

# NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

## MINUTES OF THE 57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT FAIRWAYS LODGE ON THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MAY 2015 COMMENCING AT 7.45 PM

### Present:

John Hugall	President
Henry Stone	Honorary Legal Advisor, Treasurer & Vice President
Dave Goulden	General Secretary & Vice President
Steve Eccles	Match Secretary
Alan Batchelor	Chairman Cheshire SRA
Peter Withington	Lancashire Rep to NWCSL
Ian Hargreaves	Vice President
Roy Lomas	Vice President
Joss Garvey	Referee Co-ordinator

**Apologies** were received from the Chairman Bernie Gill & the following Vice Presidents: Bob Ireland, John Cunningham & Andrew Beeston

### 1. Introduction

The meeting was opened by the President, who introduced the personnel on the top table and the Vice Presidents present.

There were 49 clubs represented during the evening.

Alderley Edge, Barnton, Blackpool CC, Bollington, Brooklands, Bury, Buxton, Capenhurst, Cheetham Hill, Cheshire Officers, Chester Rugby, Clayton Green, Congleton, Crewe Vagrants, David Lloyd Bolton, Deeside, Disley, East Lancs, Fairways Lodge, Formby, Glossop, Grove Park, Haslingden, Heswall, Hyde CC, Knutsford Sports, Le-Sport, Leyland Leisure, Liverpool CC, Lymm, Moss Side, Neston, Penwortham, Prestbury, Radbroke Hall, Rochdale, Saints, Sale, Sandbach, South Shore, Stockport, Tame Valley, Village Hyde, West Kirby, Whitby, Whitefield, Widnes RUFC, Winsford & Xaverian.

The meeting had been informed that Wilmslow had folded.

*[Attendance is based on the Clubs that signed the attendance sheet, available at the meeting]*

### 2. Apologies for absence – received from a number (9) of clubs.

City of Manchester, Clitheroe, Club AZ, David Lloyd Speke, Fleetwood, Lancs Health & Racquets, Lancon, Northern Crosby, St Peters Burnley

*[Apologies are based on the clubs who informed the General Secretary or were given to the General Secretary on their behalf at the meeting]*

### Clubs Absent: (40)

3-1-5 Squash Club, Alsager, Blackburn Northern, Bowden, Bridgefield, Capitol, Crow Wood, David Lloyd Cheadle, David Lloyd Chorley, David Lloyd Knowsley, David Lloyd Manchester, De Vere (Blackpool), Delamere Park, Ellesmere, Liverpool Univ Staff, Longridge, Macclesfield, Marple, Markland Hill, Mollington Banastre, Monton, Moss Farm, New Brighton, Nuffield, Preston Grasshoppers, Southport & Birkdale, St Annes, Tattenhall, The Northern, Tollgate, Vale of Lune, Village Bury, Village Cheadle, Village Warrington, Village Whiston, Village Wirral, Warrington, West Heaton, Wigan, Woolston, Wrexham Brymbo

From the 'Clubs Absent', the following (7) clubs had already paid their NWCSL Team Fees for the 2015/16 Season: Alsager,, Bowdon, Clitheroe, Crow Wood, Longridge, Marple & Tattenhall.

### 3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014, which had been previously circulated to clubs, as well as being available on the website, were taken as read and approved by the meeting.

### 4. Matters Arising – none

### 5. Presentation of Accounts

The Honorary Treasurer, Henry Stone, presented the accounts to the meeting. Copies of the accounts were available at the meeting.

Income & Expenditure Account

On the income side:

Team Fees were marginally down by £400 to just under £13000.

Sponsorship of £3000 had been received from iSPORTstore.com.

Other income of £1000 came from the advertising by Courtcare & Vinyline in the handbook and on the website. Fines were significantly down at £270 showing a decrease of approx. £470 over last season, a welcome reduction. Total income for the year was just over £17000.

On the expenditure side:

Grants to the Counties remained the same at £8000, which is apportioned by reference to the number of teams from each County.

A further £8000 had been set aside for Junior Development, which was the £3000 sponsorship money and the third of the agreed amounts of £5000 per year from the Accumulated Fund, which had been agreed at the 2012 AGM.

Postage, Printing & Stationery fees, including handbooks, had remained constant at £2700.

Referees' fees for Division 1 showed a net increase of just over £200 over last year.

Promotional expenses, including the website, had remained the same as the previous year at just under £200.

A reserve of £220 for trophies showed a decrease of £200 from last year.

A reserve of £300 had been allowed for the Play-Off Finals, a similar amount to last year.

Secretarial Honoraria had been increased to £1200, which are shared between the General & Match Secretaries, an increase of £200.

There was miscellaneous expenditure of £210.

This all resulted in a deficit of approx. £4800 for the year, essentially as a result of the further reserve for Junior Development.

Balance Sheet

The General Accumulated Fund decreased from just over £30,700 to just over £26,100.

The Treasurer explained the reasons behind the Creditors (approx. £7000), Cheques drawn but not presented (£1162), Sundry Debtors & Pre-payments (£1443) and the Provisions for Junior Development (approx. £12700)

There were no question on the Treasurer's Account for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

The Treasurer thanked the auditor, Simon Westhead for auditing the accounts on behalf of the League.

Following the Treasurer's explanation of the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015, acceptance of the Treasurer's report and figures were proposed, seconded and duly approved by the meeting.

Copies of the past Accounts are to be made available on the NWCSL website.

#### **6. Re-application from associate members**

There were three existing Associate Members seeking re-application, Buxton, Saints & Le-Sport, which were voted on separately by the meeting and all approved. Buxton – unanimous; Saints - unanimous; Le-Sport - unanimous.

#### **7. Application from new clubs and additional teams**

There had been no application from new clubs.

None known about at this stage.

#### **8. Constitution and Rule Alterations**

##### **Constitution**

Item 3.7 – Current wording:

“Each Club must be in credit with its affiliation fees payable to England Squash before the first match of each season or the club concerned will not be allowed to take part in the League. Where a Club's affiliation fees become due during a season, the Committee shall have the power to deduct 5 points per team per match from the date on which those fees are due until they are paid.”

The proposal to the meeting was to delete current wording and replace it with the following:

“Each Club must pay affiliation fees due to England Squash by the due date. If a Club's affiliation fees are overdue at the start of a season or become overdue at any time during a season, the Committee shall have the power to deduct 5 points per team per match from the start of that season or the date on which those fees become overdue until in either case they are paid. In addition, if a Club's affiliation fees are overdue at the start of a season, that club may not be allowed to take part in the League.”

An explanation of the reasons behind the amendment to the item was given by both the Treasurer and General Secretary.

Following a discussion, the amendment was voted on and passed unanimously by the members present at the meeting.

## Rules

### Rule 2.2

#### Proposal 1:

Amend Rule 2.2 to read as follows:

“Each game in Divisions 1, 2, ~~and 3~~ and 4 shall be played to 11 points, except that if the score reaches 10-all, the game shall continue until one player leads by 2 points.”

If this proposal is passed, then proceed to Proposal 2,

If this proposal is not passed, then Proposal 2 will be withdrawn.

#### Proposal 2:

Amend Rule 2.3 to read as follows:

1 “Each game in all Divisions ~~1, 2, and 3~~ shall be played to 11 points, except that if the score reaches 10-all, the game shall continue until one player leads by 2 points.”

And

2. Delete rule 2.2 and renumber rules 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 as rules 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 respectively.

If this proposal is not passed, then rule 2.3 remains

Proposal 1 was proposed by the Match Secretary.

Over the past season, he had received a number of requests that 15up game was too long and why couldn't it be reduced to 11up.

This produced a significant amount of discussion from the clubs with a number of clubs in favour of the reduction to 11up and a number of clubs in favour of it remaining at 15up.

Following the discussion, the proposal was put to the meeting for voting on.

For the proposal 18; Against the proposal 21; hence the proposal failed and as a result, Proposal 2 was withdrawn.

### Rules 4.1

#### Proposal

Insert the sentence shown in red after the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of Rule 4.1:

“Clubs must select and play available players in order of merit and in accordance with the clubs' playing order. If any team in a club shall not have a match on the relevant day, the club in question shall select players for that team as though it has a match so that the order of merit of other teams is maintained. **“A Player, who has played all or the majority of his or her matches for a higher team, shall not be allowed to drop down to a lower team when the higher team does not have a match without the permission of the Match Secretary, whose decision will be final.”** Where any team plays a league fixture on a different day in any week, no players in that team shall be eligible to play for another team during that week without the prior permission of the Committee, the General Secretary or the Match Secretary. The Committee may require any club to produce its selection of players for the team which does not have a match.”

The reasons behind the proposed amendment to the rule was explained by the Match Secretary.

There followed a lengthy discussion of the amendment, somewhat heated at times, although the majority speaking on the subject could understand the main reasons behind it.

Following this discussion, the proposal was put to the meeting for voting on.

For the proposal >30; Against the proposal 3; hence the proposal passed.

### New Rule 4.5

#### Proposal

**“When a club has more than one team but a lack of available players that week the Club may decide to:-**

**i) Field teams with less than 5 players in each team, or**

**ii) Move players up to higher teams leaving positions in lower teams unfilled.**

**Clubs must NOT move players down to fill lower teams leaving higher teams unfilled.**

**Whichever option a Club decides upon must comply with Rule 4.1”**

The reasons behind the proposed new rule were that:

i) There should be an additional rule to ensure clarity and non-ambiguity regarding the fielding of players in multiple teams.

ii) There was currently no rule specifying how players should be fielded across multiple teams when a full complement of players is unavailable.

Although the proposal had come from a Club, it was left to the General Secretary to propose the new rule to the meeting. Following some discussion, it became clear that the implementation of this rule could present any number of

issues. It was suggested by the Treasurer, that if the meeting agreed, then the Committee would relook at the implications and propose a new rule at the 2016 AGM.

Since the proposal had been put to the meeting, there was a requirement for it to be voted on.

The proposed new rule was rejected unanimously by the members present at the meeting.

## 9. Presentation of Shields/Trophies

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

All the Division section winners were presented at the meeting, which should have included the Division One Shield and individual player trophies:

Div 5C Sale 2	Div 5CS Village Whiston 2	Div 5N Preston Grasshoppers 6
Div 5NE Clayton Green 1	Div 5S Alderley Edge 5	Div 5SE West Heaton 2

### **Overall Winners of Division 5 - Div 5SW Deeside 2**

Div 4C Sale 1	Div 4E Cheetham Hill 3	Div 4N Blackpool CC 2
Div 4NE Haslingden 1	Div 4NW Northern Crosby 4	Div 4S Prestbury 2
Div 4SW Cewe Vagrants 3	Div 4W Heswall 4	

### **Overall Winners of Division 4 - Division 4SE – West Heaton 1**

Div 3CS City of Manchester 1	Div 3NE Wigan Squash 3	
Div 3NW Woolston 1	Div 3SE Bollington 1	Div 3SW Winsford 1

### **Overall Winners of Division 3 - Division 3CN – Blackpool CC 1**

Div 2E Hyde CC 1	Div 2W Neston 1
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### **Overall Winners of Division 2C – Rochdale 1**

### **Division One Champions – David Lloyd Chorley 1**

Division section plaques were presented by the President, John Hugall to each of the Clubs present.

The President accepted the division section plaques on behalf of Sale.

Seven clubs, who were section winners, were NOT present at the AGM to collect their trophies, two of these seven clubs had given their apologies in advance of the meeting and the other five failed to make any arrangements for someone else to collect them on their behalf, which is extremely disappointing. One club representative had to leave the meeting prior to the Presentations due to a family emergency, and who later apologised for forgetting to collect their plaque.

One other club representative was present at the AGM, but somehow didn't collect his club's plaque.

The most disappointing element was that there was no one present from the Division One Champions, David Lloyd Chorley.

### **Outstanding Shields to be collected by clubs from General Secretary:**

#### **Division 1 – David Lloyd Chorley 1**

**2 West – Neston 1**

**3 North East – Wigan Squash 3**

**4 North East – Haslingden 1**

**5 Central South – Village Whiston 2**

**5 South East – West Heaton 2**

**3 Central South – City of Manchester 1**

**3 North West – Woolston 1**

**4 South East – West Heaton 1**

**5 North – Preston Grasshoppers 6**

## 10. 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.

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.

The Auditor: Simon Westhead was re-elected.

The General Secretary stated that new Divisional Representative would be required and asked the meeting to make requests to their clubs, if there was no one present wishing to take up the duties.

### **11. Sponsorship**

In the absence of the Chairman, the General Secretary explained that the sponsorship deal with iSPORTstore.com was a two year deal, of which 2015/16 would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. There would be an option of a 3<sup>rd</sup> year sponsorship deal, where iSPORTstore.com could match any other sponsorship offer made by a third party.

### **12. Any Other Business**

The Team Captain's Meeting for 2015/2016 season was confirmed for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at Alford Sports & Social Club, Warrington, commencing at 7.30pm.

League stationery would be handed out at this meeting and clubs should make sure that team captains and/or club representatives do attend or make arrangements for a representative from a local club near them to collect it on their behalf, but only in an emergency.

Peter Withington & Alan Batchelor gave updates on what was happening on the junior scene: a recent match held between Lancashire v Yorkshire involving 30 juniors from each of the counties; and the re-introduction of the Northern Competition for juniors in a modified format.

Match Secretary & Alastair Atkinson reported on the Northern Masters to be held at Grove Park on 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2015, earlier than normal. Entry Forms will become available on the Northern Masters website.

The West Kirby representative asked about an option for a match to be played to 11up in Divisions 4 & 5, by agreement of the both team captains, when it was known that there would be insufficient time to complete a match, for example when a team was late arriving or when club had an early designated end time (Leisure Centres).

This couldn't be applied for the 2015/16 season, since it would require a rule amendment, which would have to be put to the 2016 AGM.

Winter Season 2015/16

The Match Secretary reported that the new season would commence on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Division & Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 for the remaining Divisions.

The meeting was drawn to a close by the Chairman at approx. 9.30pm, thanking the club representatives, who had attended, Fairways Lodge for the use of their premises and the Vice Presidents for attending.

General Secretary  
23/05/2015