

# NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

## MINUTES OF THE 54<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT FAIRWAYS LODGE ON THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012 AT 7.30 PM

### Present:

John Hugall	President and acting Chairman
Henry Stone	Honorary Legal Advisor & Treasurer
Dave Goulden	General Secretary
John Cunningham	1 <sup>st</sup> Division Rep.
Peter Withington	Lancashire Rep to NWCSL
Andrew Beeston	President Merseyside SRA
Alan Batchelor	Vice President Cheshire SRA
Norman Astbury	Vice President
Roy Lomas	Vice President
Ged Illot	Vice President
Ian Hargreaves	Vice President
Geoff Burnett	Vice President

**Apologies** were received from Bernie Gill (NWCSL & Lancashire Chairman), Steve Eccles (Match Secretary), Vice Presidents: Graham Horrex, Bob Ireland, Colin Cary, Robin McIntosh, Norman Chatburn & Vice President elect: Terry Clorley.

The meeting was opened by the acting Chairman, who began by asking those present to remember Brian Oswald, Merseyside SRA & Vice President NWCSL, who had recently passed away. Alan Rendell, Radbroke Hall, also asked the meeting to remember Adam Berry (Radbroke Hall) who passed away last November, aged 40.

Following a minute's silence, the Chairman then introduced the personnel on the top table and the Vice Presidents present.

There were approx. 60 clubs represented during the evening.

1. **Apologies for absence** – received from 11 clubs.
2. **Minutes of the previous AGM** held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011, 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. **Presentation of Accounts**  
The Honorary Treasurer, Henry Stone, presented the accounts to the meeting, copies of which were made available to representatives attending the meeting.  
Income had been similar to the previous year, at around £13340.  
Expenditure showed an approximate decrease of £600 over the previous year, at around £12810.  
Postage, Printing & Stationery fees, including handbooks, had increased by £700.  
Referees' fees showed a decrease of £600 over last year.  
Promotional expenses, including the website, had decreased by £40 over the previous year.  
A reserve for Trophies, similar to last year had been included, since the invoice had yet to be received.  
Play-Off Finals (net contributions) had decreased by nearly £800.  
County grants had remained the same at £8000.  
Secretarial Honorarium had increased by £300, which was now shared between the General & Match Secretaries  
This all resulted in a surplus of just over £530 for the year.

The General Accumulated Fund increased from just under to just over £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, seconded and duly approved by the meeting. There was one question on the accounts from the floor: Could the money in the High Interest Business Account earn a better interest rate? The Treasurer would look in to the situation.

From last year, the question on using some of the accumulated funds to assist clubs providing junior development had not been progressed, but the Committee would look into how best to do this during this current financial year.

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

5. **Re-application from associate members**

The General Secretary informed the meeting that there were currently 6 existing Associate Members, Deeside, Glossop, New Mills, Saints, Tollgate & Wrexham Brymbo, each re-application was voted on separately by the meeting and all were approved.

6. **Application from new clubs and additional teams**

There had been two applications from new clubs, Mollington Banastre (Chester area) and Buxton (Derbyshire). Since Buxton would be an Associate Member, their application had to be agreed by the meeting, which was subsequently approved.

One club, Village Whiston, had indicated that they would be entering an additional team.

There may be other, but it was unknown at this stage.

7. **Constitution and Rule Alterations**

**Amendments to provide for duties of Match Secretary in the following League Rules**

Rule 4.1 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence: Insert "or the Match Secretary" after "the General Secretary"

Rule 5.2 1<sup>st</sup> sentence: Insert (i) "the" before "General Secretary" and (ii) "or the Match Secretary" after "General Secretary"

Rule 5.2 4<sup>th</sup> sentence: Insert "or the Match Secretary" after "the General Secretary"

Rule 7.1 1<sup>st</sup> sentence: Insert "or the Match Secretary, or" after "the General Secretary"

Rule 7.5: Insert "the Match Secretary," after "the General Secretary,"

Rule 7.6 1<sup>st</sup> sentence: Insert "the Match Secretary," after "the General Secretary,"

Rule 7.7 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence: Insert "the Match Secretary," after "the General Secretary,"

Rule 7.8: Insert "the Match Secretary," after "the General Secretary,"

Rule 13.1: Insert "or the Match Secretary" after "the General Secretary"

Voted en bloc, all the changes were approved by the meeting.

**Amendment to Rule 14.1**

**Current Rule**

Each club must pay to the League a fee of £37 per team payable on or before the Annual General Meeting. The Committee may change the affiliation fee providing that the clubs are notified (letter and/or email) at least thirteen (13) weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

**Proposed Amendment**

Each club must pay to the League an affiliation fee per team payable on or before the Annual General Meeting, the amount to be determined by the Committee.

The General Secretary explained the reason for removing the figure (£37) from the rule. 13 weeks before the AGM was before the end of the financial year, at that stage, the final financial situation was not fully known, and the Committee could not assess properly whether the amount for team fees should be increased, decreased or left unchanged.

The meeting voted in favour of the proposed alteration

**Amendment to Constitution Item 3.3**

Add after 1<sup>st</sup> sentence a new sentence: "Entries after the 1<sup>st</sup> July for the season ahead may still be accepted by the Committee, provided that there are vacancies in the appropriate sections; but in this case a further late entry fee per team will be payable, the amount to be determined by the Committee."

Following discussion, the meeting voted in favour of the proposed addition.

8. **Presentation of Shields/Trophies**

At the Play-Off Finals for Division 2 to 5, only the Division Shields and individual player trophies had been presented.

All the Division section winners were presented at the meeting, including the Division One Shield and individual player trophies:

Div 5C Brooklands 5                      Div 5CS West Lincs 1      Div 5N Lancaster University 2  
Div 5NE Bury 4                      Div 5S Prestbury 4      Div 5SE Glossop 2                      Div 5SW Heswall 5

**Overall Winners of Division 5 - Div 5CE Stockport 3**

Div 4C Sale 1                              Div 4E Moss Side 1      Div 4N Lancaster University 1  
Div 4NE Crow Wood 1                      Div 4S Prestbury 2      Div 4SE Sugden Metro 2  
Div 4SW LA Fitness Chester 1      Div 4W Cheshire Officers 2

**Overall Winners of Division 4 - Division 4NW - Liverpool CC 3**

Div 3CN David Lloyd Chorley 1      Div 3CS Bowdon 3                      Div 3NE Cheetham Hill 1  
Div 3NW Southport & Birkdale 2      Div 3SW Wrexham Brymbo 1

**Overall Winners of Division 3 - Division 3SE Prestbury 1**

Div 2C Lightning                              Div 2W Saints

**Overall Winners of Division 2E - Congleton**

**Division One East Lincs**

Shield & Individual Trophies were presented to each of the Clubs or collected by a representative from one of the other clubs present.

Nigel Willis, East Lincs, spoke briefly about East Lincs achievement in winning the 1<sup>st</sup> Division for the first time, thanking in particular his players and the league.

Presentations were also made to the two Vice Presidents elected at the 2011 AGM, Ian Hargreaves (South Shore) and Geoff Burnett (Lightning)

**Outstanding Shields to be collected by clubs from General Secretary  
2 East – Congleton 1 & 3 Central South – Bowdon 3**

**9. Election of Officers**

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

President	-	J Hugall
Chairman	-	B Gill
Treasurer & Hon. Legal Advisor	-	H.Stone
General Secretary	-	D Goulden
Match Secretary	-	S Eccles

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

One new Vice President was proposed & elected, Terry Clorley, who had all served the NWCSL for 20 years as Divisional Representatives. The presentation to Terry Clorley was accepted on his behalf by Simon Walton (Crewe Vagrants).

County Representative: All County Representatives were re-elected.

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

**10. Sponsorship**

Currently, there is no major sponsorship deal being considered, although if anyone knew of potential sponsors, they were asked to contact the Committee.

**11. Any Other Business**

The following points were raised under any other business and the minutes only cover the essence of the points raised rather than the full discussion.

1. Congratulation was offered to Frank Cygler (Cheetham Hill), who had been selected to be one of the Olympic Torch Bearers.

2. Lancaster University representative asked the Club Representatives to mention to their players about a Lancaster University Open Squash Tournament on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> June at the University. Entry forms were available at the meeting.

3. A question was raised on whether scorecards had to be returned weekly (or at all) to Divisional Reps. It was stated that it was up to the club/team to contact their divisional representative to decide what he required. If clubs/teams are regularly (weekly) entering their results on the website, then sending in the scorecards twice, at end of first half and second half of season could be acceptable. Another option could be to send a scanned copy of scorecard by email to divisional representative. It was stressed that if the divisional representative was happy not to receive scorecards, then the clubs/teams MUST retain the originals for record purposes in case there are any disputes. It was also crucial that the person entering the result should thoroughly check that the result has been filled in correctly and it is critical that they do NOT use incorrect names, if they find a player is not registered. There are instructions on the NWCSL website on how to fill in the scorecard, if a player's name is missing. John Cunningham, 1<sup>st</sup> Division Rep., stated that it was still a requirement for 1<sup>st</sup> Division teams to either fax him or scan a copy of the result to him following their matches on a weekly basis.

4. A question was raised on whether PAR scoring would be introduced for other divisions. It was stated that at this stage there was no intention of introducing PAR scoring for other divisions but since there is nothing in the rules over what scoring system should be used for NWCSL matches, it is up to the AGM members to decide what system should be used. At this moment, previous AGM/EGM's have voted for PAR scoring only for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions.

5. Similarly, a question was raised on whether submitted Playing Orders from the Ranking List would be extended to lower divisions, like the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions. It was stated that there was no intention at this stage of introducing submitted playing orders for lower divisions, but the General Secretary did state that Rule 4.1 applied to all clubs, irrespective of what division they played in, and that clubs must select and play available players in order of merit. This didn't necessarily follow the club's exact ranking order on the Resultszone website, since a difference of 75 (even up to 100) points could be allowed. There were also occasions when players might have been given an incorrect starting number of ranking points, particularly those registered in last 2 years, and for players coming back from long term injuries.

6. A question was raised on whether it would be possible to combine the AGM & Team Captain's meetings into one meeting. Following discussion, it was decided that the Committee would consider the possibility. There would be a need for some changes to the Constitution and Rules, and other logistical issues would have to be examined.

7. Andrew Beeston asked whether clubs were aware of the New Constitution for England Squash (ES).

It appeared that very few clubs were aware of this.

John Cunningham read out a letter from Nick Ryder, ES CEO, which had been sent to Council Representatives and stated that ES had decided to suspend the new charging proposals for clubs for next season.

This raised the issue again about club affiliation fees to ES, which most people considered to be too high anyway, along with the requirement to be affiliated to ES to play in the NWCSL.

Although the majority of people did believe that a National Governing Body was essential for the long term survival of any sport, deciding to pull out did need serious consideration, with all the implications being fully thought through and the initial decisions being made in discussion between the counties and their clubs rather than between the NWCSL and its member clubs.

#### **8. Team Captains Meeting for 2012**

The team captains meeting for 2012/2013 was provisionally set for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at Alford Sports & Social Club, Warrington. (To be confirmed)

League stationery would 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. 9.10pm, thanking the club representatives, who had attended, Fairways Lodge for the use of their premises and the Vice Presidents for attending.

General Secretary