

Minutes of a meeting on Thursday 17 October 2024

Present: N Graham (president), Stuart Humphreys (treasurer), N London (gen. secretary), J Swain, Stephen Humphreys

Apologies: T Walker

1. Minutes of previous meeting (26/06/24).

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

2. Matters arising:

- a. LMC decisions during season 23-24 have now been published on the NCA website
- b. NL had circulated AGM notice to all club secretaries and published on the NCA website.

3. Financial Matters

Stu H had previously circulated a detailed report of actions and developments. In summary:

- a. Online access to Virgin Money account now established. 'Clubs & Societies' account so no regular monthly charges expected.
- b. Second 'Events' account also set up to connect a new Paypal account for tournament fees, prizes etc. Includes issue of a bank debit card, although not requested.
Noted that there are charges for use of Paypal (2.9% + 30p per transaction), which should be taken into account for tournament costs & fees.
- c. Account signatories:
 - i. Main a/c: NG, JS, Stu H. Graham Neil & Maurice Hill now removed.
 - ii. Events a/c: Stu H, NL.
- d. Insurance cover via ECF scheme has been renewed (12 months from 1/9/24). Includes Public Liability Indemnity for £5 million and equipment acquired in 2023 has been added to insured list (DGT smart board, giant chess set). Silver Rook trophy also added (valued at £3,000). Additions have meant a rise in premium cost to £463.60.
- e. Game fees invoice from ECF now received, so treasurer will issue affiliation & league fees to clubs in next few weeks. Noted that University CC has been reminded of outstanding fees and has apologised and undertaken to resolve.
- f. Bank balance as at 13/10/24: Main account £4627.28; Events account £10.00
- g. Comments & Actions:
 - i. **Action: Stu H** to supply NL with detail of access to Events a/c
 - ii. NHS gates issue from Congress in April: matter is to be left on the table.

4. Website Developments

- a. Old website domain name licence is due to expire in November. This is for 'nottschess.org'. Not known that this is still used or referenced.
Agreed not to renew and allow ownership to lapse.
- b. Noted and appreciated that Phil Morgan is now writing a weekly league report.
- c. JS reported that Drag Sudar is keen to update and develop the history section of the site. EC welcomed his interest and asked that Ste H and he liaise to allow either direct access or supply of material to be loaded.
Action: Ste H, JS
- d. **NG** to provide info and reports on 4NCL team and events.
- e. **NL** to provide news update on ECF small club of the year award.

5. Communications & Social Media (NL)

Arising from discussion at AGM about effective communication of NCA news and information, it was noted that the only social media platform commonly used by AGM attendees was WhatsApp.

Agreed that a Whatsapp group be set up and all NCA club members be invited to join.

Action: NL to set up and email all contacts; JS to act as 2nd administrator.

6. NCA Congress & Rapidplay (JS)
 - a. Rapidplay date is now confirmed as 2nd February 2025, at Nottm High School.
 - b. Some difficulties of venue and clashes with other chess events in April means the Congress is provisionally to be held on 10-11th May 2025 at NHS.
 - c. RP Cte is meeting this weekend. Likely to apply to NCF for support to continue Improvers section now that Marcel Taylor's generous financial support has ended.
7. Officer Vacancies
 - a. NCF trustee nominee: Ste H's wife may be interested.
Action: NL to liaise with Mrs H to provide more info on the role.
 - b. EC member:
Action: NG to contact clubs not represented on EC.
 - c. LMC member:
Action: JS to pursue with Gambit CC members.
8. League update (NL)

NL had finalised fixtures list and league now well under way.
LMC has published arrangements for disputes etc in the absence of a league secretary.
Minor League fixture are about to be confirmed with matches starting in November.
9. County Championship

No clubs volunteering as yet to organise an event for 24-25 season. Ashfield has volunteered to run the 2025-26 event.
Action: NG to consult with Ashfield CC about plans; EC members to ask other clubs.
10. Junior trophies (JS)

Several long-established junior trophies that have fallen into disuse are currently housed by NL and JS. Some can be passed on to Junior Cte. Others to be retained until decisions are made.
Action: JS, NL
11. ECF & MCCU Matters
 - a. ECF AGM due to take place 25/10/24. No outstanding issues on the agenda.
NCA rep (Chris Holt) to be authorised to vote/act as he deems of benefit to NCA.
Action: NL/JS
 - b. MCCU – start of county match season has passed, so the outstanding issue of raising teams and appointing captains is no longer relevant. EC expressed disappointment that no one has stepped forward to run any county team.
Action: EC to review approach with a view to competing in 25-26.
12. ECF Grassroots Initiative

EC would wish to bid for funds as and when available, but specific projects need to be identified. A combined East Midlands proposal may gain more support.
Agreed to place this topic and Dave Griffiths proposals for communications on next EC agenda.
Action: NL
13. A.O.B.

the possibility of hosting the British Championships in 2026 was briefly discussed as a 90th anniversary commemoration of the Nottingham 1936 tournament.
Action: NG to contact Nigel Towers (ECF Home Director) to check on plans for 2026.
14. Next Meeting

Thursday 12th December 2024 starting at 7:30pm.