

MCCU County Championships Controllers Report 2014/15

This report concludes my second season as MCCU County Championship Controller.

The Open/Minor section followed the same format as introduced last season with 8 counties split into 2 zones East and West.

Staffordshire elected to enter the Open section at the National stages although they failed to qualify for the Open/Minor semi-finals as did Nottinghamshire, last season's Open & Minor champions and runners-up in the Minor National Final.

This season Lincolnshire were crowned Open/Minor champions beating Worcestershire in a closely contested final. With Staffordshire not in the semi-final a play-off was needed for the third MCCU place which was won by Leicestershire.

The Under 180 competition was contested by Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire, 2 of counties who did not qualify for the Open/Minor semi-finals. Warwickshire won the final with both counties qualifying for the ECF stages.

I had a debate with Warwickshire who seemed to think that the U180 title was theirs by default. It was always my view that entry to the U180 competition would only be confirmed by those counties failing to secure an Open/Minor semi-final place.

I have tabled rule amendments to make this clear and to hold the U180 entries open until the Open/Minor semi-final line-up is known should the zonal format be used.

In the U160 section Nottinghamshire were champions and qualified for the ECF stages along with Warwickshire.

With Shropshire withdrawing from the U140 section only 2 counties were left with Nottinghamshire beating Staffordshire. Both counties qualified for the ECF stages.

In both the U120 and U100 sections rule 14 was brought into play.

In the U120 section 3 teams finished in equal first place on 5 points. Rule 14 states that the ECF places are decided by the results of the matches between the counties concerned. Lincolnshire came out on top but the match between Staffordshire and Warwickshire ended in a draw with Staffordshire winning on board count. All three counties qualified for the ECF stages.

In the U100 section Warwickshire were well clear of the field on 6 points but the second ECF qualification place came down to the last match of the season between Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire. This ended in a draw so board count was brought into play but when this could not split the teams further inspection of the rule was needed to eliminate the bottom board which took Nottinghamshire through as MCCU2.

However, Neil Graham having looked at the ECF stage draw noticed that only 6 counties had entered and the ECF rules allowed for 2 additional entries to be invited.

After deliberating and cogitating Andrew Zigmond and Alex Holowczak decided that Staffordshire could enter the ECF stages after all as MCCU3.

Overall 37 matches were played compared with 39 last season continuing the decline in numbers with 44 and 53 being the number of matches of the previous 2 season.

The mechanism for allowing ungraded players again worked well with 36 players being registered and the list of ungraded players being published on the web-site. Most were registered in good time. There was only one occasion where an ungraded player was not registered and fell foul of Rule 4. This was the Open/Minor match between Staffordshire and Greater Manchester when the Staffordshire board 16 was ungraded but not approved before hand. I invoked rule 4 but, on appeal, decided to reverse the decision as Staffordshire had lost the match anyway. Next time I will not be as lenient.

I am happy to put my name forward for re-election.

The breakdown of section winners and ECF qualifiers is as follows

Combined Open/Minor Section

MCCU Open Champions & MCCU Minor Champions – Lincolnshire

ECF Qualifiers

Open section – MCCU1 – Staffordshire

Minor section – MCCU1 – Lincolnshire
MCCU2 – Worcestershire
MCCU3 – Leicestershire

Under 180 section

Champions – Warwickshire

MCCU1 – Warwickshire
MCCU2 – Nottinghamshire

Under 160 section

Champions – Nottinghamshire

MCCU1 – Nottinghamshire
MCCU2 – Warwickshire

Under 140 section

Champions – Nottinghamshire

MCCU1 – Nottinghamshire

MCCU2 – Staffordshire

Under 120 section

Joint champions – Lincolnshire, Staffordshire & Warwickshire

MCCU1 – Lincolnshire

MCCU2 – Staffordshire

MCCU3 – Warwickshire

Under 100 section

Champions – Warwickshire

MCCU1 – Warwickshire

MCCU2 – Nottinghamshire

MCCU3 – Staffordshire

Peter Sherlock

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