

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE 47th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT WARRINGTON SPORTS CLUB ON TUESDAY 26th MAY 2005 AT 7.30 PM

Present: John Hugall	Chairman
Dave Goulden	General Secretary
Henry Stone	Honorary Legal Advisor & Treasurer
Andrew Nicheas	Chairman of Cheshire
Bernie Gill	Chairman of Lancashire
Andrew Beeston	Chairman of Merseysied & Vice President
Joss Garvey	NWCSL Referee Cordinator
Bill Littlejohn	Founder Members of NWCSL & Vice President elect
Norman Astbury	Vice President
Tony Parker	Vice President
Robin McIntosh	Vice President
Ged Illot	Vice President
Sponsors (Alan Edge, Steve Cooper & Kelly Allen)	Powerplay Sports
John Gibson	Area Squash Manager North West, England Squash

Apologies were received from President, Graham Horrex, Vice Presidents: Norman Chatburn, Antony Fielden, Bob Ireland, Bud Foster, John Cunningham, George Westbrook, Colin Cary, Brian Oswald, Phil Taylor

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, John Hugall, who initially informed the meeting of the loss of three of our members over the past year. JH introduced Bill Littlejohn to the meeting, who was one of the founder members of the NWCSL (originally called the Lancashire League), who paid tribute to John Howcroft, who was also one of the founder member, who played in the NWCSL during the 1950's/1960's. The Chairman then paid tribute to the two further members, Trevor Massey and Ron Coope, detailing their contributions to squash in the North West and elsewhere.

The Chairman then introduced the personnel on the top table, the Vice Presidents present and our Sponsors, Powerplay Sports.

There were 58 clubs represented, at some stage, during the evening.

1. Apologies for absence – received from 10 clubs, plus a further 11 clubs who'd paid in advance for their stationery to be posted to them.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 20th May 2004 were taken as read and approved by the meeting.
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 remained the same as previous years, at just over £14000, excluding the Sponsorship money. Expenditure showed an approximate decrease of £3500 over the previous year. The majority of the decrease, £1500 on Promotional costs, was a result of the cost of the redesign the web site in the previous year and £1100 on Printing & Stationery, was a result of the sponsorship deal. Referee fees showed a decrease of £500, the new computer had been depreciated by a further £283, whilst various other expenses showed an overall small of approx. £400 over the previous year.
County grants had remained at the same level of £7800.
This all resulted in a profit of just over £3300 for the year.
All of the sponsorship money, £5000, had been returned to the clubs which had made application for a junior grant, apart from £200, which will be used up during next season. The Treasurer stated that a number of the Powerplay Sports vouchers had still to be cashed in and urged the clubs to use them. The Treasurer thanked the auditor, Simon Westhead for auditing the accounts on our behalf.
Following the Treasurer's explanation of the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2005, acceptance of the Treasurer's report and figures were proposed, seconded and duly approved by the meeting.

5. Re-application from associate members
Re-applications were approved from Deeside, Glossop, New Mills and Tollgate.
6. Application from new clubs and additional teams
There were no new club applications and additional team applications from two clubs at this stage, Alderley Edge & Chester, although further additional team applications will only be fully known at a later date.
7. Rule amendment
Rule 7.3 delete part ii) and substitute
(ii) has been a bona fide member of the club which he or she represents in the relevant league match and has also resided either (a) within Lancashire Cheshire or Merseyside or (b) within a radius of 15 miles of that club for a continuous period of, in the case of (a) more than 12 months, and in the case of (b) more than 5 years, in each case immediately preceding the time at which the relevant league match takes place (such periods for qualification to apply, for the avoidance of doubt, to both membership and residence).

Proposed by Congleton

The General Secretary introduced the amendment to the meeting, along with Henry Stone, Hon. Legal Advisor, in the absence of Lindon Evans, Congleton, who had suddenly been called in to work. Following discussion, during which a number of people thought that the 5 year qualification period may be too long, although they agreed in principle with the amendment, a vote was taken and the amendment was passed (24 for, 4 against)

8. Presentation of Plaques, Trophies & Shields
In advance of the presentations, John Hugall asked Steve Cooper, Powerplay Sports, to say a few words to the meeting on behalf of the Sponsors before handing over to Alan Edge, Powerplay Sports, who presented the plaques to the winners of each division that were present at the meeting (23 out of the 28 division section winners).

Alan related the success that Powerplay Sports had achieved since its formation in 2003, with growth in both 2004 & 2005 to date. He thanked his colleagues Steve Cooper & Kelly Allen, who had made significant contribution to its success.

10. 50th Anniversary

John Hugall stated that the committee had considered what events could be potentially celebrated during our 50th Anniversary year.

He asked the meeting whether a dinner should be for squash players only or include partners, since it would have a bearing on the size of the venue required. In general, the meeting was in favour of including partners.

The meeting agreed that a graded tournament should also be considered.

John Hugall stated that we would hope to prepare and publish a history of the league and requested that every club should prepare a half/full page on the history of their own club.

Finally, there would be a range of clothing available, as already discussed by Steve Cooper, Powerplay Sports, and shown in the promotional leaflet included with the stationery.

John Hugall also asked the meeting if there were any other ideas to contact the General Secretary.

11. Any Other Business

Ian Hargreaves commented on whether the restructuring of the league needed to be reconsidered. During the past season, he thought that there had been some evidence that the season was perhaps now too long, with a number of teams either playing with players short or even conceding matches in the last few weeks of the season. With Easter coming early during late March, this may have had a bearing on this situation.

Team Captains Meeting – The Chairman gave notice of a team captains meeting to be held on Thursday, 1st September 2005, before the start of the season, at Warrington Sports Club, to which all clubs are expected to attend.

The Sponsors, Powerplay Sports were thanked for their support to the NWCSL.

The meeting was drawn to a close by the Chairman at 9.25pm, who thanked Andrew & Joanna Rhodes, the Vice Presidents and club representatives who had attended, Warrington Sports Club for the use of their premises, Powerplay Sports for both their sponsorship of the league and donating the squash bag for the draw.

Dave Goulden

General Secretary to the League