
NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION FOUNDED 1899

**NCCU Annual General Meeting 2025
at the West Riding, 38 Wellington Street, Leeds
on 21st June 2025, 1.00 p.m.**

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Tim Wall (TW), (President, Club Championships Organiser, ECF Delegate, Northumberland)
Steve Mann (SM), (Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster)
Bryan Bainbridge (BB), (Counties Championships Controller, Durham)
Mick Norris (MN), (Rating Officer)
Donna Chadwick (DC) (Greater Manchester)
John Walton (JW) (Greater Manchester)
Steve Westmoreland (SW) (Yorkshire)

It was noted that the meeting attendance was below the existing quorate level, and therefore decisions need to be ratified at the next quorate NCCU Council meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

David Kilmartin (DK)
Rupert Jones (RJ)
Richard Walsh (RW)
Andrew Wainwright (AW)

2. Minutes of the NCCU Council Meeting on 12th January 2025

Accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Reports from Officers

Written reports were submitted from the Secretary, Treasurer and Rating Officer, and can be viewed here: <https://mannchess.org.uk/NNotices/2025-05-20AGM2025.htm>

President:

TW reported he considered the season had been a largely successful one with an increasing degree of participation by hitherto less active counties.

Counties Championships Controller:

BB provided printouts both of NCCU competitions and the fate so far of teams passing to the ECF County Championship final stages. Full results for 2024-25 can be viewed here:

NCCU stages: <https://lms.englishchess.org.uk/lms/organisation/1349>

ECF final stages: <https://lms.englishchess.org.uk/lms/organisation/732>

Club Championships Organiser:

Following a discussion, TW proposed that a one-day, one-round jamboree NCCU Open Club Championship for 2025-26 with classical time controls be held at Bradford Latvian Club.

Action: TW to coordinate a date for the Jamboree with AW.

ECF Delegate:

TW reported that modest ECF membership fee increases were passed at the Finance Council in April. Changes have been made on the ECF Board, including the creation of the Events Director and Administration Director roles. The CEO post will be filled at the ECF's October AGM, and in the meantime board chair Stephen Woodhouse is fulfilling this role on an interim

basis as Mike Turan is moving to become Finance Director. TW reported that he had also been appointed Director for Junior Development.

5. Presentation of Trophies

DK stepping down as Trophies Officer. Trophies to be engraved and presented later. As Greater Manchester Trophies Officer, JW volunteered to take on the role for the NCCU and proposed practical ways to maintain and update our stock of trophies.

6. Proposed Changes to Constitution (SM)

a) In Article 4, add “Financial Controller” after “Secretary” (with consequent re-lettering).

[New post as per Special Council Meeting.] Passed

b) In Article 4, add “League Management System Assistant” after “NCCU Counties Championship Controller” (with consequent re-lettering). *[This is the post currently held by Mick Norris.] Passed*

c) In Article 4, remove “Correspondence Chess Organiser” (with consequent re-lettering). *[The existing provision “k) Any other officers as are from time to time agreed by the NCCU Council” means removal of an office from the list does not preclude such an officer being appointed as and when thought appropriate.] Passed*

d) In Article 4, remove “Grading Officer” (with consequent re-lettering). **Passed**

e) In Article 4, replace “ECF Delegates (2)” with “ECF Delegate”

[Reason: The “(2)” conflicts with the way the ECF operates, rendering it meaningless and ambiguous. Specifying a reserve, if wished, is possible under present clause k]., Passed

f) In Article 6, add after the existing wording the sentence, “In these cases where a person is nominated for the Presidency by a CCA, no other person may be proposed as the new President unless Council votes to reject that nominee.”

[Reason: It provides protection against Council seemingly being obliged to accept a wholly unsuitable candidate.] Passed

g) In Article 7, replace “Each representative present” with “Each Council member present”

[Reason: The present wording can preclude some Officers from voting, as an Officer is not necessarily a CCA representative.] Passed

h) In Article 7, replace “Ten persons present represents a quorum” with “Eight persons present and eligible to vote represents a quorum”. Although this was a wording originally preferred by TW in pre-meeting discussions, TW now felt the rule on quoracy ought to provide differently as regards changes to the Constitution and/or Rules, and other types of business.

Action: TW and SM to agree suitable wording for consideration at the next Council meeting.

i) In Article 12, replace “must be registered with the ECF for Game Fee and/or any ECF Membership arrangement” with “shall have its game results submitted for ECF rating and each CCA in inter-county events and team in inter-club events must refund to the NCCU any resultant game fees incurred”

[Reason: Rating is not currently mentioned, an organisation does not “register” for Game Fee, and NCCU reclaiming game fee from counties/clubs is not currently addressed.] Passed

7. Proposed Change to NCCU Rules for Counties Championships (SM)

Replace existing article 13 with:

“13. Amendments to NCCU Rules for Counties Championships. No alteration can be made to these rules except at either:

- a) an AGM, and then only provided that notice of the specific proposed alterations has been given to the secretary at least 21 days before the AGM, alterations requiring, to be passed, only a simple majority of votes cast by those both present and eligible to vote;
- b) a rules sub-committee meeting authorised by an AGM and conducted as follows before the start of the season following that AGM.

A rules sub-committee meeting is convened by either the President or NCCU Counties Championship Controller, either of whom may chair the meeting.

- a) At least 7 days' notice of the meeting must be given.
- b) Participation is open to all eligible to attend an AGM and any others admitted by the chair.
- c) The sub-committee may consider any proposed alterations circulated before the meeting and also, subject to the chair's sole discretion, ones raised at the meeting.
- d) Alterations requiring only a simple majority of votes cast to be passed by those present and eligible to attend." **Passed.**

Action: BB and/or TW to convene such a meeting in Autumn 2025.

8. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected unopposed.

President	Tim Wall
Secretary	Steve Mann
Treasurer	Steve Mann
Financial Controller	Mick Norris
Counties Championships Organiser	Bryan Bainbridge
Club Championships Organiser	Tim Wall
LMS Assistant	Mick Norris
Trophies Officer	John Walton
ECF Delegate	Steve Westmoreland
Vice-Presidents	Dave Cole, Bill O'Rourke
Auditor	Vacant

DC has been thanked by e-mail for his invaluable work as NCCU Secretary.

SM and outgoing auditor Neil Foxcroft agreed geography made Neil's continuing impractical. There was somebody who'd agreed to take over but unfortunately withdrew late on.

Action: SM to seek another suitable candidate for Auditor.

9. Appointment of Organisers

U18 Pennine Cup. Agreed that current winners Merseyside be asked to host 2025-26 event, with Yorkshire as reserve option.

Action: SM to contact Merseyside.

10. Setting of Fees

1) Counties' NCCU membership fees: Agreed that would remain at £75 per county.

It was noted that if counties were invoiced for membership fees not yet invoiced due to no operational bank account, it might be a financial blow to those not planning for it. So, it was decided to charge counties the £75 for 2025-26, but not the unpaid fees from earlier seasons. It was agreed to invoice membership fees at the **start** of the season (September 2025).

2) Counties Championships Team Entry Fees: Agreed to invoice counties as soon as entries received (September 2025), and to invoice team entry fees for seasons prior to 2025-26 **only** if and when invoiced by ECF.

Thus a **standard single annual invoice** to a county, sent c. September, will include:

- a) any known game fee charged for the previous season (invoiced by ECF after June), though ECF timing might necessitate a separate invoice later;
- b) Counties' NCCU membership fee (£75);

c) Counties Championships Team Entry Fees.

11. 2025-26 NCCU Championships Congress

Agreed that Cleveland's turn as NCCU Championships Congress will be allocated to Northumbria Masters in Darlington (20-25 August, 2025).

12. Schools Awards

Agreed to invite nominations at next NCCU Council meeting of a school for:

a) 2026 NCCU Award from Durham. Noted by Durham delegate.

b) 2026 BCET Award from Cleveland.

Action: SM to contact Cleveland on the matter as Cleveland not at meeting.

13. Forewarning of Nomination for NCCU Presidency 2026-28

Cheshire & NW (next on the alphabetic rota, Yorkshire having nominated TW, now entering 2nd year of 2-year stint, when their turn came) will need to be thinking about a nominee to assume office at the 2026 AGM. This requires a nomination at the 2025 NCCU December meeting, so allowing time if Cheshire declines, when the option passes by alphabetic rota to Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham and so on.

Action: SM to ask Cheshire & NW for their nomination.

14. Date and Place of Next NCCU Council Meeting

It was agreed this be held by Zoom on a Sunday in January, aiming to get as many attending as possible.

Action: SM to explore dates and consult with counties re best date.

15. Any other business

None.

The meeting was closed at 4.30pm.