

MCCU County Championships Controllers Report 2019/20

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

Fortunately, the Coronavirus lock down came just after the completion of the fixtures on March 14. There was one fixture due to take place on March 21 but this was conceded. Nominations for the national stages were forwarded to the National Controller. However, at the time of writing, these are yet to take place.

Greater Manchester were again granted a nomination to the National Open stages without competing in the MCCU qualifying competition.

The proposal put forward by Leicestershire to amend the time controls in line with the National Stages was accepted and was used in all matches with digital clocks.

Again it was decided to combine the Open and Minor sections at the MCCU stages. This time 6 counties entered with Shropshire entering a team (as well as the U120 section) for the first time since the 2013/14 season. Counties were asked to decide by 31 December which section they wished to be considered for at the national stages. Lincolnshire, reigning National Minor champions, decided to put in for a place in the Open section with the remaining 5 counties opting for the Minor section with Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Worcestershire being nominated.

Only Shropshire accepted a nomination for the U180 section.

This season 4 counties entered the U160 section with Warwickshire the clear winners with Greater Manchester also receiving a nomination as runners-up.

In the U140 section there were 6 entries with Warwickshire not entering this time. Worcestershire won all their matches to top the group followed by Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

In the U120 section, again there were 6 teams. At the start of the season trying to find dates for all the fixtures proved to be difficult and no date was found for the Shropshire v Nottinghamshire match so a draw was agreed. All but one of the remaining fixtures were played with Leicestershire topping the group on 8 points. The inevitable happened in that Shropshire and Nottinghamshire came joint second on 7 points. They could not be separated using rule 14 so the points difference for all matches was used with Nottinghamshire taking second place.

In the U100 section there were two extra teams, Nottinghamshire Juniors and Worcestershire, making 6 in all. Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire were joint winners of the section on 8 points with Leicestershire gaining the MCCU1 nomination as per rule 14. Warwickshire came third but declined their nomination so Worcestershire accepted the MCCU3 nomination after beating Staffordshire on board count.

As well as the odd defaulted board here 6 matches were defaulted, 2 in the U140 section, 1 in the U120 section not including the agreed draw and 3 in the U100

section. Also, 2 of the matches in the Open/Minor section were played with 12 boards.

The mechanism for allowing ungraded players again worked well with 56 players being registered and the list of ungraded players being published on the web-site. All were registered in good time. 24 of these players had their estimated grades adjusted in line with the January grading list.

The breakdown of section winners and ECF qualifiers is as follows

Combined Open/Minor Section

MCCU Open & Minor Champions – Lincolnshire & Warwickshire

ECF Qualifiers

Open section – MCCU1 Lincolnshire
MCCU2 Greater Manchester

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

Under 180 section

Champions – Shropshire

MCCU1 – Shropshire

Under 160 section

Champions – Warwickshire

MCCU1 – Warwickshire
MCCU2 – Greater Manchester

Under 140 section

Champions – Worcestershire

MCCU1 – Worcestershire
MCCU2 – Nottinghamshire
MCCU3 – Lincolnshire

Under 120 section

Champions – Leicestershire

MCCU1 – Leicestershire
MCCU2 – Nottinghamshire
MCCU3 – Shropshire

Under 100 section

Champions – Leicestershire & Nottinghamshire

MCCU1 – Leicestershire
MCCU2 – Nottinghamshire

MCCU3 – Worcestershire

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