

NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION

FOUNDED 1899

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting 2009

Held on Saturday December 5th 2009, 12.00 pm.

Venue: The Latvian Club, 5 Clifton Villas,
Manningham Lane , Bradford, BD8 7BY Tel: 01274 546235

PRESENT

John Turnock (President and Northumberland representative)
Dave Cole (General Secretary and Cumbria representative)
George Horne (Treasurer and Cumbria representative)
Bill Metcalfe (Cleveland representative)
Jim Moran (Merseyside representative)
Brian Bainbridge (Vice President)

1. Apologies for absence

Dave Farley, Stuart Johnson, Rupert Jones, Ihor Lewyk, Graham Matthews, Chris Underhill, Simon Woodcock. (It was noted that Graham Marshall had resigned as a rep).

Ihor Lewyk attended pre-meeting to update the Officers on relevant matters.

Note: no apologies from C&NW, they have not attended the last 3 NCCU meetings!

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 11th July 2009

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

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

The NCCU Grading List – no further action on this – a draft was produced by the NCCU Secretary at the AGM, but interest shown is minimal.

Concerns over the National County Finals – correspondence noted. No further action.

New Club Championship Grading limits – The Secretary had circulated an analysis of the new Gradings a few months previously, with a view to amending the NCCU Club Competition gradings. This was agreed and the grading limits amended.

4. Officers reports

a. Report of President

John Turnock reported the correspondence on the National Finals – this was noted.

John had been in conversation with Chris Majer the ECF CEO prior to the ECF AGM, regarding his continuing to stand given the state of the Chess for Schools project. After canvassing NCCU reps, it was agreed that the NCCU support Chris in continuing his tenure. 7 out of 8 Constituent Units of the ECF proposed Chris for re-election – the NCCU although supporting his candidature, did not formally propose Mr Majer.

John had produced an ECF AGM report and commented on the lack of a Finance Director, the Chess Centre Ltd, CFS, the large financial loss, Strategic planning, the elections and the role of the new President. – The report was accepted.

b. Report of General Secretary

Dave Cole reported that 3 sets of rules had been amended and circulated. These were agreed, but which require ratification at the 2010 NCCU AGM in June next year.

(i) Individual Rules (ii) NCCU Constitution (iii) NCCU County rules.

ACTION – Secretary to table Rules at NCCU AGM 2010

c. Report of Treasurer

George Horne reported that the A/c's for 2008-09 have now been audited as correct. (The Treasurer handed the NCCU Secretary the signed audited A/c's for the last 3 years). The Auditor has suggested that the ECF Membership finances be shown in more detail. The NCCU balance is £6,248.56. ECF Membership balance is £2,118.11; with a £724.61 balance from last season and £1,393.50 paid so far this year. Merseyside CA owe £913 from last year and the ECF are owed a balance of £839.

The Treasurer reported that a membership cheque from Graham Marshall had bounced and the NCCU had incurred a charge of £7.50. It was agreed that this charge should be re-imbursed by Mr Marshall.

ACTION – The NCCU to pursue the charge.

Note: Cleveland proposed that Mr Marshall be given until the New Year to pay his membership fee or not be allowed to play in any more league matches.

d. Report of County Championships Organiser

Jim Moran tabled the County teams entering to date. Yorkshire and Lancashire have entered all 6 sections, whilst Northumberland confirmed entry to the Open and Cumbria the U180. It was hoped other teams would enter, especially Cleveland and Merseyside in at least one of the sections. (The Open, U180, U160, U140, U120 would be 16 players, with U100 12 players).

Dave Cole tabled a list of venues with various prices and the meeting agreed that the County Jamboree be held at Bradford City FC on Sunday 14th March from 1-6pm. (The cost would be £750 + vat). Chess Direct have confirmed they will provide a bookstall and boards, sets and clocks. The only outstanding issue was on refreshments and a note would be sent to Counties on this.

ACTION – All Counties who have not entered a team, please review and try to enter at least one team in the graded sections.

e. Report of Club Championship organiser

Dave Farley sent an email report on the Club Championships. He had issued the Rules and the draw. 3 teams in the Open, 9 teams in the Major and Intermediate, with 12 teams in the Minor. The competition is now underway with the first rounds to be played in January.

Dave asked that organisers keep up to date with news by looking at reports/results on the NCCU website.

f. Correspondence Chess Organiser

Chris Underhill had emailed a report with the results from the 2008-9 competition which was emphatically won by Northumberland. Chris reported no problems in running the competition and was about to send off the pairings for this years' competition and was pleased to report that Yorkshire have rejoined.

g. Report of Grading Officer

The NCCU Club and County results were received in good time and sent to the ECF for grading – no problems reported.

h. Report of Membership Secretary

Dave Cole reported that the NCCU MO membership was up by over 100 from this time last year, with Merseyside especially sending memberships in early. (to date the NCCU MO has 587 members). Discussions had taken place with the ECF on the MO rebate and the 11% profit share expectation. The ECF have agreed the rebate figure for last season, (although final payments have not been made) but would like to review the agreement. Talks on this have yet to start.

i. Report of ECF Delegates

John Turnock attended the ECF AGM and reported on the DCMS grant suspension due to the lack of an FD and the financial state of the Federation, as the yearly deficit was £20k and the reserves had halved. On CfS the latest was that all support materials were in the ECF Office and that 100 boxes of chess sets had been sent to the MP Evan Harris. Gerry Walsh had also delivered sets in Berwick-upon-Tweed. John also reported on the elections, especially of the new President Chris de Mooi and that John held 11 NCCU votes.

5. U18 Jamboree

To be held on Sunday 28th February 2010 at Winwick Hospital Staff Recreation Club, Newton Rd, Winwick W12 8TE, near the M62. Teams of 12 are required with a 12.30 start.

ACTION – All County Reps – contact Judy Brown to enter a team:

judy.brown@virgin.net

6. U16 Pennine Cup

12th Dec 2009, to be held at Ponteland School, Northumberland.

7. Schools Awards

BCET 2009/10 nominations required – Northumberland

The nomination from St Teresa’s RC Primary School, Heaton was accepted.

ACTION – Secretary to forward nomination to the ECF.

NCCU Award 2009/10 nominations required – C&NW

No nominations have been received.

ACTION – Secretary to email C&NW, with a deadline of February 2010. (If none received, Cleveland to be asked). (emailed 11/12/09)

8. NCCU Individual Championships 2009/10 – C&NW congress?

As no information has been received from C&NW on a suitable congress, the Secretary is to email the County with a cut off date for proposals by the end of December. Failing a nominee, the next County on the schedule will be offered the Individual Championships (Middlesbrough, Cleveland in July?).

ACTION – Secretary emailed C&NW 11/12/09

ACTION – Secretary to email NCCU Individual Rules to Congress Organiser.

9. NCCU 2010 British Championship Qualifying Congress (2 places).

Durham Congress April 23-25th 2010.

10. Presentation of Correspondence Trophies

Results for the 2008-09 Sinclair Shield

1	NORTHUMBERLAND	8.5
2	LANCASHIRE	6
3	CUMBRIA	5
4	DURHAM	4.5

The Sinclair Shield won by Northumberland was not available.

ACTION: Yorkshire to provide John Turnock with the trophy.

11. Northern 4NCL

The Secretary had received an email from the 4NCL organiser Mike Truran, asking for expressions of interest in forming a Northern 4NCL. Teams of 6 would play at Northern venues in Crewe, Darlington and Harrogate over 4 weekends starting in November 2010 and a finals w/e at Hinckley Island in May 2011 where all 4NCL teams will attend. Mike is hoping for 12 teams in the Northern section with prize money of £1000. Entry fee is £150 per team. Teams can be made up of clubs or individuals.

ACTION – Could all reps publicise to their County officials and players and if interested contact Mike Truran: mike@truran.fsnet.co.uk

Post meeting – Andy Wainwright of the Bradford & District league came into the bar and spoke to the NCCU reps on his efforts at raising a 4NCL team and hoped he would have at least one Yorkshire based team.

12. Manchester Chess Federation

The NCCU President had received a letter from Matthew Pollard MCF President regarding their request to join the NCCU and a letter responding to Jim Tennant-Smith. The letter hoped that the NCCU and the MCF could work together in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect. The meeting noted the letter and looked forward to the MCF 'identifying areas which we can work together.' **ACTION – The NCCU President to reply to the MCF, asking what ideas they had in mind.**

13. Nomination for next NCCU President

Rupert Jones of Yorkshire was nominated prior to the meeting and accepted.

14. Time & date of next meeting

To take place in Leeds on June 5th 2010

ACTION – The Secretary to book The Grove early!

15. Any Other Business

The Secretary mentioned that Steve Henderson was to continue as the NCCU webmaster – this was universally greeted as good news and thanks to Steve for continuing. Bill Metcalfe asked on behalf of Steve, that any information/news items/results go to him to place on the website. **ACTION – All reps to provide news items by email to Steve at:**

ukchess1@yahoo.co.uk

There being no more business the meeting closed at 2.48pm.

Dave Cole
NCCU General Secretary
15th December 2009