

Minutes of a meeting on Thursday 16 April 2026

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

1. Proposal for Rules Revision Meeting

Chris Holt had been invited to attend for this agenda item.

NL had previously circulated a draft proposal to EC & LMC members and had forwarded comments received so far. Noted there is general discomfort with specified and extensive penalties at the disposal of LMC for general player 'bad conduct'; also some views expressed against and appeals process for LMC decisions made. Alleged incidents that include safeguarding concerns are better dealt with directly by the relevant officers, who should collect evidence and make recommendations to EC.

It was resolved:

- a. EC would update the Safeguarding policy, in consultation with the SG officers, to clarify procedure for team captains and others.
Action: NL to liaise with SG officers on amendments.
- b. LMC to agree updated instruction to team captains for next season to clarify both general conduct and procedure for safeguarding issues.
Action: CH, LMC members

At this point Chris Holt withdrew from the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 22/2/26).

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

3. Matters arising (not on agenda):

- a. Chess mobbing –DF will confirm a date in the near future and raise awareness
Action: DF
- b. Website calendar – NL liaised with Stephen Humphreys and agreed a simplified format for a calendar, which will be easier to maintain – and therefore more timely. Relevant NCA and NPSCA officers need to be proactive in supplying information to Ste H.
Action: NCA Officers

4. Financial Report

Stu H had previously circulated a report and accounts update in his absence.

NCA balance is in good health at present, largely thanks to the profit from the Rapidplay (£844).

The congress is also scheduled to make a surplus with current entries nearly at the maximum.

All outstanding best game/swindle prizes have been paid bar one, and nearly all but one club fee has now been received.

Report **accepted** and appreciation expressed for Stu H's timely update.

5. Vacancy on EC

Tony Wright has indicated his willingness to fill the current vacancy.

NG proposed that he be appointed as interim EC member until the AGM. Seconded by JS.

Agreed (unanimous)

6. Correspondence

NL (as gen. secretary) had received a request by legal representatives to remove all references to the name of a past NCA member. This had required extensive work by Stephen Humphreys at short notice to comply with this demand by deleting all appearances of the name from published historical NCA records.

NL wished to record his thanks to Ste H for his prompt action.

Noted that NCA does have an existing data protection policy and that all clubs should ensure that

league players know their names will be published. A reminder of this to be circulated to club secretaries before the start of next season.

Action: NCA Gen. Secretary (26-27)

7. County Teams:

- a. U-2050 – NG reported that we will not run this team at the national stage; Derbyshire will take the Midlands place this year.
- b. U-1850 – to play Norfolk on 9/5/26.
U-1450 – to play Essex on 9/5/26
Both matches will take place at a venue in Sawtry nr. Peterborough. This date unavoidably clashes with the UKCC Nottingham Megafinal so some of the juniors from the previous match will not be available.

8. Summer League

NG intends to run this on the same basis as last summer, with two ratings-restricted divisions. 4 rounds played every two weeks during June and July. More information to be sent out later.

Action: NG

9. County Championship

No further developments as yet.

Action: NG

10. MCCU

JS reported on the Board meeting that was held on 13/4/26:

- a. Stephen Woodhouse was nominated as acting CEO.
- b. Action is being taken to reactivate the bank account; a volunteer is needed for treasurer (once achieved we should expect retrospective fees to be requested).
- c. Next Board meeting is on 5/5/26, with a view to arranging an AGM.
- d. Nominations for MCCU entrant for ECF championships: Counties to be asked to submit their nominations for 2026 and for the Board to select.

11. NCA General Meetings

- a. Rules Revision Meeting has now been confirmed for Tuesday 19/5/26, at Bramcote Memorial Hall starting at 7:30pm.
All proposals, with proposer and seconder from different clubs, must reach NL by 25/4/26.
- b. NCA AGM: **NL proposed** that it be held on Tuesday 7/7/26, also at Bramcote Memorial Hall.
Agreed
[NB: this would clash with an England World Cup game only if they qualify from 3rd place in their group]
- c. NCA officer vacancies and withdrawal by current post holders to be identified prior to AGM.
Action: NL to contact all current officers to gauge their intentions.
- d. A generous donation of chess clocks has been offered by a member of Newark CC for use in County events.
Action: NG to respond with grateful thanks and acceptance.

12. Date of next meeting

18 or 25 June 2026, starting 7:30pm.

Action: NL to confirm availability of Stu H and Tony Wright for either or both dates.