

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION: EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of an EGM held virtually (via Zoom) on Friday 23rd April 2021, starting at 7:30 pm

Present:

Bob Abraham (WB), Steve Burke (Ash), Neil Graham (Ash), Dave Griffiths (Nom), Brian Hayward (Gam), Maurice Hill (Nom), Chris Holt (Gra), Ed Jones (WN), Graham Ladds (Nwk), David Levens (Ash), Nick London (RB), Mike Naylor (Gam), Derek Padviz (Gam), Barry Redburn (RB), Simon Scott (WN), John Swain (Gam), Marcel Taylor (RB), Andy Walker (Ex Cte),

Apologies: Graham Neil, Shane Bhayat

1. Election of Chair for the meeting

In the absence of the president (Shane Bhayat), Andy Walker was nominated

Agreed 'nem.con'

In the absence of the general secretary (Graham Neil), Nick London acted as 'Zoom' host and minutes secretary.

2. Since the last general meeting (July 2019) several members of NCA clubs have passed away.

A brief silence was held to commemorate and remember the following people:

Robert Richmond (W Bridgford)

Steve Swanwick (Nomads)

Alan Groves (Gambit)

John Calvert (Mechanics)

3. Executive Committee Report (AW)

- a. The Covid pandemic has led to suspension of all NCA OTB chess playing since March 2020.
- b. It was noted that a lack of any general meeting until now has technically contravened the NCA constitution but that this has been unavoidable given the unprecedented situation.
- c. The EC has met by virtual means to consider various matters, including setting up a Charity Working Group, development of a new website, and the resumption of organised chess.
- d. EC subsequently appointed a Working Group consisting of:
Bob Abraham, Chris Dunworth, Graham Ladds, Nick London, John Swain, Marcel Taylor, Tim Walker,
the recommendations of which are for consideration at the present meeting.
- e. EC has co-opted Neil Graham and Simon Scott onto the committee.

4. Proposals to create a separate charitable body for Notts chess

- a. John Swain explained the background circumstances by which the late Robert Richmond had bequeathed the majority of his estate for the purposes of chess development in the County. An addendum to his will included various non-binding guidelines on the use to be made of the legacy. This included the recommendation of creating a charity to receive and use the funds in a tax-efficient way. EC subsequently appointed a Working Group to draw up recommendations which are for consideration at the present meeting.
- b. Nick London summarised the deliberations of the Working Group and introduced the proposals.
It was emphasised that most of the draft constitution for the charity had been adapted from the template and guidance provided by the Charities Commission and was intended to meet

a common standard wherever possible.

- c. After questions to the Working Group the proposals were then voted on, each clause being taken separately:
- i. That a charitable organisation be set up and registered as an entirely separate entity from NCA, partly in order to negate any liability of NCA.
Agreed nem.com
 - ii. That the charity be called “Nottinghamshire Chess Foundation” (= NCF)
Agreed nem.con
 - iii. That the primary purpose and function of the charity shall be to invest the legacy of Robert Richmond and use the income to fund projects and activities that improve and develop chess in the county of Nottinghamshire
Agreed nem.con
 - iv. That the type of charity shall be the form recognised by the Charities Commission (= CC) known as Charitable Incorporated Organisation (= CIO).
Agreed nem.con
 - v. That the charity’s constitution shall provide for a ‘foundation’ CIO so that only trustees hold voting or executive responsibility
Agreed nem.con
 - vi. That the constitution shall provide for a maximum of 9 trustees, 3 of whom are to be nominated and appointed by NCA
Agreed nem.con
 - vii. That the founding trustees (to be submitted at the time of registration) shall be:
Bob Abraham
Edward Jones
Graham Ladds
Nick London
Marcel Taylor
Agreed nem.con
 - viii. That, by accepting these proposals, NCA empowers the Working Group to:
 1. Take appropriate legal advice to ensure the successful completion of registration.
 2. Based on legal advice, to make any modifications to these proposals as needed to ensure that the charity is registered, within the spirit and intent of this proposal and accompanying documents.
Agreed nem.con
- d. Further discussion and queries followed about:
- Length of trusteeship and the period of appointment for replacements,
 - Inclusiveness of the Objects of the NCF, in particular relating to adults as well as children,
 - Provision for people of all abilities and circumstances
- Points raised would be taken into account by the Working Group in the final version of the Objects and other key documents.
- e. NCA is to nominate 3 additional trustees at an appropriate time once the NCF registration is processed; provisionally at an AGM later in the year.

5. LMC Matters

- a. Nick London (League Secretary) summarised the recent virtual meeting of LMC, and the context of an email to clubs earlier this week. The intention is to test the NCA clubs' interest and readiness to re-establish competitive league chess in some form. Various options and proposals are suggested, with a request to respond to a Questionnaire. The present meeting is an early opportunity to discuss options and raise queries.
- b. Points raised:
 - i. Why fewer matches – given the uncertainty of restrictions due to probable upturn in Covid incidence over Winter, it is sensible to plan for some disruption. It seems unlikely that we would have a normal amount of time for a full fixture list.
 - ii. A league season could potentially stretch further into Summer 2022 if more time is needed, but holiday periods may be an issue.
 - iii. LMC would take special circumstances into account in applying league regulations and would expect to issue guidelines on this.
 - iv. Everyone has their own level of risk acceptance and participation may vary greatly from the norm.
 - v. Also noted the increase in interest in chess during lockdown, partly from availability of online chess and from the 'Queen's Gambit' TV series. A restart to at least social chess and friendly competition would help to engage the interest while it is still there.
 - vi. Venues are likely to be the biggest problem, both in terms of availability and size.
- c. NL asked that clubs try to provide the response to the questionnaire circulated during the next month – date of 10th May given as a guideline for this rather than a deadline

6. A.O.B.

- a. Steve Burke drew attention to the best game prizes for 2019-20 and the very low entry level, despite extended deadlines and appeals.
Agreed that SB now go ahead and adjudicate on the winners from the entries he has received.
- b. EC has provisionally set a date for an AGM for Friday 9th July. This will probably also be a virtual meeting
(Note that this is the correct date and day, earlier communication being incorrect)

There being no other business the Chair thanked the attendees and the meeting was declared closed at 8.51 pm.