

**NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION
FOUNDED 1899**

Minutes of the NCCU AGM 2010

**Held on Saturday June 5th 2010, at 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)
Graham Matthews (Durham representative)
Keith Smith (Durham representative)
Stuart Johnson (Yorkshire representative) – left meeting after Item 4C
Ihor Lewyk (Yorkshire representative) – left meeting after Item 4C
Simon Woodcock (Lancashire representative)
Jim Tennant-Smith (Lancashire representative)
Paul Bielby (Northumberland representative)
Jim Moran (Merseyside representative)
Bill Metcalfe (Cleveland representative)
Brian Bainbridge (Vice President - Durham)
Rupert Jones (Incoming President – Yorkshire)

1. Apologies for Absence

Dave Farley, Chris Underhill, Martin Regan, Brian Driscoll.

2. Minutes of the 5th of December 2009 NCCU Council Meeting

The minutes were accepted as true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising (including matters not covered in the Agenda)

The MCA

John Turnock had written back to Matthew Pollard the MCA President, thanking him for his letter and looked forward to ‘identifying areas which we could work together’. To date, there has been no response, but the understanding is that there would be no application to join the NCCU in the near future. Jim Tennant-Smith explained his dealings with Mr Pollard and said that he (Jim) had all the legal documents relating to the original issues.

The Sinclair Shield Correspondence Trophy

This trophy is still with Yorkshire and needs to go to Northumberland.

ACTION – The Secretary to contact Andrew Dearnley of Yorkshire. (post meeting note: Andrew has the trophy and arrangements have been made with Northumberland).

4. Officers Reports

a) Report of the President

This was John’s last meeting as President and wished to thank all the NCCU reps for their help over his term in office. He stated this was his second term as President, the first being 1992-94 and that this would be his last act in the NCCU and was retiring.

He thought that the NCCU had two main purposes; to organize Northern competitions and to provide a two way dialogue with the ECF.

Over his time John had been the sole NCCU representative at the last 5 ECF meetings (apart from one in Birmingham where George Horne also attended). John attended the April ECF Finance Council meeting and produced a report which was circulated at the meeting, which focused on the budget deficit, fee increases and Cfs project. John reported on the County jamboree in March which was considered a

success. He also mentioned the changing in the rules for British Championship qualification, but this has now been resolved and the NCCU is unaffected. John had spoken to ECF officials at the Council meeting about the NCCU MO arrangement and the wish of the ECF to amend it, but this is still an outstanding issue.

A discussion ensued about the ECF, the Management Board, the ECF office, the possibility of classing chess as a sport and tapping into lottery funding now that we have a new government and the DCMS Grant being cut by £15,000.

ACTION: Rupert Jones to contact new Leeds West MP Rachael Reeves on chess issues.

The meeting thanked John for all his sterling work during the last two years as president and wished him well.

b) Report of the General Secretary

The NCCU Calendar was circulated to the reps for information and action where required.

The updated rules for the NCCU Constitution, the NCCU County Rules and the NCCU County Individual Rules were all agreed.

ACTION: Secretary to ask SH to put on NCCU website.

c) Report of the Treasurer

George Horne reported that the NCCU had a balance of £4918.78 in the bank. The Club Championships made a loss of £295 this season. George recommended that the prize fund be reduced to £600 (£150 per section) and use the Mike O'Hara fund – this was agreed.

The Jamboree expenses had been taken out of the NMS fund which is now finished and the DC Harris fund. The NCCU MO shows a balance of £1822.01 with an amount still outstanding from Merseyside of £651. Overall deficit for the season was £80.80, so George recommended that the NCCU affiliation fee of £75 pa for all Counties remain the same – this was agreed.

The report was accepted.

ACTION: Jim Moran to chase up outstanding membership payment from Merseyside for 2008/09.

d) Report of the County Championship Organiser

Jim Moran reported that the jamboree held at Bradford football club had been a success and thanked John Turnock for arranging the pairings and logistics on the day and to Dave Cole for arranging the venue. The winners were as follows:

Open: Lancashire

U180: Lancashire

U160: Yorkshire

U140: Yorkshire

U120: Yorkshire

U100: Lancashire

It was disappointing that Durham, Cleveland, Northumberland, Merseyside and Cheshire did not take part. Jim had obtained interest from Merseyside at their recent AGM and may well enter 3 teams in next year's competition. It was suggested that NE Counties could combine to enter joint teams – perhaps some combination of Durham/Cleveland and or Northumberland. Another suggestion was to reduce the number of boards from 12 down to say 10 or 8. It was suggested that there was an aspiration to reduce board numbers at a national stage level.

After some discussion on the merits of holding another jamboree and the costs involved, it was agreed that the Open and U180 sections would revert back to individual matches and that Jim canvass the views of Counties as to holding a 2 day jamboree for the lower sections to be held over 2 days, possibly at the Latvian Club in Bradford. Jim would look at possible dates and at possible date clashes, such as 4 NCL matches.

It was agreed that a silver U120 trophy be purchased up to a value of £150 in honour of Mike O'Hara and that the trophy be called the 'O'Hara trophy'. (Note: The NCCU Sec to look at Basingstoke Trophies as a possible supplier).

JTS offered to hold an 'East v West' match at Heywood some time next season if one could be arranged. He mentioned a match that had been held in the past over 40 boards between East and West Counties. If Counties are interested in playing such a match they should contact either Jim Tennant-Smith or the NCCU Secretary.

ACTION – J Moran to canvas views of Counties on jamboree idea for lower sections.

ACTION – J Moran to look at possible dates Feb/March if possible. (Note post meeting: Simon Woodcock has said that Blackpool Congress clashes with 12/13th March dates).

ACTION – J Moran to contact Latvian Club Bradford as venue if jamboree is to proceed.

ACTION – NE County reps to look at forming joint teams and inform Jim Moran.

e) Report of the Club Championship Organiser

Dave Farley sent his apologies due to ill health, but sent in a report. This years' competition is ongoing with 3 teams in the Open, 9 teams each in the Major and Intermediate with 12 in the Minor. This was better than last year, although still running at a loss. To break even, 50 teams are needed, but we only achieved 33 teams. The following stages have been reached:

Open: Atherton to play Bradford, with the winners playing Heywood (current holders).

Major Final: Aigburth v Atherton

Intermediate Final: Austin Friars v Heywood or Rochdale

Minor Semi-Finals: Austin Friars v Waterloo A: Skelmersdale v Heywood/Crusaders

Dave thought that after 10 years as Club Controller it was time for some new blood and has stood down, but would be only too happy to assist the new controller and hand over all documentation, contacts and records. The meeting thanked Dave for his organization of the Club Championships and looked forward to seeing him at the December meeting.

Post meeting note: Simon Woodcock (the new Controller) has been in touch with Dave regarding the handover.

ACTION: Club Controller to ensure current holders pass trophies to this year's winners and engrave them.

f) Report of the Correspondence Chess Organiser

Chris Underhill sent his apologies, but sent a report. The Sinclair Shield was won by Northumberland last season. The competition ran smoothly with great support from the County Captains, with no adjudications required. Chris is happy to continue as competition organiser.

g) Report of the Grading Officer

Dave Cole reported that the County results were sent to the ECF; thanks to Jim Moran and John Turnock for the results. The Club results so far are outstanding.

ACTION: All – send Dave Cole Club results before the end of June.

h) Report of the Membership Secretary

Dave Cole reported that the NCCU MO had 758 members (685 last year) with the breakdown as follows:

Merseyside 290

Lancashire 226

Cumbria 114
Cheshire 95
Durham 30
Yorkshire 2
Cleveland 1
Northumberland 0

£5000 has been sent to the ECF with a residual amount owing. The rebate, which is still expected to be 11%, will be discussed with the ECF once the season is over and also a basis for next year.

Dave said that Merseyside had now over taken Lancashire in terms of MO numbers, but that Merseyside still owed £651 from last season (£913 minus profit share of £262).

Dave hoped to continue the NCCU MO scheme next season, but asked that other Counties who have their own MO's to consider joining the NCCU scheme. (note the 10% rebate for County MO's and 11% profit share for Union MO's).

i) Report of BCF/ECF Delegates

John Turnock reported on the main issues affecting the ECF, such as the financial deficit due to the British Championships in Liverpool and the rises in Membership and Game fee from September 2010. (Game fee is to rise to 54p and Basic Membership to £12/7.50). The original proposal was to raise junior membership to £8, but John successfully argued to reduce it to £7.50. The Chess for Schools project was reported to be limping on, but the main area of criticism was the Certificate of Merit (CoM) scheme which was launched at a cost to the ECF of £24,000. Paul Bielby was scathing in his condemnation and said it was 'a sheer waste of money. It was worse than the existing scheme, which was viewed as very valuable. The CoM was certainly not to be recommended due to its content being bad, boring and tedious; in fact it was anti-chess!'

5. U18 Jamboree and U16 Pennine Cup

U18 Jamboree

The Secretary tabled a report from Judy Brown on the U18 jamboree, which took place on 28th February 2010. Judy organized the event at Winwick between Cheshire & NW, Lancashire and Oldham in teams of 12, with 2 games each.

Final Totals:

Cheshire & NW	13.5
Lancashire	12.5
Oldham	10

Well done to everyone who took part, with special thanks to Bill O'Rourke, Roger Glover, John Walton and George Scattergood for all their help and support.

The next U18 Jamboree is due to take place in March 2011.

ACTION – NCCU Secretary to canvas volunteers to host.

U16 Pennine Cup

The Pennine Cup took place in December 2009 at Ponteland School (a free venue) between Northumberland and Cumbria. The event was very successful and thanks to Paul Bielby and Syd Cassidy for organizing.

The next U16 Pennine Cup is due to take place in December 2010.

ACTION – NCCU Secretary to canvas volunteers to host.

Paul Bielby commented that if Judy wanted to run the U16 Pennine cup he would run the U18, although he would be happy doing either and mentioned 'the Paul Bielby junior rule of chess' – that if the time travelling exceeded the time playing chess – don't play!

Cathy Rothwell from Southport Chess club is interested in the U16 event. Contact: cathy.rothwell@virgin.net

6. Schools Awards 2009/10

BCET Award 2009/10

Paul Bielby asked what had happened to the BCET award after the nomination had gone in – the Secretary said he would look into it, but thought the ECF Council in October had to ratify the award.

ACTION: Secretary to contact ECF on BCET award 2009/10.

NCCU Award 2009/10

A Citation was received from King's School in Chester with a commendation from Judy Brown as worthy of such an award. After discussion it was agreed that King's would receive the award (a chess set, board and clock).

ACTION: Secretary to arrange purchase and delivery of Award.

Schools Awards 2010/11

BCET Award – Nomination for the December meeting – Yorkshire

NCCU Award – Nomination for the December meeting - Cleveland

7. Presentation of Trophies

No trophies were presented, although x2 trophies were found post-meeting and returned to Yorkshire. These were the U160 Walls trophy and the U140 Pennine Shield.

The NCCU Individual trophies were brought by Lancashire reps and handed to Bill Metcalfe to give to the Middlesbrough Congress (Brian Whitaker).

The U160 Walls trophy is in need of a wooden box.

ACTION – Could Yorkshire Reps get a box made for the Walls trophy and invoice George Horne?

ACTION – All trophies to be returned for the 2011 AGM in order to assess their condition and photograph.

ACTION – All trophy holders; please engrave winners names and bring up to date? (invoice George Horne for costs incurred).

8. Election of Officers

- President – Rupert Jones
- General Secretary – Dave Cole
- Treasurer – George Horne
- County Championship Organiser – Jim Moran
- Club Championship Organiser – Simon Woodcock
- Correspondence Chess Organiser – Chris Underhill
- Grading Officer – Dave Cole
- Membership Secretary – Dave Cole
- Trophy Officer – George Horne
- Delegates to the ECF – Rupert Jones
- Vice Presidents to Council – Dave Farley and Brian Bainbridge (in lieu of John Turnock)
- Webmaster – Steve Henderson

9. Appointment of Auditor

- Neil Foxcroft

10. NCCU Junior Championships 2011

This competition is now considered defunct.

11. British Championship Qualifying Places 2010-11

It was suggested that some of the Mike O'Hara donation be used to support NCCU British qualifiers. This was agreed and qualifiers could apply for either entry fee and/or expense support to the NCCU Secretary, who in consultation would consider each application on a case by case basis.

It was reported that Nigel Short is to participate in the 2011 British Championships in Sheffield, whereupon Jim Tennant-Smith and John Turnock remarked that this would not affect their 50% record score against Nigel in competitive games!

ACTION: Individual Champion qualifier (+ 1 other place) – Cumbria to nominate congress.

ACTION: NCCU Qualifying Congress x2 places – Lancashire to nominate Congress.

12. Time & Date of next meeting

12.30-4pm, Saturday 4th December 2010 at The Latvian Club, Bradford.

13. Any Other Business

The Northern 4NCL was mentioned, but to date there is no knowledge of teams entered.

It was disclosed and noted that the new NCCU President is half Australian!

Steve Henderson the NCCU Webmaster gave notice of impending changes in 2011/12 where a new web host will be required and payment for these services. This could range from £15-50. It was agreed that the NCCU would pay this and ask Steve to sort out the new arrangements.

The meeting closed at approx 3.45pm.

**Dave Cole
General Secretary**