

NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION
FOUNDED 1899

Minutes of the NCCU Annual General Meeting 2013

Held on Saturday May 25th 2013, at the Latvian Club, 5 Clifton Villas,
Manningham Lane, Bradford, BD8 7BY Tel: 01274 546235

PRESENT

Bill Metcalfe (President and Cleveland representative)
Dave Cole (General Secretary and Cumbria representative)
George Horne (Treasurer and Cumbria representative)
Ihor Lewyk (Yorkshire representative)
Jim Tennant-Smith (Lancashire representative)
Simon Woodcock (Lancashire representative)
Bill O'Rourke (Vice President – Lancashire)
Brian Bainbridge (Vice President - Durham)
John Wheeler (Northumberland representative)
Pat Ridley (Cheshire and North Wales representative)

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Underhill, Jim Moran, Graham Matthews, Keith Smith, Dave Welch, Paul Bielby and Rupert Jones.

2. Minutes of the 2012 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 highlighted actions outstanding from the 2012 minutes.

- The NCCU would approach Phil Ehr the ECF Junior Director regarding the holding of a Northern Junior Tournament for selection purposes in 2013. – The President had an email from Phil about organising a one day tournament over the next 12 months as part of a Grand Prix for U8-U16's. - **The NCCU to contact Peter Purland for advice.**
- The NCCU would ask the ECF Council to reconsider the £50 Calendar fee. – It is unsure whether this charge is still being levied.
- To clarify the situation as to whether some organisations or events are working under different rules from published ECF information. – This is being stopped and it was noted that Dave Thomas was now Director of Marketing for the ECF.
- The NCCU to contact Mike Gunn requesting that the ECF consider Union Observer status at ECF Board meetings. – Unsure if this had been done.

4. Officers Reports

a) The President

Bill Metcalfe opened his report by way of apology to the Lancashire President as to the lateness in speaking to the LCA on the Manchester proposal.

Great thanks were given to Andy Wainwright and the Bradford club for hosting a magnificent U16 Pennine Cup which was chaotic at times, but well worth the effort. With 9 teams from 7 Counties attending, thanks go to all County organisers.

The success of this junior event led Bill to ask what the road map for junior chess was and widened the debate as to the relevance of the NCCU in being more than a 'talking shop'.

The meeting concurred with these sentiments and agreed to set up an NCCU Strategy Working Group (NSWG) to discuss and plan chess in the North for seniors and juniors in a more structured fashion.

The County Championship structure at National level was discussed, highlighting the number of defaults, especially from other Unions. Mention was made of the ECF Skype meeting trying to resolve the issues, where other Unions did not favour reducing board numbers from 16 to 12, but were mainly in agreement to reduce the number of sections with grading bands being: Open/170/140/120/100. The NCCU were in favour of this reduction and change.

It was recognised that the County Championship at NCCU level needed to be widened from just Lancashire and Yorkshire teams and it was agreed that the NSWG would look into this.

Ideas of combining County teams were discussed, such as Merseyside and Cheshire; whilst Durham, Cleveland and Northumberland could combine to raise a team; perhaps in the first instance limiting participation to one section in the 2013/14 season.

Action –NSWG set up to be agreed - DC

b) General Secretary

Dave Cole reported on email traffic he had received, such as the Manchester proposal, the NCCU Schools award, the U16 Pennine Cup and the ECF Skype meeting on County grading bands.

c) Treasurer

George Horne reported that the bank balance is £2907.59, with a loss of £501.82. The schools award was estimated at £108 (post-meeting, the actual cost was £82.52).

The Club Championship made a loss of £125, considerably down from last year.

There was a question on fees and the meeting agreed to keep County affiliation fees at £75.

The question of British Championship support was raised and after consideration it was agreed to continue, but keep this under review on a case-by-case basis if applications from NCCU players came in. It was also agreed that applications should be made for support at the 2013 event by the end of June. (The British Championship being held in Torquay from 28th July 2013).

George requested that NCCU funds be combined and it was agreed to subsume any DC Harris funds into the general fund.

d) County Championship Controller

Jim Moran was unavailable for the meeting, but the County winners are as follows:

Open – Yorkshire

U180 – Lancashire

U160 – Yorkshire

U140 – Lancashire

U120 – Lancashire

U100 - Lancashire

The National Finals weekend to be held in Warwick.

e) Club Championship Organiser

Keith Smith sent a report on the NCCU Club Championship (picked up post-meeting by the Secretary) although a few attendees knew the status of the competitions.

The NCCU Club Championships has reached the Finals with Bradford playing Heywood in the Open section; holders Middlesbrough up against Aigburth in the Major, with Skelmersdale and Heywood once again battling it out for the Minor section. All the finals should be played during June. Details can be found on the NCCU web site.

Ihor raised the possibility of an NCCU Champions event after explaining that Yorkshire is to hold a Champion of Champions tournament in Bradford on 6/7th July at the Great Victoria Hotel.

The idea was to invite all the champion winning teams from every league in Yorkshire to play in an end of season

competition to see which team would end up as Champion of Champions.
This could be extended next year to 'County Club Champions' in an NCCU event.

Action – All reps to canvas their County.

f) Correspondence Organiser

Although Chris Underhill could not make the meeting, he sent a report which stated that 4 teams participated in the 2012 event; Yorkshire, Northumberland, Durham and Cumbria and that Yorkshire won the event with 9.5 points from 12 games.

This year's competition from February to October is progressing smoothly after a slow start.

g) Grading Officer

Nothing to Report

h) Trophy Officer

Dave Cole would confirm all trophy locations, as the Club Championship has generally slipped its completion date till after the AGM.

i) Report of BCF/ECF Delegates

There was no official report on the ECF April Council meeting, but Dave Welch and Pat Ridley attended. It was noted that the ECF now has over 9000 members, which at a conservative estimate meant revenue of about £135k, this without any residual game fee being included.

Bill Metcalfe reported on a possible change in combining junior Bronze and Silver membership, but it was uncertain if this is going to happen. He also reported on a potential junior North v South match involving many boards.

Action – The President to make enquires as to who is organising it and how the NCCU can help.

5. U16 Pennine Cup

Yorkshire held the U16 Pennine Cup in April at the Latvian Club, Bradford. The event was won by Yorkshire in an event involving 9 teams from 7 counties.

6. U18 Jamboree

This is usually held in April, but given the proximity of the U16 event, the U18 was postponed – to be reviewed as part of the NCCU Strategy Working Group.

7. Schools Awards 2012/13

BCET Award – Sacred Heart from Merseyside were nominated – awaiting ECF confirmation.

NCCU Award – Shincliffe Primary School in Durham were given the award.

– The Secretary to arrange delivery of the Board, set and clock.

8. Presentation of Trophies

Three trophies were present at the meeting and handed over after the meeting finished:

The Open – taken by Yorkshire

U160 – taken by Yorkshire

U140 – taken by Lancashire

Status of other trophies as follows:

U180 is with Yorkshire – **Action – Yorkshire to pass trophy to Lancashire**

U120 should be with Lancashire, but could be in Barrow – **DC to check**

U100 is with Yorkshire - **Action – Yorkshire to pass trophy to Lancashire**

9. Election of Officers

- President - Bill Metcalfe
- General Secretary - Dave Cole
- Treasurer – George Horne
- County Championship Organiser – Jim Moran
- Club Championship Organiser – Keith Smith
- Correspondence Organiser – Chris Underhill
- Grading Officer – Mike Creaney
- Trophy Officer – Dave Cole
- NCCU Webmaster – Steve Henderson
- Delegates to the ECF – Bill Metcalfe (reserve Rupert Jones)
- Vice-Presidents to Council – Rupert Jones & Bryan Bainbridge

10. Appointment of Auditor

Neil Foxcroft

11. British Championship Qualifying Places 2014

Individual Champion qualifier (+ 1 other place) – **Merseyside Congress (DW/JM to advise)**

(Northumberland Congress in September next in line – **DC to advise asap**)

NCCU Qualifying Congress x2 places – **Cheshire & NW (PR to advise on Frodsham or Chester)**

12. Manchester Proposal

Manchester Chess Federation (MCF) has applied to join the NCCU.

(At the start of the meeting JTS circulated minutes of the NCCU Meeting on 6th December 1975 with comments attached and WOR referred to a folder brought to the meeting with 1975 papers on the history behind the dispute between the LCA and GMCCA.)

A wide ranging discussion took part, with all Counties expressing views as to if and how the MCF could be accommodated within the territorial boundaries of Lancashire. The consensus was that such a division would be unconstitutional and create tensions which the NCCU wish to avoid as the Union was seeking consolidation. Constitutionally, the NCCU could not approve the MCF application to join, as a 12 month consultation with affected Counties had not taken place (a formal 12 months consultation between Lancashire, Cheshire & NW and the MCF is required); importantly, the MCF is not recognised as a ‘County’ Chess Association (as it is a Federation).

It was recognised that more events (The 4NCL, Land Challenge, etc) are being entered with players from both Lancashire and the MCF taking part and it was thought that closer relationships be developed in events such as these, rather than keeping a divide and was the best way forward for the NCCU. Manchester clubs would once again be welcomed to participate in the NCCU Club Championship.

The consensus view of the NCCU was that Manchester players be asked to play for Lancashire County teams and for Lancashire to provide players for the North West 4NCL teams.

If the MCF is amenable, a dialogue will be promoted between the NCCU, Lancashire and the MCF with regards to getting Manchester players playing County chess, club competition chess and junior chess within the NCCU. If thought desirable, the NCCU may invite Manchester representatives to come along to an NCCU meeting to further these suggestions.

13. Time & Date of next meeting

Saturday 7th December 2013.

14. Any Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting closed at approx 4.15pm.

Dave Cole
General Secretary