

Minutes of a meeting on Thursday 22 January 2026

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

1. Minutes of previous meeting 20/11/25).

Amended draft version **accepted** as a true record and to be published.

2. Matters arising (not on agenda):

- a. NL had written to Alex Holowczak about admin of the ECF blitz zonal and comms with NCA officers. Preference for communications to go via NCA rather than individuals to be reiterated.

Action: NL

- b. Chess mobbing no date before Christmas had been found; arrangements to be confirmed.

Action: DF

- c. Website calendar – NL had liaised with Ste Humphreys who would look at it further after his work on the Rapidplay had completed.

Action: NL, Ste H

- d. Obituaries in sequence – not able to re-order.

3. Financial Matters

Stu H had circulated a report prior to the meeting.

- a. Principal outgoing since the last EC meeting was for County match room hire.

- b. 9 out of 12 clubs have now paid league fees, others being chased.

Action: SH

- c. NCA balance at 21/01/26 is £5748 (unchanged from last meeting).

- d. NCF has approved funding of prize money for Improvers sections in RP and congress (£905 in total) and a loss guarantee for both 2026 events in aggregate.

- e. NCA insurance policy includes £5 million public liability cover. Brokers have confirmed that this applies to clubs affiliated to NCA so any requirements on clubs for such insurance can be met by this policy. Clubs to be advised of this benefit.

Action: SH

4. Vacancies

NG had sent a letter out to all club secretaries and team captains inviting interest in joining EC. No positive responses to date.

EC members to consider suitable individuals to approach on this.

Action: EC members

5. Safeguarding

In the light of a recent incident which has led to a report from NCA Safeguarding Officer, it was recognised that procedures are unclear with regard to consideration of actions to be taken regarding NCA club members.

- a. Noted that LMC is due to meet on 30/1/26 and will consider game results and penalties to be taken within the remit of the league rules.

- b. EC will await the outcome of the LMC and then consider further action if LMC refers the matter back to EC.

- c. EC to review the Child Protection & Safeguarding policy. Clear procedures and defined powers of the EC are needed for sanctions against a player.

Action: EC

6. Best Game Prizes

JS has agreed to take over the administration of the best game awards for the seasons 2022-26 and will undertake to obtain submissions.

Action: JS

7. County Teams:

- a. U-2050 – entering at the national level; no action yet.
- b. U-1850 – Notts won the away to Lincolnshire 9.5 – 4.5. Final Midlands match takes place this Saturday 24/1/26 at home vs Staffs.

Action: NG

- c. U-1450 – Tim Walker has recruited 6 juniors with suitable ratings, the remainder adults, to play against Staffs on 24/1/26.

Action: TW, NG

8. League Matters:

- a. New fixtures for Central 3 (div 5) have now been scheduled and approved.
- b. Radcliffe & Bingham's changed fixtures due to venue disruption have also been arranged.
- c. LMC will meet on 30/1/26 to address several disputes/incidents that have arisen.

9. ECF Matters:

The inaugural English National Youth Championships is taking place at Nottingham High School, 7-8 March 2026. Organised by ECF officers but includes potential involvement of locally based arbiters. JS anticipates local volunteer helpers will also be needed, and NCA would wish this prestige event to be run well to reflect positively on Notts chess.

Action: JS

10. MCCU Matters

No response from officers following emails by JS and TW.
No further information about MCCU levy for current and past seasons.

Action: JS/TW to continue to pursue

11. Any Other Business

- a. University has still not returned the Division 2 trophy.
Action: NL to chase up.
- b. County Championship – no further news at present.
Action: NG
- c. A County Seniors championship (FIDE rated) was suggested.
Action: NG to develop idea further.
- d. Suggestion of approaching Nottingham City Council to celebrate 1936 tournament as a NET tram name.
Action: NL to investigate.
- e. SH reported ongoing historical research on chess in Nottinghamshire.

12. Date of next meeting

Provisionally: Thursday 19 February 2026