

NCCU AGM held on 8th October 2022 13.00

Venue: via ZOOM Link

NCCU AGM MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Tim Wall – President and Northumberland representative
Dave Cole – General Secretary and Cumbria representative
George Horne – Treasurer and Cumbria representative
Bryan Bainbridge – County Controller and Vice President
Bill Metcalfe – Durham representative
Steve Mann – Webmaster – Yorkshire
Pat Ridley – Cheshire & North Wales representative
Bill O'Rourke – Lancashire representative and Vice President
Dave Almond – Lancashire representative
Russell Cowell – Merseyside representative
Stuart Skelsey – Northumberland representative
Steve Westmoreland – Yorkshire representative
Andrew Wainwright – Yorkshire representative

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Rupert Jones
- 2. Minutes of the NCCU Council Meeting 21st April 2022**
The Minutes were agreed as a true and correct record
- 3. Matters & actions arising from last minutes not otherwise covered in the agenda**
The Secretary mentioned the situation regarding the NCCU Individual trophies in the Minutes 4b and item 6. Tim confirmed that Mick Riding had the Junior trophy and that the Open and Senior trophies had been presented.
- 4. Officers Reports:**
 - a. Report of President**
Tim reported that a lot more chess is now being played especially in terms of congresses at Durham, Northumberland, Ilkley and Doncaster. Also a full County season had been completed for the first time over the board in two years.
 - b. Report of General Secretary**
Dave reported that Steve Mann has stepped in to run the NCCU website and is liaising with Lewis Self on the handover. The County Rules had been updated and would need to be ratified at the AGM. Also the Junior NCCU Individual trophy needed handing over as mentioned in Item 3.

Tim has been nominated for the position of ECF Non-Executive Chairman by the NCCU amongst other organisations. With Paul Bielby no longer an official representative or official of the NCCU, the meeting expressed their thanks to Paul for his dedication and long service in the NCCU since 1961.

c. Report of Treasurer (including Affiliation fees 2022-23)

George Horne tabled the latest accounts which were for the last two years. There was a deficit of £331.40 with a bank balance of £2210.88. The 8 chess clocks remaining are valued at £350.40.

Affiliation fees were agreed at the last meeting and ratified at this meeting as £75 per County.

d. Report of County Championships Organiser

Bryan reported the NCCU 2022 County winners as follows:

Open: Northumberland – congratulations were in order as they went on to win the National title.

U2050/U1850/U1650: Lancashire

U1450: Yorkshire

The Rules for 2022 were ratified, agreed at the last meeting.

Bill reported on the difficulty in Lancashire of getting players to play and Tim emphasised the importance of matches in the North rather than the Nationals.

e. Report of Club Championship Organiser

Dave reported that only South Shields had entered the competition by the deadline at the end of January and no further interest was shown in holding the competition last season. For next season a one day Jamboree was suggested either in Yorkshire (Wakefield) or in Lancashire.

Ideas on how to run the 2023 Club event were welcome.

f. Report of Rating Officer – no report

g. Report of Trophy Officer

Dave reported that the County Team Trophies needed to be inscribed with the winners (the Treasurer would reimburse the costs) and the following trophies needed to be handed over:

Open: Yorkshire to Northumberland

U2050 (U180): Yorkshire to Lancashire

U1850 (U160): Yorkshire to Lancashire (do Lancashire still have it?)

h. Report of Webmaster

Steve Mann reported that he had created a new NCCU website and welcomed comments from reps and officials as to format and content. He hoped chess news and reports, congresses and matches would appear on a regular basis.

i. Report of ECF Delegate

As well as Tim standing for the post of Non-Executive Chairman of the ECF at the forthcoming ECF AGM, he mentioned that Manchester have proposed ECF meetings be rotated between the North, London and the Midlands and the possibility of the 2023 British Championships in Southport.

5. NCCU Individuals and British Qualifying Congress 2023

The 2022 Congress was Durham after Northumberland and Yorkshire had relinquished it prior to and during covid19 lockdowns. It was agreed that Yorkshire would hold the Individuals and the Doncaster congress was proposed.

Action: Yorkshire to confirm Doncaster Congress

6. U16 Pennine Cup 2023

Tim Wall is going to try and arrange a jamboree in Yorkshire next year. Tim also mentioned a Junior 4NCL in the South which could be replicated in the North.

7. Schools Awards 2021/22

BCET Award: No nomination

NCCU Award: Nafferton School, Driffield, Yorkshire (Award agreed and delivered)

8. Schools Awards 2022/23

BCET Award – Nomination required before April meeting – Northumberland

NCCU Award - Nomination required before 2023 AGM – Cheshire and NW

9. Presentation of Trophies

As the meeting was on-line, no trophies were presented.

10. Election of Officers

- President – Tim Wall
- General Secretary - Dave Cole (stating this would be his last year in post)
- Treasurer – George Horne
- County Championships Organiser – Bryan Bainbridge
- Club Championship organiser – Tim Wall
- Rating Officer - none (this position is in doubt, but rating of NCCU competitions still required)
- Trophy Officer – Dave Cole
- NCCU Webmaster – Steve Mann
- Delegates to the ECF – Tim Wall and Steve Westmoreland
- Vice-Presidents to Council – (last two Presidents: Bryan Bainbridge & Bill O'Rourke)

11. Appointment of Auditor

- Neil Foxcroft (Ulverston, Cumbria)

12. Proposals:

A: Change in the NCCU Constitution

B: Admission of Greater Manchester Chess Federation to the NCCU

A. Proposal to change Rule 3 in the NCCU Constitution

3. Membership of the NCCU is open to recognised County Chess Associations based in the North of England and accepted by the NCCU Council as being within the territory of the NCCU. (A recognised CCA is defined as any Association of Chess Clubs combined on a regional basis affiliated to the English Chess Federation). Each CCA that joins the NCCU undertakes to pay the annual subscription and/or fee as defined and determined by the NCCU at a previous Annual General Meeting.

B. Proposal for Manchester Chess Federation to join the NCCU

1. *It is proposed to accept Manchester Chess Federation as a member County Chess Association of the Northern Counties Chess Union upon their payment of NCCU dues for the current season.*
2. *The Manchester Chess Federation (under the team name 'Greater Manchester') is accepted by the NCCU as organising chess within the territorial boundaries of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) area. Greater Manchester will be welcome to take part in the NCCU Counties Championships and other competitions on an equal basis with other NCCU counties.*
3. *Within the GMCA area, in recognition of the longstanding historic ties between players in that area and the Lancashire Chess Association, it is proposed that players resident in GMCA be allowed to elect to play for either Lancashire or Greater Manchester in any given season.*
4. *Once players have played a match for either Lancashire or Greater Manchester, they are tied to that county for the rest of the season.*
5. *Players affiliated with either Lancashire or Greater Manchester who wish to transfer from one county to the other should make a request before the start of the national stages of the Counties Championship. The transfer would be subject to the agreement of both counties.*
6. *Before the commencement of a season (defined as September 1) players are allowed to transfer from one county to the other for the next season with the agreement of the county they are joining, as long as they have notified the county they are leaving in writing before that date.*
7. *Any dispute regarding affiliation of players should be referred to the NCCU Counties Championship controller for their ruling. In the event of the Controller being affiliated to either of the counties in dispute, the matter shall be referred instead to an independent member of the NCCU Council not affiliated with either county.*

- A. Tim confirmed that for Proposal B to be considered, Proposal A would need to be agreed. According to the Constitution a two-thirds majority would be required for any constitutional change. The NCCU Constitution changes were proposed by Steve Westmoreland from Yorkshire and everyone was given a chance to put their point of view. All present gave their views and the motion was put to the vote. The Proposal was carried by 8-4 with one abstention. The President ruled that this reached the two-thirds majority needed as the abstained vote was not included. (Some contested this interpretation of voting, where a fixed number of representatives would mean abstentions were counted as no-votes.) However, as the Constitution states 'votes cast', abstentions were excluded.
Post meeting: the President would look at making the voting rules clearer in the Constitution.
- B. The vote to admit Greater Manchester was passed by the same majority.

13. Time & date of next meeting

It was proposed a meeting take place on a Saturday at the Latvian Club prior to the ECF Finance Council in April 2023. The Secretary agreed to arrange this.

14. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

Dave Cole
General Secretary