

## NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

### MINUTES OF THE 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT FAIRWAYS LODGE ON THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2011 AT 7.30 PM

Present:

John Hugall	President
Bernie Gill	Chairman & Chairman of Lancashire
Henry Stone	Honorary Legal Advisor & Treasurer
Dave Goulden	General Secretary
John Cunningham	1 <sup>st</sup> Division Rep.
Peter Withington	Lancashire Rep to NWCSL
Norman Astbury	Vice President
Roy Lomas	Vice President
Joss Garvey	North West Referees Co-ordinator

Apologies were received from Vice Presidents: Bill Littlejohn, Graham Horrex, Bob Ireland, Colin Cary, Robin McIntosh, Andrew Beeston, Phil Taylor, Norman Chatburn, Andrew Nickeas & Ged Illot  
County Representatives: Jane Law (Cheshire) & Roger Kenyon (Merseyside)

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, who opened the meeting by asking those present to remember Nick Helliwall, West Heaton, who had recently passed away.  
Following a minute silence, the Chairman then introduced the personnel on the top table and the Vice Presidents present.

There were approx. 47 clubs represented during the evening.

1. Apologies for absence – received from 21 clubs.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010, which had been previously circulated to clubs, as well as being available on the website, were taken as read and approved by the meeting.
3. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.
4. England Squash & Racketball  
The Chairman introduced the 3 ESR personnel to the meeting;  
Angela Cwarzko – North West Regional Manager,  
Jon Carney – Facilities Investment Manager &  
Theo Woodward – Membership Department Coordinator.

This account will NOT contain detailed discussions and comments from the members present.

Jon Carney gave a brief account of potential financial investments, covering low cost investments which could have high impact to major investments, an example being Bowdon, covering additional courts.

Angela Cwarzko gave an update on participation in adult, junior, university and college growth over the past 6 to 12 months. NW Development responsibilities in Competitions, including Racketball, Regional Closed, Schools and a Manchester Schools Tournament. There had been increased performance in Regional team championships, especially U17 girls (1<sup>st</sup>) and U15 boys (3<sup>rd</sup>). Club/Centre support that ESR NW had engaged with: 30 clubs, 10 Leisure Centres (and 15 new facilities identified and contacted for 2011/12), 3 Universities (increasing to 7 by September 2011) and up to 60 schools across the NW.

During and after Angela's presentation, it raised many questions and comments from the audience, along with a lot of criticism of the development work done in certain parts of the NW Region. There was a feeling that the ESR were NOT addressing both coaching and development issues in the NW Region adequately and that substantial changes to how ESR work in these areas is necessary, if ESR are to maintain the confidence of both clubs and independent coaches in the NW.

Theo Woodward gave a brief summary of the potential changes to club/player membership charges to ESR, but as yet this had not been fully agreed.

5. Presentation of Accounts

The Honorary Treasurer, Henry Stone, presented the accounts to the meeting. Income had been similar to the previous year, at around £13200. Expenditure showed an approximate increase of £1000 over the previous year. Printing & Stationery fees, including handbooks, had increased by £300. Referees' fees showed a decrease of £400 over last year. Promotional expenses, including the website, had increased by £70 over the previous year. Trophies had increased by £200 over previous year. Play-Off Finals (net contributions) had increased by nearly £800. County grants had remained the same at £8000. This all resulted in a deficit of just over £200 for the year.

The General Accumulated Fund remained at around £38,000.

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 2011, acceptance of the Treasurer's report and figures were proposed by Joss Garvey, seconded by Julian Wilson and duly approved by the meeting. There were no questions on the accounts from the floor, although there was one question on whether some of the accumulated funds could be used to assist clubs providing junior development. This would be discussed and considered further at a Committee meeting.

The re-election of the Auditor, Simon Westhead, was also approved by the meeting.

6. Re-application from associate members

The General Secretary informed the meeting that there were 6 Associate Members and that at a Committee meeting during the past season, it was agreed that associate member clubs should either ideally attend the AGM or at least have submitted their application for league membership prior to the AGM. Of the 6 clubs, two had submitted their application and apologised for none attendance of the AGM and 2 other clubs were present at the AGM. 2 associate member clubs, Glossop & New Mills had done neither. Re-applications were approved by the meeting for Deeside, Saints, Tollgate & Wrexham Brymbro. Although, the re-applications of the two other associate members were eventually agreed by the meeting, it was by a very close majority, with one being passed by the Chairman's casting vote.

7. Application from new clubs and additional teams

There had been no applications from new clubs as yet, although there was a potential of one new (although previous) club, De Vere Village, Blackpool. One club, Deeside, had indicated that they would be entering an additional team.

8. Constitution and Rule alterations

Constitution item 5.1 proposed alteration.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence add 'Match Secretary' after General Secretary.

The General Secretary stated that it was his opinion that the General Secretary's role needed to be split into two roles due to the amount of work now required, which may be off-putting in the future.

Although the AGM would not be voting on a new Match Secretary later under the Elections item, if this proposed alteration is passed, it would allow the Committee to co-opt someone during the season, if there was interest from anyone.

The meeting voted in favour of the proposed alteration.

Rule 1.2 proposed alteration.

The General Secretary stated that the rule alteration proposed by Alistair Atkinson, Grove Park, to rule 1.2, i.e. In first sentence, add "& 3" after Division 2.....; would be taken after the proposed amendment to this rule alteration, if the amendment failed.

Amendment to Rule 1.2 alteration

Add after first sentence

In Division 3, the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams at the end of the season shall take place in play-off matches, to be published before the start of the season, for promotion to the relevant Division 2 sections.

*NOTE: With the current format, this would effectively bring the 2<sup>nd</sup> division in line with divisions 1 & 3, where (upto) 3 teams can be potentially relegated.*

*The play offs would effectively be:*

*2<sup>nd</sup> in 3CN v 2<sup>nd</sup> in 3NE for a place in 2C*

*2<sup>nd</sup> in 3CS v 2<sup>nd</sup> in 3SE for a place in 2E*

*2<sup>nd</sup> in 3NW v 2<sup>nd</sup> in 3SW for a place in 2W*

Following discussion, the AGM voted in favour of the amendment to the proposed rule alteration to rule 1.2.

Rule 4.2 proposed alteration.

In first and fifth sentences only, add “& 2<sup>nd</sup>” after ‘1<sup>st</sup>’ and before ‘Division’

Following the voluntary arrangement last season, it was the intention of moving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division team playing orders to a fixed format, as with the 1<sup>st</sup> Division.

Discussion on this proposal produced mixed feedback from the meeting, particularly from clubs/teams which had a number of players in their teams of similar standard. To move the meeting forward, the GS suggested that during the Team Captain’s meeting in September, that an EGM could be held to take an amendment to this proposed alteration, if passed, to allow team players to be ranked at equal positions, as during the voluntary arrangement last season.

The AGM then voted in favour of the proposed rule alteration.

Rule 6 proposed alteration.

Add

6.4 Any team conceding a walk-over, apart from a club’s lowest team(s), shall be fined £25.

Following discussion, the AGM voted in favour of the proposed rule addition.

6.5 Club team(s) lower to the one conceding a walk-over shall be deducted either a minimum of 10 points or the points won in the relevant match(es), if that is more than 10 points. Their opponents may be awarded up to a maximum of 20 points.

Following discussion, the AGM voted in favour of the proposed rule addition.

Rule 9.3 proposed alteration.

In first sentence, remove the words ‘for the ties concerned’

Without discussion, the AGM voted in favour of the proposed rule addition.

## 9. Presentation of Shields

The division section winners, which were not presented at the Play-Off Finals:

2C	Vale of Lune 1	3SE	Grove Park 3	3SW	Neston 1
4E	Fairways Lodge 4	4NE	Markland Hill 1	4NW	Xaverian 4
4S	Wilmslow 1	4SW	Winsford 1	5C	Moss Side 1
5CS	Xaverian 5	5S	Club AZ 2	5SE	Village Hyde 3
5SW	Neston 4				

were presented to the Club or collected by a representative from one of the other clubs present.

Outstanding Shields to be collected by clubs from General Secretary

3CN	Leyland	3NE	DW Sports Wigan	4C	Village Warrington 2
4W	New Brighton 3				

## 10. Election of Officers

With there being no other nominations and all the current officers prepared to stand, the following were elected unopposed.

President	-	J Hugall	Proposed: Committee Seconded: Sale
Chairman	-	B Gill	Proposed: Fairways Lodge Seconded: Rochdale
Treasurer & Hon. Legal Advisor	-	H.Stone	Proposed: East Lancs Seconded: Stockport
General Secretary	-	D Goulden	Proposed: Stockport

Seconded: Woolston

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

3 New Vice Presidents were proposed & elected, David Smith, Ian Hargreaves & Geoff Burnett, who had all served the NWCSL for over 20 years as Divisional Representatives.

County Representative: All County Representatives were re-elected.

League Representatives: All current Divisional Representatives were re-elected, with any new Divisional Representatives to be co-opted.

11. Sponsorship

Currently, there is no major sponsorship deal in place, although one is still being actively progressed.

12. Any Other Business

Referees: Joss Garvey gave an up-date on the current refereeing situation with 4 new referees available for next season.

Team Captains Meeting

The team captains meeting for 2011/2012, provisionally set for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Alford Sports & Social Club, Warrington. (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. 10.00pm, who thanked the club representatives, who had attended, Fairways Lodge for the use of their premises and the Vice Presidents for attending.

General Secretary