkshire 6.5 v 5.5 Lancashire

U180: Lancashire (unopposed)

U160: Yorkshire 6.5 v 5.5 Lancashire. Lancashire 8 v 4 Cumbria. Yorkshire v Cumbria not yet played.

U140: Lancashire (unopposed)

U120: Lancashire (unopposed)

U100: Lancashire (unopposed)

National Stages

Open: Yorkshire v Surrey semi-final

U180: Lancashire v Surrey semi-final

U160: Yorkshire v Essex semi-final

U140: Lancashire v Surrey semi-final

U100: Lancashire v Kent semi-final

Jim Moran had contacted the Secretary prior to the meeting expressing his willingness to carry on as County organiser.

Rupert Jones had emailed the Secretary and put forward the idea of a special cup being played for between Yorkshire and Cumbria (the Jonathan Swallow trophy). The Secretary, as Cumbria rep, to follow up with Rupert. It was suggested other County matches may like to do something similar.

David Mills from Beverley had sent an email to all reps prior to the meeting and inter alia suggested that we hold a County Seniors Jamboree. All at the meeting thought this was a good idea; a 12 board team with an average age of 55. Combined teams could be entered such as Cleveland and Durham. Ihor suggested that the Bradford club was an ideal venue. An early date in the calendar to be proposed.

**Action: County Organiser and General Secretary to follow up and arrange.**

e) Report of the Club Championship Organiser

Dave Cole reported that 12 teams had entered the competition and the following stages had been reached:

Open Final: Bradford v Heywood

Major Final: Heywood v Knotty Ash

Minor Final: Penrith v Heywood

Senior Winners: Barrow

It was hoped the outstanding matches be played before the end of June 2016.

For next season the competition will be started earlier with games played before the New Year.

A report on the Club Championship from David Mills of the Beverley club was circulated prior to the meeting and extracts were read out where the Beverley team enjoyed playing in the Minor and Senior sections and hoped that the competition for 2016-17 had more teams entering.

An amendment to the rules was agreed, where in the Senior section an ungraded player would be graded as the average of the other three team players for tie break purposes only.

f) Report of the Correspondence Chess Organiser

Chris Underhill had emailed the Secretary back in December stating that the NCCU competition did not run due to lack of entries. Ihor stated that Yorkshire play in the National Correspondence league who play via webserver or email. **Action: Ihor to forward Phil Beckett's email to the Secretary with a view to starting an email/web NCCU competition.**

g) Report of the Grading Officer

Martin Gawne reported there have been teething problems with getting results on the website, but the situation is improving. The Club results are now being posted, but it remains that the County results have to be researched through County websites. Martin confirmed that he grades NCCU Club Championship, NCCU County and Pennine Cup results.

**Action: County results to be on the 'Postmaster' results server that ensures the results go on the NCCU website.**

#### h) Report of Trophy Officer

The whereabouts of the U180 and U100 County Shields are still unconfirmed. **Does Yorkshire have them?** If not found by the 2017 AGM, these trophies will need to be replaced. The good news is that the Pennine Cup has been found in Yorkshire and it will be forwarded to Paul Bielby.

The Spencer Chalice (NCCU Junior Individual) is being altered to include a new base and bringing engravings up to date.

#### i) Report of ECF Delegates

John Reyes apologized for not attending the ECF Council meeting in April due to illness; but he reported that he gave the NCCU votes to Michael Farthing and had a Silver member's report of the meeting. (*John to email this report to the reps*). John reported that the membership fees were to remain the same; although there was a proposal to increase them, this was rejected. The County proposals and PQASSO were not discussed as the meeting was extremely slow in progressing business. There was mention of the ECF desiring a £100k underpin, but no reason was given as to why this figure was chosen.

The Go Association had approached the ECF to join them in a central location in London. It is not known if discussions had made any progress.

Other comments on the Council meeting concurred that the meeting was painfully if not deliberately slow so as not to include proposals further down the agenda. It was suggested that in future any undiscussed proposals should be the first on the agenda for subsequent meetings. The ECF Board papers were unacceptably late in appearing and although a three year budget was produced, it was ridiculous that the Finance Director was on holiday at the time of the meeting. It was evident that the Board was split in their views. It was commented that the budget agreed was unrealistic in that it was highest in terms of expenditure, but lowest in terms of income. All in all, the meeting was described as a shambles! A discussion on proxy votes showed the amount of votes held by Northern reps was still not optimum as congresses not under County control could have a vote if they applied.

Ihor stated that Mike Truran (ex ECF CEO) was to attend the Yorkshire AGM and it was agreed the NCCU table questions to him. The Secretary agreed to forward to Ihor.

### 5. U16 Pennine Cup

Paul Bielby held the Pennine Cup competition in Newcastle in March 2016. Unfortunately only two Counties took part; Northumberland and Cumbria. Paul said that he was extremely disappointed at the response from Counties when he rang round urging them to take part. Paul pleaded for more Counties to take part and even from club teams in the North. The 2017 event will be organized by Cumbria.

Paul urged that the Junior Organisers on the ECF website be looked at and updated if required.

The U18 Junior competition has not been held for a number of years and there was a hope it could be resurrected if someone could volunteer to organise it.

**Action: Reps to canvas Junior Organisers and contact Kevin Southernwood to enter teams for 2017 U16 Pennine Cup.** [kevinsouthernwood@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kevinsouthernwood@hotmail.co.uk)

### 6. Proposals

No proposals were received prior to the meeting.

John Reyes raised the question of Manchester and the NCCU, as to whether they could be invited to put their side of the story to the NCCU. The Secretary stated that this had been done previously with Mick Norris addressing the meeting and that the actions were on Lancashire and Manchester to work out the issues and come to a resolution to bring back to the NCCU. The situation was that Manchester rejected some of Lancashire's proposals and the situation is unresolved. It was suggested that if Manchester wanted to progress matters they come up with some concrete proposals. John took the action to inform them at their AGM to be held in the next few weeks.

**7. Schools Awards 2015/16**

BCET Awards: No nominations were received  
NCCU Award: St Paul's Alnwick - Northumberland

**8. Schools Awards 2016/17**

BCET Award: Nomination at December meeting - Merseyside  
NCCU Award: Nomination at December meeting - Yorkshire

**9. Presentation of Trophies**

Two trophies were present, with one awarded. The Open County Championship trophy was presented to Yorkshire and the Open Club Trophy was present, although the final had yet to be played.

**10. Election of Officers**

President: Bryan Bainbridge  
General Secretary: Dave Cole  
Treasurer: George Horne  
County Championships Organiser: Jim Moran  
Club Championship Organiser: Dave Cole  
Correspondence Chess Organiser: Chris Underhill  
Grading Officer: Martin Gawne  
Trophy Officer: Dave Cole  
NCCU Webmaster: Steve Henderson  
ECF Delegates: John Reyes (Reserve: Bill Metcalfe)  
Vice-Presidents to Council: George Horne & Bill Metcalfe

**11. Appointment of Auditor**

Neil Foxcroft was reappointed.

**12. 2016/17 British Championship Qualifying Congress**

NCCU Individual Champion and 1 other place:  
**Action: Cleveland** (to be confirmed by the December NCCU meeting) (If declined, Durham).  
The Individual Championship Rules amended by the Secretary to include the Seniors were agreed.

**13. 2016/17 British Championship Places x2**

Two further places for a Northern Congress  
**Action: Lancashire Heywood Congress – June 2017**

**14. Time and date of next Meeting Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016.**

**15. Any other Business**

Paul Bielby said there was to be a Rapidplay event at The Customs House in South Shields on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 to commemorate 150 years of the club. All were welcome to enter. **Reps to let their clubs/players know.**  
ECF Services to Chess Awards were mentioned by Bill Metcalfe and Paul Bielby (who are both on the Awards Committee), where Club of the Year and Small Club of the Year citations were being asked for. Reps to take away and consult with their Counties/Clubs and forward citations direct to Stewart Reuben or to Bill and Paul.  
There was no other business and the meeting was declared closed.

**Dave Cole  
General Secretary**