

**MINUTES OF THE 58th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
FAIRWAYS LODGE ON TUESDAY 24th MAY 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.45 PM**

Present:

John Hugall	President
Bernie Gill	Chairman
Henry Stone	Honorary Legal Advisor (Current), Treasurer & Vice President
Dave Goulden	General Secretary & Vice President
Steve Eccles	Match Secretary
Alan Batchelor	Chairman Cheshire SRA
Norman Astbury	Vice President
Ian Hargreaves	Vice President
Roy Lomas	Vice President
Joss Garvey	Referee Co-ordinator
Nick Murrills	Honorary Legal Advisor (Elect)

Apologies were received from Roger Kenyon, Chairman Merseyside SRA

1. Introduction

The meeting was opened by the Chairman. He requested a minutes silence for a number of people who had passed away during the past twelve months. Tony Parker (Referee), Glen Ragou, Norman Chatburn (past Treasurer), Don Wainwright, Tony Chriscoli & Gary Woods.

The Chairman then introduced the personnel on the top table and the Vice Presidents present.

There were 67 clubs represented during the evening.

Alsager, Barnton, Blackpool CC, Bollington, Bowdon, Bridgefields, Brooklands, Buxton, Capenhurst, Capitol Squash, Cheetham Hill, Cheshire Officers, Chester Rugby, City of Manchester, Crewe Vagrants, Crow Wood, David Lloyd Bolton, David Lloyd Chorley, David Lloyd Manchester, Deeside, Delamere Park, Disley, East Lancs, Ellesmere, Fairways Lodge, Formby, Grove Park, Haslingden, Heswall, Hyde CC, Knutsford Sports, Le-Sport, Leyland Leisure, Liverpool CC, Liverpool Univ. Staff, Longridge, Markland Hill, Marple, Mollington Banastre, Monton, Moss Side, New Brighton, Northern Crosby, Prestbury, Radbroke Hall, Rochdale, Saints, Sandbach, South Shore, Southport & Birkdale, St Asaph, St Peters Burnley, Stockport, Tame Valley, The Northern, Vale of Lune, Village Hyde, Virgin Active Lancashire, Warrington, West Kirby, Whitefield, Winsford, Woolston, Wrexham Brymbo, Xaverian & YMCA Thornton.

The meeting had been informed that Sale 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 (8) of clubs.

Alderley Edge, Clayton Green, Fleetwood, Glossop, Lancon, New Mills, Nuffield, Village Warrington Vets

[Apologies are based on the clubs who informed the General Secretary and those which were given to the General Secretary on their behalf at the meeting. There were also several other belated apologies from clubs that didn't attend the meeting]

Clubs Absent: (24)

3-1-5 Squash Club, Blackburn Northern, Bury, Clitheroe, Club AZ, Congleton, David Lloyd Cheadle, David Lloyd Knowsley, David Lloyd Speke, Lymm, Macclesfield, Moss Farm, St Annes, Tattenhall, Tollgate, Village Cheadle, Village Urban Blackpool, Village Warrington, Village Whiston, Village Wirral, West Heaton, Whitby, Widnes RUFC, Wigan

3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 21st May 2015, 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. Cheshire Ladies Presentation**

Jane Wood from the Cheshire Ladies Committee was requesting help from the NWCSL Clubs in promoting Ladies teams within their Clubs to increase participation in the Cheshire Ladies League.

Posters were available for club representatives to take back to their clubs.

Further information could be obtained from Jane's email: jwood73197@aol.com

6. 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 £800 to just over £12000.

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

Other income of £1010 came from the advertising by Courtcare & Vinylin in the handbook and on the website.

There had been no fines during the season.

Total income for the year was just over £16000.

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.

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

Referees' fees for Division 1 showed a net decrease of just over £300 over last year.

Promotional expenses, including the website, had remained similar to the previous year at just over £200.

Trophies showed an increase of £200, which had been due to a low reserve from last year.

A reserve of £350 had been allowed for the Play-Off Finals.

Secretarial Honoraria had remained constant at £1200.

There was miscellaneous expenditure of £350.

This all resulted in a surplus of approx. £2300 for the year, essentially as a result of no further reserve having been allocated for Junior Development.

Balance Sheet

The General Accumulated Fund increased from just over £26,100 to just under £28,400.

The Treasurer explained the reasons behind the Creditors (approx. £7000), Sundry Debtors & Pre-payments (£1752) and the Provisions for Junior Development (approx. £10500)

There were no questions on the Treasurer's Account for the year ending 31st March 2016.

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 2016, acceptance of the Treasurer's report and figures were proposed, seconded and duly approved by the meeting.

7. Re-application from associate members

There were four existing Associate Members seeking re-application, Buxton, Saints, Le-Sport & St Asaph, which were voted on separately by the meeting and all approved.

8. Application from new clubs and additional teams

There had been one application from a new club - Holywell – that was approved.

9. Constitution and Rule Alterations

Constitution

Proposal 1

Amendment to the last sentence of Clause 4.2:

4.2 If a Club is not represented at the Annual General Meeting, a ~~fine~~ penalty to be fixed by the Committee may be levied.

Amendment to the penultimate sentence of Clause 4.9:

4.9 If a Club is not represented at the Team Captains' Meeting, a ~~fine~~ penalty to be fixed by the Committee may be levied.

An explanation of the reasons behind the amendment to the items was given by the General Secretary.

Following a discussion, the amendments were voted on and approved by the members present at the meeting.

League Rules

Proposal 2

Amendment to rule 1.4

- 1.4 Promotions and relegations will be subject to the proviso that no club shall have more than two teams in the same section of a division each except in the ~~lowest bottom two~~ divisions where up to 3 teams may be allowed.

Proposal Approved

Proposal 3

Insert new Rule 2.6

- 2.6 Any team playing a player who at the date of the match in question is (i) under 19 and (ii) registered with the League as under 19 will be awarded one extra point per match for each such player.

Note for information for the AGM: The intention is to encourage teams to promote and play juniors in the NWCSL.

Following a discussion, the amendment was voted on and approved by a majority of the members present at the meeting, although there was 5 votes against.

Proposal 4

Amendment to the current Rule 4.1

Proposed by Southport & Birkdale Secunder Northern Crosby

- 4.1 Clubs must select and play available players in order of merit and in accordance with the clubs' playing order. ~~Any player who would be selected on merit and in accordance with the clubs' playing order, but is not available to play on Tuesday in Division One, for whatever reason, is also ineligible to play for any other team on the following Thursday.~~ 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.

Following a discussion, the amendment was voted on and approved by 31 votes for and 7 votes against by the members present at the meeting.

Proposal 5

Insert New Rule 4.2

4.2 Squads

- 4.2.1 Clubs with two teams in the same section of a division may apply no later than two weeks (or such other period as the Committee may specify) before the start of the relevant season to play two separate squads of players in that section. Any such application must identify each of the players in each squad and the order in which they are to play.
- 4.2.2 The squad for the higher ranked team must contain a minimum of 5 ranked players and the squad for the lower ranked team a minimum of 7 ranked players. The players in the squad for the higher ranked team are not allowed to drop down and play for the club's lower ranked team. Players in the squad for the lower ranked team can play for the higher team, but must play in the club's order of merit as defined by the League's ranking order at the time of the match. Only the 6th, 7th or other lower ranked players in the squad for the lower ranked team are allowed to play for the club's next lowest team in a lower division or a different section of the same division.
- 4.2.3 The initial application to play squads shall be considered and, if appropriate, approved by the Committee. Each club must also submit at such other times during a season as may be specified by the Committee from time to time a revised playing order for such squads with an explanation for consideration by the Committee and, if such explanation is accepted, approval. If no revised playing order is submitted at such times, the Committee will treat the previously approved playing order as having been re-submitted for approval.

And renumber the current rules 4.2, 4.3, and 4.3 as respectively rules 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5 or as may be otherwise appropriate depending on any other amendments approved at the AGM.

Following a discussion, the amendment was voted on and approved by 21 votes for and 18 votes against by the members present at the meeting.

Proposal 6**Amendment to Paragraph 1 of the current Rule 4.2 (Rule 4.3 if Proposal 5 is approved)**

- 4.2 In ~~the 1st & 2nd~~ Divisions 1 and 2 each club must submit a playing order for its team before the start of the season for approval by the Committee. **Where a club in Division 1 has no team in a section of Division 2, that club must also submit a playing order for its second team.** Where a team's proposed playing order is different from that of the League's ranking list, the club must provide an explanation for consideration by the Committee as to why it is different and, if such explanation is accepted, approval.

Proposal Approved

Proposal 7**Amendment to the current Rule 5.2**

- 5.2 Teams wishing to alter a match date must first obtain the permission of their respective division representatives and the General Secretary or the Match Secretary. **If teams fail to obtain permission, the non-offending team will be awarded the match.** Where a match date is altered, the teams shall be selected for the new date on the basis of the clubs' bona fide playing order current at the new date. The fact that a player may have played for another of his club's teams on the original date shall not affect his eligibility for the new date. If the clubs fail to agree on a mutually agreeable date to play the match within 28 days of the original date, then the date shall be decided by the General Secretary or the Match Secretary. (Clubs are advised to contact their division representative re the eligibility of their players.)

Proposal Approved

Proposal 8**Amendment to the current Rules 5, 7, and 9****All Matches to be played on a Thursday evening**

To come into effect on 1 MAY 2017, i.e. for season 2017/18

Proposed Rule Changes as follows:

Rule 5.3 Delete the current Rule 5.3 and

- (i) substitute the following as new Rule 5.1:

5.1 Unless otherwise provided in these Rules all matches will be played on a Thursday evening.

And

- (ii) renumber the current Rules 5.1 and 5.2 as respectively 5.2 and 5.3 or as may be otherwise appropriate depending on any other amendments approved at the AGM.

Rule 7.2 Delete the 2nd sentence in the current Rule 7.2 ie: "Players playing in the 1st on a Tuesday night are NOT eligible again for a lower team on the Thursday night of the same week."

Rule 9.2 Amend the current Rule 9.2 as set out in red below:

Clubs can ~~agree to~~ start a match at 7.30pm provided that the home club makes ~~two courts more than one courts~~ available for ~~the duration of~~ the match. At least four players from each side should be present by this time.

Note: The proposed amendments to the current Rules 5, 7.2 & 9.2 will be taken together, as a single proposal.

Following a discussion, the amendment was voted on and rejected by a majority of members present at the meeting, with only 14 voting in favour of the amendment.

Proposal 9**Deletion of the current Rule 7.4 (as set out below)**

7.4 In any one season any team in the 1st Division may only play a maximum of four players who are not Home Players.

Delete Rule 7.4 as set out above and renumber rules 7.5, 7.6, 7.7 & 7.8 as respectively 7.4, 7.5, 7.6 & 7.7 or as may be otherwise appropriate depending on any other amendments approved at the AGM.

Proposal Approved by majority, with 2 votes against.

Proposal 10:**Amendment of the current Rule 7.5**

Proposed by Dave Partington (YMCA Thornton) Secunder Winsford

Delete the current rule 7.5 (Wording set out below)

7.5 No player may play for more than one club in a league match in any one season without the permission of the General Secretary, the Match Secretary, the Committee or one of the sub-committees duly designated for that purpose.

And replace it with:

7.5 **Transfer of players between clubs is allowed after a period of 7 days of the transfer being registered with Match Secretary.**

Proposal Rejected, with only 4 votes for and the majority against.

Proposal 11**Amendment to the current Rule 7.6**

Proposed by Dave Partington (YMCA Thornton)

7.6 No player may play in a league match after 31st December in any season without the permission of the General Secretary, the Match Secretary, the Committee or of one of its sub-committees duly designated for that purpose, unless he or she has already played in a league match during that season. This rule will not be applied to a club's lowest team ~~where its application would mean that the team concerned cannot raise five players or a player who has been transferred.~~

Proposal Withdrawn

Proposal 12**Amendment to the current Rule 7.7**

7.7 No player may play in the last ~~four~~ **three** league matches of a division or the play-offs for that division unless he or she has played in at least ~~four~~ **three** league matches in that division, or a lower division, for that club earlier in the season. In extenuating circumstances the General Secretary, the Match Secretary, the Committee or any one of its sub-committees can permit a player who does not meet the above criteria to play for a lower team in his/her club during the last four matches of the season, provided that the club's playing order ~~of merit~~ is maintained in accordance with rule 4.~~1~~.

Proposal Approved

Proposal 13**Amendment to the current Rule 7.7**

Proposed by Dave Partington (YMCA Thornton) Secunder required

Add the following sentence at the end of the current Rule 7.7

This rule does not apply to a club's lowest team provided that player has not played a game for a higher team.

Proposal Rejected

Proposal 14**Amendments to the current Rule 13.1**

- 13.1 Any requests to the Committee for a decision on the Rules **or any other issues** must be made by **a the** Club Representative **and** within seven days of the match or incident to which it relates and must be sent in writing (by letter and/or email) **in such form as the Committee may from time to time require, at the same time providing any supporting documents and/or information**, to the General Secretary or the Match Secretary with a copy to the appropriate divisional representative provided that the Committee may in its absolute discretion consider any such request notwithstanding that the period of seven days has expired.

Note: For the purpose of determining 'seven days' the date that a match is first inputted on the Resultszone website may be taken as the start of day one.

Proposal Approved

Proposal 15**Amendments to the current Rule 13.3**

- 13.3 An appeal may be made against any decision of the Disputes Sub-Committee under Rule 13.2 either (a) to the Committee by sending a written request (by letter and/or email) **and a fee (which will be set by the Committee at the start of each season)** to the General Secretary within 14 days of being notified of the decision appealed against or (b) to England Squash where appropriate in accordance with the Rules or Regulations of England Squash applicable at the time of such appeal. In the case of an appeal to the Committee the Committee shall appoint an Appeal Sub-Committee comprising members of the Committee who were not involved in the decision against which the appeal is made and such Appeal Sub-Committee shall have all the powers of the Committee under this Rule 13 to impose those penalties which it considers appropriate. **Where a fee has been paid for an appeal to the League, the Appeal Sub-Committee shall consider, when making its decision, whether or not the fee should be refunded.**

Proposal Approved

Proposal 16**Amendment to the current Rule 14.1**

- 14.1 Each club must pay to the League before 1st July in any calendar year an affiliation fee per team for the playing season starting in or about September of that year, the amount of such fee to be determined by the Committee. **If affiliation fees are paid after 1st July, then additional fees, set by the Committee, shall be payable.**

Proposal Approved

Proposal 17**Insertion of New Rule 15**

Proposed by Adam Slade (Alderley Edge) Seconded required

New Rule 15 Pregnant players (Rule taken from the Cheshire Ladies League)

15. **If any team includes a player who is more than five months pregnant, the Team Captain must ring the opposition at least a week in advance to see if they will agree to play against that player. If the opposition do not agree, that player must not be included in the team that week and positions must not be changed so that she can play on a higher or lower team – the player concerned must play in her normal ranking position or not at all.**

Note: This Rule exists for the benefit of players concerned about harming the mother-to-be/unborn baby, not to stop teams playing a good player.

This Proposal had been withdrawn by the Proposer in advance of the meeting.

Proposal 18**Amendments to the Rules generally**

Wherever there is a reference to the first (1st), second (2nd), third (3rd), fourth (4th) or fifth (5th) division in the Rules (except in Rule 1.1), that reference shall be changed to "Division 1", "Division 2", "Division 3", "Division 4", or "Division 5" as appropriate.

Note. Over the years slightly different terminology has been used in the Rules for references to the various divisions. This proposal is put with a view to using the same terminology throughout.

Proposal Approved

10. 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, along with all 5 of the Division Winners Shield and individual player trophies for Division 1:

Div 5C Monton 3	Div 5CS Formby	Div 5N Longridge
Div 5S Alderley Edge 6	Div 5SE Hyde CC 3	Div5 SW New Brighton 3
Overall Winners of Division 5 - Div 5NE Markland Hill 2		

Div 4C DL Manchester	Div 4E Rochdale 3	Div 4N South Shore
Div 4NE Crow Wood 2	Div 4NW Southport & Birkdale 3	Div 4SE Hyde CC 4
Div 4W Capenhurst		
Overall Winners of Division 4 - Division 4S – Knutsford Sports 1		

Div 3CN Leyland Leisure	Div 3CS West Heaton	Div 3NE Rochdale 2
Div 3SE Prestury	Div 3SW Wrexham Brymbo 2	
Overall Winners of Division 3 - Division 3NW – Liverpool CC 2		

Div 2C Tame Valley 1	Div 2E Brooklands 1
Overall Winners of Division 2W – Southport & Birkdale 1	

Division One Champions – The Northern

Division section plaques, Overall Division Winners Shields and Division 1 individual player trophies were presented by the President, John Hugall to each of the Clubs present.

On behalf of the Division 1 Champions, The Northern, Andy Whipp (their 1st Team Captain) accepted the Division 1 Shield and spoke on behalf the Northern.

It was brought to the attention of the meeting, that over the last 9 seasons, Andy has played 198 matches at No.1 for The Northern, winning 193 of those matches, which is a remarkable achievement.

The Overall Division Winners Shields were accepted on behalf of their clubs by:

Division 2 – Southport & Birkdale 1 – Mark Crompton
 Division 3 – Liverpool CC 2 – Steve Harding
 Division 4 – Knutsford Sports 1 – Neil Robinson
 Division 5 – Markland Hill 2 – Bob Houldsworth

Outstanding Shields to be collected by clubs from General Secretary:

3 Central South – West Heaton	5 South – Alderley Edge 6
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11. 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	-	John Hugall
Chairman	-	Bernie Gill
Treasurer	-	Henry Stone
General Secretary	-	Dave Goulden
Match Secretary	-	Steve Eccles
Hon. Legal Advisor	-	Nick Murrills
Ordinary Member	-	David Thomas

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

New Vice President: Joss Garvey was approved and elected

County Representative: Chair or as proposed by County (to be informed by County) were re-elected.

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

The Auditor: Simon Westhead was re-elected.

Following the AGM, a further member offered to be co-opted on to the Committee as an Ordinary Member.

The General Secretary stated that 2016/17 would be his last season as General Secretary after 18 years, since he would be turning 70 during the season and felt it was time for someone younger to take over as General Secretary.

He stated that he would be prepared to stay on the Committee as an Ordinary Member to help any new General Secretary (only if required).

12. Sponsorship

The Chairman informed the meeting that iSPORTstore would not be continuing their sponsorship deal and thanked them for their support over 2 years.

The Chairman gave a brief update on the potential of a deal with Bearfaced Groceries, which could be of benefit to all clubs, but negotiations were at an early stage and more details would be provided later, if a deal was agreed.

13. Any Other Business

The Chairman gave a brief update on ESR. There was to be an ESR Committee Member meeting and a vote for a new Board.

The Team Captain's Meeting for 2016/2017 season was confirmed for Tuesday 6th September 2016 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.

The Match Secretary reported that the new season would commence on Tuesday, 20th September 2016 for the 1st Division & Thursday, 22nd September 2016 for the remaining Divisions. Divisions of 14 teams would likely start Thursday 15th September.

The England Squash North West Masters would be held at Grove Park again and the World Championships would be in December 2017.

Referee Courses: Details of organising courses could be obtained through both Joss Garvey and Alan Batchelor.

The meeting was drawn to a close by the Chairman at approx. 10.10pm, thanking the club representatives, who had attended, Fairways Lodge for the use of their premises, and the Vice Presidents for attending.

General Secretary

15/06/2016