

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT WARRINGTON SPORTS CLUB ON THURSDAY 25TH MAY 2000 AT 7.30 PM

Present: John Hugall	Chairman
Bob Ireland	President
Dave Goulden	General Secretary
Henry Stone	Honorary Legal Advisor & Treasurer
Brian Oswald	Vice President & Chairman of Merseyside
Bud Foster	Division One Representative
Bernie Gill	Chairman of Lancashire
Martin Wren	Chairman of Cheshire
Norman Astbury	Vice President
Norman Chatburn	Vice President
Graham Horrex	Vice President
Ron Coope	Vice President
Andrew Beeston	Vice President

Apologies were received from Vice Presidents: Robin Barlow, Anthony Fielden, Colin Cary, George Westbrook, Gordon Nicholson, Brian Rhodes

There were 95 clubs represented, at some stage, during the evening.

1. Apologies for absence – from 18 clubs
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 27th May 1999 were approved
3. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising
4. Presentation of Accounts
The Honorary Treasurer, Henry Stone, presented the accounts to the meeting. Income had reduced some £800 from the previous year, mainly due to the reduction in interest rate plus a small loss in team fees due to fewer teams entering. Expenditure also showed a small reduction over the previous year. County grants had been reduced, whilst printing, stationery, postage, trophies & engraving were much the same. Handbooks were significantly less and various other expenses showed increases. £600 of computer parts, ansaphone and new printer/photocopier had also been depreciated. Miscellaneous expenditure of over £700 was a result of the presentations made last year to the retiring Secretary, Treasurer and Honorary Legal Advisor. This resulted in a net loss of just over £450 on the year.
Following the Treasurer's explanation of the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2000, acceptance of the Treasurer's report and figures were proposed, seconded and duly approved by the meeting.
5. Rule amendments
 - 5.1 Rule 5: change 7:30pm to 7:00pm;
Motion failed
 - 5.2 Rule 7: section 7.3:
part 1: to delete section 7.3;
Motion failed
part 2: delete "any County in which any associate member is situated" and substitute "the County in which the associate member club, for which he/she plays, is situated"
Motion passed
 - 5.3 Rule 1: Following discussion, it was decided to take this rule amendment until after the re-structuring discussion.
When finally voted on after item 9:
Motion failed

- 5.4 Rule 6: Second paragraph delete “and all the scores recorded in the matches it has played shall be cancelled”
Insert third paragraph “All the scores recorded in matches played by any team relegated, as a result of walk-overs, shall be cancelled.”
Motion passed
- 5.5 Rule 7: section 7.5
Insert “the General Secretary,” after “without the permission of”
Motion passed
- 5.6 Rule 8: delete existing rule and substitute:
8.1 Both teams must send full details of the results of each match in writing signed by both match captains to the appropriate divisional representative so as to be received by the divisional representative within 6 days after the match has been played. Any team not notifying the divisional representative within the prescribed period may be awarded no points and may be liable to a fine, both at the discretion of the Committee or any one of its duly designated Sub-committee.
8.2 If a match is postponed under Rule 5, the appropriate divisional representative must be notified of the postponement before the original date on which the match was to be played and of the rearranged date within 6 days after the original date of the match. If neither team notifies the divisional representative of the postponement of the match before its original date and of the date of the rearranged match within the prescribed period, no points will be awarded to either team and both teams may be liable to a fine at the discretion of the Committee or any one of its duly designated Sub-Committees.
8.3 The Committee may relax the time-scales prescribed in Rules 8.1 and 8.2 if in its discretion it considers that there are special circumstances relating to any failure to comply with this Rule.”
Motion passed
- 5.7 Rule 12: Delete the existing rule and substitute:
“A ball approved by the General Committee must be used in all matches unless agreed otherwise by the opposing Captains. The home team may use a non-marking variety of approved ball if it wishes.”
Motion passed
- 5.8 Rule 13:
13.1 Add:-
“provided that the Committee may in its absolute discretion consider any such request notwithstanding that the period of seven days has expired.”
13.2 Insert “not less than” after the words “to a Disputes Sub-Committee which shall comprise”
13.3 Delete the square brackets round “14” in line 3 on page 21 of the Handbook.
Motion passed
- 5.9 Rule 14: First sentence change “£29” to “£30”
Motion passed
6. Re-application from associate members
Re-applications were approved from Deeside, Glossop, Mainland, New Mills, Sports Connection and Tollgate.
7. Application from new clubs and additional teams
There were 4 new club applications, David Lloyd Kirkby/Speke/Warrington & Preston College and a small number of additional team applications, although further additional team applications will only be fully known at a later date.
8. Our President, Professor Bob Ireland, made presentation of plaques to the winners of each division. Plaques, shields and presentation glasses were made to each overall divisional winner

by Vice Presidents: Andrew Beeston; Norman Chapburn; Ron Coope; Norman Astbury and Graham Horrex.

Warrington were presented with the Division 1 shield,
Y Squash with the Division 2 shield,
Lancashire Health & Racquets with the Division 3 shield,
Preston Grasshoppers 2 with the Division 4 shield and
Wrightington with the Division 5 shield

as the overall winners of their division.

At the end of the presentations, Graham Horrex thanked Robin Barlow, who unfortunately could not be at the meeting due to work commitments, and who would be retiring from his position as North West Counties Referee Organiser, after many years of service. A presentation would be made to Robin at a referees committee meeting in early June.

9. Web-site discussion / Q&A session

John Hugall introduced Phil Taylor, who administers the website on behalf of the league, and thanked him for all the hard work, at minimum cost to the league, that Phil and his colleagues had done in setting up the website.

Phil gave a brief introduction to the website and how it had developed over the two seasons it has now been running.

One target is to eventually get a full match scorecard entered on to the website rather than currently just the match score, which would then lead to individual player rankings. If possible, this may be piloted with Division 1 during next season.

The Secretary indicated that in the past season, about 25 to 30 club representatives had started to input their club's team results directly on to the website and it was his hope that in the new season there would be a significant increase in club representatives doing this. It would still be necessary for match scorecards to be sent to divisional representative, so that they could effectively police their league, but clubs who were inputting results directly could come to an arrangement with their respective divisional representatives on the time-scale for sending them the match cards.

10. Election of Officers

President	-	R.S.Ireland
Chairman	-	J.Hugall
Treasurer	-	H.Stone
Hon. Legal Advisor	-	H.Stone

were re-elected unopposed.

All the Vice-Presidents were prepared to continue and also re-elected

11. Proposed League Structure – Discussion document

The proposed league restructuring document provided some lively debate from a number of club representatives/members. Although it was difficult to draw any firm conclusions from the discussion, the meeting indicated that:

- (i) there was a definite feeling that teams should retain 5 players
- (ii) clubs preferred to maintain after match entertainment in the form of meals

The committee would take on board the various comments made during the discussion and arrange a meeting with club representatives during the next season with some firmer proposals.

12. Any Other Business

None.

Dave Goulden
Secretary to the League