

Minutes of a meeting on Sunday 22 February 2026

Present: N Graham (chair), N London, J Swain, Stuart Humphreys, Chris Holt (chair LMC)
Apologies: D Flynn

1. West Bridgford vs Beeston Incident

LMC had reviewed this occurrence and decided on points allocation and match outcome. LMC did not consider it had authority or remit to address the concerns around alleged inappropriate behaviour towards a minor and has referred this to EC for consideration. Evidence and statements from both sides that were provided to LMC were reviewed by EC, along with a report from the NCA Safeguarding Officer. EC recognises that:

- a) there is an imbalance of power between an adult and a minor which requires particular awareness and sensitivity on the part of the adult.
- b) there is a responsibility on team captains to be aware of potential issues between players, whether adults or minors, based on previous experiences.
- c) the NCA Child Protection Policy is written primarily with NCA officers' responsibility in mind, and does not adequately cater for league match situations, nor specify the powers of NCA to take action if an incident occurs.

It was **resolved**:

- to draft a letter to the adult concerned;

Action: NL

- to ask Ed Jones as deputy safeguarding officer to attend the return match Beeston vs W Bridgford as a precaution against any further issues;

Action: NL

- to inform both team captains and parents of the minor of EC's decisions.

Action: NL

2. League Update

Fixtures and the league itself are progressing as normal, but CH noted an increased number of disputes referred to LMC this season compared with previous years. LMC has had to deal with instances of long-standing players' apparent ignorance of the laws of chess. Failure to deal with issues on the night by players or team captains has led to referrals to LMC.

Noted that comments posted on the LMS with match results should be restricted only to helpful points of information, not complaints or disputed results. Records Secretary and League Secretary are entitled to remove any comments which may cause ill feeling.

At this point Chris Holt withdrew from the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous meeting 22/1/26).

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

4. Matters arising (not on agenda):

a. Financial matters:

- i. Invoice for ECF blitz event has been presented by NHS; cost is fully covered by ECF and NCF contributions.
- ii. Rapidplay – final profit of £830 on slightly lower entry compared with last year.
- iii. All league fees from clubs have now been received, except for University.

Action: SH

b. Chess mobbing – no further action or information from DF.

Action: DF

c. Website calendar – NL to pursue with Ste Humphreys.

Action: NL, Ste H

d. Vacancies on EC – no further interest shown by anyone.

- e. NL still to investigate process of naming NET trams.

Action: NL

5. Safeguarding

Following discussion of the incident earlier in the meeting, it was recognised that procedures are unclear regarding consideration of actions to be taken regarding NCA club members. Clarity of procedure and the range of options available in the case of unacceptable behaviour are needed. Advice and input to be sought from interested parties, with proposals to be considered at the next EC meeting.

- a. Stephen Woodhouse (ECF, formerly Notts) to be asked for advice on the relevant powers and options that might be used.

Action: NG

- b. Safeguarding Officers & chair of LMC to be asked for their views on procedure.

Action: NL

- c. Draft proposals to be submitted at next EC meeting.

Action: EC members

6. Best Game Prizes

JS reported that several people have agreed to be judges and most categories and years have been decided on. All prizes for 2022-2025 have been determined.

Action: JS to inform EC and the winners

Action: SH to inform and distribute prize money.

Action: NL to arrange for results and game scores to appear on NCA website.

7. County Teams:

- a. U-2050 – entering at the national level; no action yet.
- b. U-1850 – Notts won the home match vs Staffs and we will progress to national finals stage.
U-1450 – Notts narrowly won vs Staffs, the team included several juniors. We will progress to national finals stage.

8. Any Other Business

- a. MCCU: it was noted with sadness the death of Paul Sharratt who had been MCCU CEO and Finance Director

- b. County Championship – no further news at present.

Action: NG

- c. SH has located and has temporary custody of significant artefacts from the history of Nottinghamshire chess. A suitable place to display them to the general public is being sought.

Action: SH

- d. Noted that LMC minutes are not up to date on NCA website.

[Post-meeting comment from Chris Holt indicated that LMC has agreed to provide a year-end summary of committee deliberations to provide distance from decisions and avoid reigniting contentious issues].

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 16 April 2026, starting 7:30pm