

**NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION
FOUNDED 1899**

Minutes of the NCCU Annual Council Meeting 2012

Held on Saturday December 15th 2012, at the Latvian Club, 5 Clifton Villas,
Manningham Lane, Bradford, BD8 7BY Tel: 01274 546235

PRESENT

Bill Metcalfe (President)
Dave Cole (General Secretary and Cumbria representative)
George Horne (Treasurer and Cumbria representative)
Keith Smith (Club Championship Controller and Durham representative)
Ihor Lewyk (Yorkshire representative)
Rupert Jones (Yorkshire representative)
Brian Bainbridge (Vice President - Durham)
Dave Welch (Merseyside representative)
John Wheeler (Northumberland representative)
Paul Bielby (Northumberland representative)

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Underhill, Jim Moran, Simon Woodcock, Graham Matthews

2. Minutes of the 2011 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) The President

Bill Metcalfe's report covered many issues in the chess world and became an interesting and wide ranging discussion involving all at the meeting.

Bill started with the ECF AGM which he said was little fun to be at. The NCCU voted for the new ECF President Roger Edwards who spoke eloquently in his address, although the meeting voted for a gagging motion on Roger's proposals. This was thought to be an inauspicious start to his tenure. Important posts such as the marketing Director and CEO were left unfilled, which again raised doubts as to the effectiveness of the new board, but we needed to give them a chance to prove themselves.

Although the ECF meeting was largely silent on Junior ECF membership, the NCCU wished to explore the possibility of a merged Bronze and Silver for Juniors as it was thought Northern juniors are losing out due to being pushed into congress play while Southern juniors are mainly league based. This would mean that Northern juniors at Junior School level would have to jump straight to Silver ECF level from the start.

The NCCU commended Phil Ehr the ECF Junior Director for doing a good job and would approach him regarding the holding of a Northern Junior Tournament for selection purposes in 2013. This stems

from the treatment of a Northern Junior who wished to participate in FIDE rated events but was excluded due to not being in a selection event or on the selection committee's radar. There was concern that the ECF are about to cut Junior support in April 2013 and also that Junior events would be adversely affected by the ECF decision to charge for so called 'non ECF supporting' events being placed on the ECF Calendar.

The £50 Calendar fee was thought harsh as the Calendar was not just an advert, but very useful for organisers to know when events are taking place and which dates to stay away from; so anything that undermined the universal nature of the Calendar was thought wrong. The NCCU would ask the ECF Council in April to reconsider.

The effect of the new ECF membership scheme on congresses early in the season was discussed, where invoices sent out from the ECF for game fee were wrong. The question was raised of who should pay and when, as it has come to light that The Braille and The Deaf Chess Organisations are now expected to pay, while Guernsey Chess who get their games graded are not ECF members and don't have to pay. It was suggested that players who intend to play in foreign events should inform the ECF beforehand to establish whether they can get their games graded. This also applied to Scottish events.

(ACTION – The President to contact the ECF to clarify the situation as to whether some organisations or events are working under different rules from published ECF information).

A question was asked whether MO's could be awarded a British Championship qualifying place, but this would need to be confirmed with the ECF.

Rupert Jones asked whether the ECF Accounts had yet been finalized, but no one at the meeting was aware they had been.

In light of these and other questions, it was thought that the Unions including the NCCU should have at least 'observer status' at ECF Board meetings and the NCCU would write to Mike Gunn requesting that the ECF consider this.

Bill Metcalfe reported that he had been in informal discussions with the Manchester Federation who would like to formally apply to join the NCCU. The meeting noted that Bill would continue his talks to see if any progress could be made. It was thought appropriate to re-issue the NCCU Constitution in light of any developments.

The President was also in discussions with various organisations on promoting chess in the North East with potential for the whole of the NCCU; however these talks were only in their early stages.

(Rupert Jones joined the meeting during the President's Report)

b) General Secretary

Dave Cole reported on the support given to Northern players in the 2012 British Championships. They were Harry Li, Edward Dodds, Richard Palliser and Mike Surtees. Zheming Zhang was also supported in the European and World Youth Championships.

(Paul Bielby provided a copy of Zheming's report which will appear on the NCCU website).

c) Treasurer

George Horne reported that the bank balance is £2912.53. There had been expenses paid out since the AGM of £819.88, of which the largest was £525 for the British Championship grants.

The NCCU Membership Organisation is now finished with a final payment to the ECF of £2734.16.

The profit share paid to the Counties for 2011-12 was £971.05.

The Club Championship is now up to date with entry fees received so far this year of £125.

There was a question on fees and George confirmed that County affiliation fees were £75 for each County.

d) County Championship Controller

Jim Moran was unavailable for the meeting due to a stay in hospital, but the fixture list had been published along with the contact details of each Match Captain.

Yorkshire reps stated that their U100 and U140 teams would not participate at National level finals due to shortage of players.

(Andrew Wainwright and Winston Williams from Yorkshire joined the meeting as observers)

e) Club Championship Organiser

Keith Smith reported that since the AGM, Preston had won the Open, Middlesbrough the Major and Heywood the Minor Club events and thanks were given to Bill O'Rourke for engraving all the trophies. Only ten entries had been received to date and the closing date had been put back to the 2nd January 2013. It was hoped the delegates would drum up support and get teams to enter.

f) Correspondence Organiser

Although Chris Underhill could not make the meeting, he sent a report which stated that 4 teams participated in the 2011-12 event; Yorkshire, Northumberland, Durham and Cumbria and that Yorkshire won the event with 9.5 points from 12 games. *(The results will appear on the NCCU website).*

This year's competition is starting later than normal, however the January to September timescale seemed to work well last time. The competition is due to get underway in the New Year.

g) Grading Officer

Mike Creaney did not send a report, but again asked that he would like a fixture list on the NCCU website and that match results for NCCU County and Club matches contain information which includes date played and grading codes of players.

h) Trophy Officer

Dave Cole confirmed that all trophy locations are known.

i) Webmaster

No report.

j) Report of BCF/ECF Delegates

Discussed under the Presidents' Report.

5. ECF Membership

The Secretary confirmed that the NCCU MO had now ended with 717 members. A discussion ensued on the new scheme and the difficulties Cumbria, Yorkshire Leagues and Lancashire Leagues are having with its implementation. The ECF are insisting on game fee payments from non-member organisations and refusing to grade ECF members' games where non-members, who have no connection with the ECF, do not pay.

6. U16 Pennine Cup

Although the December date had passed it was thought worthwhile to organise this jamboree in early 2013. Yorkshire, through Andrew Wainwright, was interested in organising it if no other County came forward. *(Post-meeting: Andrew is to hold the event in February/March at the Latvian Club, Bradford, with support from the NCCU).*

7. U18 Jamboree (April)

A volunteer County is required to organise the event.

8. Schools Awards 2012/13

BCET Award – Sacred Heart from Merseyside were nominated. (*Citation to be sent to the ECF*).

NCCU Award – Nomination required from Durham by the end of February or Lancashire would be asked. – **ACTION Keith Smith**

9. Presentation of Trophies

None presented.

10. British Championship Qualifying Places 2013

Individual Champion qualifier (+ 1 other place)

Lancashire - Heywood Congress

NCCU Qualifying Congress x2 places

Yorkshire and Northumberland to nominate x1 Congress each.

York Congress to be asked if they are awarding a place.

11. Time & Date of next meeting

Saturday 1st June 2013.

12. Any Other Business

None.

The meeting closed at approx 3.15pm.

Dave Cole
General Secretary