

**NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION
FOUNDED 1899**

Minutes of the NCCU Annual General Meeting 2015

Held on Saturday June 6th 2015, 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)
Rupert Jones (Yorkshire representative)
Paul Bielby (Northumberland representative)
Simon Woodcock (Lancashire representative)
John Reyes (Lancashire representative)

1. Apologies for Absence

Ihor Lewyk, Pat Ridley, John Wheeler, Dave Welch, Bryan Bainbridge, Martin Gawne, Jim Moran

2. Minutes of the 6th December 2014 NCCU Council Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

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

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers Reports

a) Report of the President

The President reported that he attended the ECF council meeting in April and the ECF report was brought forward under this item as Rupert Jones had to leave early. John Reyes (who also attended the ECF meeting) also reported his take on the meeting. (George had already produced a short report of the meeting, circulated to reps with the draft Agenda).

George reported that he was approached by the Manchester President on the situation regarding the NCCU; where it was mentioned that Lancashire and Manchester still needed to get together to come up with a solution.

It was reported that Tracy Whitfield is looking at Junior accreditation across the UK and should be visiting the north at some point. The ECF Library costs were discussed and the fact that the ECF wanted to reach a £100k reserve; they have £89k at the moment and that Membership fees were proposed to rise. John asked for an amendment to reduce the rise, but this was defeated. An initial show of hands on the main proposal to increase membership fees was close but seemed to reject the motion. A card vote was taken and the proposal was passed by one vote 104-103. The increase was justified by supporting junior and international teams. Paul Bielby pointed out that the John Robinson fund already supported junior chess, so was not a valid reason.

A discussion on proxy votes showed the amount of votes held by Northern reps was not optimum and that many congress votes had not be exercised.

Action: Secretary to look at Northern congress votes (and other Northern votes) available and who holds them, with a view to using them to greater effect.

George requested that if amenable, John would attend future ECF meetings on behalf of the NCCU, due to John having easier transport links to meeting venues. John agreed and the NCCU would cover travel expenses. (John to report back to the NCCU following each meeting).

b) Report of the General Secretary

The Secretary reported that although we don't have a quorum at the meeting, any decisions could be ratified by a 'virtual EGM' with decisions confirmed via email on Constitutional matters.

An email had been received from the ECF to each member (but not it seems to each constituent Union – unless by 'member' they mean Union) on the setting up of a Constitutional and Governance Commission. The email asked for inputs on how the ECF is doing things well and how they could improve. The Secretary suggested that the NCCU send in a response.

Paul Bielby suggested that the ECF reach out to different areas in the country by organizing an ECF run event in different regions. **Action: The Secretary to circulate the email to all reps. All reps to consider how the ECF performs and email the Secretary for a combined response to the ECF.**

c) Report of the Treasurer

George Horne reported that the NCCU had a balance of £2415.51 in the bank. The Club Championship lost £305, with outstanding entry fees still owed from Idle and Leeds clubs of £15 each.

It was agreed that Affiliation fees remain the same at £75 per County. Support for NCCU players at the British Championships was mentioned, assessed on a case by case basis. *(It is still recommended that if players were struggling financially to attend the British, they should be advised to apply to the ECF Hardship Fund.)*

The meeting asked that future balance sheets show the previous year's overall fund total to compare with the current total; George agreed to include it.

d) Report of the County Championship Organiser

No report was received.

Open winners: Yorkshire

U180: Lancashire (unopposed)

U160: Yorkshire

U140: Lancashire (unopposed)

U120: Lancashire (unopposed)

U100: Lancashire (unopposed)

Lancashire has reached the semi-finals at the National Stages in all sections.

Rupert reported that Yorkshire may be disqualified from the U160 National stages and John reported that Lancashire has withdrawn from the Open section in the National stages.

Given the difficulties of raising enough players it was again suggested the NCCU continue to press for a change in player numbers at the National stage from 16 to 12. There was general disquiet at the meeting on the intransigence experienced in other chess circles on enforcing the rules in difficult circumstances trying to raise teams and getting players to turn out. This is seen in Yorkshire unable to field teams in four regional sections. It was feared that the situation will only get worse if nothing is done at National level. It was suggested that NCCU enter combined teams in the lower sections to overcome problems of player availability.

(Rupert Jones left the meeting)

e) Report of the Club Championship Organiser

Bryan Bainbridge sent in a report on the Club Championship results (only 13 teams entered):

Open: Final Bradford v Rochdale

Major: Heywood v Rochdale

Minor: Penrith v Heywood

Senior: Bradford v Heywood

Given the £305 loss, It was decided that the prize money for the all sections would be replaced by a digital clock (with NCCU nameplate) for the winners of each section in 2015/16 season.

Action: Secretary to look at bulk buy digital clocks.

f) Report of the Correspondence Chess Organiser
No report.

g) Report of the Grading Officer
No Report.

h) Report of Trophy Officer

The whereabouts of the U180 and U100 Trophies are unconfirmed. Does Yorkshire have them? Bill O'Rourke had confirmed Lancashire had the U120 Mike O'Hara trophy. Ihor Lewyk emailed prior to the meeting that he had the County Open and the Club Open trophies.

The Spencer Chalice (NCCU Junior Individual) is in need of a new wooden base as the existing plinth is full (a new trophy case will also be required). The trophy base, engraving and case to be purchased by the winner in Sheffield or returned to the Secretary for changes.

Actions:

- **Yorkshire to confirm they have the U180 County trophy**
- **John Reyes to enquire if Lancashire has the U100 County Trophy**
- **Paul Bielby brought the NCCU Seniors Trophy and the NCCU Individual Trophies to the meeting and will ensure they get to the Sheffield Congress (26-28th June 2015)**
- **Secretary to ensure Wähltuch Rose Bowl (NCCU Individual) to be at Sheffield**

i) Report of ECF Delegates
See President's Report

5. U16 Pennine Cup

An offer from Manola Pradesh in Northumberland to organize it unfortunately did not materialise for 2015. Paul Bielby offered to host the cup in Northumberland in February/March 2016.

Action: Reps to contact Junior Organisers and contact Paul to enter teams.

6. Schools Awards 2014/15

BCET Awards – Nominations at December meeting required from C&NW and Cleveland
NCCU Award – Merseyside

No nominations or citations were received for either the BCET or the NCCU Awards.

7. Schools Awards 2015/16

BCET Awards – Nominations at December meeting required from Cumbria and Lancashire
NCCU Award – Northumberland

8. Presentation of Trophies

No trophies were presented.

9. Election of Officers

President: George Horne

General Secretary: Dave Cole

Treasurer: George Horne

County Championships Organiser: Jim Moran

Club Championship Organiser: Bryan Bainbridge

Correspondence Chess Organiser: Chris Underhill
Grading Officer: Martin Gawne
Trophy Officer: Dave Cole
NCCU Webmaster: Steve Henderson
ECF Delegates: John Reyes (Reserves: George Horne/Rupert Jones)
Vice-Presidents to Council: Bill Metcalfe and Rupert Jones

10. Appointment of Auditor

Neil Foxcroft was reappointed.

11. 2015/16 British Championship Qualifying Congress

NCCU Individual Champion and 1 other place: **Action: Cleveland** (to be confirmed by the December NCCU meeting) (If declined, Cumbria will take up).

Only the NCCU Individual Champion will be awarded free entry. *(If already qualified, no entry fee will be paid, but the place will be awarded to the next eligible player).*

12. 2015/16 British Championship Places x2

Two further places for a Northern Congress – **Action: Durham**

13. Proposals

No proposals were received.

14. Time and date of next Meeting Saturday 5th December 2015.

15. Any other Business

There was no other business and the meeting was declared closed.

**Dave Cole
General Secretary**