

## **NCCU CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **The Championships 2008/09**

Following the unavoidable (after my various bereavements), very late running of the Club Championships in 2007/08, then those for 2008/09 consequently also had to start a long way into the season (with the draw not being made until February).

Nevertheless, the tournament has gone well and the finals have all taken place in time for the presentation of trophies at the AGM (although the postponement of the AGM has helped!). The trophies have even all had their engraving brought up to date! (thanks to Bill O'Rourke for that)

In each of the Major, Intermediate and Minor sections there were, very conveniently, 8 teams which made the organisation much easier in the timescales involved. With such low numbers, though, it was not possible to run a repêchage and so the losing clubs in the first round only played one match.

As ever, the Open just does not attract many teams and in the end there were only 2 clubs willing to enter and so in that section there was just a final.

This year a £25 prize was also given to the losing semi-finalists. Although I am sure that this has been very welcome to the clubs concerned the late running of the event meant that it has not been really possible to decide whether this is an incentive for teams to actually enter. I would suggest that we give this another go and include it in all the publicity.

A consequence of the additional prize money and the relatively low number of entries was that the event ran up a fairly hefty loss –  
£750 prize money less £360 entry fees = £390.

There were also additional costs for the final event – an excellent affair at a secondary school in Heywood (with again thanks to Bill for arranging it). These were the best playing conditions we have had for the finals and I think the players appreciated it.

The championships themselves turned out to be somewhat of a Heywood benefit and they won 3 of the 4 sections. Wallasey were the interlopers by picking up the Major prize.

### **The Championships 2009/10**

After the hiatus in 2007/08 we have now caught up and can run this year's event according to a proper timetable with a start in September / October. With this amount of time and we hope an increased number of entries then the popular repêchage rounds can be re-introduced.

To this end, subject to the AGM's decisions about prize money, then I am preparing suitable publicity material to issue to NCCU reps and as many clubs as I can contact. As previously if the county reps can act as go betweens or provide me with contact information then that would be an enormous help.

There is an issue upon which I need guidance from the AGM – and that is regarding the **grading limits** for the various sections following the re-valuation of grades by the ECF this year.

The grading bands are currently Major average less than 150, Intermediate 125 and Minor 100 with the following specific rules –

Total Grades (4 Boards) – Major 599, Intermediate 499, Minor 399  
Average of Boards 1 and 2 – Major 165, Intermediate 140, Minor 115

The AGM could make a definite decision; give general guidance; or, perhaps delegate the matter to, say, the President, the Grader and myself to determine once all the new grades have come out and the spread of the likely eligible players for each section can be determined. The grades are due out in late July / early August and so waiting for them to appear should not delay publicising next year's event unduly.

*Dave Farley* – NCCU Club Championships Controller

### **Finals 2008/09**

The Venue



A selection of Heywood Players



Wallasey – Major winners



## The 2008/09 NCCU Club Championships

### Open

Atherton ½ - 3½ **Heywood**

### Major

#### Quarter Finals

Atherton 1½-2½ Atticus

Barrow 2-2 Wallasey (Wallasey win on board count)

Heywood 1-3 Aigburth

Rochdale 2½-1½ Bradford

#### Semi Finals

Aigburth 1½-2½ Rochdale

Wallasey 2½-1½ Atticus

#### Final

Rochdale 2-2 **Wallasey** (Wallasey win on board count)

### Intermediate

#### Quarter Finals

Penrith 1-3 Atherton

Skelmersdale 1½-2½ Crusaders

Heywood v Waterloo - Heywood through by default

Rochdale 1-3 Wallasey

#### Semi Finals

Crusaders 3-1 Atherton

Wallasey 1-3 Heywood

#### Final

Crusaders 1½-2½ **Heywood**

### Minor

#### Quarter Finals

Crusaders v Hartlepool - Hartlepool through by default

Heywood 2-2 Skelmersdale (Heywood win on board count)

Knights A 3-1 Waterloo B

Waterloo A 2-2 Knights B (Waterloo win on board count)

#### Semi Finals

Heywood 2½-1½ Waterloo A

Knights A 1-3 Hartlepool

#### Final

Hartlepool 1-3 **Heywood**