

## Minutes of a meeting on Sunday 21 January 2024

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

Apologies: S Burke (treasurer)

1. Minutes of previous meeting (26/11/23)

Corrections on draft made, final version **accepted** as a true record.

2. Matters arising:

- a. Minutes of AGM and LMC not yet on NCA website.

**Action: NL**

- b. JS has now purchased 15 x new clocks as agreed.

- c. County Championship: MNE is currently researching possible venues

**Action: MNE**

Noted that NL has located the "Under-100" championship trophy, previously in the possession of the late Len Morrell.

- d. NL spoke to Stephen Humphreys about liaison with Danny Graham, but not certain of any further action.

**Action: TW** to talk to both at a club meeting.

- e. MNE didn't receive subsequent emails about MCCU matters. Stephen Humphreys had confirmed MNE is now on the EC list, and was awaiting this meeting to do any further changes as required.

**Action: NL** to contact SH with updates

3. Committee Co-Options

- a. NL offered to act as temporary/interim general secretary until the AGM.

Proposed: JS; seconded MH

**Agreed** (unanimously)

- b. NL proposed to co-opt Stuart Humphreys as an EC member until the AGM

Seconded: JS.

**Agreed** (unanimously)

4. Finance:

- a. SB absent so unable to update on bank account and financial position.

- b. JS noted that NCA finances had gained by £1900 from tournaments in the past 2 years, £1300 of which had been spent on Chessfest and new clocks. He therefore proposed that the remaining £600 be made available to meet the costs of the County Championship currently being planned:

Seconded: MH

**Proposal accepted** (unanimously)

- c. JS reported that the Tournaments Cte was not proposing to apply to NCF for a loss guarantee for the Rapidplay, given the considerable profit it made last year.

5. Centenary Events Feedback

- a. NL had circulated the responses received so far: only 4 individual and one club composite received.

**Action: NL** to send reminder to clubs.

- b. Discussion Points:

- i. Some positive feedback for holding future events, but at significantly lesser cost and/or smaller scale.

- ii. Several questioned the direct benefits to Notts chess (reports of 3 different people so far who have joined clubs as a result of Chessfest)

- iii. Some regretted the lack of access to spectate at the GM event and would want to see this changed for a future such event.
- iv. Some variant ideas were put forward on events such as: a Seniors tournament; a youth vs experience match; Chessfest-type event but in September at the start of the club/league season.
- v. Giant chess set is now NCA asset and it is hoped will be used for promotional and fun events in future by clubs and NCA.
- vi. Planning would need to start now for anything put on for this year. Given the minimal feedback the centenary organisers are not inclined to take action at this stage.
- c. MNE Noted a relative lack of engagement by the newer members in clubs in NCA matters, which may be due to a lack of opportunity to meet and connect outside of club and match events. Revival of 'fun' events would be helpful in this respect.

6. League Secretary Report:

MNE provided an update:

- a. League season is progressing normally and with very few issues to resolve.
- b. Gambit's extra team entry in Division 5 did not materialise due to captaincy issues.
- c. MNE confirmed that the intention of LMC is to relegate one from division 1 and to promote & relegate 2 in other divisions.

7. Under-18 Midland Counties Event:

TW reported on Junior Cte's progress in reviving this event on behalf of MCCU:

- a. Date: 24<sup>th</sup> March: volunteer helpers sought. Contact TW.
- b. Venue to be confirmed but likely best option is Bramcote Village Hall.
- c. Notts, Leics, Staffs confirmed; Derbys trying to convene enough players for 12 board team.
- d. NL suggested a 2<sup>nd</sup> Notts team to make it a 4-team event, or to offer to supplement an under-strength Derbyshire team.

**Action: TW & Jun Cte** to consider.

8. ECF and MCCU Reports:

TW gave his postponed report on the ECF AGM and MCCU meetings, including voting matters.

- a. He had been elected as MCCU rep to the ECF in June, but ECF management had failed to register the fact or provide appropriate voting papers. The following observations arose after subsequent discussion with other participants in the meeting:
  - i. MCCU vote was instead cast incorrectly by the outgoing rep, without authority.
  - ii. Noted also that the ECF Silver members rep was prevented from casting votes.
  - iii. Critical vote was on the proposed changes to ECF membership scheme (amalgamating gold and silver levels), which was passed notwithstanding MCCU (and NCA) opposition.

- b. MH suggested that Derbyshire's rep be contacted to ascertain his view on voting procedure.

**Action: MH**

- c. Following discussion it was agreed that a complaint about the conduct of the voting process should be made to ECF Chair of Council [David Eustace] from Notts via Chris Holt, and to MCCU via TW & Chris Budd.

**Action: TW & JS** to contact CH and draft a text.

9. Plans for general meetings:

Agreed that:

- a. Rules Revision Meeting should be week of 20-24 May 2024.
- b. NCA AGM should be week of 8-12 July 2024.
- c. **Action: NL** to investigate/book venues and confirm dates.

10. Any Other Business

JS noted the ambition to stage more NCA events, but re-asserted that present Tournaments Cte would not be responsible apart from RP and congress.

It was suggested instead that at the next AGM separate groups be identified as -

Rapidplay Cte; Congress Cte; Championship Cte; possibly a 'special events' officer/cte  
- to make clear responsibilities (but with options of same or overlapping memberships)  
**Agreed. Action: NL** to list as such in AGM agenda.

11. Next meeting:

Thursday 25 April 2024, starting 7:30pm.