

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT FAIRWAYS LODGE ON THURSDAY 21st MAY 2009 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Bernie Gill	President & Chairman of Lancashire
John Hugall	Chairman
Henry Stone	Honorary Legal Advisor & Treasurer
Dave Goulden	General Secretary
John Cunningham	1 st Division Rep.
Jane Law	Chairperson of Cheshire
Andrew Beeston	President of Merseyside & Vice President
Peter Withington	Lancashire Rep to NWCSL
Bill Littlejohn	Vice President
Robin Barlow	Vice President
Alan Edge	Vice President
Ged Illot	Vice President
Roy Lomas	Vice President
Joss Garvey	North West Referees Co-ordinator

Apologies were received from the Sponsor – JJB Sports and Vice Presidents: Graham Horrex, Bob Ireland, Colin Cary, Robin McIntosh, Phil Taylor, Norman Chatburn

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, who then introduced the personnel on the top table, the Vice Presidents present and that the Sponsors, JJB Sports were unable to attend.

There were approx. 40 clubs represented, during the evening.

1. Apologies for absence – received from 16 clubs.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 29th May 2008, which had been previously circulated to clubs, as well as being available on the website, were taken as read and approved by the meeting.
Proposed by Alan Edge, seconded by Frank Cygler
3. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising
4. Presentations from John Gibson & Mark Williams of England Squash & Racketball.

John Gibson, currently the North West Area Manager for England Squash & Racketball, announced that he would be taking up a new appointment of Membership Benefits Manager from 1st June 2009. He outlined what his main responsibilities will be:

- To identify suitable levels of membership that will benefit the future growth and development of ESR
- To pro-actively source tangible benefits to add real value to ESR affiliation and individual membership
- To work closely with Competitions & Events team to add value to all major ESR events
- To work closely with the Sales & Marketing team and identify potential sponsorship opportunities
- To pro-actively raise the profile of squash and rackerball through local and national TV, media and effective communication channels

and produced a leaflet for the meeting detailing this asking anyone to contact him, who wanted to discuss further or to forward any suggestions to him.

Mark Williams, one of the Area Managers based in Cambridge, gave an informative presentation on the various funds that are available. Since funding usually went in 4 year cycles, it was important to get applications in early to meet the current cycle of 2009-2013.

Sport England Funds

1. Small Grants Scheme (replaced the Awards for All Scheme) – Ongoing – apply at any time
How much? £300 - £10,000
What for? Club Development, school club links, equipment etc. but NOT buildings or refurbishment.
Is Match Funding required? No

Apply on-line http://funding.sportengland.org/funding_programmes/small_grants.aspx

2. Sportsmatch – Ongoing – apply at any time

How much? £1,000 - £100,000

What for? Anything that benefits grassroots sport; including building or refurbishing.

Is Match Funding required? Yes – Sportsmatch provide £ for £ funding to match money given by a sponsor.

Apply on-line http://funding.sportengland.org/funding_programmes/sportsmatch.aspx

3. Sustainable Facilities – Closes on 30th June 2009.

How much? Sport England are looking to support 5-10 large scale projects each year

What for? Building new facilities and refurbishing old facilities to benefit the local community.

Is Match Funding Required? Yes

Apply on-line http://funding.sportengland.org/funding_programmes/sustainable_facilities.aspx

4. Rural Communities Fund – Closes on 30th June 2009.

How much? £10 million is available, there are no limits but projects must offer value for money

What for? General Club Development AND building or refurbishing facilities in RURAL LOCATIONS.

Apply On-line http://funding.sportengland.org/funding_programmes/rural_communities1.aspx

Other Useful Funds

1. Mars Refuel – Closes end of June

How much? Up to £500

What for? Just about anything – kit, school club links, coaching, equipment or help for talented individuals.

Is Match Funding required? No

Apply on-line www.marsrefuel.com

2. Grassroots Grants Scheme – Ongoing – Closes at end of 2011

How much? Up to £5,000

What for? Just about anything – kit, school club links, coaching, equipment or refurbishments.

Apply on-line through your local provider by going to www.cdf.org.uk click on Grassroots link and select appropriate region

There are other funds available for small sums of money to pay for a host of activities and developments.

Key sources include County Sports Partnership and local Community Foundation.

5. Presentation of Accounts

The Honorary Treasurer, Henry Stone, presented the accounts to the meeting.

Income had decreased by approx. £700 over the previous year, at around £14500, excluding the Sponsorship money.

Expenditure showed an approximate increase of £400 over the previous year (excluding Junior Grants).

Printing & Stationery fees, including handbooks, had decreased by £400.

Referees' fees showed a significant increase of £80 over last year.

All equipment had been fully depreciated, whilst promotional expenses, including the website, had decreased by £800 over the previous year.

Miscellaneous expenditure of £1500 was due to the NWCSL have a number of VIP tables at the World Open Championships in Manchester during October 2008.

County grants had remained the same at £8000.

This all resulted in a profit of just over £2000 for the year.

The majority of sponsorship money, £10,000, had been allocated to the clubs, which had made applications for a junior grant, apart from £2000, which has been held over to 2009/10, which accounts for the £2000 profit.

The Treasurer & General Secretary explained the current situation with regards to sponsorship following the reported difficulties that the sponsors JJB were going through.

The General Secretary had made some preliminary contact with the new JJB Head of Marketing but was awaiting a response from him.

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 2009, acceptance of the Treasurer's report and figures were proposed by Joss Garvey, seconded by Ged Illot and duly approved by the meeting. There were no questions on the accounts from the floor.

6. Re-application from associate members

Re-applications were approved by the meeting for Deeside, Glossop, New Mills, Saints and Tollgate.

7. Application from new clubs and additional teams

There had been no applications from new clubs

Several clubs had indicated that they would be entering new teams, including Bowdon, Monton plus 2 or 3 further clubs

8. Restructuring

The General Secretary explained to the meeting the reasons behind the number of teams to be relegated from Division 3 and 4 sections from this season had been stated at up to 5 teams from a section containing 14 teams and up to 3 teams from a section containing 12 teams, as stated in the minutes of the Team Captain's meeting, following a number of enquires from clubs over the season of why an exact number could not have been quoted.

For 2009/10 season, Division's 1 & 2 sections would contain 14 teams, whilst Division's 3, 4 & 5 would contain 12 teams. There may some instances were some Division 4 & 5 sections may have to contain up to 14 teams based on geographical considerations

The General Secretary also stated that if we continue with the planned and agreed restructuring for 2010/11, by reducing Division 2 sections to 12 teams, then up to 6 teams out of a section containing 14 teams would have to be relegated at the end of 2009/10 season. This would also have a knock-on effect in both Division 3 sections, where up to 4 teams (rather than 3 teams) would be relegated, and Division 4, where in some sections, up to 3 teams (rather than 2 teams) would be relegated.

This item would be taken in more detail at the Team Captain's meeting in September.

9. Ranking

The General Secretary commented on the ranking system and how it's been used, particularly for the 1st Division during the past season, as far as team playing orders are concerned. To allow the system to bed in, during the past season, playing orders submitted by the 1st Division clubs have been accepted on face value, although they may not have fully agreed with the NWCSL ranking system. In the case of the professional players playing in the NWCSL, world ranking positions have been accepted over the NWCSL ranking list, since number of matches played in the NWCSL does not give a true indication. For 2009/10 season, 1st Division clubs will have to fully justify their team playing order selections.

The General Secretary also commented on whether the ranking system should be used for either Division 2 clubs 1st teams or all clubs 1st teams across all the divisions following comments from some Division 1 clubs, although it would have to be voluntary, since there is nothing specifically to cover it in the rules, like there is for the 1st Division.

This item, will similarly, be taken in more detail at the Team Captain's meeting in September.

10. Rule amendments

Constitution Change read out by General Secretary

In the section “Committee”

Add in second sentence

‘They shall consist of a Chairman, Treasurer, **General Secretary** and one county representative etc.

Amendment shown in red.

Following explanation of the change, the Constitution Change was unanimously approved by the meeting.

The following rule amendments were proposed by General Secretary, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to the AGM

Rule 8.1

Add at end of first sentence

‘unless agreed with the Divisional Representative, scorecards can be returned on a less frequent basis, when a team is entering their results every week on the website within 72 hours of the match being played’.

Amendments shown in red.

Following explanation of the change and questions / comments from members present, the rule amendment was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Rule 9

Add after second sentence

‘There is no prescribed order for the matches to be played in.’

Amendment shown in red.

Following explanation of the change and questions / comments from members present, the rule amendment was approved by the meeting.

11. Presentation of Plaques, Trophies & Shields

Unfortunately, the sponsor JJB Sports was unable to attend the AGM.

The presentations of each sections winner’s plaques was made by our President, whilst the overall division winners for Divisions 2 to 5 were made by a number of Vice Presidents.

Bill Littlejohn presented the “Brian Rhodes Memorial Shield” to Division 1 winners Bowdon.

The Bowdon Representative responded on behalf of the Division One Winners.

Lancs Health & Racquets 1 received the Division 2 shield and trophies from Andrew Beeston

Barnton CC 1 received the Division 3 shield and trophies from Henry Stone

Alderley Edge 3 received the Division 4 shield and trophies from Robin Barlow

Monton 2 received the Division 5 shield and trophies from Ged Illot

as the overall winners of their divisions.

12. Election of Officers

President	-	B.Gill	Proposed: Rochdale Seconded: Stockport
Chairman	-	J.Hugall	Proposed: Sale Seconded: Prestbury
Treasurer & Hon. Legal Advisor	-	H.Stone	Proposed: East Lancs Seconded: Stockport

were elected unopposed.

Vice Presidents: All the current Vice Presidents were re-elected.

County Representative: All County Representatives were re-elected.

League Representatives: All current Divisional Representatives were re-elected.

13. Sponsorship
See item 5 – Presentation of Accounts in Treasurers report

14. Any Other Business
Wigan CC Rep., Steve Cadwell, asked whether a Presentation Evening, including Play-off finals had been considered. Following discussion, the idea will be considered further.

Joss Garvey, Referee's coordinator, made a request to the meeting that more referees were needed. A number of 1st division matches had not been refereed this season due to the shortage of referees. Referee courses could be arranged at clubs if preferred. If any clubs were interested, then they should contact Joss.

Bernie Gill stated that this year would be the 26th year of the Andy Gill Tournament, which would be held at Rochdale in late August/early September.

Andy, Bernie's son, had died of cancer and the tournament raised money for Christie's Hospital. Sponsorship had been raised from a number of Andy's friends and others over the years, which were small amounts from £50 to £150.

There would be 3 categories:

Category A – 12 entrants from professional semi-professional players

Category B – 24 entrants from 1st & 2nd Division players in the NWCSL

Category C – probably to be increased from 32 to 48 entrants, open to everyone

There were no spectator entry charges for all rounds up to the Finals.

All monies raised went in prize money and to Christie Hospital.

Team Captains Meeting

The team captains meeting for 2009/2010 would more than likely be in early (Tuesday 1st or 8th) September 2009. (To be confirmed).

League stationery will be handed out at this meeting and clubs should make sure that team captains and/or club representatives do attend.

The meeting was drawn to a close by the Chairman at approx. 8.50pm, who thanked the Sponsors, JJB Sports, the club representatives who had attended, Fairways Lodge for the use of their premises and the Vice Presidents for attending.

General Secretary