

**NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION
FOUNDED 1899**

Minutes of the NCCU Annual Council Meeting 2013

Held on Saturday December 7th 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)
Brian Bainbridge (Vice President - Durham)
Pat Ridley (Cheshire and North Wales representative)
Rupert Jones (Yorkshire representative)
Mick Norris (Manchester Chess Federation – present for the first part of the meeting)

Before the meeting proper, Bill Metcalfe welcomed The MCF President Mick Norris to the meeting. An adjournment was called and Mick Norris briefly left the room. The delegates discussed and agreed the basis for Mick's presence at the meeting. On Mick's return he was asked to give the reasons why the MCF wanted to join the NCCU. Mick did this and stated that if the MCF were admitted to the NCCU, they could remain members of the MCCU.

It was agreed that consensus not conflict was the way forward and that it was appropriate for Lancashire and the MCF to meet to progress matters. It was also suggested that if Yorkshire had any issues they also call for a meeting with Lancashire.

At this point Mick was thanked for attending and he left the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Underhill, Jim Moran, Graham Matthews, Keith Smith, Dave Welch, Paul Bielby, Ihor Lewyk, Jim Tennant-Smith, Bill O'Rourke, Simon Woodcock, and John Wheeler.

2. Minutes of the 2013 NCCU AGM 25th May 2013

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record, except for an amendment to the NCCU British Championship qualifying events being Frodsham and Rhyl, not Frodsham and Chester.

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

None

4. Officers Reports

a) The President

Bill Metcalfe reported that he attended the ECF AGM in October and voted according to proxy instructions. The issue of reducing grading bands by one section was agreed by all Unions and we await developments for next season. The NCCU proposal of reducing board numbers from 16 to 12, was rejected, but would be considered again if the correct wording was submitted.

Attempts to get a combined NE county team were unsuccessful, although it was recognized that the 4NCL North is doing well with all Counties except Cumbria represented.

Bill mentioned that Andrew Paulsen, the new ECF President would like to attend an NCCU meeting to discuss and listen to northern views. – **Action: Invite the ECF President to the 2014 AGM**

- b) General Secretary
Nothing to report over and above the agenda items.
- c) Treasurer
George Horne reported that the accounts for 2012/13 have now been audited.
The bank balance at 30/11/2013 was £2706.65. No exceptional expenses had been paid out since the AGM.
In the Club Championships, Skelmersdale have waived their runner-up prize of £40 as they did not play a game.
Also, Idle Chess and Leeds City Centre clubs still owe £15 each, although Leeds did not play any games last season.
- d) County Championship Controller
Jim Moran was unavailable for the meeting, but the meeting hoped the County Championship would start in the New Year. **Action: Contact Jim to confirm teams.**
- e) Club Championship Organiser
Keith Smith sent a message to say that he was happy to carry on organizing the NCCU Club Championship, with Bryan Bainbridge as back-up if required.
(Post meeting – Keith emailed the General Secretary in early January to say that the Club event this season is in doubt due to lack of clubs entering).
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 the 2013 competition has now finished with the results still being collated. Yorkshire are likely to retain their title yet again!
Chris is happy to carry on organizing, but with Durham dropping out for next season, it is increasingly obvious that this form of chess is on the downward spiral.
- g) Grading Officer
Nothing to Report
- h) Trophy Officer
Dave Cole confirmed trophy locations, but with a few outstanding queries:
Yorkshire have the U180 Trophy, engrave and give to Lancashire
Yorkshire have the U100 Trophy engrave and give to Lancashire
Lancashire to confirm they have the Mike O'Hara U120 Trophy
Actions: Yorkshire and Lancashire
- i) Report of BCF/ECF Delegates
As reported in the President's address.

5. ECF Membership

Now that all Counties have compulsory membership, this is no longer an issue, except for separate leagues in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

Pat Ridley spoke about the Cheshire and North Wales situation where players could be members of either the ECF or the WCU. However this may change: the ECF is to consult the WCU on the status of C&NWCA clubs on the Welsh side of the border, and may perhaps consider the situation of cross-border leagues in general with regard to ECF membership of players. C&NW held a meeting in June with Dave Thomas and Roger Edwards to discuss the matter, and is awaiting an action by Dave Thomas agreed at the meeting.

6. NCCU Strategic Working Group (NSWG)

The Secretary had issued a Working Group paper which received a response from Bill Metcalfe, Ihor Lewyk and Bill O'Rourke. Issues from the paper were discussed with the focus on Seniors being given priority. A Senior NCCU Individual Championships for next season was suggested. A discussion took place on venues and the desirability of a good venue would encourage chess participation. The 4NCL was looked on as a good example which could be extended to NCCU County matches which could be over a weekend if the venue (hotel) was good. Rupert Jones stated that the Bradford Chesstival was a success and had received funding from the Council to pay for facilities.

It was hoped a priority Action Plan could be put forward before April to progress matters.

Action: The NSWG (BM/IL/WOR/DC)

7. U16 Pennine Cup

The NCCU are looking for a volunteer County to organise.

Action: All reps to canvas their County.

8. Schools Awards 2013/14

BCET Award(s) – The ECF are now asking for x2 nominations due to surplus funding.

Newcastle Preparatory School were nominated and agreed. **Action: Secretary to forward to the ECF.**

Yorkshire to submit a nomination - **Action: Yorkshire**

NCCU Award – Lancashire to submit nomination – **Action: Lancashire**

9. NCCU Individual Championships 2013/14

This has taken place at the Northumberland Congress in September 2013.

10. British Championship Qualifying Places 2014

Northumberland Congress for the NCCU Individual Champion

NCCU Qualifying Congress x2 places –**Frodsham (February) and Rhyl (May)**

Action: The Secretary to send eligibility rules to Pat Ridley

11. Presentation of Correspondence Trophy

To be confirmed as Yorkshire

12. Nomination for President 2014-16

Cumbria to confirm nomination

13. Time & Date of next meeting

Saturday 31st May 2014.

14. Any Other Business

Rupert Jones complained that there was no brown bread on the sandwiches.

The meeting expressed shock and horror, but the Secretary vowed to rectify for the next meeting.

**Dave Cole
General Secretary**