

NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION

Minutes

for the NCCU Council Meeting to be held on 22nd February 2026 via ZOOM, starting at 6.30 p.m.

Those present: T Wall, S Mann, S Westmoreland, J George, B Bainbridge, D Chadwick, Mick Norris.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None.
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 22nd June** are available on the website.
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** -None
4. **President's Report** – Waived.
5. **Secretary's Report**
Contained within the following items 13, 15, 17 and 19. Report approved.
6. **Financial Controller's Report & LMS Assistant's Report** See website. Report approved
7. **Treasurer's Report** See website. Report approved.
8. **Counties Championship Controller's Report** (BB) Still underway at the time of the meeting. All teams so far had fulfilled their fixtures. Report approved.
9. **Club Championship Controller's Report** – doesn't currently exist.
10. **Trophy Officer's Report. Report on Website.** The whereabouts of the various trophies are uncertain. TW knows where the Junior trophy is and mentioned it is not in great condition.
11. **Webmaster's Report** Nothing especial to report.
12. **ECF Delegate's Report** Available on website. Report approved.
13. **NCCU Individual Championship 2026**
Details are available on the website.
14. **Pennine Cup 2026**
Arrangements for this event to be run by Rob Steele on 26/01/2026 Sunday 22nd March 2026 at the North Liverpool Academy, 120 Heyworth Street, Liverpool L5 0SQ are on the website [here](#).
15. **NCCU School Award 2026**
BB- waiting for the citation for the nominated school.

16. BCET School Award 2026

Not yet commissioned by BCET. Cleveland needs to be thinking of a nominee, with citation, to put forward. SM – Due to a number of changes (mainly BCET not going through unions to get nominations) this item would drop from the NCCUS responsibilities. TW- suggested that we as a union should continue to put forward a nominee regardless. SM- counter suggested that really we should contact relevant counties to remind them that this opportunity exists and encourage them to enter. TW to move this forward.

17. Presidential Nomination

Co. Durham has nominated their president, Mike Siddle, for NCCU presidency for three years from 2026 AGM. BB- raised that he had not been invited to this meeting. SM- pointed out that this is normal practice as they don't take office until June. TW- asked whether Mike knew what the responsibilities of the post are. BB- indicated that he is aware that it is mainly to take control of meetings. There was a general conversation about the length of post. It was discovered it is for a 2-year term.

18. Succession Planning

Secretary: John George of Meltham and Denby Chess Club has been approved as the NCCU Secretary on a temporary basis , and is expected to stand for election at the 2026 AGM. SM will provide bridging assistance if able. SW – thanked SM for his efforts as secretary. **Treasurer:** No prospective successor is known to the present treasurer. SW continuing to oversee **Auditor:** Peter Micklethwaite, secretary of Barnsley chess club and recently appointed treasurer of the Sheffield & DCA, who works in an accountancy firm in Barnsley, has agreed to fill the post of auditor (relieving Neil Foxcroft).

Counties Championship Controller: Bryan Bainbridge has approached at least one party to see if they'd like to assume the role, but with no volunteers as yet.

19. Date of NCCU AGM 2026

TW- suggested that the second Saturday in June is a practice that is largely in the past. Better to poll parties for the most convenient date. DC – indicated the constitution be re-worded to account for this change. TW – the sheer number of events makes selecting a suitable date very difficult and that any date close to June could be acceptable. MN – asked whether the 27th was settled on? SW pointed out that this would clash with the Yorkshire AGM of which he is the treasurer. TW – suggested we (the NCCU) could meet on the Sunday? SM- pointed out the purpose of having a predetermined date fixed well in advance should allow others (organisers/counties/events?) to avoid using the date of the NCCU AGM. TW -Sunday the 28th or Sunday the 7th was suggested. TW- JG to write to delegates polling for the date between the 7th or 28th June.

20. Any Other Business at the sole discretion of the Chairman of the Meeting None