

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

AGM Report November 2020

Note: Given the exceptional circumstances created by Covid19, the NCCU 2020 AGM was cancelled. Reports, Elections and decision making have been made by email and will be ratified in a subsequent meeting when conditions allow.

1. Apologies for absence – N/A

Returns from the AGM Notice email of 17 recipients resulted in 3 returns and 1 over the phone. AGM voting form enclosed in the Annex.

Bill O'Rourke (President and Lancashire representative)
Dave Cole (General Secretary and Cumbria representative)
George Horne (Treasurer and Cumbria representative)
Graham Bromley (Cheshire & North Wales representative)
Bryan Bainbridge (Durham representative)
Dave Almond (Lancashire representative)
Gareth Ellis (Merseyside representative)
Paul Bielby (Northumberland representative)
Tim Wall (Northumberland representative and ECF delegate)
Rupert Jones (Yorkshire representative)
David Mills (Yorkshire Representative)
Lewis Self (NCCU Webmaster)
Chris Goodall (NCCU Grader)
Bill Metcalfe (Cleveland)
Eddie Czystochowski (Durham)
Jim Moran (Merseyside)
Noel Stewart (Yorkshire)
Steve Mann (Yorkshire)

2. Minutes of the NCCU Council Meeting, held in Bradford on the 7th December 2019

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

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

None

4. Officers Reports

a. Report of President

"Nobody could have envisaged a year ago the current chaos caused by the Covid19 pandemic. I ran the last congress (Blackpool) the week before the Government changed its advice and went for lockdown in early March. Many players withdrew days before (Including Bryan Bainbridge and Tim Wall). As the Congress progressed every cough was scrutinised, and I couldn't help but feel concentration levels must have suffered. Cleaning 200 sets of pieces, boards and clocks between rounds was nigh impossible. From experience I cannot vouch for mass chess events under the present cloud. A personal view as outgoing president is that face-to-face chess is a non-goer - much more prudent to hunker down until a mass safe vaccine is evident. Much praise to all those people currently organising on-line leagues and events. Finally many thanks from me to all the officers during this truncated two year presidency, but especially to Dave Cole and Bryan Bainbridge, not just for these two years but for 20 years at least of excellent commitment to the NCCU."

b. Report of General Secretary

The season has been curtailed and marred by the pandemic and the sad death of Keith Smith where Keith was a long standing and active advocate of the NCCU and successfully promoted and arranged the NCCU Club championship for a number of years; Keith will be sorely missed.

Mike Barrett has retired and stepped down from being a Merseyside rep. Thanks to Mike for all his input into the NCCU and his promotion of Merseyside within the NCCU.

Gareth Ellis has stood down as ECF rep for the NCCU.

c. Report of Treasurer (including Affiliation fees for next season)

Balance at bank as at 30/4/2020 is £2538.77 together with 8 chess clocks remaining valued at £350.40.

There is a surplus this year of £203.28.

Finally I recommend affiliation fees remain as they are at £75 for each county.

I am willing to be the Treasurer next year.

The Report & Accounts are enclosed as a separate xls file. They are open to questions and approval.

d. Report of County Championships Organiser

Regional Stage Results:

- Open: Yorkshire
- U180: Yorkshire
- U160: Yorkshire
- U140: Lancashire
- U120: Yorkshire
- U100: Lancashire

There were no OtB National Stages due to the pandemic. The ECF set up and completed on-line County Championships.

On-Line County Team Championship Results:

- Northumberland won the Open winning the final 8.5-3.5 against Lincolnshire.
- Yorkshire reached the Final of the Major but lost to Devon 3.5-8.5.
- Cheshire & NW played in the Open Division 1A competition.
- Cumbria reached the semi-finals of the Open Challengers where they lost 6-7 to Oxfordshire.

A North v South on-line Challenge match in September was organised with Mick Riding being captain of the North where all NCCU County players were invited to participate. Final result not known but results on the ECF website indicate that the North is winning or has won.

e. Report of Club Championship organiser

The competition although getting underway was cancelled due to the pandemic. No games were played.

f. Report of Grading Officer

Games were submitted from County Championships. The ECF have moved to monthly grading.

g. Report of Trophy Officer

Trophies are with respective winners from last season; New County team winners to contact holders for transfer of trophies - U160 from Lancashire to Yorkshire. Individual trophies with Mick Riding.

h. Report of Webmaster

Lewis is updating the NCCU website and should be up and running this year.

i. Report of ECF Delegate(s)

Separate report to follow.

5. NCCU Individuals 2021

No Individuals held in 2020, Durham Congress nominated to host in 2021 if the event goes ahead.

6. U16 Pennine Cup 2021

No competition in 2020 – Ben Rich organising from Yorkshire; unlikely to be held in 2021.

7. Schools Awards 2019/20

BCET Award – Cumbria - Long Martin School (Award received)

NCCU Award – Lancashire – Kirkham School (Status of Award unknown)

Action: Did the school receive the award?

8. Schools Awards 2020/21

BCET Award – Nomination required at December meeting – Lancashire

(Bill O'Rourke suggested schools not be asked to nominate this season due to the pandemic)

NCCU Award - Nomination required at December meeting – Merseyside

9. Presentation of Trophies

N/A

10. Election of Officers

President: Tim Wall

General Secretary: Dave Cole

Treasurer: George Horne

County Championship Organiser: Bryan Bainbridge

Club Championship Organiser: Dave Cole

Grading Officer: Chris Goodall

Trophy Officer: Dave Cole

NCCU Webmaster: Lewis Self

ECF Delegate(s): Tim Wall

Vice Presidents to Council: Bryan Bainbridge/Bill O'Rourke

11. Appointment of Auditor

Neil Foxcroft (from Ulverston club, Cumbria)

12. 2020/2021 British Championship Qualifying Congress for the NCCU Individual Champion.

Action: Durham Congress – if the congress goes ahead in 2021.

13. Time & date of next meeting:

Council meeting Q1 2021 as a Zoom meeting or earlier if conditions alter favourably; if not, an email exchange could be considered.

14. Any Other Business

- a) Discussion of chess during Covid19 lockdown – TBD
- b) How the NCCU see the way ahead for chess in the foreseeable future – TBD

Given covid19 conditions prevailing, Tim Wall has suggested the NCCU organise a hybrid/on-line County and Club championship for 2020-21. More details to follow.

Dave Cole
General Secretary
November 2nd 2020

ANNEX

On-line voting for the NCCU AGM by email

NCCU AGM Matters 2020			
To be agreed	Y	N	Notes
Minutes of the NCCU Council Meeting, held in Bradford on the 7th December 2019			Any Matters & actions arising from last minutes - record in notes
Officers Reports			If submitted - to be agreed None Submitted to date
a. Report of President			
b. Report of General Secretary			
c. Report of Treasurer (including Affiliation fees for next season)			
d. Report of County Championships Organiser			
e. Report of Club Championship organiser			

f. Report of Grading Officer			
g. Report of Trophy Officer			
h. Report of Webmaster			
i. Report of ECF Delegate(s)			
NCCU Individuals: Durham Congress 2021			See below British qualifiers
U16 Pennine Cup 2021			TBD
Schools Awards 2019/20			
BCET Award – Cumbria - Long Martin School			Award given to Long Martin by BCET
NCCU Award – Lancashire – Kirkham School			
Schools Awards 2020/21			
BCET Award – Nomination required at December meeting – Lancashire			
NCCU Award - Nomination required at December meeting – Northumberland			Changed to Merseyside
Presentation of Trophies			N/A - DC to confirm whereabouts
Election of Officers			If willing to stand
▪ President (Northumberland)			Tim Wall
▪ General Secretary			Dave Cole
▪ Treasurer			George Horne
▪ County Championships Organiser			Bryan Bainbridge
▪ Club Championship organiser			Dave Cole
▪ Correspondence Chess Organiser			N/A
▪ Grading Officer			Chris Wardle
▪ Trophy Officer			Dave Cole
▪ NCCU Webmaster			Lewis Self
▪ Delegates to the ECF			Tim Wall, Gareth Ellis
▪ Vice-Presidents to Council			Bryan Bainbridge/Bill O'Rourke
Appointment of Auditor			Neil Foxcroft
2020/2021 British Championship Qualifying Congress for the NCCU Individual Champion			If the British takes place in 2021
Action: Durham 2020 were due to host – if the congress goes ahead in 2021, the host could remain.			
Time & date of next meeting:			December 2020, February 2021 or earlier if conditions alter favourably.
Any Other Business			AOB to be submitted and discussed by email or at on-line meeting TBA
a) Discussion of chess during Covid19 lockdown			
b) How the NCCU see the way ahead for chess in the foreseeable future			