

Minutes of a meeting on Thursday 25 April 2024

Present: M Hill (president), M Naylor-Eade (league secretary), J Swain, T Walker,
N London (interim gen secretary), Stuart Humphreys

Apologies: S Burke (treasurer)

1. Minutes of previous meeting (21/01/24)

Corrections on previously circulated draft had been made before publication on website.
Final version **accepted** as a true record.

2. Matters arising:

- a. County Championship: Gambit CC members had not been able to organise for a Spring date, but aim to do so, provisionally in June.
Action: MNE & Gambit CC
- b. Website: no further information on developments
- c. Chessfest 2024: after previous EC discussion, Malcolm Pein had written to ask about our plans for July 2024 with offer of limited support and assistance. Agreed still not sufficient support to warrant any major initiative, and any future event would be better in early Autumn.
Action: NL to reply to M Pein
- d. Under-18 MCCU jamboree held on 18/3/24. Notts, Leics and combined Staffs/Derbys/Shropshire team took part. Successful and well received, and financially supported by NCF. Similar event next year is planned with location to be confirmed. Full report from Junior Cte will be circulated.
Action: TW/Jnr Cte

3. Finance:

- a. SB absent so unable to update on bank account and financial position.
- b. ECF had sent a game fee invoice for non-ENG participants in the GM tournament, which had not been allowed for in the NCF grant. Noted there were mistakes in the charge which need to be corrected.
Agreed that a corrected fee of £9 would be met by NCA
Action: NL, SB

4. League Secretary Report:

MNE provided an update:

- a. Nearly all matches are completed, and all promotion/relegation issues resolved. Noted that actual composition of each division cannot be confirmed until entries for season 24-25 are known.
- b. It has been a quiet season for LMC with few disputes and claims to be resolved. There were two defaulted matches, with standard penalties applied.
MNE had not yet published decisions on disputes but will do so on the LMS website with a suitable link from NCA site.
Action: MNE
- c. MNE summarised several proposals drafted by LMC to put to Rules Revision Meeting.

5. Plans for general meetings:

- a. Rules Revision Meeting confirmed to be on Monday 20 May 2024, at The Wolds, West Bridgford. Deadline for proposals is 26/4/24.
- b. NCA AGM confirmed as 8/07/24 at the same venue. Notice to be sent shortly.
Action: NL
- c. Several key officer posts are expected to fall vacant at the AGM. Note that it would be beneficial to the NCA for new and younger people to step forward to fill posts.
Action: NL to circulate a list of officer posts to clubs with indications where current officers

are known to be stepping down

6. Correspondence

- a. The response from ECF Council to EC's letter concerning the conduct of voting at the ECF AGM in October 2023: this had been previously circulated. EC members acknowledge it had been a full and considered explanation and that no further action was to be taken.
- b. Lance Leslie-Smith had followed up his original suggestion of a high-level GM tournament in Nottingham, but several months after the initial approach and without enough additional detail to take it any further.

7. ECF Matters

- a. Paper on Grassroots Chess development had been circulated but requires further consideration
Action: EC members to pass on any comments to Chris Holt directly before Saturday's meeting.
- b. Advice to ECF reps on approaching Council meeting. Dissatisfaction about amalgamated Gold and Silver level membership but this appears to now be a fait accompli.
Action: NL to pass on EC view to CH.

8. NCA Congress

JS reported on a successful event with a profit made (amount to be confirmed).

- a. A problem with damage to the pedestrian gates was highlighted. The High School may apportion liability and costs to NCA but there are extenuating circumstances. EC advice is to await any claim or invoice and make a case for contesting it as appropriate.
Action: JS/Tournaments Cte
- b. Venue hire invoice had been sent without VAT costs included – different from previous practice. JS to await a corrected invoice (has already pointed out inconsistency).
Action: JS

9. Any Other Business

- a. MCCU requires a single nomination for entry to British Championships.
Action: TW to email club secretaries asking for suggestions
- b. Concern expressed about examples of date clashes for MCCU events with other congresses in the Midlands. MCCU reps are invited to raise the question of calendar checks at the next MCCU meeting.

10. Next meeting:

Wednesday 26th June 2024, starting 7:30pm.