

Minutes of a meeting on Sunday 26 November 2023

Present: M Hill (president), S Burke (treasurer), M Naylor-Eade (league secretary), J Swain, T Walker, N London

1. General Secretary Vacancy:

Since Graham Neil's resignation at the AGM, no one has volunteered to take on this role. Incoming emails are currently copied to all Cte members.

Action: EC members to enquire at clubs for interest.

Action: NL volunteered to write minutes of this meeting

2. Minutes of NCA AGM:

- a. Correction to GN's draft – MNE was not elected, nor is the League Sec an ex-officio member.

Action: NL, SB - minutes to be corrected before publication.

Agreed (unanimous) to co-opt MNE to EC.

- b. Trophies distribution: NL still has Div 2 and Div 5B/Div 6.

Action: NL to attempt passing on to relevant winners from 22-23 season.

3. Finance:

- a. SB reported that account has approx. £2,400, with £700 in league fees to be collected, which SB felt was a reasonable cash balance to cover operating costs.

Post-meeting correction: approx. £3,400 in bank account (SB).

- b. Income and reimbursement to NL for GM tournament still to be processed.

- c. JS explained the need for purchase of additional digital clocks for NCA events, the aim is to be more self-sufficient.

Agreed to purchase 15 x LEAP clocks for approx. £270.

Action: JS (Post-mtg: purchased @ £278.67 + cost of batteries)

- d. Noted no invoices from MCCU received yet: expected to be approx. £80.

4. League Secretary Report:

MNE provided an update:

- a. The season seems to have gone normally so far. There have been a couple of examples of teams falling foul of the reintroduced eligibility rules, but that's not unusual either. Gambit have requested to add a team into the bottom division, so I will be arranging an additional half season of fixtures for them (7 fixtures).

- b. Decisions by the LMC:

i. Grantham 3 asked for permission for board order rules to be suspended for their home games so that they could alternate colours for juniors that didn't play in away matches. The LMC instead gave permission for colours to be reversed for pairs of home and away matches. Newark 3 have agreed to this.

ii. Nomads asked for guidance about a player who was unable to record moves due to a health condition. The LMC gave permission for moves not to be recorded by this player.

iii. The LMC has also authorised one transfer of a player between clubs.

- c. Noted that most recent LMC minutes have not yet been posted on the website.

Action: NL

5. Centenary Nottingham Chessfest 2023:

NL reported verbally on a successful event which attracted interest and participation from an estimated 500 people in July, despite inclement weather. Venue was very successful but costly.

- a. A 'Lessons Learnt' document had been circulated; EC members were invited to add to it.

- b. A formal report of the event still to be written.

Action: NL

- c. Discussion on the merits of a repeat event in the future:
 - i. EC generally in favour but costs to NCA are significantly smaller.
 - ii. Aside from numbers attending, overall impact difficult to measure.
 - iii. Suggested that such an event every year will lose its novelty impact, but that it could be tried in other locations across the county.
 - iv. Future events depend on those willing to organise it: a more organised and larger group of committed volunteers is essential. Idea of allocating tasks to different clubs was suggested.
- d. Assets obtained for NCA as part of the event (giant chess set, DGT Live Board) to be added to the insurance list.

Action: NL, SB

6. Centenary GM Tournament 2023:

Report and 'Lessons Learnt' previously circulated by NL. The event, including a junior invitational tournament, achieved most of its aims. Also useful experience gained by organisers.

- a. Backing from a range of chess charities and an individual donor was essential for it to go ahead. There is financial support for such events which are comparatively rare in England.
- b. Budget: costs have all been paid but income still awaited by NCA to reimburse NL.
- c. Publicity and coverage from broadcast media had been unexpectedly good, but no pickup from local print media. National chess media coverage was good.
- d. Discussion on merits of running a similar event in the future: EC happy to see it happen provided ideally no costs accrue to NCA, and organisers are willing. Seen as less beneficial overall to local chess than a 'Chessfest' event.
- e. Opinions on this and on Chessfest to be sought from clubs and their members by means of a questionnaire.

Action: NL to draft.

- f. MH thanked NL and the others involved in the work that has gone into the centenary celebration events.

7. County Championship:

- a. JS & SB reminded EC that the Tournaments Committee had agreed at the AGM to organise the Rapidplay and Congress only.
- b. MNE advise that Gambit CC members were willing to organise an event on traditional lines (i.e. weekend standard play), on the basis that other clubs would step forward in future years. Proposal was accepted with thanks by EC.

Action: Gambit CC - venue to be found and dates confirmed, possibly March or early June.

8. Website Development:

- a. Concern that many club members appear not to refer to NCA website for information and news, partly because League Mgt System is a separate entity, also because of its static presentation. More input of material is needed.
- b. Noted Danny Graham's recent proposals to NCF trustees: he was asked to liaise with Stephen Humphreys on putting his ideas into practice.

Action: NL to contact SH with a view to co-opting DG to assist.

9. ECF and MCCU Reports:

TW lost connection to the meeting so could not update on meetings and decisions. Some concern expressed that the MCCU votes were not correctly cast. JS proposed that an explanation be sought on the conduct of the voting. Further discussion postponed to next meeting.

Action: JS, TW

[TW subsequently sent an update via email]

10. Next meeting:

Sunday 21 January 2024, starting 7:30pm.