

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7:30 pm Monday 8th JULY 2024 The Wolds pub, West Bridgford

1. Apologies: Graham Ladds, Tim Walker, Stephen Humphreys, Marcel Taylor, Chris Sargeant.

Attending: Chris Budd, Simon Scott, Nick London, Maurice Hill, Dave Griffiths, Steve Burke, John Swain, Chris Holt, Graham Neil, Mike Naylor-Eade, Neil Graham, Phil Erentz, Alan Johnson, Stuart Humphreys, Derek Padviss, Stefan Walentowicz, Drag Sudar, Phil Morgan.

2. Previous Minutes (AGM 10/07/23)

Minor corrections were made. Minutes were approved by the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Chessfest took place in Trinity Square as planned and was very successful, despite changeable weather. The Centenary GM tournament took place in October 2023 and was won by GM Gasanov. The parallel junior event was also a 10-player contest.

4. President's Report & Season 23-24 Review (Maurice Hill)

When I was first elected in 2021 and the NCA was beginning to restart chess activities as the country began to emerge from the restrictions imposed by the Covid Pandemic. League play was still in some disarray in the following season due to last minute postponements and teams missing players with covid symptoms. Clubs also had to contend with venue restrictions and in some cases seek new premises. There were aborted AGMs due to hot weather situations and consultation meetings to contend with but in the end, things quietened down over subsequent years. Since then the League, Congress, Rapidplay and other activities have returned to normal and many players who had turned to chess as an activity during lockdown have joined clubs for OTB chess. In addition we have seen in the past year new events occurring such as a very successful ChessFest celebration and a GM Tournament, the first for many years, in which two of our young players, Jonah Willow and Ankush Khandelwal performed creditably just missing out on gaining titles. This was due to the fine efforts of Nick London and many volunteers to organise and officiate at these events.

A very successful year and I retire from the Presidency with my sincere thanks to all the officers of the Association with especial thanks to Nick London for his efforts and stepping into the vacant Secretary's post at short notice.

5. Arrangements for Season 2024-25

- a. New league structure has been agreed by LMC (8 teams in Divs 1-3, 7 teams in Divs 4 & 5). Same number of teams (38) as in 23-24.
- b. Normal promotion & relegation rules have been applied except to increase Div 1 to 8 teams. If new team entries emerge later there is room for them in Divisions 4 & 5.
- c. County Championship – Ashfield CC offered to organise this event to mark their Diamond Jubilee year in 2025, but this would take place in November 2025 (i.e. season 25-26). An organising club/group is still needed for season 2024-25.
- d. New Congress and Rapidplay committees would plan for events in due course.

6. Announcement of Prizes

Division 1 (Mansfield)

Division 2 (Nomads 1)

Division 3 (West Bridgford 2)

Division 4 (University 2)

Division 5 (Ashfield 4)

Minor League (West Bridgford Winterhawks) – trophy presented

[Other trophy handovers to be arranged]

7. Officers' Reports

All reports received had been circulated previously or available in printed format at the meeting.

[See separate appendices to these minutes]

Discussion & questions on some reports, as follows:

- a. Treasurer's Report (Steve Burke):-

- i. Total cost to NCA of centenary celebration events were £1000 for Chessfest (shown in 22-23 accounts) & £9.00 for GM Tournament (game fees for juniors not ECF registered as ENG). All other costs were met by NCF or other external grants and sources.
- ii. J Swain provide update on cost of damaged gate during the Congress. Nottingham High School has agreed to share the costs of repair at £250 charge to NCA.
Agreed to accept the cost negotiated by JS and pay the bill – none against.
- iii. Noted that several signatories to the NCA bank account are now leaving office.
SB Proposed that John Swain (existing signatory & EC member), President, General Secretary and Treasurer should be made signatories once elected to office.
Agreed - none against.
- iv. Motion proposed that the treasurer's report be accepted.
Proposed N London.
Seconded A Johnson.
Agreed - none against.
- b. League Secretary's Report (Mike Naylor-Eade):-
 - i. D. Sudar queried the exemption of the penalty for rule D2 for University 1. Circumstances were discussed and explained.
 - ii. D. Sudar queried the approval by LMC for a player to transfer from Beeston to University. The decision was made at short notice and in the absence of the League Secretary. Circumstances were discussed and explained.
- c. Tournaments Committee Report (John Swain):-
JS highlighted that Marcel Taylor's generous financial support over several years has now come to an end. The donations have been used to increase the prize funds as MT wished. The prize funds in future will therefore reduce in future.
- d. ECF Delegate report (Chris Holt):-
Noted that there were some issues & irregularities regarding ECF virtual voting mechanisms during meetings, especially regarding changes to membership fees & categories. EC wrote to ECF Council chair to expressed concerns and received a full reply.

8. Election of Officers

-	<u>OFFICER POST</u>	<u>ELECTED</u>	<u>PROPOSER & SECONDER</u>
a.	President -	Neil Graham	P: N London; S: M Naylor-Eade
b.	General Secretary -	Nick London	P: C Holt; S: A Johnson
c.	Treasurer-	Stuart Humphreys	P: S Burke; S: M Hill
d.	Executive Committee-	President, Secretary, Treasurer (ex-officio)	
		Tim Walker, Stephen Humphreys, John Swain, [Vacancy]	P: N Graham; S: N London
e.	League Secretary-	[Vacancy]	
f.	Records Secretary-	Simon Scott	
g.	League Management Cte	League Sec, Records Sec (ex-officio)	
		C Budd, C Holt, D Griffiths, P Morgan, Graham Ladds, N London, C Budd, [Vacancy]	
h.	Minor League Coordinator:	Nick London	
i.	County Teams-	[Vacancies]	
j.	Correspondence-	Phil Morgan	
k.	Congress Committee	S Scott, J Swain, Stephen Humphreys, Hambel Willow	
l.	Rapidplay Committee	S Scott, J Swain, Stephen Humphreys, Hambel Willow	

m.	County Championship Cte	[Vacancy]	
n.	Junior Committee	Tim Walker, Mike Swanwick, Marcel Taylor, [vacancies]	
o.	Webmaster-	Stephen Humphreys	
p.	Website editors	Steve Burke, Nick London	
q.	ECF Delegate-	Chris Holt	
r.	MCCU Delegate-	Tim Walker, Chris Budd,	
s.	Auditor-	Dave Griffiths	
t.	Lead Safeguarding Officer	Phill Beckett	
u.	Deputy Safeguarding Officer	Ed Jones	P: J Swain; S: N London
v.	Nominated Trustees for Notts Chess Foundation	Chris Budd, Dave Griffiths, [Vacancy]	

All proposed officers were **approved** with none against.

Vacancies will be filled where possible via co-option by the Executive Committee.

- Noted that, in the current absence of a League Secretary, Nick London would be willing to draft a fixtures list to allow the season to commence, but that a new League Sec. would still be needed.
Action: EC, LMC
- A 'job description' for league secretary post will be written up for those interested
Action: MNE
- Action: S Scott** would talk to Graham Ladds about the role of Junior Cte.
- Action: C Budd** would talk to Stephen Humphreys about being a trustee of NCF.
- Gambit CC, as the biggest club, is encouraged to provide a nominee for LMC
Action: MNE

9. AOB

- Communications channels for NCA members:
N London commented that there are some difficulties in ensuring all clubs and members received news of events, including the present meeting, despite distribution to club secretaries. Discussion included the following points:
 - NCA website is the obvious alternative to email but is frequently out of date and too little referred to – needs more timely management.
 - Social media: NCA existing Facebook account has never been used.
 - Show of hands indicated WhatsApp is the application most commonly used by those present.
 - Noted that clubs must also take responsibility for distributing information.
- Best Game Award:
SB has not been able to take action on this; a co-ordinator is needed to reactivate.
Mike Naylor-Eade volunteered to administer.
Agreed – none against
[Note: the best game prize will cover two years]
- What action is taken with clubs who fail to pay their NCA subscriptions and fees?
(with Reference to University CC). NCA has the option of suspending from NCA activities including league matches.
Action: Stuart Humphreys

Meeting closed 9:30pm.