

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

2006–07 No. 46 30 June 2007

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AGM

A final 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.

Officers' reports

Further officers' reports received are included with this issue.

Best game prize

This is the last call for entries – a couple of extra days for anyone who comes to the AGM and hands their entry to either Ian Kingston or David Levens on the night.

Magazines for sale

John Swain

We are having a sort-out at school and I am looking to find a good home/good homes for nearly 300 Chess magazines, mainly from 1969–92, but a couple from 1964–65, and 112 Chess Player magazines (Tony Gillam productions) from 1972–76. I would like to raise some money for charity, so I would welcome bids for some/all, with a view to giving the proceeds to charity, probably Marie Curie Cancer Care. I shall try to attend the AGM on Monday and bring them along.

EC and LMC minutes

Minutes of the May Executive Committee meeting are now online at http://www.nottschess.org/2006_07/executive.html#2007_05_10. Minutes of the 24 June 2006 LMC meeting are also now available: http://www.nottschess.org/2006_07/minutes.html#2006_24_07.

Handicap Knockout final

The final of the Handicap Knockout took place on 26 June at Gambit. Mansfield convincingly beat a very out of sorts West Nottingham Nightmare 7–2 to take the trophy and a clock.

Mansfield – West Nottingham Nightmare

West Nottingham Nightmare		B1	B2	B3	Total
A1	Kingston, I. (143)	0	0	0	0
A2	Keetley, M. (136)	½	0	1	1½
A3	Burley, P. (116)	0	0	½	½
					2

Mansfield		A1	A2	A3	
I	Tait, J. (197)	1	½	1	2½
B2	Morrison, K. (160)	1	1	1	3
B3	Wagenbach, J. (132)	1	0	½	1½
					7

Jamboree

The planned jamboree tournament has had to be postponed because of the lack of a suitable venue during July. It is now intended to run the event as a curtain raiser to the season during the week beginning 10 September.

Officers' reports

More reports. Neil Graham's report is repeated from Issue No. 43 for convenience, together with some additional statistics.

Report of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) has met seven times in formal meetings over the season, and in addition has had informal meetings at 4NCL matches and via email. It has therefore been able to respond promptly to issues that have arisen. Minutes, as far as they have been confirmed, have been published and are on the Web site, together with some other relevant material.

We have needed to establish our *modus operandi*. To this end, we determined our own rules of procedure by which to implement the remit placed upon us by the NCA, and also set some aims and objectives. This is a long-term project, and we hope the real fruits of our activities will be apparent over the next five years or so.

The rules of procedure will be discussed at the AGM, alongside the (possibly renewed) remit and membership. But we should emphasise that a degree of continuity is essential to our success, and so is a degree of flexibility and trust (which we need to establish over a period).

Some areas we have considered at length, corresponding roughly to the aims we have set ourselves, are:

- (a) Encouragement of chess within the county, especially but not only among the juniors, including development of sponsorship.
- (b) Finances. We have taken on the role of the previous Finance Committee, and have ensured that the NCA's finances are discussed regularly, and have kept oversight of the budget and of the cost implications of activities of the NCA.
- (c) Publicity. NN has grown in importance and in reach. We have welcomed the development of our historical archive.
- (d) We have discussed the constitution. At the moment, we feel no changes are indicated, but we will keep this under active consideration in the light of other developments.
- (e) Recognition of service. Maintaining a watching brief over all activities within the NCA must not mean only intervention when things go wrong – indeed, our success in this area must be judged by the extent to which things do not go wrong. It is also important in a volunteer organisation that those who help us are recognised. We propose to revive the concept of honorary life vice-presidents; some names will be suggested at the AGM.
- (f) We also propose to recognise sponsors in a more formal way, and to use this recognition to expand our sponsorship.
- (g) Relationships with the ECF and the MCCU. These will be reported elsewhere at the AGM.

We have also considered a number of 'blue sky' issues. Principal of these is membership. The NCA needs to keep in better contact with the individuals who constitute the affiliated clubs and also with others – parents, sponsors, casual or former players – who may be interested in chess. The SGM considered and rejected one model for this; but it remains important that we make progress towards knowing who all these people are. A 'Green Paper' is under consideration; you will be kept informed. We accept our own need to communicate in timely fashion with the the NCA, and acknowledge that we have not been perfect in this respect.

Another proposal that may be of interest to the NCA is our feeling that, if it can be done, the NCA should have its own premises. This would act as a focus for chess in our area, give us a venue for matches, meetings, tournaments and other events, an income stream [as well as expenditure], publicity and a place to meet socially, and perhaps serve as bookshop, coffee shop, or similar. It would not replace any club, but would supplement our activities.

We encourage all of you to talk to members of the EC, to bring forward your ideas, brickbats and bouquets, and to take an interest in what the NCA and in particular the EC gets up to. We think we have made an encouraging start. We know we can do better, and we hope that both the improvements and the results will become apparent in the next few months.

Treasurer's report

Robert Richmond

The full accounts will be available at the AGM. Comparative figures 2005/06 are given in brackets.

The accounts for 2007/07 and also 2005/06 have been audited. My thanks to Steve Burke for taking on the job mid-year and doing both years.

The surplus for the year was £759 (£509). The results are broadly comparable after adjusting for the £200 spent on the purchase of clocks last year. Association reserves are healthy.

Income from league fees reduced, but this was offset by reduced ECF Game Fee, MCCU fees and increased interest.

The deficits on the tournaments were County Championship £85 (£73), Rapidplay £68 (£11) and Congress £113 (£74). This year saw the purchase of stocks of scoresheets, pairing cards and tournament charts. A policy of apportioning this as used, rather than when purchased, would have reduced the deficits on the three events by an estimated £90.

The blitz was in early June, just outside the financial year and not shown in the accounts. Expenditure was £30 (£50). If the event this coming season was to be in May 2008 there would be two years chargeable to 2007/08.

The general expenditure of the association was £289 (£383), less than last year despite taking out insurance with ECF. The main reduction was in the cost of County Matches.

Fees 2007/8 – The Executive recommends no change: £57 per team in Divisions 1–4, £50 per team in Division 5 and £12 affiliation per club.

Congress Director's report

Robert Richmond

The Rapidplay (18 February) returned to Nottingham High School this year – a more central and cheaper venue than Bramcote. The local entry was up but the overall entry was down due to the clash with the Warwickshire Open and being a week away from the Doncaster congress. Half-term week in February is not the right date and the Executive are looking at alternatives.

The Congress (April 21/22) remained at Bramcote. Despite the best efforts of the Transport Agency in blocking off J25 off the M1 nobody got lost. Numbers were slightly down, but the financial impact of this was offset by increased catering surplus. The Executive are not convinced this is the best venue – it is not easily accessed by public transport and the nearest accommodation is Beeston – and will be looking for a more central venue for next year. Additionally under consideration are moving to four sections and reintroducing grading prizes.

My thanks to John Swain for booking the High School and controlling the Rapidplay, Neil Graham for being Chief Controller and David Levens for catering.

U150 County Captain's report

Neil Graham

Nottinghamshire Under 150 won the Midlands Championship for the fourth time in five years and progressed to the National semi-finals for the fifth successive year. However, once again the win that would have seen us through to the finals eluded the team and an 8–8 draw with Hertfordshire meant we were eliminated on board count.

I would like to thank all the players who have once again supported the team in a successful campaign and especially the 20 players who have formed the squad on a regular basis, all of whom have played in at least 50% of the matches. A special thank you to those who have played 100% of the games, those who have provided transport and to Bob Taylor who has stood in as captain in my absence.

Our continued success means that our Midlands rivals will be keen to deprive us of our title next year and I look forward to welcoming back most of our squad for the 2007/8. Fortunately (?) it's likely that my grading will keep me in the relevant section for next year and I intend to offer myself for re-election though if anyone wishes to take over as captain I'm more than happy to step aside. Finally I know that some team members will have moved on to higher things (i.e. being graded over 150) whilst equally others may have dropped to below 125.

To the former I hope that you can maintain your grading for the future and to the latter please hurry back to rejoin the team.

I will be in touch with everyone graded 125–149 as soon as the new gradings are announced. In the meantime enjoy your summer and let's hope that next year we can again qualify and take that final step into the national finals.

Notts Under 150 – 2002 to 2007

Notts have played 30 matches over the last five seasons with the results +17, =6, –7. A total of 478 boards were played

with just two defaults – both in an away match with Greater Manchester.

Only Dick Edwards, Bob Taylor, John Tassi, Stan Cranmer, Drag Sudar, Neil Graham and Dave Flynn have played a game in all five seasons.

Both John Tassi (+7, =13, –6) and Neil Graham (+9, =10, –7) have played in 26 of the 30 games.

Bob Taylor (22 games), Tim Lane and George Murfet (both 20 games) are the other players who have played in 67% of the games. As far as I can see no player has reached ten wins over the above period. Keith Roper (17 games) +9, =3, –5 could be the first.

Juniors who have progressed to higher grades after playing in the Under 150 are Ankush Khandelwal, Kishan Lakhani, Daniel Wells and Amisha Parmar.

Kevin Harvey played his first game away against Greater Manchester in season 2004/5 and has now appeared in 18 consecutive games (+8, =6, –4). However George Murfet played in 19 consecutive games from the start of 2003/4 to the end of 2005/6.

Appearances on Board 1 over the above period are Tim Lane (8), Brian Hayward (7), Tony Wright (7), Amarjit Mehton (3), Dick Edwards (2), Dave Saenz, Jason Cast and Keith Brameld (1). Jason Cast's loss on Board 1 against Surrey in 2003/4 was his only appearance for the team. Bottom board has proved much more transient with 21 different players appearing.

Bill Ray has played in nine games over the five seasons (missing 2003/4) and has scored +1, =8. There are no other players who are unbeaten over such a length of time, though some players have remained unbeaten over a season.

Our scores in the MCCU matches are v GMCCA (+2, =1, –2), Leics (+4, =1, –0), Staffs (+2, =1, –1) and Warwicks (+4, =0, –1). In the 2005/6 season Notts only qualified after Greater Manchester and Leicestershire drew their match 8–8; Manchester drew all four zone matches that year.