

## Minutes of a meeting on Thursday 12 December 2024

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

Apologies: Stephen Humphreys

1. Minutes of previous meeting 17/10/24).

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

2. Matters arising:

- a. Events bank account signatories now confirmed (Stu H, NL).
- b. Website:
  - i. D Sudar doing some work on historical information & liaising with Ste H.
  - ii. Reports on 4NCL team and ECF club of the year now published.
- c. Whatsapp group for NCA now set up and so far, 24 members. More posts and discussion needed to make it an active channel of communication.
- d. Post vacancies (confirmed by EC via email):
  - i. NCF trustee – Ruth Humphreys has agreed to be NCA nominee.
  - ii. LMC – Felipe Almeida-Lessa has agreed and confirmed.
- e. EC vacancy not yet filled.  
**Action: NG** to approach smaller clubs for volunteers.
- f. County Championship 24-25 – Radcliffe & Bingham are investigating the idea of running the event, but no commitment yet. NG still looking at options for 25-26.
- g. Promotional activities: D Griffiths not available to discuss proposals, so item postponed for a future meeting. Noted that September/early Autumn is the best time to promote chess.

3. Financial Matters

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

- a. Most clubs have paid league fees, including University arrears. Nomads outstanding.
- b. Rapid play entry fees are being received via new Paypal system

Report was **accepted**

4. ECF AGM

TW reported on the meeting which took place in October (attended via Zoom).

- a. Less controversial than previous year now that gold & silver membership merging has completed. Some counties (inc. Notts) raised concerns.
- b. Discussion on format of future meetings (in person/virtual/remote); decided to stay with hybrid model for now.
- c. LMS upgrades and changes discussed.
- d. Several officer posts up for election, but none were contested.

5. British Championships 2026

NG had approached ECF about possibility of holding the event in Nottingham in 2026 (90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great 1936 tournament). Stephen Woodhouse (non-exec chair of ECF) in return had suggested Notts County FC as a venue, with an intention of visiting to assess its suitability. Birmingham is also under consideration as a venue.

- a. Not clear who is responsible for organising the event – Nigel Towers is standing down as ECF director of Home Services
- b. NG & other EC members need to be present if/when a site visit at Notts County takes place.
- c. Requirements for a venue is available, but method of finance is not clear. While NCF may offer some support, ECF should not make resource-saving assumptions about it.
- d. EC should make some efforts to do wider groundwork on venue & funding options:

**Action:**

**NL** – contact Stephen Greep of Hull CA for information

**NG** - make enquires to ECF on funding plans & ask to be included in site visit

**NL** – contact regional mayor's office for info/advice on venues and support

6. ECF Grassroots Initiative

No further clarity on procedure for bids, or whether the resource is still available.

JS suggested that a programme of higher-level coaching for teenagers would be a viable proposal, possibly covering Notts/Leics/Derbys/ Lincs best juniors – local equivalent of ECF 'Accelerator' programme. NCF could be approached for a matched funding contribution.

**Action:**

**TW** to ask Paul Mottram about procedure.

**TW** to talk to Alan Agnew about developing a bid.

7. British Championship 2025 Nomination

In the absence of a specific MCCU championship event, NG suggested that qualification could be incorporated into Notts Congress open section – awarded to highest placed qualifier.

**Action:**

**JS** to raise with Congress Cte members

**TW** to clarify the responsibility within MCCU and the tie-break rules and seek MCCU support for this.

8. League Update

- a. The season has progressed smoothly so far, with a small number of re-arranged matches.
- b. Phil Morgan has agreed to continue as the contact point for LMC issues, in the absence of a league secretary, until the end of the season.
- c. PM has also published regular league update bulletins on the NCA website, which has been appreciated.

9. Next Meeting

Provisionally: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 starting at 7:30pm.