

Minutes of a meeting on Thursday 27 February 2025

Present: N Graham (president), Stuart Humphreys (treasurer), N London (gen. secretary), J Swain, T Walker, D Flynn,
Attending: D Griffiths (item 1)
Apologies: Stephen Humphreys

1. Promotion of Chess in Notts

D Griffiths introduced his document previously circulated. This was an example of proposed actions and ideas from a marketing professional point of view.

- a. Discussion points:
 - i. NCF holds great resources to make an impact but has only been asked for very small-scale support so far.
 - ii. Marketing strategy, using NCF funds, could engage marketing expertise with better technical and social media skills than NCA can call on.
 - iii. Younger people are 'online' oriented and may regard OTB as for 'older men'.
 - iv. Need to decide if we want to promote to do more of the same or to extend reach and impact of chess and NCA in the community.
- b. Any strategy or initiative will need to have an impact from 25-26 season onwards. Ideas should be collated and contributions invited from all clubs, to be considered at next EC.
- c. Action: NL to invite submission of ideas to him via email and social media & compile for next meeting.

D. Griffiths was thanked for his contribution and left the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 12/12/24).

Draft version **accepted** as a true record.

3. Matters arising (not on agenda):

David Flynn had been approached by NG and agreed to be considered as a co-opted member of EC.

Proposed that DF be appointed as a member of EC.

Agreed unanimously.

4. Financial Matters

Stu H had previously circulated a detailed report of actions and developments and a nine-month statement. In summary:

- a. All clubs have now paid league and game fees.
- b. Paypal system worked well in collecting Rapidplay entry fees.
- c. Rapidplay made a profit of £816.83, which includes approx. £200 of 'one-off' income (donations, late fee penalties etc). Full profit & loss account provided.
- d. Association funds stand at £6,162 as at 26/02/25.
- e. NCA management accounts have been prepared up to date (inc. in circulated report).

Report was **accepted** & treasurer thanked.

5. NCA Rapidplay 2025

_JS reported on the successful event on 02/02/25.

- a. Capacity entry of 180 (noted that change in ECF membership has not had a negative effect).
- b. The Improvers section, prize fund supplied by NCF, was very popular.
- c. Car parking was an issue but noted that lighting in the playing hall has improved.
- d. Several digital clocks were found to be faulty and will need repair or replacement in time for the congress.

6. NCA Congress 2025

JS updated on committee's plans and preparations.

- a. Financial support for titled players (i.e. free entry):

Agreed to continue for 2025 (unanimous).

- b. NCF financial support: Trustees at previous meeting had indicated support in principle for a loss guarantee and to meet the costs for the Improvers prize fund. Following discussion:

Agreed to apply formally for a loss guarantee (unanimous)

Agreed to apply formally for support of the Improvers prize fund (unanimous)

Action: JS

- c. Stock of clocks: NCA needs to replenish to cater for breakages and losses. Storage of and access to equipment stored at Bramcote memorial hall discussed:

- i. **Action: NG** to organise an inventory with Simon Scott.

- ii. Previous key holders of locked cabinet to be identified (past county captains).

Action: NL, DF

- iii. **Agreed** to purchase up to 20 new clocks, funded from the profit made on the Rapidplay.

Action: JS

7. Tournament & Training Opportunities

DF had previously circulated proposals on this topic. Compared with London region, there are very few tournament events available in the region. This could be increased, possibly by engaging professional organisers. Training and coaching sessions could also be made available to adults and juniors. Discussion ensued.

Action: DF & others to forward ideas to NL for collation into marketing strategy.

8. British Championships 2026

Invitation to Tender for this has been published (a previously unknown approach) which requires a full response by end-March.

Stephen Woodhouse had a 2nd onsite meeting at Notts County without inviting any NCA rep.

Decision-making responsibilities within ECF for 2026 are unclear.

Agreed to take **no further action** at present.

9. County Championship

NL & SH had investigated an option to run a 24-25 event at Radcliffe & Bingham venue, either over two Sundays (costs too high) or several evenings.

NG still investigating an event in Autumn 2025 in an Ashfield location, which could still stand as the 24-25 championship.

Action: NG

10. Summer League

NG had circulated a proposal for a summer months league on a similar basis to the Minor League (i.e. 2 x rapidplay games between teams of 4, with average rating-defined divisions).

Agreed to support the proposal (unanimous).

Provisional dates for each round: week beginning 2 June, 16 June, 30 June, 14 July

Action: NG to draft competition rules.

11. ECF Grassroots Initiative

TW had contacted Alan Agnew (Leics) about a joint proposal around coaching programme for older juniors. AA had been busy with other matters recently but would take action in next 2 weeks.

Noted that deadline for bid was imminent, and that Paul Mottram had not responded to TW.

12. British Championship 2025 Nomination

Confirmed that MCCU is not holding a qualifying congress this year, so the MCCU nominated place could be incorporated into Notts Congress. Tie-break rules to be confirmed.

Qualification via NCA congress needs to appear on MCCU website.

Action: NG to contact Ray Collett

13. England v. Wales U-16 Cup

TW reported that this event included 10 Notts juniors out of 26 Midlands players in various age groups. Organised by National Youth Chess Association & teams were led by TW and Ed Jones. Another event to be held in November, also in Shropshire.

14. County Teams

No further volunteers to run teams for 25-26.

15. FIDE Titles

NG proposed that all applicants qualifying for FIDE titles, including arbiters and trainers, should have their costs covered by NCA, with support from NCF.

Agreed to take forward to next trustees meeting to ascertain support on the general principle.

Action: NL/JS/TW

16. 'Chessfest'

NL proposed that an event on similar (but lower cost) lines to that of 2023 be considered, aiming for September 2025.

Action: NL to be incorporate into marketing strategy discussions next meeting.

17. Dates for NCA general meetings:

NL proposed Rules revision meeting on w/b 19 May; AGM w/b 7 July.

Agreed (unanimous)

Noted that 26/5 is bank holiday/half term week and that the constitution requires RRM before the end of May.

Action: NL to publish notice of meetings and deadline for proposed changes accordingly.

18. Next Meeting

Sunday 6th April starting at 7:30pm.