

**NORTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION
FOUNDED 1899**

Minutes of the NCCU Council Meeting 2011

Held on Saturday December 3rd 2011, at the Latvian Club, 5 Clifton Villas,
Manningham Lane, Bradford, BD8 7BY Tel: 01274 546235

PRESENT

Rupert Jones (President – Yorkshire)
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)
Simon Woodcock (Lancashire representative)
Bill Metcalfe (Cleveland representative)
Brian Bainbridge (Vice President - Durham)
Jim Moran (Merseyside representative)

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Underhill, Ihor Lewyk, Mike Creaney, John Wheeler, Paul Bielby

2. Minutes of the 2011 NCCU AGM

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

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

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers Reports

a) Report of the President

Rupert, whose health is much improved, thanked Stuart Johnson for all his help.

The President thought it was good that the NCCU gave financial help to players from the North in the British Championships and hoped this would continue.

Rupert could not attend the ECF AGM in October due to a clash of meetings, as he attended a FIDE meeting in Krakow Poland. As a consequence there were no NCCU Officials at the ECF AGM.

A discussion ensued regarding the ECF law suit against FIDE, posted on the English Chess Forum, where the ECF are objecting to the number of Vice-Presidents. The major concern was the fact that this legal action was not even mentioned at the ECF AGM and the potential for any costs incurred at a time of cut backs.

Rupert stated that he was Secretary of the FIDE Development Commission.

b) Report of the General Secretary

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

Mike Creaney is confirmed as the NCCU Grader.

Thanks to Ernie Lazenby for taking the NCCU Schools award to Yarm school and presenting the prize. In the British Championship at Sheffield, the NCCU gave financial help to the following:

R Palliser, M Surtees, P Dargan, T Pitcher and the Weller brothers.

c) Report of the Treasurer

George Horne reported that the NCCU had a balance of £3698.18 in the bank with £3361.67 in the MO fund. The only exceptional expense during the last 6 months was the support for the British Championship, which amounted to £675.

The Club Championship finances were mostly resolved with cheques given out to the Yorkshire and Lancashire delegates for Bradford and Skelmersdale prizes.

Waterloo owes £25 (Jim Moran to enquire).

Darlington owed £15 from 2007/08, although they never played in the competition and it was agreed that the NCCU would forgo the money.

Knights Untied are owed £5 and Atticus have not cashed a £20 cheque.

d) Report of the County Championship Organiser

Jim Moran reported that all sections had x2 teams in, which pitted Lancashire against Yorkshire, except for the U160 where Lancashire and Cumbria meet.

Jim said that if Yorkshire could raise a team over 12 boards they could still play in the U160, but they needed to appoint a captain and let Jim know asap.

Jim confirmed that the current ECF grading list would be used for the regional stages and would still be used when the new list appears in January/February 2012.

Action: All County results to be emailed to Steve Henderson for him to put on the NCCU website.

Action: General Secretary to contact Adam Raoof to confirm grading at the National Stage.

e) Report of the Club Championship Organiser

Keith Smith reported that he had emailed the Northern clubs and officials with details of the 2012 NCCU Club Championship. Although he did say that some of his addresses are not up to date.

The closing date for entries was the 9th December with the competition starting in the new year. To date only 12 teams had entered.

The current grading list would be used for the whole competition.

Action: All reps to contact clubs to encourage entries.

Action: All Club results to be emailed to Steve Henderson for him to put on the NCCU website.

f) Report of the Correspondence Chess Organiser

Chris Underhill sent his apologies as he is away from home at the moment, but sent a report that the Sinclair Shield was won convincingly by Yorkshire last season. Chris will forward the results as soon as he gets chance and that the start of next season's competition may be slightly delayed.

The report was accepted.

g) Report of the Grading Officer

No Report.

h) Report of the Membership Secretary

Dave Cole reported that to date the NCCU MO had 345 members with the breakdown as follows:

Merseyside 18

Lancashire 151

Cumbria 71

Cheshire & N Wales 94

Durham 10

Yorkshire 1

Cleveland 0

Northumberland 0

In comparison to last season the numbers were down, with the bulk of Merseyside yet to send any member details. This was in hand as a new treasurer was in place and Jim Moran said he would chase up. It was confirmed that the 18 in Merseyside were from St Helens and that they played in the Cheshire league.

Post meeting:

1. Waddington confirmed as Lancashire
2. Merseyside members now confirmed (209 members).

i) Trophy Officer

Dave Cole reported that photos of the trophies with a full list of who has them, now appears on the NCCU website. Dave thanked Bill O'Rourke for organizing the trophy engraving.

Action: DC to contact WOR on trophies he has for distribution. The Club Open to go to Bradford and the Minor to go to Skelmersdale.

j) Report of BCF/ECF Delegates

See President's report – nothing further to add.

5. U18 Jamboree (March)

No takers to organize this event.

Action: The Secretary to contact Kathy Rothwell from Southport.

6. U16 Pennine Cup (December)

This was taking place in Northumberland the day of the meeting, organized by Paul Bielby. Teams from Northumberland, Cumbria and Merseyside taking part.

Post meeting: Cumbria won the event with an exciting finale! – Report next time.

7. Schools Awards 2011/12

BCET Award – Nomination, Durham (Keith Smith to confirm by March; if not, Lancashire to be approached.)

NCCU Award – Nomination, Cumbria – DC to confirm.

8. Presentation of Trophies

No trophies presented. Yorkshire already has the Sinclair Trophy.

9. British Championship Qualifying Places 2011-12

Individual Champion qualifier (+ 1 other place)

Durham Congress 16th-18th March 2012.

Action: Secretary to contact Fred Stobbart to confirm.

NCCU Qualifying Congress x2 places

York Congress and Northumberland to nominate x1 each.

Note: All Counties which had an MO or participated in a Union MO could nominate a place from their own County.

10. ECF Membership Scheme 2012

The new ECF Membership scheme is due to come into operation on 1st September 2012. The various categories of member are Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum, with proposed fees for each. These fees will be fixed at the ECF Council meeting in April 2012. Details of how the scheme will be run have yet to be revealed, but concerns were aired about the unresolved issues such as:

Will MO's continue?

Do individuals have to pay on-line?

If not, who collects the fees?

Is there a discount? If through an MO, who benefits?

How do congresses deal with non-members?

What about players from other Countries at congresses? – Do they pay game fee?

If a congress accepts a non-member who doesn't want games graded, are they going to turn players away? Congresses are already under pressure from falling numbers.

Future Membership fee rises? – If they rise each year, will it lead players away from the ECF?

Action: Canvas Northern Congresses for views and impact of the ECF Membership scheme.

11. Nomination of NCCU President 2012-2014

Bill Metcalfe confirmed that he would be put forward as the Cleveland nominee for President at the June AGM.

12. Time & Date of next meeting

Saturday June 2nd 2012.

13. Any Other Business

A number of questions on the new grading list were raised. Is it coming out January/February? Does it take the last 30 games into account?

Graham Matthews confirmed his new email address: gwm1969@hotmail.co.uk

The meeting closed at approx 3.30pm.

Dave Cole
General Secretary