

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

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<http://www.nottschess.org/> nottsnews@nottschess.org

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Annual General Meeting

A reminder that the NCA AGM takes place on Tuesday 11 July at Gambit Chess Club. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

This issue contains some of the officers' reports that have been supplied for the meeting. Other reports will be made at the meeting, and will (if possible) be reported in a future *Notts News*. Also attached are the minutes of last year's AGM and of the recent Rules Revision Meeting.

Secretary's Report

Andrew Walker

Firstly, as reported at the RRM, I am unable to attend this year's AGM on its revised date; apologies for that.

Secondly, the time is rapidly approaching when I shall be divesting myself of all responsibilities, including this one; I shall have no objection at all if anyone wants to take on this job now.

Thirdly, there is one substantive issue to report. At the 2005 AGM, we were asked to look at how the NCA might move towards an executive committee. The President, Treasurer and Secretary discussed this, and reported to the Bulletin that we proposed that the Finance Committee should be reconstituted as an Executive Committee. No objections were received, and the Finance Committee co-opted the President and Neil Graham to its meetings to add their wisdom and blue-sky initiative and make up an informal EC. The AGM should, if it agrees, now formally implement this; the proposal would be that the Finance Committee be wound up, and its remit, together with that of long-term planning for the NCA, be transferred to a committee consisting of President, Secretary, Treasurer and four other members, with power to co-opt when particular issues arise.

Finally, the President, Mike Barnes, now completes his term of office; I'm sure the NCA will be offering Mike its thanks, and I should like to add my own thanks to Mike and to wish him and his successor well.

Treasurer's Report

Robert Richmond

The surplus for the year will be over £400, and that is after £200 on upgrading the County stock of chess clocks. The big improvement on last year is the very modest deficit on the Rapidplay and Congress of under £100. Detailed figures will be available at the AGM.

In view of the large surplus this year the Finance Committee have decided that the entry fee to the coming years County Championship (October 21/22) will be a nominal £5. One further reason for the good result next year was sponsorship of the 4NCL team, which may not be available next year. The Finance Committee has decided to support the two teams up to a total of £100. This is broadly intended to be equivalent to support to the County teams.

Webmaster's Report

Ian Kingston

The NCA web site transferred to its own domain (www.nottschess.org) at the start of this season, following Len Darby's stewardship on his personal web pages. The site was redesigned and organised so as to provide timely news and a full archive of chess activity in Nottinghamshire. The intention was that anyone could visit the site to get an immediate update on the performance of club or county teams, and that it would act as a showcase for Notts chess to those outside the county.

Many people contributed material for the site – too many to name – and their efforts in providing match reports and other news made my work comparatively straightforward.

The annual cost of hosting the site is approximately £60.00.

A few statistics: between 1 October 2005 and 30 June 2006, the site received 21,291 page hits, which comes to around 78 hits per day. Some of those were search engine robots, but the majority were genuine visitors.

The top 10 most popular pages were:

Home page	5723
Results	2941
Division 1	1375
News	1324
County teams	1278
Links	1242
Information	841
Division 2	827
Division 3	754
4NCL	713

The site received most of its visits from the UK and the USA (about a 50:50 split). There were some unusual visitors: Guam (8 visits), and Gabon, Senegal and Christmas Island (1 each).

Many visitors reached the site via search engines. Of these, Google was far and away the most popular, with 733 referrals. Next best was Yahoo, with just 37. No special effort was made to optimise the site for search engines.

Other visitors came via links from other web sites. The leader here was the West Nottingham site (312 referrals), the home page of which frequently links to the NCA site. Other significant sites that link to ours were the BCF/ECF (188) and the 4NCL (94).

Bulletin Editor's Report

Ian Kingston

Notts News was relaunched this year as a weekly results and news publication, distributed via email to around 100 individuals as an Acrobat PDF file. The distribution of printed copies was, as in the recent past, left to individual clubs. At the time of writing, 39 issues (including this one) had been published during the 2005–06 season.

The content was primarily a snapshot of the week's news and results as published on the NCA web site. Priority was given to publishing news and results quickly.

Notts News also acted as a conduit for more formal communications, such as notice and minutes of meetings. Efforts to use *Notts News* as a discussion forum met with limited success.

Many people provided contributions in the form of match reports and other items. I was particularly pleased by the speed with which these were sent to me, almost always allowing me to publish the report at the same time as the bare results. I am particularly grateful to the Results Secretary, Ian Fillingham, who provided results on a suitably timely basis, ensuring that the majority of league results reported in *Notts News* were official, not provisional.

The plan for next season is to continue in the same way, with some refinements. I would particularly welcome receiving provisional results from teams who play later in the week, which would improve the speed of reporting of results.

Dates for the Diary: 2006/07 Season

Robert Richmond

The Finance Committee recently fixed the dates for next year's County Championship, Rapidplay and Congress. Provisional dates for County matches are on the new MCCU website (only readable to 27 January).

2006

23/24 Sept	4NCL Div 4 (Birmingham)
7 Oct	U125
14 Oct	U150, U100
21/22 Oct	Notts County Championship
28 Oct	U125
25 Nov	U100
2 Dec	U125
2/3 Dec	4NCL Div 4 (West Bromwich)

2007

13 Jan	U150, U100
27 Jan	U125 Semi-final
10/11 Feb	4NCL Div 4 (Sunningdale, Surrey)
17 Feb	18th Notts Rapidplay
3/4 Mar	4NCL Div 4 (Nottingham)
21/22 April	32nd Notts Congress
26/28	4NCL Div 4 (Sunningdale, Surrey)

[These dates will appear on the 2006–07 Calendar page of the NCA web site when the site is updated prior to the new season – Ed.]

H. E. Atkins Memorial Congress

This event will take place on 15–17 September 2006 at Wyggeston College, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RJ. For more details, including entry form/online entry, see <http://www.leicesterchess.co.uk/>.