

**NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION
FOUNDED 1899**

Minutes of the NCCU Annual Council Meeting 2017

**Held on Saturday December 2nd 2017, at the Latvian Club, 5 Clifton Villas,
Manningham Lane, Bradford, BD8 7BY Tel: 01274 546235**

PRESENT

Brian Bainbridge (President)
Dave Cole (General Secretary and Cumbria representative)
George Horne (Treasurer and Cumbria representative)
Rupert Jones (Yorkshire representative)
Noel Stewart (Yorkshire representative)
Bill O'Rourke (Lancashire representative)
Dave Almond (Lancashire representative)
Eddie Czestochowski (Durham representative)
Keith Smith (Durham representative)
Gareth Ellis (ECF delegate)
Steve Mann (Yorkshire)

1. Apologies for Absence

Ihor Lewyk, Paul Bielby, Mike Barrett, D Welch.

A one minute silence was observed for the sad passing away of Simon Woodcock and John Toothill.

2. Minutes of the 2017 NCCU AGM

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

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

(Rupert Jones joined the meeting)

The Secretary raised the outstanding issues from the Minutes:

- Questions from the NCCU to Mike Truran (the ECF CEO) at the 2016 Yorkshire AGM were asked and the answers are on the Yorkshire website. The Yorkshire reps confirmed that the minutes of the Yorkshire AGM were available on the website to view the answers.
Post Meeting Note: The YCA Minutes do not report the answers from Mike Truran.
- The Seniors County Jamboree is still being progressed – **Action: The Secretary to contact Ihor Lewyk on possible dates in 2018 at the Latvian Club.**
- The new NCCU Grader is Stanley Johnson. (The Secretary commented that Stan's email kept bouncing back. **Action: Eddie Czestochowski to establish Stan's email and forward on.**
Post Meeting Note: Stan's email: stanleyjohnson442@gmail.com – thanks to Eddie.
- A letter to the ECF was circulated which asked for a simplification of the ECF Membership scheme. This was greeted by the ECF with a dismissive response. It was agreed to follow this up. **Action: Gareth Ellis to advise on how best to progress the matter.**

4. Officers Reports

a) Report of the President

The President stated that it had been fairly quiet since the AGM but that he had been contacted about NCCU positions which were directed to the Secretary.

b) Report of the General Secretary

The Secretary reported on the issues over the last six months. The NCCU supported Peter Hornsby for the position of Non-Executive Director at the ECF. Issues over the Club Championship matches were raised and discussed later in the meeting.

The ECF County Championship questionnaires were discussed and what had been submitted by those at the meeting. The consensus was that the questions were limited in range and did not address the NCCU issue of having the option of 12 Board teams at the National stages.

c) Report of the Treasurer

George Horne reported that the NCCU had a balance of £1591.95 in the bank as at 30/11/2017.

12 Chess clocks were also being held with a value of £525.60.

Expenses this year were £231.86. Club Championship entry fees of £65 still owed.

Rupert Jones gave £10 of the £15 owed by Leeds. Skelmersdale still owes £15.

The Entry fee for the NCCU Individual Champion entering the British has not been claimed.

George presented the signed audited accounts from 30th April 2017.

d) Report of the County Championship Organiser

Dave Cole reported that the following teams had entered the competition:

Yorkshire and Lancashire have entered all sections.

Cumbria has entered the U160 and Merseyside are in the U120.

The Yorkshire team Captains were confirmed as follows:

Open: Peter Ackley

U180: Jeremy Hamm

U160: Rupert Jones

U140: Dave Mills

U120: Dave Mills

U100: Peter Cloudsdale

Yorkshire home to Lancashire in U180/U140/U100

Lancashire home to Yorkshire in Open/U160/U120

It was hoped that venue issues surrounding the County matches between Lancashire and Yorkshire will be resolved with the games being played near to the county border.

In light of the resurgent junior activity in the North East the question was raised of a possible Northumberland County team.

Reference the ECF Questionnaire, a discussion took place on how best to get more teams playing and the problems involved. It was thought that the questionnaire did not address the problems of 16 player teams and travelling; the 4NCL and hotels were also mentioned. Given that this could be a wider issue, it was agreed that the NCCU contact other Unions for their views.

Action: The Secretary to confirm that Yorkshire still intend to enter a junior team in the U100.

Action: The President and Secretary to contact other Unions.

Action: Rupert Jones to contact Tim Wall on the possibility of a Junior Northumberland team entering the championships.

e) Report of the Club Championship Organiser

Dave Cole reported that Manchester social Club won the Open and Major titles for last season.

The Club Championship will start in the New Year with a flyer circulated to reps in the next few weeks.

Entries by 20th January 2018.

A discussion took place on how the NCCU Club Rules should be dealt with, given issues over players being ECF members and clubs being affiliated to Counties and being actual members of clubs.

Experience from last season in trying to encourage team entry and playing the games had met with some consternation in some quarters. Going forward it was agreed that the Rules had to be strictly adhered to and a notice to this effect would be issued.

Action: All reps to encourage clubs to enter NCCU Club competition.

f) Report of the Grading Officer
No Report

g) Report of Trophy Officer

Thanks to Steve Mann, Ihor Lewyk and others in Yorkshire the U180, U100 and The Pennine Cup had been located and were present at the meeting. Other trophies at the meeting were the U160, the Club Open and the County Open. (Photographs of the trophies were taken).

h) Report of ECF Delegate

Gareth Ellis reported that the ECF AGM had been quieter than usual, with few contentious issues. The only contested election vote did not happen as the candidate Peter Hornsby stood down. It was noted that the Member representative's votes at ECF meetings had increased. A discussion on NCCU votes and proxies ensued, where it was highlighted that the optimum number of votes needed to be gathered.

Action: The Secretary to discuss with Gareth Ellis how best to get ECF votes.

5. U16 Pennine Cup

Tim Wall is to organise the competition for teams of six players at U16 age level. The proposed date is Sunday 10th June 2018 at the Latvian Club in Bradford. All Counties are invited to enter multiple teams. The one day jamboree will be a three round event.

There was concern that the date could clash with County National final matches.

Action: The Secretary to contact Tim Wall on the possibility of other dates.

6. Schools Awards 2016/17

Since the AGM the BCET Award was presented to Merchant Taylor's school in Crosby by Mike Barrett. The report with photographs is on the NCCU website.

The Archbishop of York nomination for the NCCU Award had been accepted and presented to the school by Peter Cloudsdale.

Schools Awards 2017/18

BCET Award – nomination from Northumberland before the end of March 2018

NCCU Award – nomination from Cheshire & NW (reserve Cumbria)

7. Nomination for President at 2018 AGM

Lancashire nominated Bill O'Rourke.

8. NCCU Individual Championship 2018

Confirmed to take place at the Heywood Congress on 16-17th June 2018

9. Time and date of next Meeting Saturday 26th May 2018.

The 9th of June was not favoured, *as for the second time in the meeting Rupert mentioned that it was his birthday.* The meeting was sympathetic to change the date and also expressed a preference for the Grove public house in Leeds as the venue, due to it being the easier to get to. Rupert suggested the West Riding public house in Leeds near the train station, but parking was problematic.

Action: The Secretary to explore either the Grove, the West Riding or continue at the Latvian club.

10. Any other Business

Rupert Jones brought up the issue of the offer from the ECF for discounted digital clocks, where it was pointed out from many at the meeting that Northern clubs and counties had applied for clocks but that the number delivered or promised has not materialised, probably due to the overwhelming demand. It was unsure whether the offer was still open.

Action: Rupert Jones to contact the ECF Office Manager on future orders.

Post Meeting Note: Eddie emailed the Secretary a message from the ECF that all orders will be completed in the New Year due to the demand.

Gareth Ellis who is organising local chess for juniors and adults in one day rapid plays, team and individual events which will be ECF graded, asked for NCCU endorsement and be under the NCCU banner. The meeting agreed that this was attractive and would spread the Union as being more relevant to Northern players.

Now that Cleveland had left the NCCU, Gareth Ellis being the ECF Delegate, a reserve was needed. After discussion it was agreed that Rupert Jones and Steve Mann be reserves as NCCU delegate.

Post Meeting Note: the NCCU require a Webmaster in 2018 when Steve Henderson stands down at the end of 2017. Thanks to Steve for all his good work in keeping the website up to date over many years.

Action: all reps and officers to assist in finding a willing volunteer to take over the website.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 15.30.

Dave Cole
General Secretary