

# Notts News

## Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

2006-07 No. 45 23 June 2007

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### AGM

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting of the NCA will be held on Monday 2 July at West Nottingham CC, starting at 7:30 p.m. The main purpose of the meeting is to receive and discuss reports from officers and committees, and to elect those for next season.

### Agenda

The agenda is attached.

### Minutes

Minutes of the 2006 AGM and draft minutes of the SGM were included with the previous issue of *Notts News*.

### Proposed changes to the Constitution, to be discussed at the AGM

These were published last week within the main body of *Notts News*. I have repeated them as a separate page in this issue for convenience.

### Proposed rules for the EC

The Standing Orders drafted by the EC and a proposed set of rules and procedures from Drag Sudar are included with this issue.

### Officers' reports

All officers' reports received are included with this issue.

### Best game prize

The best game prize remains open for entries. Dig through those scoresheets (or search your ChessBase files) for your best game of the season – it could be good enough to win!

Send your entries to David Levens ([david@chesscoach.co.uk](mailto:david@chesscoach.co.uk)) by the end of June.

### South Lakes Congress

Paul Todd (see last issue) wasn't the only NCA player at this event – Maurice Hill (Nomads) was also there: 'I [scored] 3 points out of five in the Major (U160) Section, just missing out on the grading prize (U140). The points were amassed as a result of dogged persistence rather than good play against players all of whom were at least 10 grading points or more higher than me. So, I was pleased with a calculated Tournament Performance Rating (TPR) of 156ECF as opposed to my 132ECF grade'.

### BAG III

#### Drag Sudar

The 3rd BAG Challenge was held at the Navigation on 19 June.

It was a 2 round, 30 minutes per player jamboree and once again had an exciting finish.

After Round 1 Ashfield had 7 points, closely followed by Gambit on 6 with Bunkers on 2.

In Round 2 the final game to finish saw Glenn needing a draw to force a tie break, but Pete managed to win so the final result was Bunkers 5 points, Ashfield 12 and Gambit 13.

As three-time winners, Gambit will now keep the non-existent trophy and a new non-existent trophy will be provided for the next challenge which might have a new name, possibly NAG.

I would like to thank Kev for organising his team and use of the venue, Elaine the landlady for providing the food (especially those wonderful roast potatoes), Neil for organising his team, and all the players who yet again ensured it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

### Round 1

J. Harrison	(B)	0-1	G. Halfpenny	(A)
R. Webster	(A)	1-0	M. Barnes	(G)
P. Mercks	(G)	1-0	A. Griffiths	(B)
K. Harvey	(B)	1-0	R. Taylor	(A)
N. Graham	(A)	0-1	A. Wright	(G)
B. Hayward	(G)	0-1	K. Brameld	(B)
W. Place	(B)	0-1	P. Morgan	(A)
T. Lewis	(A)	1-0	S. Hunter	(G)
D. Sudar	(G)	1-0	M. Moore	(B)
P. Allen	(B)	0-1	M. Jackson	(A)
N. Wright	(A)	1-0	M. Harper	(G)
D. Padvīs	(G)	1-0	S. Parham	(B)
A. Chubb	(B)	0-1	R. Sayer	(A)
S. McIntosh	(A)	0-1	G. Hopkinson	(G)
M. Gretton	(G)	1-0	M. James	(B)

### Round 2

M. Barnes	(G)	1-0	J. Harrison	(B)
G. Halfpenny	(A)	0-1	P. Mercks	(G)
A. Griffiths	(B)	1-0	R. Webster	(A)
A. Wright	(G)	1-0	K. Harvey	(B)
R. Taylor	(A)	0-1	B. Hayward	(G)
K. Brameld	(B)	1-0	N. Graham	(A)
S. Hunter	(G)	1-0	W. Place	(B)
P. Morgan	(A)	½-½	D. Sudar	(G)
M. Moore	(B)	0-1	T. Lewis	(A)
M. Harper	(G)	0-1	P. Allen	(B)
M. Jackson	(A)	1-0	D. Padvīs	(G)
S. Parham	(B)	0-1	N. Wright	(A)
G. Hopkinson	(G)	1-0	A. Chubb	(B)
R. Sayer	(A)	½-½	M. Gretton	(G)
M. James	(B)	0-1	S. McIntosh	(A)

### Agenda

Annual General Meeting of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association to be held on Monday 2 July at 7:30 p.m. at West Nottingham CC

- 1 Apologies, minutes of previous meetings, matters arising  
[Minutes of AGM and draft minutes of SGM previously circulated]
- 2 Reports of Officers and Committees  
[List as given in *Notts News*]
- 3 Election of Officers and Committees  
[Current list as above]
- 4 Proposed changes to Constitution  
[Proposed by D. Sudar, circulated in *Notts News*]
- 5 Proposed EC Standing orders  
[Drafts by EC and D. Sudar circulated in *Notts News*]
- 6 Any other business

## **Proposed changes to the Constitution, to be discussed at the AGM**

*The following proposed changes are from Drag Sudar (Gambit).*

Section: Meetings, Paragraph: 11a

Either Add:

- iv. To present the minutes of a general meeting to the next general meeting.

Or Add:

- iv. To present the minutes of an Annual General Meeting to the next Annual General Meeting.
- v. To present minutes of any other type of general meeting to the next general meeting.

*(Clarifying exactly when minutes of AGMs and other meetings should be presented)*

Section: Special meetings, Paragraph: 16

Alter:

Any five members

To:

Any five affiliated clubs

And Delete:

An affiliated club is deemed to be one member for this purpose

*(Proactive change, anticipating a potential future individual membership scheme, retaining the right of clubs (rather than individuals) to deliver a written requisition for a meeting)*

## **Standing Orders of Procedure for the NCA Executive Committee**

### *1. Membership*

Membership of the NCA Executive shall comprise

- (a) The President who shall act as Chairman
- (b) The Secretary
- (c) The Treasurer
- (d) A representative of the League Management Committee
- (e) Such other members who are co-opted

The number of co-opted members must be less than the ex-officio members

### *2. Procedure*

- (a) A majority of members will comprise a quorum
- (b) Voting will be by show of hands
- (c) In the case of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have a casting vote
- (d) Meetings will take place at least once every three months
- (e) Minutes will be kept of all meetings

### *3. Purpose*

- (a) the Executive Committee will oversee the day-to-day running of the NCA and is empowered to make any decisions unless precluded under Item 9 of the NCA Constitution
- (b) the Executive Committee has the power to appoint officers where vacancies exist until any future General Meeting of the NCA
- (c) the Executive Committee will endeavour to promote chess within Nottinghamshire under the terms of Item 2 of the Constitution
- (d) The Executive Committee will consider the development and strategy of the NCA

### *4. Finance*

The Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Oversee the finances of the association, taking whatever steps it considers appropriate to ensure the proper financial management of the Association
- (b) Approve the budget and fees to be recommended at the AGM
- (c) Pre-approve expenditure above £100
- (d) Deliver a final decision on a disputed expenses claim
- (e) Approve the authorised signatories and banking arrangements

The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Prepare a budget for the coming year
- (b) Keep proper books and records
- (c) Collect promptly league and other fees from clubs

- (d) Pay promptly all bills and ensure compliance with the rules for officers of the association
- (e) Present externally audited accounts to the AGM

Officers of the Association shall:

- (a) Fully account for any expenses incurred and income received. Expenditure claims shall be submitted before the end of the financial year and should be fully supported by invoices and receipts.

Claims can be denied if not fully supported unless satisfactory reasons are provided. If expenses are subtracted from any receipt, the receipt may be considered 'not fully paid'.

## **The Rules of the NCA Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- Association President
- Association Secretary
- Association Treasurer
- Congress Director
- LMC Representative
- 3 other members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting

General meetings can, by means of a simple majority, elect members to the committee and deselect members from the committee.

The quorum at the committee meetings shall be 4.

The president may invite other people to the committee meetings, but only the members of the committee are entitled to a vote on any matter.

The duties of the committee are

- To elect a chairman, who shall have a vote and a casting vote
- To promote and encourage chess in Nottinghamshire
- To consider the development and strategy of the association
- To provide advice, encouragement and assistance to officers of the association
- To review all activity on behalf of the association
- To report to the Annual General Meeting
- To give 14 days notice of a committee meeting to all affiliated clubs
- To publish accurate minutes of a committee meeting within 14 days of the minutes being approved
- To publish details of votes on any proposal or dispute notified to the committee by any individual or club in the association, including committee members.
- To present an externally audited statement of accounts for approval at annual general meetings
- To produce a budget at annual general meetings for the next financial year
- To recommend at annual general meetings any alterations to league fees
- To ensure accurate bills are sent to clubs

### **Expenditure Claims and Bills.**

- Expenditure claims over £75 must be pre-approved by the committee
- Expenditure that exceeds a budget must be pre-approved by the committee
- Claims without receipts can be denied unless satisfactory reasons are provided
- Cheques written on behalf of the association shall have the stubs correctly completed with the date, the amount and the name of the recipient
- Officers must submit separately itemised claims for each post held
- Income for the association must be recorded separately to any expense claims
- Bills must be paid in full. Any expenses occurred must be claimed separately
- If expenses are subtracted from any bill, the bill shall be considered not fully paid
- A general meeting can deliver a final decision on a disputed claim
- Expenditure claims must be submitted before the end of the financial year.

## Officers' reports

### *President's report*

*David Levens*

This first year heading the new Executive Committee has been partly one of 'bedding in'. I feel, in many ways, as if I still have my L plates on. Fortunately the EC has two previous presidents on board who are able to guide me if, or when, I go wrong. Nevertheless, and allowing for the fact that many of us are still in full-time employment, and three of us are running our own businesses, I feel that much is being achieved.

Like our last President, Mike Barnes, I have attended as many events as humanly possible and played 9 out of 11 games for Notts. I in the 4NCL. Ian Kingston and I staged a very successful County Championships, which was supported by four local sponsors; these sponsors have agreed to continue their sponsorship for the next two years at least. The players at this event, the Rapidplay and the Nottingham Congress all needed food and drink provided, which, with the aid of my wife and several other ladies, I managed to cater for; at the Rapidplay, I even personally served sandwiches and drinks all day!

When I first returned to chess, about 11 years ago, Brian Hayward was the NCA President. At one of the first AGMs I attended Brian had charted the slow but steady decline in individuals and teams competing in the leagues. Were it not for the large amount of juniors now competing for a number of clubs – WNCC, Long Eaton, Gambit, Nomads, Newark and Ashfield – the decline would now be catastrophic! Even Grantham is trying to get a junior section going at their club. Not unreasonably I believe I can claim some credit for this.

I continue to serve on the Nottinghamshire Primary Schools Chess Association and the English Primary Schools Chess Association and am constantly encouraging youngsters to join a club near them. The simple fact is that children, in time, become adults! Of course many juniors don't continue playing into adulthood, but the reason for much of this drop-out is the lack of secondary schools playing chess. To this end, supported by Ian Kingston, John Crawley and some concerned parents, we are attempting to set up a Secondary Schools Chess Association and I intend putting on the first inter-schools competition sometime in September.

At the SGM, and once through the bulletin, some concern was expressed about too much being done for juniors and not enough for adult members. In an attempt to address this concern I have offered to put on a series of coaching evenings at Bramcote. So far I have had just four players showing an interest in these sessions. The poor profile that chess has in the UK does not make it easy to attract new adult players into club chess, but an annual chess day (see below) may help a little in the long term. In another attempt to make the public aware of chess in Notts. I have also, when time has permitted, put posters in various libraries around the county, and continue to do so whenever possible.

It is a personal belief of mine that a few social events throughout the year would be a big help to all. On September 15th the awards night will be held at the Little John Inn, Ravenshead. The evening will include a barbecue style buffet meal and a long alley skittles match. Spouses and partners are cordially invited to join us for what has turned out before to be a fun evening. In October I intend putting on an inter club quiz evening at Bramcote. Again family members are invited to join in. Later in the season it is hoped that there will be enough interest for a trip to Cadbury World, but other

suggestions are welcome. Further details will follow in future bulletins.

Apart from all the above the EC is hoping to start having an annual chess day, based on a successful idea of Len Darby's a few years ago. Providing we can find a suitable public venue an event of this kind should at least raise public awareness of chess in Nottinghamshire and, maybe, gain clubs a member or two.

### *Secretary's report*

*Andrew Walker*

It has been a quiet year, and I have nothing to report.

### *League Secretary's report*

*Ian Kingston*

The league ran smoothly this year, with a reduction in the overall number of boards defaulted (individual boards and complete matches) from 7.3% of the maximum number of games in 2005–06 to 4.2% in 2006–07. The number of defaulted matches fell from 10 to 2. In my opinion this latter number falls in the normal range of 'accidental' defaults, but the number of individual boards defaulted (44) is still on the high side. For comparison, only one match and 12 boards were defaulted in the Derby & District League last season (2.2% of the possible number of games), so there remains scope for further improvement.

One dispute arose requiring the LMC's attention during the season, which was dealt with via email.

A number of matches were rescheduled following Ashfield's mid-season change of venue, and eight other matches were rearranged by mutual agreement.

### *Records Secretary's report*

*Ian Kingston*

Results were in general reported promptly this season. Many teams took the opportunity to send advance results via email, with the match card following later. Two teams took advantage of the new rule permitting scanned copies of match cards to be sent via email.

On a handful of occasions match cards were lost in the post, and results had to be obtained via email from both teams to ensure that the correct results were recorded. In contrast, just one result sent via email failed to arrive, and it was easy to obtain a copy. I strongly recommend that, given this experience, we switch to email (not scanned match cards) as the primary method of reporting results. Again, the Derby & District League leads the way in this area.

One complaint: team captains are remarkably lax about sending in details of new players. It would ease the Record Secretary's job significantly if captains were to supply this information without having to be asked.

### *Webmaster's report*

*Ian Kingston*

The web site continues to be what I intended it to be when I took over: a frequently updated results-based site. I've continued to gather and report news on all chess activity within the county (whether or not the NCA itself is involved) as well as news involving the county's players.

Last summer's streamlining of the main navigation menu has left the site looking less cluttered. However, the season's main innovation – the addition of archive material – has made some pages awkward to use and will necessitate some minor reorganisation before next season.

Additions to the archive are an ongoing project. A sizeable quantity of material has been provided, with the promise of more to come.

It is hard to quantify precisely the number of visits to the site, since a large amount of the traffic (around 50%) comes from search engine robots crawling and indexing the site. Excluding robots, the site gets about 110 page views per day, roughly double last season's figure.

Most search engine referrals come via Google: 2303 visits (91%) since 1 September 2006. For comparison, Yahoo! is in second place with just 100 referrals. Many other sites link to the site, of course; of these West Nottingham's site provides the most visitors. The number of visitors who come via links on other sites has risen from 2.68 per day in 2005–06 to 4.36 per day in 2006–07.

#### County Championship report

*Ian Kingston and David Levens*

In an attempt to increase the number of participants from the low numbers of recent years, the competition was split into four sections; prize money was increased overall and several new (small) prizes were introduced. Sponsors were found for all bar the main section. The result was that the entry more than doubled to 56 people – the largest for many years. Overall, the event had the feel of a small congress. Financially, despite the increased expenditure on both prizes and venue, the event came close to breaking even.

#### Bulletin editor's report

*Ian Kingston*

Somewhat to my surprise, *Notts News* increased the number of issues published this season, largely because of special issues devoted to the County Championship, Rapidplay and

Congress. The format is essentially the same as last season, but brief match reports during the latter part of the season have livened up the dry reporting of league results.

Contributors have been numerous and have provided many excellent and prompt reports, for which I am extremely grateful. News from events outside the NCA area is especially welcome, and I'm pleased to say that congress participants are getting into the habit of sending their results to me.

#### Special events

*Ian Kingston and David Levens*

The main event under this heading is the Blitz championship. This was held after the league season, which may account for the relatively low turnout. However, numbers have been poor in mid-season recently, so possibly something more radical is needed.

Planned events (yet to take place) include a jamboree team tournament (July) and an awards presentation night (September). A Children in Need charity tie-in is also being examined for November.

The best game prize is also included within the special events brief. There remains a strange reluctance to submit entries for this; perhaps graded sections should be introduced in the future.

#### Grading officers's report

*Brian Hayward*

I have sent the results of games played in the Notts League (1,236 games) and Notts County Championships (119 games) off to the ECF grader. There were 256 active players in the League and I have carried out some analysis of the results as shown below.

**Table 1** The range of numbers of games played by players in different clubs during league season 2006/07. It is interesting that some 29% of players participated in 5 games or less, while only some 53% participated in 10 games or more.

Club	5 games or less	Between 6 and 9 games	Between 10 and 14 games	Between 15 and 19 games	20 games or over	Total no of players
Ashfield	3	5	16	4	1	29
Bunkers	8	4	5	3	1	21
Fiveways	2	0	5	0	0	7
Gambit	3	5	15	5	0	28
Grantham	5	4	3	1	1	14
Long Eaton	1	4	3	0	0	8
Mansfield	1	2	6	1	1	11
Newark	5	4	2	1	1	13
Nomads (Notts)	4	1	7	2	3	17
Nottm University	15	10	10	0	0	35
Radcliffe & Bingham	6	1	8	1	0	16
West Bridgford	5	0	7	2	0	14
West Nottingham	16	6	14	4	3	43
Totals	74	46	101	24	11	256
%*	28.91%	17.97%	39.45%	9.38%	4.30%	100.00%

\* % may not add exactly to 100 owing to rounding



**Table 2** The number of active players per club in Notts League seasons 2003/04 to 2006/07. A number of clubs show a significant decline in players participating in the League.

Club	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Ashfield	24	23	24	29
Bunkers	19	18	22	21
Fiveways	11	11	10	7
Gambit	28	26	28	28
Grantham	15	14	13	14
Long Eaton	25	19	18	8
Mansfield	12	13	12	11
Newark	21	18	17	13
Nomads (Notts)	23	21	22	17
Nottm University	32	31	36	35
Radcliffe & Bingham	11	11	13	16
West Bridgford	17	12	13	14
West Nottingham	41	39	54	43
<b>Totals</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>256</b>

**Table 3** Distribution of playing strength between clubs League Season 2006/07.

Club	No of players under 50	No of players between 50 and 99	No of players between 100 and 124	No of players between 125 and 149	No of players between 150 and 174	No of players over 174	Total number of players
Ashfield	2	10	6	5	4	2	29
Bunkers	4	8	3	4	2	0	21
Fiveways	0	4	2	1	0	0	7
Gambit	2	11	4	8	2	1	28
Grantham	1	6	4	0	2	1	14
Long Eaton	0	0	1	3	3	1	8
Mansfield	0	1	3	4	2	1	11
Newark	0	3	4	3	2	1	13
Nomads (Notts)	2	4	6	2	3	0	17
Nottm University	6	9	4	5	7	4	35
Radcliffe & Bingham	2	6	6	1	1	0	16
West Bridgford	0	8	1	0	4	1	14
West Nottingham	14	11	8	5	5	0	43
Notts Clubs Total	33	81	52	41	37	12	256
%	12.89%	31.64%	20.31%	16.02%	14.45%	4.69%	100.0%

**Table 4** Number of graded games played per club in Notts League season 2006/07.

Club	Number of graded games
Ashfield	345
Bunkers	179
Fiveways	66
Gambit	312
Grantham	111
Long Eaton	69
Mansfield	129
Newark	132
Nomads (Notts)	204
Nottm University	243
Radcliffe & Bingham	134
West Bridgford	137
West Nottingham	411