

04.3 Treasurer's Report

The death in office of George Horne created problems due to all his NCCU treasurer's records etc apparently being thrown out by his executor.

This means in particular that we have no record of transactions in 2023-24 and consequently don't know, for instance, which counties paid their membership fee of £75 in respect of season 2023-24.

We are still meeting a lack of helpfulness on the part of Santander in getting me, the new treasurer, up and running. The latest obstacle was them sending a blank section of a document asking that the highlighted items be filled in - without them actually highlighting the relevant items! This is rather like forgetting to attach an attachment to an e-mail. I await their reply to my response.

An earlier farce involved three different documents itemising acceptable proof of my identity. The one I was initially directed to effectively precluded me being secretary as I cannot provide a copy of a passport or a driver's licence, neither of which I have ever had. The second one I was directed to in a phone call to Santander's business account head office in Sunderland offered less stringent options but appears not to have been the right list. The third list which Dave Cole elicited offered more options which I used, so that bit may have been cracked.

This means I cannot refund to officers certain fees they have paid out of their own pockets. It also means I cannot collect county affiliation fees as I don't want to pay money into an account from which I cannot make payments.

A chink of light at the end of the tunnel is that my address is now being used for routine communications re two of the three NCCU accounts with Santander. I've received a quarterly account summary on the "NCCU NMS SCHEME" account showing a total of credits in the quarter of £1.98 (on a b/f balance of £762.22) and of course no credits. I've more recently received notices of change of interest on this same account and on the (wait for it) "NORTHEN COUNTRIES CHESS UNION NCCU" account. Yes, that's what it says. This deposit account and the current account are called "NORTHEN COUNTRIES" and presumably have been since the accounts were first opened, whenever that was.

Possible Interim Solutions if things go wrong

Dave Cole received a paying in book and cheque book for the current account which he has sent on to me. Since he is a signatory, I could presumably write out cheques and send them to he to sign and send on. Similarly, cheques for affiliation fees could be paid in by Dave. However, as Dave retired on health reasons it seems unfair to drag him back into things further.

As I am treasurer of the bank account of a Sheffield Chess Congress (not the current one), which still has more than enough money in it but is essentially unused except for the occasional charitable donation, I could arrange to use that account for NCCU transactions.

Steve Mann
29/12/2024