

OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Member,

I write to you on behalf of the current committee of NCFCOSA. As you will be aware, the AGM for NCFCOSA which had been called for 30th June 2025 was been postponed. This is not a decision that we took lightly. A new form of notice and agenda is enclosed with this letter. The AGM will now be held on 8th September 2025, it has been arranged for 7pm in the evening and members are encouraged to attend.

The handover of NCFCOSA assets on committee changes has caused some issues. It has not been possible to date to transfer ownership of the NCFCOSA website and so the association has a new website. This can be found at www.nottscountyfcosa.org.uk.

There has also been a data protection issue resulting from the handover of membership lists. In light of this NCFCOSA self-reported to the ICO (which is the regulator for data protection matters). The ICO has since confirmed that NCFCOSA has done everything it should in the circumstances. In particular it stated that it "was satisfied that your organisation is taking the matter seriously and trying to put it right". Nevertheless it did set out some proposed learnings and follow-up actions including:

- Continuing to support affected individuals;
- Reviewing exit processes for committee members to ensure access to systems and controls are revoked on their last day; and
- Ensuring committee members receive appropriate data protection training.

The committee is dedicated to carrying out these actions to prevent any repeat incident(s). The Committee will review outgoing committee procedures and propose a new handover procedure for approval at the AGM, ensuring current and any future committee members are required to carry out data protection training as part of their duties. We also encourage anyone affected by the above to contact us.

The above events have created significant bad feeling resulting in some heated conversations and comments (particularly on social media). The committee apologises unreservedly to anyone caught up in the above. It is important that above everything we all recognise that we are all people bonded by a love of the Magpies.

It has become obvious that NCFCOSA needs to do better at improving member conduct and to this end NCFCOSA will be working with the Football Supporters Association ("FSA") to update the association's governing document and put in place a suite of policies and procedures to be approved at the AGM. These include the following:

- A New Constitution for NCFCOSA;
- Disciplinary Policy;
- Election Policy; and
- Committee Conduct Policy

The relationship between NCFCOSA, the Football Supporters Association and Notts County Football Club have also been affected. Until such time as the previously mentioned governance points are addressed the association has been suspended by the FSA and had its "official" status revoked by Notts County Football Club Supporters Association

the club. We are working hard to reinstate these. However in the meantime, the club have insisted the name of the organisation be changed to remove the word "official" immediately. As a result an EGM has been called for [DATE AND TIME] and a notice for this short general meeting is also enclosed.

Whilst we appreciate this will be disappointing to hear, it is also important not to lose sight of the very good work that has been carried out this year by NCFCOSA, including:

- The ABBA night;
- Diversity Match;
- Two sponsored matches, with members winning seats to attend;
- Two match tickets for members to win each month;
- Paying for and surfing the flag; and
- Donated £200 for the disabled club

We also have plans to donate £2,000 to "NG Unified" which was created to support SEN adults in Nottingham to enjoy football, a sport they love but also build motor skills, communication skills and improve coordination.

We therefore look forward to the AGM and moving forward in a positive way.

In order to ensure fairness in the election process, we have asked the FSA to organise an election committee. The FSA will be in touch in due course with details of how to apply to be on the committee. Please await further correspondence. The AGM itself will also be attended by the FSA and law firm Shakespeare Martineau to ensure that it proceeds properly and legally compliantly.

Yours sincerely,
William Hanson
Chair

Enclosures

EGM Notice and Agenda for 29th July 2025

AGM Notice and Agenda for 8th September 2025