

**NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION
FOUNDED 1899**

Minutes of the NCCU Annual Council Meeting 2014

Held on Saturday December 6th 2014, 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)
Brian Bainbridge (Durham representative)
Simon Woodcock (Lancashire representative)
Martin Gawne (NCCU Grader)

It was stated that the meeting was not quorate and any decisions would need to be ratified at the AGM.

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Underhill, Jim Moran, Graham Matthews, Keith Smith, Paul Bielby, Ihor Lewyk, Rupert Jones and John Wheeler.

Ihor Lewyk attended the meeting briefly and gave his apologies in person, due to other chess commitments

2. Minutes of the 2014 NCCU AGM 31st May 2014

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

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

The Secretary stated the following in relation to the minutes:

- i. There was an omission from the AGM Minutes; on behalf of the NCCU the Secretary wished to thank the retiring NCCU Grader Mike Creaney for his contribution.
- ii. Bill Metcalfe the retiring President was confirmed as being on the NCCU Executive for 2 years.
- iii. A skype meeting took place with the ECF on the nature of the County Championships National stages, but the outcome was unknown. – The Secretary to contact RJ/IL.
- iv. The first NCCU Seniors Individual Trophy winner was Paul Bielby at the Northumberland Congress.
- v. A photograph of the NCCU Schools award being presented to Highfield Priory school in Preston by Bill O'Rourke was circulated.

4. Officers Reports

a) The President had nothing to report during the first six months.

b) The General Secretary had nothing to report.

c) Treasurer

George Horne reported that the accounts for 2013/14 have now been audited and presented the signed audit. There had been a small amount of expenses paid out since the AGM and the bank balance at 6/12/2014 was £2494.72.

Reference the Club Championships entry fees due for last season; Rochdale owe £30 and Idle Chess and Leeds City Centre clubs still owe £15 each from last season.

The Secretary also distributed a letter from the ECF requesting game fee from 2012/13 and 2013/14 regional stages. Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria owed small sums to the ECF. – Action on said Counties to pay game fee if agreed.

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: Jim to confirm teams and fixtures.**

A new County Rapid play event was mooted and Counties would be canvassed for interest. **Action: Secretary to contact Jim and all reps.**

e) Club Championship Organiser

Keith Smith sent a message to say that he was not carrying on organizing the NCCU Club Championship, but will assist Bryan Bainbridge if required. Keith queried whether the event should continue, but it was felt that it should, with the competition and entries to be in by the end of January 2015.

A new Seniors (average age of over 55) team trophy would be promoted this season.

Action – All reps to canvas their County.

f) Correspondence Organiser

Although Chris Underhill could not make the meeting, he sent a report on the 2014 competition with Yorkshire again winning the title. The Sinclair Shield was only contested by two teams, the other being Cumbria, with Yorkshire winning 10.5 to 5.5. The competition was run as a web based tournament run by Phil Beckett of Yorkshire and it is hoped that more teams will enter this format next season.

(Of note was John Toothill's retirement from the Cumbria team after 40 years of playing – thanks to John.)

Chris is happy to carry on organizing, but Phil has taken on the web role as this looks the way ahead.

Action: contact Phil on the 2015 event.

g) Grading Officer

Martin Gawne said a few late results had come in from last season's Club championship, but it was too early to report any issues.

h) Trophy Officer

Yorkshire have confirmed they have the U180 Trophy

Lancashire has confirmed they have the U120 Trophy, although it requires a wooden box to house it.

i) Report of BCF/ECF Delegates

The President reported that at the ECF AGM a governance review committee was being set up to give views on various aspects of the ECF. The ECF is trying to become a registered charity and also looking at making the British Championship a nine day event.

Non –Executive Directors elected were John Clissold and John Foley. FIDE Delegate, Malcolm Pein; Director of Junior Chess and Education is Traci Whitfield. Dominic Lawson was elected the new ECF President and it was hoped contact would be made with Dominic to seek his views on the promotion of chess in England.

The proposal to abolish the grading of adjudicated events was rejected.

5. U16 Pennine Cup

The NCCU are looking for a volunteer County to organise. – **Action: Secretary to seek volunteers.**

Action: All reps to canvas their County.

6. Schools Awards 2015

BCET Award(s) x2 – Cheshire & NW and Cleveland

Action: Nominations to the NCCU Secretary by end of February 2015

(Nominations to be submitted to the ECF by March 2015.)

NCCU Award – Merseyside **Action: Nomination to the NCCU Secretary.**

7. NCCU Individual Championships 2015

The NCCU Individual Championships to take place at the Sheffield Congress June 2015.
(Includes the Individual, Junior and Senior titles)

8. British Championship Qualifying Places 2015

NCCU Qualifying Congress x2 places –Cleveland (Cumbria to be asked, if Cleveland decline)

9. Presentation of Correspondence Trophy

Yorkshire retained the title; although no trophy was presented.

10. Time & Date of next meeting

Saturday 6th June 2015.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Dave Cole
General Secretary