

Minutes of the Norfolk County Chess Association Annual General Meeting

**Aylsham and District Ex Service and Social Club, Wednesday 3rd June
2026**

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

1. One minute's silence for chess friends who had passed away in the previous 12 months

Graham Wright, Keith Osborne, Edward Hackford, David L. Jones

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Martin Walker, Andy Hartland, Trevor Ansell, Chris Perkins, David P. Jones, Peter Clough, Phil Sneesby, Eric Bradley, Antony Hall, Matthew Perry

The following members signed the attendance sheet:

Mike Read, David Moore, Alan Page, Heather Enid Walker, Paul Coppard, John Wickham, Stephen Livermore, Brian Cunningham, Mikolaj Presz, Rufus Guest, Ali Gendj, Dan Hedges, Jeff Dawson, Tony Lerner, Steve Moore, David Payne, Ed King, Craig Parks, Robert Picksley, Stephen Orton, Ben Collinson, Jai Jai Fincham-Richardson, Jo Fincham

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes are available on the county website. These were agreed by the meeting and a copy signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

5. Reports

During the presentation of reports, officers were thanked by John Wickham and the meeting for their contribution during the season.

5.1 Chairman

John Wickham delivered the following report:

Chair 2026

Sadly we lost four of our Chess friends since the last AGM, 2 former members Graham Wright, and Keith Osborne, and 2 members from North Norfolk, Edward Hackford and David L Jones.

I have mentioned before how lucky we are in Norfolk to have such a good team running Norfolk Chess. I receive many compliments and I know from them that the hard work is recognised. I would like to mention the work that Stephen Livermore has done in what is one of the hardest and time consuming of the roles. He has managed it exceptionally and improved the information to the players and captains considerably. I would like to minute a vote of thanks to him and to the rest of the team for all their efforts this season.

I mentioned UEA last year and the issues following their first year back in the League. They returned this year having learned from last year and met all their fixtures travelling to the away games. They won the third division and their Captain, Ali Gentj, with 10 wins out of 11 games won the Alex Niedzwiedski Trophy. They have been a welcome asset this season and hopefully will be able to put out a strong team next season.

You will hear shortly of the results of the League and cups this year in what has been another successful season.

In the EACU County Championships we entered 4 teams, and it must be over 10 years since we have been able to do that. Three of our teams, The Open, U1850 and U1450, were champions and have all reached the semi finals of the ECF stages. The matches are to be played on 13th and 14th June.

We have seen a lot more opportunities for Juniors and we have some talented Juniors who are prospects for the future. Several clubs now have a junior club and we are seeing more juniors playing in league and cup chess. To have so many dedicated junior organisers in clubs is great and a good sign for the future of Norfolk Chess.

We are fortunate that we have some great support from the SVP Fund but also from the many donations at our Congress and from our sponsors which has us in a healthy position enabling us to run many events and to have the equipment to do so. This all means a bright future for Norfolk Chess. A thanks to all who have supported us.

Thank you all for attending and I hope you all have a good Summer and come back in September refreshed and ready for the new season.

John Wickham 2/6/26

5.2 Secretary

Alan Page delivered the following report:

Thank you to all of you who have provided news on events and other information for distribution to the county email list over the last year.

Please could club secretaries let me have any email details for new player registrations to add to the email list. Also, if you know of anyone not receiving the county-wide messages please let me know and I can add their details or help investigate why this is happening (it could be their email service provider has blocked the message or treated it as spam).

Could I ask you all to ensure you have signed the AGM attendance sheet this evening.

5.3 Treasurer

The following report from Andy Hartland had been circulated in advance of the meeting along with the accounts:

Financial Report for the period 1.5.25 to 30.04.26

1. Financial Position

On 01.05.25 NCCA had a total financial balance of £6,653.11, comprising £2980.11 main NCCA funds, £2,392.67 junior funds and £1,186.03 SVP funds, with £94.30 cash in hand. On 30.04.26 NCCA had a total financial balance of £6,972.95, comprising £3,466.46 main NCCA funds, £2,477.47 junior funds and £986.02 SVP funds, with £43.00 cash in hand. Both the main NCCA account and the junior element of the account show an operating surplus for the reporting period. The SVP element shows a loss, due to the purchase of significant items during the reporting period.

As with last year, the figures are somewhat distorted by equipment purchases which do not show under income and expenditure but are shown in the balance sheet, under fixed assets. The purchase of these additional items is reflected in the supplementary note that accompanies the accounts statement. Overall, liquid funds increased by £1,081.84, although this figure does not reflect the equipment purchases.

As was the case last year, the backlog at the ECF in the collection of pay-to-play fees, this time combined with liabilities outstanding at 30.4.26 as a result of the holding of the Great Yarmouth Congress close to the year-end, means that future costs of £348 have to be factored in. However, notwithstanding these outstanding liabilities there remains a healthy operating surplus of £319.84, once equipment depreciation is factored in.

2. The Impact of the Supporter Vice-President Scheme and of Individual and Corporate Donations

NCCA's financial position has been significantly improved in recent years by contributions made by our Supporter Vice-Presidents and by corporate and individual donations to all chess events such as the Great Yarmouth Congress, Norfolk Rapidplay, Norfolk blitz, Norfolk Junior Congress and the Sheringham Junior Congress.

Since the beginning of May 2022 our wonderful SVPs have donated a total of £2193.75 to the association. Money from this fund has been spent on purchasing new equipment and supporting areas for development like junior and female chess. A current balance of £986.02 sits in the fund. This figure contributes to the current total balance of £6,972.05.

The contribution made to NCCA by individual and corporate donations has not been separately calculated in annual reporting. However, it seems to be the case that such donations are increasing in scale and becoming an ever-more important element of event

funding. Matt Perry manages to return an annual surplus on junior events each year. He is helped in this by donations made at point of entry. John Wickham also has an eye on the break-even point and routinely runs his events so that they return a surplus. John has also worked hard at encouraging corporate donations. For example, the 2026 Great Yarmouth Congress benefitted from £1025 of corporate donations and sponsorship. The significance of these generous donations is that the Great Yarmouth Congress simply could not be held at its current prestigious venue without such levels of support. In addition, the cost of running events is offset by individual donations, usually at the point of entry. In the last year or two, there have also been some very significant donations at the conclusion of an event. To give an example, this year's Great Yarmouth Congress benefitted from £534 of individual donations either at the point of entry or at the event's conclusion. Sometimes individual donations are given for a specific purpose; sometimes they are simply a token of appreciation of the work put in by the likes of Matt and John in making events happen that people enjoy participating in.

3. Routine Income vs Routine Expenditure

One effect of the tremendous voluntary support currently being provided to the association is to mask underlying issues. In the last twelve months association costs have continued to increase in areas such as insurance, web hosting and bank charges. While we can assume that organisational costs will increase annually, we cannot simply assume that current levels of voluntary support will continue.

4. Proposal regarding League and Cup Fees

Although an increase in league fees had been mooted last year, no proposal to do so was suggested at the AGM. This year, in order to address the increase in routine organisation costs it is suggested that league fees increase by £2 per team, an increase which would increase income by £66 per year if the number of teams participating in the Norfolk League remains the same.

It is further proposed that it should continue to be free to enter teams in cup competitions.

5. And finally....

Thanks again to Phil Sneesby, our auditor. Once again, Phil has ensured that the annual NCCA accounts are correct and unflawed, something that would not be the case if he was not involved.

Andy Hartland
NCCA Treasurer
28th May 2026

The proposal in item 4 to increase league fees by £2 per team, making the new fee £40 per team, was agreed by the meeting.

There were no further questions raised at the meeting regarding the report or accounts.

5.4 League/Cup Controller

Stephen Livermore had provided the following report which he summarised for the meeting. He thanked team captains for their support throughout the season, including the prompt entering of results. The new season is proposed to commence on 14th September 2026 (with allowance made for the start of the academic year at UEA). Following a number of match rearrangements required in the previous season Stephen asked for clubs to check any problems when the new season proposed fixtures are issued and to let him know as early as possible.

Setting Up

We had 2 new team enter the league (Kings Lynn Knights and Wymondham Sparrows). This gave us 33 teams compared to 31 in the previous season. Taking promotion / demotion and preferences into account, 8 teams were placed in each of Divisions 1,2 and 3, and 9 teams in Division 4.

13 teams entered the Williamson Cup (2 less than the previous season), 14 entered the Rapidplay Handicap Cup (1 less than the previous season), and 7 entered the Norfolk & Suffolk Cup (1 less than the previous season).

We again started the season early, on Monday 22nd September. The extra weeks help to accommodate the fixtures with so many league and cup teams, especially for clubs needing to keep certain dates free from league and cup fixtures. It also provides space towards the end of the season for re-arranged matches.

Operation

The team captains did an excellent job of entering and verifying match results without delay, and keeping to the board order and guesting rules, making my job much easier.

There were some issues with uneven distribution of league fixtures for some teams. The league fixtures are generated automatically by the system, taking account of weeks reserved for cup fixtures, bank holidays, and dates set aside by clubs for other purposes. It is not a straightforward task with so many league teams and some unevenness of distribution is unavoidable. As last year I will make the fixture available for a day or so before declaring them operational. This will give an opportunity for comment and manual adjustment.

There were also issues with the scheduling of the Williamson Cup and Plate quarter finals. I had tried to fit the cup events into fewer weeks to give the league more room, but it did not work out. If the number of league teams remains high, I am proposing to start next season as early as Monday 14 September to give sufficient room for all the league and cup fixtures. I have prepared a draft of the calendar of league and cup weeks for next season and invite comment, see

<https://lms.englishchess.org.uk/lms/orgpage/737>

Results

The following sections summarise the results for each cup event and each league division.

Williamson Cup

Winners: Broadland Kingfishers

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
<p><u>Fakenham Oddfellows</u> 1/2 - 3 1/2 <u>Norfolk & Norwich W Cup</u></p>	<p><u>Broadland Kingfishers</u> 2 1/2 - 1 1/2 <u>Norwich Dons Select</u></p>		
<p><u>Wimbletons</u> 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 <u>Broadland Kingfishers</u></p>		<p><u>Lowestoft</u> 2 - 2 <u>Norfolk & Norwich W Cup Reserves</u></p>	
<p><u>St Johns Arraz</u> 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 <u>Lowestoft</u></p>	<p><u>Lowestoft</u> 2 1/2 - 1 1/2 <u>Broadland Warblers</u></p>		
<p><u>Broadland Warblers</u> 2 - 2 <u>Wymondham</u></p>			<p><u>Norfolk & Norwich W Cup Reserves</u> 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 <u>Broadland Kingfishers</u></p>
<p><u>North Norfolk</u> 1/2 - 3 1/2 <u>Aylsham</u></p>	<p><u>St Johns Woodpushers</u> 1/2 - 3 1/2 <u>Norfolk & Norwich W Cup</u></p>		
<p>v</p>		<p><u>Norfolk & Norwich W Cup</u> 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 <u>Broadland Kingfishers</u></p>	
<p>v</p>	<p><u>Aylsham</u> 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 <u>Norfolk & Norwich W Cup Reserves</u></p>		
<p>v</p>			

Williamson Plate

Winners: St Johns Woodpushers

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
<p><u>Wymondham</u> 2 - 2 <u>Fakenham Oddfellows</u></p>	<p><u>St Johns Arraz</u> 0 - 4 <u>Wimbletons</u></p>		
v		<p><u>Wimbletons</u> 2 - 2 <u>Wymondham</u></p>	
v	<p><u>Broadland Warblers</u> 0 - 4 <u>St Johns Woodpushers</u></p>		
v			<p><u>Wimbletons</u> 1 - 3 <u>St Johns Woodpushers</u></p>
v	<p><u>Norwich Dons Select</u> 4 - 0 <u>Aylsham</u></p>		
v		<p><u>St Johns Woodpushers</u> 3 - 1 <u>Norwich Dons Select</u></p>	
v	<p><u>Wymondham</u> 3½ - ½ <u>North Norfolk</u></p>		
v			

Rapidplay Handicap Cup

Winners: Aylsham

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
<p><u>Lowestoft</u> ½ - 7½ <u>Norfolk & Norwich Knights</u></p>	<p><u>Norwich Dons Hawks</u> 4 - 4 <u>Broadland Swifts</u></p>		
<p><u>Norfolk & Norwich Land Sharks</u> 2 - 6 <u>Broadland Swifts</u></p>		<p><u>Aylsham</u> 4 - 4 <u>Broadland Fliers</u></p>	
<p><u>Wymondham</u> 1 - 7 <u>Norwich Dons Hares</u></p>	<p><u>Norfolk & Norwich Knights</u> 6½ - 1½ <u>St Johns Drunken Knights</u></p>		
<p><u>Norfolk & Norwich Juniors</u> 4 - 4 <u>Aylsham</u></p>			<p><u>Aylsham</u> 3½ - 4½ <u>Broadland Swifts</u></p>
<p><u>St Johns Drunken Knights</u> 7 - 1 <u>North Norfolk Lobsters</u></p>	<p><u>Broadland Fliers</u> 4½ - 3½ <u>Norwich Dons Hares</u></p>		
<p><u>Broadland Fliers</u> 8 - 0 <u>St Johns Bullz</u></p>		<p><u>Broadland Swifts</u> 2½ - 5½ <u>Norfolk & Norwich Knights</u></p>	
<p>v</p>	<p><u>Aylsham</u> 4 - 4 <u>North Norfolk Shrimps</u></p>		
<p>v</p>			

Norfolk & Suffolk Cup

Winners: Norfolk & Norwich

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
<p><u>St Johns Norwich</u> 2½ - 3½ <u>Broadland</u></p>	<p><u>Norwich Dons</u> 3 - 3 <u>Broadland</u></p>	<p><u>Broadland</u> 1½ - 4½ <u>Norfolk & Norwich</u></p>
<p><u>Norwich Dons</u> 4 - 2 <u>North Norfolk</u></p>		
<p><u>Aylsham</u> 2 - 4 <u>Norfolk & Norwich</u></p>		
<p>v</p>	<p><u>Norfolk & Norwich</u> 6 - 0 <u>Lowestoft</u></p>	

League Division 1

Winners: Broadland Bitterns, Runners Up: Norfolk & Norwich A
League Table

Team	Play	Won	Draw	Lost	For
Broadland Bitterns	14	12	0	2	44
Norfolk & Norwich A	14	12	1	1	40
Norwich Dons Avengers	14	9	2	3	34½
Norfolk & Norwich B	14	6	1	7	26
St Johns Crusaders	14	6	0	8	24
Norwich Dons Buccaneers	14	4	2	8	23
Aylsham Spitfires	14	3	0	11	18½
Norfolk & Norwich C	14	1	0	13	14

Top 10 Scorers

	Points Scored	Games Played	Performance
Leverett, Jason L	12	13	92.3%
Walker, Martin G	11.5	14	82.1%
Collinson, Benjamin PQ	11	14	78.6%
Orton, Stephen LA	10	13	76.9%
Bonafont, Philip R	9.5	14	67.9%
Hughes, Roy	9.5	12	79.2%
Bradey, Joseph E	8.5	12	70.8%
Samarakoon, Vivash	7.5	11	68.2%
New, Alexander	7.5	11	68.2%
McEwan, Ken B	7.5	11	68.2%
Hall, David E	7.5	14	53.6%

Top 10 Performers (with 6 or more games played)

	Points Scored	Games Played	Performance
Leverett, Jason L	12	13	92.3%
Walker, Martin G	11.5	14	82.1%
Hughes, Roy	9.5	12	79.2%
Collinson, Benjamin PQ	11	14	78.6%
Orton, Stephen LA	10	13	76.9%
Taylor, Matthew	5	7	71.4%
Bradey, Joseph E	8.5	12	70.8%
New, Alexander	7.5	11	68.2%
McEwan, Ken B	7.5	11	68.2%
Samarakoon, Vivash	7.5	11	68.2%

League Division 2

Winners: St Johns Templars, Runners Up: Wymondham Eagles

League Table

Team	Play	Won	Draw	Lost	For
St Johns Templars	14	9	4	1	35½
Wymondham Eagles	14	9	3	2	34½
North Norfolk Seals	14	9	1	4	34½
Lowestoft A	14	4	4	6	28½
Lowestoft B	14	6	3	5	25
Norwich Dons Cavaliers	14	3	4	7	23
Kings Lynn Bishops	14	3	1	10	21½
Fakenham Oddfellows	14	3	0	11	20½

Top 10 Scorers

	Points Scored	Games Played	Performance
Galletti, Armando	11	19	57.9%
Perkins, Chris	10.5	13	80.8%
Good, Nick	9	11	81.8%
Gibbons, Michael J	8.5	13	65.4%
Twitchell, David J	8.5	13	65.4%
Yelverton, Ben	8.5	12	70.8%
Dekker, Cor	8	13	61.5%
Payne, David J	8	10	80.0%
Larter, Nigel J	7	14	50.0%
Flynn, Chris	7	18	38.9%

Top 10 Performers (with 6 or more games played)

	Points Scored	Games Played	Performance
Good, Nick	9	11	81.8%
Perkins, Chris	10.5	13	80.8%
Payne, David J	8	10	80.0%
Ansell, Trevor J	6.5	9	72.2%
Yelverton, Ben	8.5	12	70.8%
Rickard, Robert E	5.5	8	68.8%
Twitchell, David J	8.5	13	65.4%
Gibbons, Michael J	8.5	13	65.4%
Klepikovska, Larysa	6.5	10	65.0%
Dekker, Cor	8	13	61.5%

League Division 3

Winners: UEA Chess Society, Runners Up: St Johns Bishops

League Table

Team	Play	Won	Draw	Lost	For
UEA Chess Society	14	10	4	0	38½
St Johns Bishops	14	9	1	4	33
Broadland Swallowtails	14	5	3	6	28½
North Norfolk Crabs	14	6	3	5	28½
Norwich Dons Daredevils	14	7	2	5	27½
Wymondham Owls	14	5	2	7	23
Aylsham Hurricanes	14	2	3	9	22½
Wymondham Wrens	14	1	4	9	21½

Top 10 Scorers

	Points Scored	Games Played	Performance
Gendj, Ali	10	11	90.9%
Enslin, Gerhard	9.5	12	79.2%
Carman, Bruce M	8.5	14	60.7%
Guest, Rufus	8.5	9	94.4%
Sneesby, Phil	8	14	57.1%
May, David C	8	10	80.0%
Parks, Craig	7	15	46.7%
Patel, Mann Tejasbhai	6.5	7	92.9%
Picksley, Robert	6.5	19	34.2%
O'Neill, Oliver	6.5	8	81.3%
Larner, Tony R	6	13	46.2%

Top 10 Performers (with 6 or more games played)

	Points Scored	Games Played	Performance
Guest, Rufus	8.5	9	94.4%
Patel, Mann Tejasbhai	6.5	7	92.9%
Gendj, Ali	10	11	90.9%
O'Neill, Oliver	6.5	8	81.3%
May, David C	8	10	80.0%
Enslin, Gerhard	9.5	12	79.2%
Blackbourn, Adam	5	7	71.4%
Jiang, Mason	5.5	8	68.8%
Payne, Colin R	4	6	66.7%
Baldock, Mark Philip	5	8	62.5%

League Division 4

Winners: Norfolk & Norwich D, Runners Up: Norfolk & Norwich Pawns

League Table

Team	Play	Won	Draw	Lost	For
Norfolk & Norwich D	16	9	4	3	41½
Norfolk & Norwich Pawns	16	11	3	2	40
North Walsham Phoenixes	16	8	5	3	37
Wymondham Finches	16	6	3	7	32
St Johns Knights	16	7	3	6	30½
Kings Lynn Knights	16	5	4	7	30½
Aylsham Gladiators	16	7	1	8	29½
Broadland Harriers	16	5	1	10	27
Wymondham Sparrows	16	1	2	13	19

Top 10 Scorers

	Points Scored	Games Played	Performance
Shaw, Olly	11.5	15	76.7%
Vallverdu, Diana	9.5	15	63.3%
Tripathi, Amit	7.5	11	68.2%
Greef, Damian	7.5	9	83.3%
Morgan, Henry	7.5	14	53.6%
Moore, David W	7	10	70.0%
Loveday, George	7	16	43.8%
Nicholls, Mark	7	12	58.3%
Woodburn, James	6.5	15	43.3%
Casey, James	6.5	10	65.0%
Lott, Edward	6.5	7	92.9%
Jennings, Jim	6.5	13	50.0%

Top 10 Performers (with 6 or more games played)

	Points Scored	Games Played	Performance
Lott, Edward	6.5	7	92.9%
Clayton, Gerry	6	7	85.7%
Clarke, Malcolm	5	6	83.3%
Greef, Damian	7.5	9	83.3%
Shaw, Olly	11.5	15	76.7%
Sargent, Gregory P	4.5	6	75.0%
Halifax, Matthew	5	7	71.4%
Moore, David W	7	10	70.0%
Tripathi, Amit	7.5	11	68.2%
Martin, Rupert P	4	6	66.7%

Alex Niedzwiedzki Memorial Trophy

This goes to the player with the highest percentage performance in NCCA League and Cup standard play competitions having played 10 or more games. This year the trophy goes to Ali Gendj.

Top contenders:

	Points Scored	Games Played	Performance
Gendj, Ali	10	11	90.9%
Leverett, Jason L	17	19	89.5%
Good, Nick	19.5	22	88.6%
May, David C	9	11	81.8%
Walker, Martin G	16	20	80.0%
Collinson, Benjamin PQ	15.5	20	77.5%
Shaw, Olly	11.5	15	76.7%
Orton, Stephen LA	14.5	19	76.3%
Hughes, Roy	12	17	70.6%
Taylor, Matthew	7	10	70.0%

John Charman Trophy

This goes to the highest scoring player in NCCA League matches and rated under 1600 having played 6 or more games. This year the trophy goes to Bruce Carman.

Top contenders:

	Points Scored	Games Played	Performance
Carman, Bruce M	13	22	59.1%
Clayton, Gerry	11.5	19	60.5%
Enslin, Gerhard	10	15	66.7%
Vallverdu, Diana	9.5	16	59.4%
Vallet, Jon	9.5	23	41.3%
Woodburn, James	8.5	19	44.7%
Tripathi, Amit	8.5	12	70.8%
Griffin, Martin	8.5	14	60.7%
Parks, Craig	8.5	20	42.5%
Sneesby, Phil	8	15	53.3%
Sargent, Gregory P	8	16	50.0%

Detailed Results

All of the details of this season and past season results are available to view on the ECF League Management System, see <https://lms.englishchess.org.uk/lms/organisation/247>

The events are listed down the left-hand side. Select one of these and you will see a series of tabs that include tables of results and player statistics.

Roll of Honour

The Roll of Honour on the NCCA web site will be updated with all of this season's results. See <https://www.norfolkchess.org/rollofhonour.html>

Stephen Livermore, NCCA Competitions Controller
June 2026

5.5 – 5.8 Events Organiser

John Wickham summarised the following reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He confirmed that the Norfolk Championships will be held this year on the 3rd and 4th October 2026.

Events Organiser 2026

We held the usual 4 events, and all were well attended. I am getting used to having a lot of late entries with the events filling up in the week before. The Tithe Barn has been the main venue, mainly because it is familiar and also that as a regular user we can get preferential rates. Finding alternative venues is difficult and I have not found suitable ones that can provide what we need in availability and tables.

For Great Yarmouth the Racecourse is an excellent venue but it is expensive and we need a high level of sponsorship to avoid having to raise entry fees to a high level. Fortunately, Bodo Ltd have helped us in providing a high level of sponsorship and I am hoping that they will continue to support us in 2027. We should minute a vote of thanks to them and our other supporters. I have a pencilled in date for next year of 3rd and 4th April 2027 at the same rate as this year.

The costs of venues have increased, with the Tithe Barn rising 10% for this year's Norfolk Championships. Although I have kept entry fees at their current level for several years I will have to make a modest increase this year.

I am indebted to many who have helped in setting up and clearing away but I must thank Mike Read who has made sure he is available to help me despite his other commitments. Thank you Mike.

For Great Yarmouth, I do need someone to work with me who understands the Laws of Chess and can act as an arbiter. This is too big an event for me to do on my own. Adrian Elwin did help me this year but he has many other commitments and is very busy as the ECF Manager of the British Chess Championships. Also, I am getting to the age where I probably have a few more years before I decide to step down. It is not imminent but there needs to be consideration to a succession plan.

Norfolk Championships

Since we had a record early entry a couple of years ago, I have kept the capacity for the event at 52 rather than the previous 48 but not really expecting to reach it. This year that looked unlikely with entries coming in slowly but then they started increasing in the last two weeks. We did have 52 enter but had 51 playing which with the top 24 in the Championship meant 27 in the Challengers. The Championship was probably the strongest we have had. It was decided in the final round with Jaden Jermy and Andrew Brett fighting to a draw putting them both on 4 points. On the sum of opponents scores Andrew was the Champion (Jaden took a half point bye which is not counted) and a new name is the trophy.

The Challengers had some strong players and in the final round it was tied between Jim McAvoy and Henry Morgan. This was also decided by the sum of opponents scores with Jim crowned as the Challengers Champions.

Full details below of the other winners. Brian Cunningham had a very good tournament and had the highest percentage increase on rating of an U1650 player winning the Austin McDonnell trophy. Mike Read is a great asset to this event in his judging of the Best Game prizes, something that usually keeps him up till the early hours. With the high entry we were able to offer 3 prizes this year.

Championship

1st = Andrew Brett (Champion)

Jaden Jermy

3rd Vivash Samarakoon

Challengers

1st = Jim McAvoy (Champion)

Henry Morgan

3rd = Danilo Gouveia Wasques

David Owen

Brian Cunningham

Stephen Livermore

U1940 = Michael Gibbons (Champion)

Steve Moore

Trevor Ansell

Sam Gaffney

U1825 Jim McAvoy

U1640 Henry Morgan

Austin McDonnell Brian Cunningham

Best Game Prizes:

Main Best Game- Trevor Ansell

Championship Other Best Game – Jaden Jermy

Challengers Best Game- Brian Cunningham

Norfolk FIDE Rated Rapidplay

I introduced FIDE ratings, in addition to ECF ratings this year. Entries were a bit slow in coming in but as seems to be happening more often these days there was an onrush in the weeks before leading to 53 playing, 20 in the Championship, 21 in the Challengers and 12 in the U1450. We were fortunate in receiving several donations that boosted the Prize fund and my thanks to them for their support.

The Championship was strong with ratings from 1769 to 2429. In the final Round Jaden Jermy was a half point ahead of Alan Merry. He was playing the in-form Dan Hedges and drew. Alan won against Jason Leverett which left Jaden and Alan as joint winners. Stephen Orton and Martin Walker both won to put them into joint third with Dan Hedges. Dan was also the winner of the rating prize, so Martin and Stephen shared to third prize.

Jaden as the highest scoring Norfolk Player in the Championship holds the new Terry Turner Cup for one year.

The Challengers had 21 as one player arrived during the second round and I had added a new entrant. The ratings ranged from 1266 to 1750.

The final round had Andrew McMillan break Edward Lott's winning streak putting them both on 5 points and they were joined by Dave May giving us three joint winners. Obie Matten had a victory over Stephen Livermore (a nearly 400 points rating difference.) Obie finished with 4 points and won the U1600 rating prize. His rating performance was a spectacular 1715.

The U1450 had ratings ranged from 717 to 1382. The star performance was by Mario Gomez who scored 6/6 and as the highest scoring Norfolk player in the Challengers and U1450 holds the Peter Burnett cup for one year. For those below Mario the places fluctuated until the final two rounds where George Potter (another Norwich Juniors player) scored 2 wins to move onto 4 out of 6 and was joined by Chris Bolt who scored the same. They both shared 2nd place. The Junior prize went to another Norwich Juniors player Faizan Alum who scored 3 out of 6.

Championship

1st = Alan Merry 5/6

Jaden Jermy

3rd = Martin Walker 4/6

Stephen Orton

Rating U2000 Daniel Hedges 4/6

Challengers (U1750)

1st = Edward Lott 5/6

David May

Andrew MacMillan

Rating U1600 Obie Matten 4/6

U1450

1st Mario Gomez 6/6

2nd = George Potter 4/6

Chris Bolt

Junior Kaizan Alam 3/6

Terry Turner Cup Jaden Jermy

Peter Burnett Cup Mario Gomez

Great Yarmouth Chess Congress 2026

By the weekend before the Congress, we had just under 90 entrants and I was looking at a possible 100. While there were more entries there was also 8 withdrawals, so the total ended up at 93, being 13 in the Open, 38 in the Major and 42 in the Minor. With such a good level of entry I was able to add extra rating prizes and as well as Junior and Female prizes.

As indicated the Open had 13 entries and with 8 of them seeking a half point bye in round 3 and 1 bye per round that was covered by the other 5 players. I could foresee problems.

In a hard-fought game that was one of the last to finish, Alan Merry playing Martin Walker, was for a while on increments and it looked like it could go either way but Alan eventually triumphed in an exciting game to take first place. Phil Bonafont won his game moving him onto 4 points to take second place. Martin was third. The U2000 rating prize was shared between Gerald Moore and Piotr Wasilak.

In the Major we had 38 entrants. Two juniors with P ratings entered, Obie Matten 1463 and Mylo McLean 1376 placed 37 and 38 respectively. In the final Round Chris Perkins beat Stephen Livermore to go clear on 4.5 points and take first place. As the highest scoring Norfolk registered player, he holds the Peter Vivian Memorial Shield. Mylo had a downfloat to play Isaak Leverett and won his game and go to 4 points. As all the others on 3 points drew Mylo was second, a great achievement for the bottom seed and a rating performance of 2075 emphasises how well he played and that he is a prospect for the future. Obie was one of the six in third place and received the Junior prize. Judith Heffer who was also joint third was awarded the Female prize. The 4 others shared the third prize and the U1750 rating prize. Alan Page won the U1650 rating prize.

In the Minor we started with 42 but one player failed to turn up. There were 8 juniors and 3 females contesting the Junior and female prizes.

The final round saw Adriaan Mouton beat Bodo Rissman to take first place. Second place was tied between Joshua Welbourne and John Kent on 4 points. Glyn Hill won the U1500 rating prize and Rinaldi Filipe the U1400 rating prize.

4 juniors, Roger Slough, Jai Jai Fincham-Richardson, Luca Stamp and Kyria Leech shared the junior prize. Kyria also will hold the Kathy Hindle Memorial Shield as the highest scoring Norfolk registered female. She is the first winner of this trophy.

The female prize went to Steph Brown.

Open

1ST Alan Merry 4.5

2nd Phil Bonafont 4

3rd Martin Walker 3.5

Rating U2000 Gerald Moore

Piotr Wasilak 3

Major

1st Chris Perkins 4.5

2nd Mylo McLean 4

3rd = John Lambert

Stephen Livermore

Jim McAvoy

David Owen

Judith Heffer
Obie Matten 3.5
Rating U1750 John Lambert
Stephen Livermore
Jim McAvoy
David Owen
Obie Matten
Rating U1650 Alan Page 3
Junior Obie Matten 3.5
Female Judith Heffer 3.5
Minor
1st Adriaan Mouton 4.50
2nd= Joshua Welbourne
John Kent 4
Rating U1500 Glyn Hill 3.5
Rating U1400 Rinaldi Felipe 3
Junior Roger Slough
Jai Jai Fincham-Richardson
Luca Stamp
Kyria Leech 2.5
Female Stephanie Brown 3
Peter Vivian Shield **Chris Perkins**
Kathy Hindle Shield **Kyria Leech**

6th Norfolk Blitz

We reached the limit of 40 entrants two days before the event but 2 did not turn up on the day leaving 38 to play. This was split 18 in the Championship and 20 in the Challengers.

The limit is because being Blitz the games are played quickly which leads to illegal moves or pieces being displaced. I was kept busy in adding 1 minute due to illegal moves. 40 was stretching things doing it on my own.

The Championship was strong with the top player, Martin Walker, at 2214 and the bottom player Obie Matten at 1442. Mike Harris was making a return to this event.

Martin and Mike started off well and they met in round 4 when Martin won and it looked like he was pulling ahead. However in further rounds Mike managed a string of wins where Martin dropped points (Losing to Ashley Robinson and drawing games) In the end Mike just needed to draw his last game. He now holds the Greg Tebble Cup for a year.

Jason Leverett was second and Martin Third with Ashley winning the U1900 rating prize.

The Challengers had 14 Juniors and juniors took all the prizes. The winner was Owen Langston from Ely with Jai Jai Fincham-Richardson and Sam Farley joint second. There then was a four way tie for the Juniors Prizes, Saikrishna Shunmugam, Oliver Hunt, Oliver Nichols and Sam Goodger.

Championship

1st Michael Harris
2nd Jason Leverett
3rd Martin Walker
Rating U1900 Ashley Robinson

Challengers

1st Owen Langston
2nd= Sam Farley
Jai Jai Fincham Richardson
Rating U1300 Jai Jai Fincham Richardson
Junior= Saikrishna Shunmugam

Oliver Hunt
Sam Goodger
Oliver Nichols
Greg Tebble Cup Michael Harris

John Wickham 30/5/26

5.9 County Teams – Captains Reports

County First Team Report 2025-26:

Antony Hall had sent the following report which was read out to the meeting by Alan Page:

A quick recap... a few days after last year's AGM, the First Team faced Devon in the SF of the Minor Counties. The teams had almost identical average ratings and the match was tied 8-8, with Norfolk winning on board count. We then faced neighbours Cambs in the Final – this match also ended 8-8, but it was our turn to lose on board count.

In the last three seasons, we have lost twice in the Final and once in the SF, all on board count after 8-8 draws. I think the team is getting a bit sick of board count!

Anyway, to this season; as the KEVII Memorial Hall was not available, we reverted to nearby Turner Hall in Newmarket for our matches. Suffolk made a welcome return to the Open section with a rotating captaincy, so we were back to four teams (and six matches). As usual, I was non-playing captain, apart from the opening two matches when I forgot to include one of the players when announcing the team, so had to step in on the day.

Like last season, it was a battle for the title between ourselves and Cambridgeshire. Five wins and a draw saw Norfolk finish top of the EACU Open Championship and retain the Iceni Trophy for the third consecutive season. We were the only unbeaten county, and accepted our nomination for the Minor Counties alongside Cambs who finished second.

With only six counties entering the Minor, Caissa smiled upon us as Norfolk was awarded a bye straight to the SF for the second consecutive season. We will face old rivals Lincolnshire on Saturday 13th June at Peterborough Bridge Club. It's been ten years since we won the Minor Counties and, while we've come very close in recent seasons, it would be good to get Norfolk's name back on the trophy.

A total of 21 players have represented the team in the EACU matches, including three debutants (Silverio Abasolo, Joe Bradey & William Bartram). Roy Hughes top scored (5½/6) and also had the best rating performance (2297).

As ever, I would like to thank everybody who has played for and supported the team this season, with a special mention to John Wickham for preparing the kit and clocks.

I am willing to continue in the role of First Team Captain.

Antony Hall
Norfolk First Team Captain 2025-26

U1850 Captain's Report:

David Payne gave the following report to the meeting:

Norfolk U 1850 Season

With a number of 1850+ players dropping below 1850 in September I felt confident that we would have a good season. The first round of games went as planned with two wins but in the 2nd round we slipped up and got crushed by Hertfordshire. Fortunately, that was our only loss at the EACU.

Norfolk U1850 Results

Suffolk u1850 5½ - 10½ Norfolk u1850

Norfolk u1850 10½ - 5½ Cambridgeshire u1850

Norfolk u1850 5½ - 10½ Hertfordshire u1850

Suffolk u1850 6½ - 9½ Norfolk u1850

Cambridgeshire u1850 6½ - 9½ Norfolk u1850

Norfolk u1850 9 - 7 Hertfordshire u1850

Name	Performance Score	Games	Including Defaults	Excluding Defaults	
Blackwell, Robin	2177	2	2	100%	100%
Bowler, Hazel	2105	3½	4	87.5%	87.5%
Payne, David J	1979	2½	3	87.5%	83.3%
Sallis, Ethan	1912	1½	2	75%	75%
Payne, Colin R	1888	1½	2	75%	75%
Hartland, Andrew D	1906	4	6	66.7%	66.7%
Galletti, Armando	1767	4	6	66.7%	66.7%
Flynn, Chris	1769	4	6	66.7%	66.7%
Hughes, Mervyn J	1853	3½	6	58.3%	58.3%
Hall, Antony C	1850	3½	6	58.3%	58.3%
McAvoy, Jim	1820	3½	6	58.3%	58.3%
Sevciuc, Evghenii	1741	3½	6	58.3%	58.3%
Hall, David E	1809	3	6	50%	50%
Livermore, Stephen	1736	1½	3	50%	50%
Klepikovska, Larysa	1262	0	1	50%	0%
Shah, Biran S	1749	2	4	50%	50%
Perkins, Chris	1768	1	2	50%	50%
Wickham, John R	1739	½	1	50%	50%
Twitchell, David J	1716	2½	6	41.7%	41.7%
Good, Nick	1613	1½	4	37.5%	37.5%
Gaffney, Samuel	1668	2	6	33.3%	33.3%
Connor, Barry	1482	½	2	25%	25%
Larter, Nigel J	1522	½	2	25%	25%
Mirza, Humayun	1478	½	2	25%	25%

League table for u1850 County Championship

Team	Play	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Points	SP	MP	IM
Norfolk CCA u1850	6	5	0	1	54½	41½	10	0	0	0
Suffolk CCA u1850	6	3	1	2	49	47	7	0	0	0
Hertfordshire CA u1850	6	3	0	3	47½	48½	6	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire CCA u1850	6	0	1	5	41	55	1	0	0	0

SP = Season Penalties, MP = Match Penalties, IM = Incomplete Matches,

Quarter Final Match

U1850 Sat 9th May 2026 12:45 Winner: Home

Board	Rating	Nottinghamshire	V	Norfolk	Rating
1 (B)	1829 (1836)	Graham, Oliver	0 - 1	Bowler, Hazel	1842 (1969)
2 (W)	1848 (1853)	Lane, Tim A	½ - ½	Hall, Antony C	1845 (1891)
3 (B)	1834 (1850)	Humphreys, Stuart	1 - 0	Hughes, Mervyn J	1835 (1863)
4 (W)	1802 (1789)	Poole, Tim R	0 - 1	Blackwell, Robin	1794 (1824)
5 (B)	1847 (1805)	Almeida Lessa, Felipe	½ - ½	Twitchell, David J	1849 (1806)
6 (W)	0115 ()	New Player	0 - 1	Perkins, Chris	1765 (1811)
7 (B)	1764 (1759)	Bentley, Alex	0 - 1	Payne, David J	1732 (1774)
8 (W)	1700 (1733)	Hart, John	0 - 1	Shah, Biran S	1781 (1774)
9 (B)	1720 (1708)	Walentowicz, Stefan	0 - 1	McAvoy, Jim	1756 (1754)
10 (W)	1755 (1682)	Graham, Neil	0 - 1	Good, Nick	1612 (1775)
11 (B)	1719 (1687)	Taylor, Robert P	0 - 1	Sallis, Ethan	1663 (1750)
12 (W)	1598 (1684)	Talmacel, Marian-Silviu	1 - 0	Collins, Ian	1780 (1637)
13 (B)	1678 (1644)	Thomson, James L	0 - 1	Sevciuc, Evghenii	1716 (1711)
14 (W)	1716 (1659)	Radford, Mark SR	1 - 0	Thrower, Ethan J	1675 (1644)
15 (B)	1665 (1622)	Willoughby, Robert H	0 - 1	Payne, Colin R	1623 (1658)
16 (W)	1665 (1628)	Wright, Nigel	½ - ½	Wickham, John R	1653 (1622)
Average	1641		4½ - 11½		1746

Our Semi-Final Match is v Merseyside U1850 on Sunday 14th June @ Westwood Teaching Centre, Coventry. We have another strong team available and have high hopes of getting to the final where we will meet the winner of Yorkshire v Suffolk. The final is scheduled for 4th July.

U1650 Captain's Report

Brian Cunningham gave the following report to the meeting:

This year, Norfolk entered a U1650 team in the East Anglian Chess Union Championship for the first time since before Covid. On the day, we faced Cambridgeshire and found ourselves outgraded on almost every board. Even though our opponents defaulted on two boards, we still lost by the same 6.5 - 5.5 margin, morning and afternoon.

Despite losing we still qualified for the EACU's second nomination to the national stages. However, as we would potentially face a preliminary round on the same weekend as the Gt. Yarmouth Congress, and we would need to field 16 players rather than 12, I decided to decline the nomination this time.

We can be competitive in this event next year, but only if our wealth of strong players in the low 1600 rating range step up to the challenge.

Brian Cunningham
U1650 County Team Captain

U1450 Captain's Report:

Eric Bradley had sent the following report which John Wickham read out to the meeting:

For the record:

It has been a privilege to Capt the U1450 team. It is a number of years since we entered a team at this level.

I would like to thank all those who have represented the County. Matches have been close, but we have made

it through to the Semi-Final v Kent on 13th June. The number of Juniors in the team was tremendous to see and

puts the County in a strong position going forward. Reggie at 13 playing board one for us, Ivan Vallet,

Roger Slough and Sai being ultra consistent. Thank's to the other Capt's acknowledging Jai Jai's game against Staffordshire.

Great to see Heather and Kyria playing for us.

Also to all the 'old hands' who are always super reliable.

Onwards and upwards next year.

Eric

5.10 Junior Organiser

Matt Perry had provided the following report which was read out at the meeting by Alan Page:

Norfolk Junior Chess 2026

It has been another successful year for Junior chess in Norfolk.

The majority of the county's junior players attend the Norwich Junior Chess Club run by Stephen Orton. Others come from clubs including the Broadland Junior Club, Wymondham Junior Club and Aylsham Junior Club.

This year brought about the return of Inter-County Junior Chess with the a Junior Jamboree event which took place in Newmarket on the 12th October, thanks to lots of hard work from Andy Hartland who organised the event. The tournament was won by Cambridgeshire, with Norfolk coming in second place. Next year's event will be taking place in Whittlesford on Sunday 11th October.

There have been three chess tournaments in Norfolk this year for Junior players only. These have been the Norfolk and Norwich Challenge, the Broadland Junior Tournament and The Norfolk Junior Championships.

The Norfolk under 9 champion for 2026 is Aken Ranatunga, the under 10 is champion is Arjun Reddy Pakanati, the under 11 champion is Saikrishna Shunmugan, the under 14 champion is Obie Matten and the under 18 champion Dan Joal. Both Obie and Dan Joal retained the titles they won last year.

The Norfolk Junior Player of the Year shield this year has been awarded to Dan Joal for his excellent results in the tournaments he has taken part in this year. The Junior Personality of the Year award goes to Mylo McLean for superb results in both the Junior Championships and the Great Yarmouth Congress. At the event in Great Yarmouth he was the lowest rated participant in his section but finished 2nd.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who supported myself and Norfolk Junior chess this year, including John Wickham, Stephen Orton and Andy Hartland. Without this support all of these successes would not have been possible.

5.11 ECF Delegate:

John Wickham summarised delivered the following report which had been circulated prior to the meeting:

ECF Delegate 2026

At the AGM in October Richard Walsh from Lancashire was elected as the CEO. This was part of a big change in the Directors that had started early in 2025. The refreshed Board has been reviewing the way many aspects and improving on the good work done previously. Richard has provided a regular update in Chessmoves and these are worth a read.

With Kevin Stavely retiring as the Manager of the British Chess Championships, Adrian Elwin who had been assisting him was appointed as the new Manager. Running this event is a hard task but I am sure Adrian will make it a success.

The ECF Grassroots initiative has proved a success and has made over 130 grants. There is still money available and as the East of England Coordinator I have recently approved some more grants. These are mainly to schools but include social clubs. A review is being undertaken by ECF and hopefully it will continue.

Another change from the AGM was the date of the Finance Council Meeting from April to 10th June (an evening zoom meeting). This was to align more with the accounts and budget setting which are the main functions of the meeting. The financial position is good, helped by the DCMS grants which has staged payments over a three-year period. The money is for elite chess and ECF are wisely not using it to cover normal expenditure.

Membership numbers has increased and with it income. However, to rebuild and maintain reserves modest increases in membership fees are proposed at the 10th June meeting. The proposals are:

Category	Current 25/26	Budget 26/27
Junior Bronze	7.50	9
Junior Gold	14	16
Junior Platinum	80	82
Bronze	21	22
Gold	37	38
Platinum	80	82
Supporter	9.99	10
Congress P2P	16	16
Congress P2P (junior players)	6.50	7
Congress P2P (junior only events)	3	3
League game fee	21	22
League game fee (junior)	7.50	9.00

John Wickham
30/5/26

5.12 Website

Trevor Ansell had sent the following report which was read out to the meeting by Alan Page:

The website is performing well, I am not aware of any problems.

As ever I am always happy to consider any enhancements that are proposed, in particular I think it would be good if we could get more photos or images on the site.

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following officer and committee appointments were made:

Chairman	John Wickham
Vice Chairman	Brian Cunningham
Secretary	Alan Page
Treasurer	Andy Hartland
League and Cup Controller	Stephen Livermore
ECF/EACU Delegate	John Wickham
Auditor	Phil Sneesby
Junior Organiser	Matt Perry
Web Site Officer	Trevor Ansell
Trophies Officer	Jeff Dawson
Events Organiser	John Wickham
County 1st team Captain	Antony Hall
U1850 Captain	David Payne
U1650 Captain	Brian Cunningham
U1450 Captain	Eric Bradley
Safeguarding Officer	Martin Walker
Additional EACU delegates	Mike Read, David Payne, Eric Bradley
Additional Committee Member	Mike Read

7. Presentation of trophies

Trophies 2026

Division 1

Winners: Broadland Bitterns

Runners Up: Norfolk & Norwich A

Division 2

Winners: St Johns Templars

Runners Up: Wymondham Eagles

Division 3

Winners: UEA Chess Society

Runners Up: St Johns Bishops

Division 4

Winners: Norfolk & Norwich D

Runner Up: Norfolk & Norwich Pawns

Norfolk & Suffolk Cup – Norfolk & Norwich

Williamson Cup - Broadland Kingfishers

Williamson Plate - St Johns Woodpushers

Rapidplay Handicap Cup - Aylsham

Captain's Rosebowl - Hazel Bowler & Jai Jai Fincham-Richardson

Personality of the Year - Edward Hackford

Alex Niedzwiedski - Ali Gendj

John Charman Shield – Bruce Carman

Peter Vivian Shield – Chris Perkins

8. Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.