

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT WARRINGTON SPORTS CLUB ON THURSDAY 27TH MAY 1999 AT 7.30 PM

Present: John Hugall	Chairman
Bob Ireland	President
Norman Astbury	General Secretary
Henry Stone	Honorary Legal Advisor & Treasurer designate
Norman Chatburn	Treasurer
Dave Goulden	General Secretary designate
Robin Barlow	Vice President & North West Referee Organiser
Brian Rhodes	Vice President
Brian Oswald	Vice President & Chairman of Merseyside
Anthony Fielden	Vice President

Apologies were received from Bernie Gill, Chairman of Lancashire

There were 78 clubs represented.

1. Apologies for absence – from 5 clubs
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 21st May 1998 were approved
3. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising
4. Our President, Professor Bob Ireland, made presentation of plaques to the winners of each division & plaques and medals to each divisional winner. South Shore were presented with the Division 1 trophy & Cheetham Hill were presented with the Division 2 trophy, as overall winners of that division. The trophies for divisions 3, 4 & 5 were not available. Overall winners of these divisions were Preston Grasshoppers: Division 3; Lancs Health & Racquets: Division 4 & Alderley Edge 3: Division 5.
5. Re-application from associate members
Re-applications were approved from Deeside, Glossop, Mainland, New Mills, Sports Connection and Tollgate.
6. Application from new clubs and additional teams
There were no new club applications and only one additional team application known, although additional team applications may only be fully known at a later date.
7. Rule 5
 - a) The Village Hyde proposal that “First Division matches revert to being played on a Thursday evening” was duly rejected by the meeting following extensive debate.
 - b) If the meeting rejected 5a), the Committee proposed that the words “ for the 1994/95 season” should be deleted from rule 5. The meeting duly passed this.
8. Rule 7
 - a) Alteration to rule 7.6
The committee proposed that the following words should be added to the rule “unless he or she has already played in a league match during that season”. This was to remove the ambiguity in the wording of the existing rule. The meeting duly passed this.
 - b) Alteration to rule 7.7
The Wilmslow proposal that the existing rule should be replaced with the following. “No player may play in the last four league matches of a division or the play-offs unless he or she has played in at least four league matches in that division, or a lower division, for that club earlier in the season”. The meeting duly passed this proposal.
9. Rule 10

Alteration to rule 10, proposed by New Brighton, add the following, "Clubs must make 1½ courts available for each team the club has playing at the home venue".

Before New Brighton put this proposal to the meeting, our President, Prof. Bob Ireland, spoke on the likely consequences of this proposal, both the loss of teams (upward of 70+) and the loss of 8 or 9 single court clubs. Following the proposal being made by New Brighton, a number of clubs and individuals spoke against the proposal. The major issue of this proposal, to prevent late finishes, was discussed. The majority of people speaking against this proposal believed the real problem with late finishes was more about late starts and time wasted at changeovers between matches. The meeting duly rejected this proposal.

10. Rule 13

The committee proposed that the rule be replaced by:

- 13.1 All requests to the Committee for decisions on the Rules must be made within seven days of the match or incident to which they refer and must be sent in writing to the General Secretary with a copy to the appropriate divisional representative.
- 13.2 The Committee shall decide all questions which may be referred to it under Rule 13.1 and may impose such penalties on clubs and/or individuals as it deems appropriate (including, without limitations, the allocation of points and/or the imposition of bans and/or fines) and shall delegate its powers under this Rule 13.2 to a Disputes Sub Committee which shall comprise 3 members of the Committee and be selected at the first committee meeting after the annual general meeting in any year. Other members of the Disputes Sub-Committee may be co-opted during the relevant year as the Committee may decide necessary.
- 13.3 An appeal may be made against any decision of the Disputes Sub-Committee under Rule 13.2 either (a) to the Committee by sending a written request to the General Secretary within [14] days of being notified of the decision appealed against or (b) to the Squash Rackets Association where appropriate in accordance with the Rules or Regulations of the Squash Rackets Association applicable at the time of such appeal. In the case of an appeal to the Committee, the Committee shall appoint an Appeal Sub-Committee comprising of members of the Committee who were not involved in the decision against which the appeal is made and such Appeal Sub-Committee shall have all powers of the Committee under this Rule 13 to impose those penalties which it considers appropriate.

Following an explanation by the Honorary Legal Advisor to the change in wording of the existing rule, the meeting duly passed this.

11. Presentation of Accounts

The Honorary Treasurer, Norman Chatburn, presented the accounts to the meeting. Income had remained much the same as the previous year with the ball sponsorship money covering a small loss in team fees due to fewer teams entering. Expenditure had been geared to match income for the year, following losses in the previous two years. County grants had been reduced, along with small savings in printing, stationery, postage, trophies & engraving, handbooks and various other expenses. The computer has now been depreciated to a nominal written down value of £10, whilst the photocopier and new faxes/answerphones had also been further depreciated. A small net surplus of just over £100 made on the year.

Following the Treasurer's explanation of the Balance Sheet as at 30 April 1999, acceptance of the Treasurer's report and figures were proposed, seconded and duly approved by the meeting.

12. Presentation to Retiring Committee Members

- a) Our President, Prof. Bob Ireland made a presentation, to the retiring General Secretary, Norman Astbury, after 21 years service to the North West Counties Squash League. A glowing tribute to Norman service to Squash at the local, regional and national level. The growth of the North West Counties Squash League to what it is today holds a lot to the dedication, effort and diligence that Norman brought to the job.
- b) Our Chairman, John Hugall also made a similar presentation, to the retiring Treasurer, Norman Chatburn, after 18 years service to the North West Counties Squash League.
- c) Our Chairman also made a further presentation to Anthony Fielden, who retired 2 years ago after 30 years service as our Honorary Legal Advisor.

13. Election of Officers

President	-	R.S.Ireland
Chairman	-	J.Hugall

Treasurer - H.Stone
Hon. Legal Advisor - H.Stone
All the Vice-Presidents were prepared to continue
The Committee proposed N.Astbury & N.Chatburn to be elected Vice-Presidents

The meeting duly elected all.

14. Any Other Business

1. Sponsorship
As of the AGM, there is no sponsor for the 1999/2000 season, even though there has been significant efforts to find one. At a very late stage, 3 potential sponsors have all had to withdraw due changes in their own future business commitments.
2. Dunlop Ball Sponsor
The Dunlop ball sponsorship will continue for the 1999/2000 season.
3. F.R. Monkhouse Ltd., Cheadle Hulme
Monkhouse have offered a sponsorship deal including:
 - a) up to 6 mail-shot for the league during the season
 - b) a 2 for 1 squash racket offer on the Dunlop Revelation 3D Titanium
 - c) a free Dunlop Revelation 3D Titanium racket for the player of the month
 - d) organisation of graded tournament, to be held around Jan/Feb 2000
4. Future Division Structure
The retiring secretary (Norman Astbury) spoke on the pros and cons of changing the current division structure.
During this coming season, the committee will organise a working party of interested personnel to consider this topic.
5. The meeting was asked to offer its congratulation and recognition to several North West based players (Robin Barlow & Mike Garwood) in recently representing England in the Home Internationals.

Dave Goulden
Hon. Secretary to the League