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## NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION

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### Treasurer's Report to Council, 22/02/2026

#### Invoicing the Counties

The 2025 NCCU AGM decided to invoice counties for the ECF team entry fee (payable by all Union-stage teams, not just ECF-final qualifiers) at the start of the season along with the NCCU county membership fee of £75. Remember that the NCCU county team competitions are part of the ECF County Championships and run by the NCCU as a Constituent Unit of the ECF, and that team entry fees are invoiced to the Union rather than the counties.

We don't know yet the amount team entry fee for 2025-26 as the latest published rules are those for 2024-25 (see [LMS](#)). Further, the NCCU has not been invoiced for team entry fees since an invoice in respect of 2022-23 (see [here](#)), i.e. no invoice for 2023-24 or 2024-25. MCCU and SCCU treasurers say they are in the same situation.

On 13/01/2026, I asked the ECF office, regarding team entry fee invoices, "Can you, or maybe a more appropriate ECF colleague, advise please, 1) whether any such invoices for 2023-24 and 2024-25 have been issued, and ... 2) if they haven't been issued . . . have the fees been waved (not to be invoiced at all), or are they to be invoiced in the future."

The query was acknowledged, but as yet there has been no reply.

I'll add that I applaud the likes of Debra Atkinson, Brian Valentine, Malcolm Peacock, Steve Emmerton and Andrew Walker, doing the day-to-day work, actually keeping the ECF afloat, but I believe there are major problems within the ECF, and I have no expectation of a reply from the ECF in the near future, if ever!

So, after waiting 5 weeks, on 18/01/2026 I sent to each NCCU county an invoice for **just the £75 NCCU county membership fee**. To the time of writing (10/02/2026), the requested £75 has been received from Cleveland, Cumbria, Gr. Manchester, Lancashire and Yorkshire, (leaving Cheshire & N. Wales, Durham, Merseyside and Northumberland as yet unpaid). No "pay by" date was set, just "as soon as possible".

This leaves the bank balance at Metro Bank standing at £2,082.39 (as at 10/02/2026).

The only likely incoming bills on the near horizon will be that for the NCCU School Award (£162 last time) then the NCCU AGM in June (£75 last time).

#### Latent ECF Team Entry Fee Invoicing

There may or may not also be invoice(s) from the ECF for team entry fees. Potential liability since 2022-23 (the above last paid invoice) are as follows, based on last known rates. (Cheshire & NW and Durham have not fielded teams in the seasons covered.)

	Clev	Cum	Gr M	Lancs	Mersy	N'land	Yorks	NCCU
2023-24:								
Open			£24			£24	£24	
U2050	£24		£24				£24	
U1850		£24	£24				£24	
U1650			£24		£24	£24	£24	
U1459			£18				£18	
Totals	<b>£24</b>	<b>£24</b>	<b>£114</b>		<b>£24</b>	<b>£48</b>		<b>£234</b>
2024-25:								
Open			£24			£24	£24	
U2050	£24		£24	£24			£24	
U1850		£24	£24		£24		£24	
U1650			£24	£24			£24	
U1459			£18				£18	
Totals	<b>£24</b>	<b>£24</b>	<b>£114</b>	<b>£48</b>	<b>£24</b>	<b>£24</b>		<b>£258</b>
2025-26:								
Open			£24			£24	£24	
U2050	£24		£24	£24			£24	
U1850		£24	£24		£24		£24	
U1650			£24	£24			£24	
U1459			£18	£18			£18	
Totals	<b>£24</b>	<b>£24</b>	<b>£114</b>	<b>£66</b>	<b>£24</b>	<b>£24</b>		<b>£276</b>
3-Year Totals	<b>£120</b>	<b>£120</b>	<b>£570</b>	<b>£162</b>	<b>£120</b>	<b>£168</b>	<b>£342</b>	
3-Year Total								<b>£768</b>

If the NCCU was asked for £768, then it would not wipe us out if we paid it and hoped the counties coughed up in due course after that.

### The Remaining Santander Account

Transferring the contents of one Santander account not yet closed (the other two having been emptied and closed) is proving problematic and is still work in progress. This is the "Treasurer's Savings A/C" with £484.77 in it. Before I was involved, Santander was told the signatory Jim Moran was not available. Jim, I discovered, later received a (scam?) phone call allegedly from Santander, asking questions yet refusing to say in connection with what they were calling. Jim has a personal account and runs a club/association account with Santander (but will have long forgotten the NCCU account) and sniffed a scam of the type we all receive, and put the phone down on them.

I knew Jim of old, and was hoping he could help liberate the funds from this last Santander account. Both Jim and his wife were past employees of Santander and were aware of how difficult Santander can be to deal with (as I myself found out). Unfortunately, Jim died on 12th January 2026 at the age of 89, so the assistance of another of the two remaining signatories is being enlisted. (Last sentence updated 19/02/2026.)

Steve Mann