

NCCU Council Meeting held on 21st April 2022 18.30

Venue: via ZOOM Link

NCCU COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Tim Wall – President and Northumberland Representative

Dave Cole – General Secretary and Cumbria Representative

Bryan Bainbridge – County Controller and Durham Representative

Steve Mann – Yorkshire Representative

Bill O'Rourke – Lancashire Representative

1. Apologies for absence

David Mills, George Horne, Dave Almond

2. Minutes of the NCCU AGM 2021

The Minutes were agreed as a true and correct record with an amendment that the webmaster is Lewis Self and not 'Salt'.

3. Matters & actions arising from last minutes not otherwise covered in the agenda

No matters arising.

4. Officers Reports:

a. Report of President

Tim reported that he felt little had happened in his time in office (due to the covid19 lockdown) but that a lot of effort had occurred at a local level, especially in the North East, with clubs up and running and activity noted in Cleveland. Also resurgence in congress chess is taking place and thanks to Mick Riding organising congresses in the area had been oversubscribed.

Bill O'Rourke confirmed that Blackpool congress had 285 players which was good, but older players in the lower rating sections were not playing; however on the positive side younger players are taking over. Tim reported that Darlington had over 140 entrants and Southend and the 4NCL had a good number of players.

Steve Mann reported that on-line play has brought new players to clubs in Yorkshire but that older players are slowly returning or not at all. Tim voiced the concern which was echoed by all that the clubs and leagues were still a concern and the focus should be on these.

b. Report of General Secretary

Dave reported that Lewis Self had a new job and wasn't able to give the NCCU website the dedication it needed, although he would still update the site if not too onerous. He would be happy if someone else took over the role, but would carry on if need be.

The County Rules have been updated and would need to be ratified at the AGM; this was agreed.

Dave also reported that Mick Riding had been in touch over the NCCU Individual trophies; two have been located, but the Seniors has yet to be found.

c. Report of Treasurer (including Affiliation fees 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22)

George Horne had emailed the Secretary on affiliation fees and recommended that no affiliation fees be paid this season or last season. The 2019-20 season however had incurred expenses, so all counties were expected to pay the fee. George to contact Bill O'Rourke on the fee situation. (Post meeting: George confirmed that National County fees for 2019-20 were being reimbursed by the ECF to the NCCU and George will contact Lancashire and Yorkshire).

For information:

- 2019/2020 income £498.75 and expenses £295.47.
- 2020/2021 expenses £104.72 comprising schools award £74.72 and website £30.
- 2021/2022 expenses to date are ECF delegate £98.60 and website £42 totalling £140.60.
- To date the bank balance is £2293.05. The 8 chess clocks remaining are valued at £350.40.

d. Report of County Championships Organiser

Bryan reported the NCCU 2022 County winners as follows:

Open: Northumberland

U2050/U1850/U1650: Lancashire

U1450: Yorkshire

Bill reported on a problem with the U1650 National draw as the second team nomination for the NCCU was given a favourable draw rather than the first team nomination. However this has now been resolved satisfactorily with both Lancashire and Yorkshire through to the semi-finals.

Bryan thanked David Mills and Steve Westmoreland for their support and efforts in organising the matches, sometimes at short notice. Tim thanked Bill O'Rourke and Peter Ackley for their efforts.

e. Report of Club Championship Organiser

Dave reported that only South Shields had entered the competition by the deadline at the end of January. Consideration will be given to a one day Club jamboree later in the season and this was agreed.

f. Report of Grading Officer

A discussion ensued on the need for a Results Officer, where it soon became clear that the process of submitting results to the ECF was far from straight forward. The LMS system is in place to provide monthly ratings, but it is not clear who submits congress or other results. It was suggested that what is required is a simple set of instructions and a list of local Northern Rating Officers who are able to submit results. - Tim to contact Matt Carr on Ratings.

Also the question was raised of what recognition and recompense does the ECF give to congresses for providing Silver memberships and fee collection on behalf of the ECF?

Steve Mann who is a Rating Officer in Yorkshire stated that he would provide some guidance on the LMS Rating process.

g. Report of Trophy Officer

No report - no trophies had been contested.

h. Report of Webmaster

No report (see report from General Secretary)

i. Report of ECF Delegate

Tim went through the forthcoming ECF April Finance Council Agenda and highlighted the following: Fees for 2022-23 were recommended to stay the same, with FIDE rated 'pay-to-play' increasing from £11 to £12.

A number of Direct Membership Representative proposals were tabled and that an ECF Survey Monkey was to be used to consult on views on issues including accountability.

Rolling Membership was discussed with differing views on the pros and cons of the system.

The transfer of the PIF to a Chess Trust was discussed and concern given to the lack of transparency in where the money was being allocated, the accounts in the fund and the difficulty in obtaining funding for juniors. It was hoped the new trustees would improve this situation. Also bequests were discussed and how funds were hypothecated, which again were generally opaque.

Tim outlined his proposal on Ukraine supported by Durham County where it demanded the resignation of the Russian FIDE President. However subsequent discussions had led to an amendment whereby this demand would be called for at the August FIDE Congress in India.

The second part of the proposal was to provide assistance to the Ukraine Chess Federation and to help Ukrainians in the UK. This was endorsed by the NCCU and asked what they could do to help at a local level. Tim reported that some Ukrainians are now actively involved in NE chess activities.

5. Proposals:

- a) NCCU proposals to ECF Council – This is covered above in the ECF Delegates report.

6. NCCU Individuals and British Qualifying Congress 2022

This will be held as part of the Durham Congress 6th-8th May 2022

Bryan Bainbridge has the Open and Junior trophies, which will be handed to Mick Riding. The Secretary to find out where the Seniors Trophy is located.

7. U16 Pennine Cup 2022

Tim Wall is going to try and arrange a jamboree in the autumn.

8. Schools Awards 2021/22

BCET Award: Nomination required with the deadline 31st May 2022.

Merseyside have not provided a nomination, so Tim Wall will provide a Northumberland school citation as the next in line for submission to the BCET Awards panel. Tim to provide citation to the NCCU Secretary.

NCCU Award: Nomination required – Yorkshire (Nafferton School, Driffild submitted)

This was agreed and the Secretary will arrange to send a Board, set and Clock to the school. Steve Mann agreed to provide the POC and address of the school.

9. 2022 NCCU Presidential Nomination

It was agreed that Tim Wall should continue as NCCU President for one more year, as it was thought the covid19 situation had compromised the duration of Tim's time in office and should be given an extra year. Steve Mann from Yorkshire agreed and would confirm that Rupert Jones is ok with this.

10. Time & date of next meeting

It was proposed Saturday June 18th 2022 at the Latvian Club, but after further discussion the next meeting to take place in August as F2F, Zoom or hybrid of both. It was further suggested that the NCCU meeting possibly could take place in a chess event if this could be arranged.

11. Any Other Business

As the last British Championship in the North took place in Hull 2018, it was thought the NCCU could put in a bid for the 2023 Championships and if possible as part of a Northern chess festival.

Dave Cole
General Secretary