

Minutes of a meeting on Thursday 24 July 2025

Present: N Graham (chair), N London, J Swain, D Flynn

Apologies: Stuart Humphreys

1. Minutes of previous meeting 1/05/25).
Draft version corrected and **accepted** as a true record.
2. Matters arising (not on agenda):
 - a. Stu H had applied for and received a grant from NCF to cover the costs of 2 x FIDE arbiter qualifications.
 - b. E Jones had confirmed the Nottingham zonal for UK Blitz championship on 7/9/25 at Nottingham High School and had secured additional funding for venue costs from NCF.
3. Financial Matters
Stu H had circulated a report prior to the meeting in his absence. There had been little activity since the annual report to the AGM.
4. NCA AGM 2025: Matters Arising
 - a. LMC had received various comments on the draft league structure for 25-26 season. A further virtual meeting on 20/07/25 had made some changes and approved the final structure. Fixtures and preparations can now go ahead.
 - b. Divisional trophies: Div 2 is still being pursued with University but attempts to locate Div 3 have failed. **Agreed** to replace this shield.
Action: NL
 - c. LMC Vacancies: NG to write to clubs with no LMC rep inviting them to nominate someone.
Action: NG
 - d. EC and County Captain vacancies: a separate letter to be sent to clubs asking for interest in these roles.
Action: NG
5. NCA Summer League
This had proven successful and popular, with 10 teams taking part. Format of draw and number of rounds could be reviewed, but it was felt important to provide equal home and away fixtures. Positive feedback from those taking part. Thanks due to NG for proposing and organising.
6. Publicity and Marketing Working Group
An initial meeting and discussion paper at the AGM raised several ideas and actions:
 - a. Comprehensive mailing list for NCA club members -
Action: NL to write to clubs asking for an approved list of email addresses.
Action: NG to edit and forward his contact list
 - b. Newsletter – idea rejected in favour of attempt to improve website with news & information. Website editor/publicity officer role needs to be filled.
 - c. Secondary schools – Junior Cte working on collating contact information, with a view to organising inter-school events.
Action: Junior Cte
 - d. NG asked for a list of DBS-checked members of NCA.
Action: NL to contact others and compile.
 - e. Free publications (NG villages etc) to have up to date listing for NCA.
Action: NG
 - f. 'Chessfest 2.0' - Nottingham Central Library is happy to facilitate but no inside space available until November. Aim for an outside only event 27/9 or 4/10.
Action: NL to pursue with Library Service.
Action: NG to establish contact with Railway Station.

- g. Chess 'Mobbing' - potential pub venues identified, and participants sought.
Action: DF
- h. Social Media – expertise still sought to develop this. Appeal to NCA members via Whatsapp & email.
Action: NL
- i. Publicity leaflet: NL had drafted a text to use. Design and format need to be developed, with images, photos etc.
Action: EC & others to supply usable images.
Action: NL to contact known designer for a quote.
- j. Provisional date for next Working Group meeting: Thursday 11th September, 7:30pm.

7. County Championship

The second day of this concluded successfully last weekend. Several players dropped out after the first day, so only 18 finished the tournaments. A substantial loss to NCA was incurred, mostly from venue costs.

Open champion: Alexandr Klimchik

U-1850: Eddie Bromilow

U-1600: Julius Vasiliauskas

Junior: Frank Richmond

U-1450: [no qualifier]

Given the entries and finishers, split weekends, especially during summer, is not recommended for future events. Several alternatives were suggested at the AGM and reiterated by RBCC organising group. DF suggested an individual competition to be played in people's homes/local clubs.

For 2025-26 Ashfield will take responsibility.

Action: NG/ACC

8. MCCU Matters

MCCU meeting attended by JS. Not quorate but NG's paper met with approval.

JS elected/appointed as a non-executive director, Tim Walker re-elected Junior Director.

Separate bank account has now been set up to operate, but the original a/c is still frozen with assets.

9. Any Other Business

- a. Alex Holowczak (ECF) had sent an email proposing that NCA organise a title norm event as part of a national series. More information needed on costs and admin.

Action: NL to write back to AH.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday 2nd October starting at 7:30pm.