

**NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION
FOUNDED 1899**

Minutes of the NCCU Council Meeting 2016

Held on Saturday December 3rd 2016, at the Latvian Club, 5 Clifton Villas,
Manningham Lane, Bradford, BD8 7BY Tel: 01274 546235

PRESENT

Bryan Bainbridge (President and Durham representative)
Dave Cole (General Secretary and Cumbria representative)
George Horne (Treasurer and Cumbria representative)
Rupert Jones (Yorkshire representative)
Simon Woodcock (Lancashire representative)
Dave Almond (Lancashire representative)
Martin Gawne (NCCU Grader)

1. Apologies for Absence

Ihor Lewyk, Dave Welch, Mike Barrett, Paul Bielby, Graham Matthews, Jim Moran, Keith Smith, Bill Metcalfe, Bill O'Rourke.

(Rupert commented that Ihor was absent due to his new marital status and congratulations were in order; therefore it was considered appropriate that Ihor's apologies be for absence of 'mind'. A discussion then ensued on how marriage affects chess and the private lives of chess players.)

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

The Secretary briefly described the issues outstanding from the AGM:

- Pennine Cup confirmation
- The Open Club Championship final yet to be played
- Club Rules Amendment

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 had nothing to report in his first six months in office that is not covered under the agenda, but reported the recent death of Roger Simpson - a past NCCU President. The Secretary also mentioned the death of Harry Praeger reported to him by Bill O'Rourke. It was also sadly reported that Peter Furlong and John Philpott had died.

The President called for a minutes silence to be observed in honour of our chess colleagues.

b) Report of the General Secretary

The Secretary reported that he had received emails on the situation in the Open Club Final between Bradford and Heywood and would comment further in the Club Championship report.

The Secretary had sent an email to Ihor Lewyk before the Yorkshire AGM in which the NCCU would send questions to Mike Truran the ECF CEO who was attending. The questions were as follows:

Questions to Mike Truran from the NCCU

1. How do specific members of the ECF Board intend to interact with the Chess Unions going forward; as there is little or no contact with the higher echelons of chess in England? This in particular applies to the NCCU.
2. How can the ECF help the NCCU and vice versa? Information and communication between the two organisations has to improve for there to be faith in the national body.
3. The Council papers at the April Finance meeting were unacceptably late in appearing, giving the NCCU and County Reps no time to consult on issues of importance – what are you going to do to rectify the situation?
4. The Council meeting dragged on so that important motions at the end of the agenda were not discussed. We would like you to take on board the action that any items/proposals not discussed at meetings are placed at the head of any agenda at the next meeting (whether it be an AGM or Council).

It is not known whether these questions were raised or answered.

(At this point Rupert, our Cricket correspondent, pointed out the score - England being 3 for 21.)

c) Report of the Treasurer

George Horne reported that the NCCU had an increased bank balance of £1625.21, mainly due to early affiliation fees being paid.

In terms of assets the NCCU had digital clocks worth £700.80 which were earmarked for Club Championship prizes.

There were entry fees from the Club Championship outstanding from Leeds club of £15. Rupert was asked to take up the matter with the Leeds club. Skelmersdale owed £30 which was being followed up with an email to Dave Farley and Neil Folland. Prescott & Knotty Ash owed £10; this should be sorted as they have entered this year's competition.

George presented the signed audited accounts for 2014/15 and 2015/16 as being a true and correct record.

(At this point Rupert, our Football correspondent stated it was Manchester City 1 Chelsea 3).

d) Report of the County Championship Organiser

No report was received, although the Secretary reported that since the AGM Jim Moran had agreed to continue as County Controller and that the Secretary would email him with those Counties wishing to take part.

Open: Lancashire and Yorkshire

U180: Lancashire

U160: Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria

U140: Lancashire and Yorkshire

U120: Lancashire

U100: Lancashire

Captains of each team to be confirmed and matches arranged in the New Year.

A possible Seniors County jamboree to be followed up with Ihor.

The possibility of a Yorkshire v Cumbria U160 trophy be followed up – to be known as the Jonathan Swallow Trophy in honour of a well-known Northern Irish Yorkshire player.

(A discussion then took place on political affiliations as Jonathan Swallow was well known for his forthright left wing views. As a non-sequitur this was followed by someone mentioning the activity of a Lancashire v Yorkshire clog dancing competition. Given that cricket, football and footballer's wives had been mentioned earlier, it was noted that issues in horse racing and hockey had not yet been raised. However Rupert mentioned later following the ECF report that he wanted to go for a curry and the virtues of the South African fish Kingclip were extolled).

Note: For those not at the meeting reading this, you may think frivolity was the order of the day, but nothing could be further from the truth! (editor)

e) Report of the Club Championship Organiser

Dave Cole reported that the outstanding Open Final game between Bradford and Heywood was due to be played in the summer and then the autumn, but delays had occurred and it was agreed the match would still be played in early 2017.

It was noted that sixteen teams had entered this year's competition in the four sections and the draw had been made.

The Club Rules have been amended to include a Seniors tie break on age, not grading.

f) Report of the Correspondence Chess Organiser

As no correspondence chess in an NCCU capacity has been played for two years and no interest in resurrecting it, it was decided to abolish the position and any reports. (If competitions are resumed it was noted Yorkshire have the trophy.)

g) Report of the Grading Officer

Martin Gawne reported that all the results he had received had gone in for grading; but essentially nothing to report.

h) Report of Trophy Officer

The whereabouts of the U180 and U100 Trophies are still unconfirmed, although at the last count were in Yorkshire. Dave Cole gave a photograph of the U180 and U100 shields to Rupert who will investigate their whereabouts.

i) Report of ECF Delegates

Bill Metcalfe the ECF delegate was hoping to give a report to the meeting, but unfortunately he couldn't make the meeting at the last minute. (A report of the ECF AGM was available from the ECF website and was noted.)

However a discussion on topical matters to do with football coaches and juniors took place, remarking on the need for clearance to teach junior chess and the difficulties obtaining insurance for chess events involving juniors for legal protection.

5. U16 Pennine Cup

To take place in Cumbria in Feb/March 2017

Action: The Secretary to contact the Cumbria Junior Organiser to confirm dates and venue.

6. Schools Awards 2016/17

BCET Award – **Nomination required from Merseyside before March 2017.**

NCCU Award – **Nomination required from Yorkshire before the NCCU AGM.**

7. 2016/17 British Championship Qualifying Congress

NCCU Individual Champion and 1 other place. – Cleveland

Action: The Secretary to contact Brian Whitaker to establish if a congress is being run.

8. 2016/17 British Championship Places x2

Two further places for a Northern Congress – **Heywood nominated.**

9. Time and date of next Meeting 10th of June in Bradford.

(In the spirit of the meeting our cricketing and football correspondent declared this to be his birthday and the President announced this was also his wife's birthday; however the date was agreed.)

10. Any other Business

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

**Dave Cole
General Secretary**