

Northern Counties Chess Union

Treasurer's Report 2026

About the NCCU Accounts for Season 2025-26 (among meeting papers)

Over the financial year 2025-26 (01/04/2025 to 30/04/2026) the NCCU transitioned from banking with Santander to banking with Metrobank. This was difficult, and profound thanks are due to Dave Cole for getting electronic control of the Santander "Treasurer's Current Account" and "NCCU NMS Account", the "NMS" meaning "Northern Membership Scheme" relating to when Unions acted as agents for collecting BCF Membership fees. Dave got the funds remaining in these two accounts paid into the new Metrobank account.

For various reasons I decided to produce separate sets of accounts for the two bankers. At the time of writing, these were with the auditor, Peter Micklethwaite, who runs his own accountancy firm in Barnsley. As I live in Rotherham, we are doing this, at Peter's request, "electronically", him staying in Barnsley and me in Rotherham.

If the accounts are too much to cope with, an overall summary covering all accounts, remembering the 2 Santander a/cs were close and the balances in them transferred to Metrobank, is

Santander Current + NMS a/cs bf	2,084.04
total income in financial year	+ 602.95
total expenditure in financial year	- 388.60
Metrobank balance carried forward	= 2,298.39

Potential major costs in the pipeline are

Description	Estimate	
Trophy engraving and restoration costs	?	*
NCCU School Award 2026	£200	
Br. Championship entry fee for NCCU Individ. Champ.	£225 to £300	**
Meeting venue & refreshment costs	up to £200	***

* once things have caught up, such annual costs should be relatively lower

** dependant on whether Alannah Ashton takes up the place

*** remembering we may not have anybody to organise Zoom meetings in future

We have the reserves to meet these costs, but they illustrate the importance of maintaining high reserves.

I wonder whether we should continue offering to fund an NCCU Individual Champions entry fee to the British Championship (refundable retrospectively only in they actually play).

Santander Treasurer's Savings A/C (the remaining Santander a/c still not closed)

Getting the £494.65 in this a/c is proving intractable due to death of a signatory.

The Status of Cheshire

The status of Cheshire needs addressing. Currently, Cheshire does not pay a county membership fee, primarily it seems because they field no teams in County Team Championships, but that is at variance with the Constitution. So, I've entered into discussion with their president, Glenn Trueman, with a view to agreeing something mutually acceptable by way of a reduced membership fee for a county in that situation. Cheshire & North Wales County Chess Association is currently dormant as far as organising adult chess, though a lot of junior activity is generated there outside the county framework.

The outcome is that Cheshire & NW are agreeable to paying an annual county membership fee of £32.50, i.e. half the current £75 other counties are paying. That seems wholly acceptable to me personally, and recommend it in the next paragraph.

For reference, item 3 of the NCCU Constitution says: "Membership of the NCCU is open to recognised County Chess Associations based in the North of England and accepted by the NCCU Council as being within the territory of the NCCU. (A recognised CCA is defined as any Association of Chess Clubs combined on a regional basis affiliated to the English Chess Federation). Each CCA that joins the NCCU undertakes to pay the annual subscription and/or fee as defined and determined by the NCCU at a previous Annual General Meeting."

Membership Fees for 2026-27

So, I'd suggest that the annual "full" county membership fee be set to remain at £75, with a reduced rate for counties fielding no teams in the NCCU Counties Championships.

ECF County Team Entry Fees (added 21/06/2026)

The ECF has eventually realised it's neglected to invoice Unions for entry fees, despite my attempting for just over a year to let me (and other Union treasurers) know what is going to happen. Where entry fees to be waived for 2023-24 and 2024-25? Apparently not, as on 21st June 2026 an e-mail was received from the ECF detailing the figures due from the NCCU for 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26. If we agree those figures then they'll issue a formal invoice, whereupon the NCCU will have to pay that invoice, and then invoice the counties accordingly, which might cause problems for some counties. The figures are correct and are given of a separate AGM paper.

New Treasurer

I have articulated elsewhere my desire to give up this post which I took on as a stopgap on the untimely demise of George Horne. The NCCU would be foolish to rely too long on my remaining *compos mentis* for very much longer. The loss of short-term memory and long-term memory leave very little in between! That may seem a joke, but my father and his mother went down the route of senile dementia or whatever the modern term is, so I feel I must give notice of my intent to step down as treasurer at the 2027 AGM – or before if a new treasurer is found.

Ideally, as Mick Norris has indicated, a new treasurer would ideally take over his role as Financial Controller, which is doing the on-line processing of the account. That would collapse the two present post back into a single modernised treasurer post.

Steve Mann
13/06/2026