

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

Minutes of the Team Captain's Meeting on Tuesday, 11th September 2001, starting at 7:30pm, at Warrington Sports Club.

Present: G Horrex (President), J Hugall (Chairman), D Goulden (General Secretary), B Foster (1st Div. Rep.)

There was 47 out of 142 clubs present. Apologies had been received from a further 7 clubs.

The NWCSL Chairman, John Hugall, opened the meeting.

1. Team Captain's Responsibilities / Discipline (including requirements for 1st Division Teams)

JH gave a brief resume of the disciplinary issues from last season. A total of 7 dispute committee meetings had taken place, which had invariably involved clubs/teams who had not attended last year's similar meeting. In the majority of cases, the Disputes Committee were of the belief that most of the issues brought to them could have been (and should have been) sorted out by the relevant team captains on the night of the incident.

In some cases, it had appeared that some inter club/team disputes/vendettas were of a long-standing nature, carrying over from previous seasons. A practice that the Committee and President found intolerable and the League had to be stamped out.

BF gave a resume of the requirements of 1st Division teams:

- a) Match results MUST be received by 1pm on Wednesday, following the Tuesday night match.
- b) Full details of the match are required, including player names and individual game scores.
- c) The preference was for the scorecard to be either faxed or e-mailed (as an attachment) to BF. If a phone call was necessary, then there was need to speak slowly & clearly, plus the scorecard must be posted immediately.
- d) The scorecard (or copy) is necessary, since the match start time will be entered and signed by the match referee.
- e) Player registration forms must be filled in for all players in the 1st Division. Player registration from last season will be acceptable where there are no change in details. New registration forms will be required for new players. The General Secretary will forward a number of blank forms to all 1st Division clubs.

2. Late Starts

The General Secretary re-emphasised that in the majority of cases late finishes are the results of late starts. Similarly, a large number of scorecards did not even have a start time stated. The Committee was powerless to act if clubs did not complain and also appreciated that complaining or claiming matches was not conducive to an enjoyable evening of squash.

A question was asked from the audience of how much had been collected in fines for late starts from last season and that fines were unlikely to act as a deterrent. The actual amount was not to hand, but of course, any amount collected would only be the result of complaints. BF stated that 1st Division teams are fined £25 for late starts, if there is no valid reason, but this is policed by the match referee, who sign the start time on the scorecard.

3. Refereeing / Refereeing Courses / Squash Rules

GH gave a resume of the recent changes to the rules of the game. Although the rule book had been re-written with more of an emphasise on the positive side of what you should do, rather than what you shouldn't do. There were 3 main changes, which are:

- a) The Let / Interference rule
- b) The Blood rule
- c) The interpretation on 'Turning'

On the request of the Chairman, GH also spoke briefly on rule 17, discipline.

The Chairman also clarified that any marker/referee on the night was acting as an agent of the NWCSL, and hence, would always get the full backing of the NWCSL Committee.

The General Secretary stated that every club had recently received an up-dated copy of the rules book, complimentary of the NWCSL, but he had available a limited number of copies for sale at £1.50 (Cost is £3.75 via England Squash (SRA)).

There was a question from the audience of whether the WSF booklet on rule interpretation could be made available at a discounted price to members. JH stated that inquires would be made.

4. New Scoring system, Scorecards & Results on the Web site

The General Secretary explained the new scoring system would be on games won, although the bonus points (5) were awarded to the winner based on matches won.

Examples of the new scoring system, on a copy of match scorecards, was distributed to those present. One of these examples showed the situation of where a match is won by the team who had won less games than their opponents.

Since the results entered on the web-site normally would automatically add the bonus points to the winning team, the General Secretary needs to check with the Resultszone administrator how this will be dealt with for the coming season, particularly where you can win the match, but have won fewer games.

A question was asked about what happened in the case of a draw, a situation which happened last year, when both teams only had 4 players each. In this situation, both teams would be awarded 2 bonus points each. In the case of a no-score draw (i.e. match not played), no bonus points are awarded.

For information purposes, the General Secretary stated that the web-site fixtures, as of 11/09/01, were up-to-date, although there was a small number of minor modifications expected. These may not be updated until after the start of the season, so teams involved would be contact directly by phone.

The required details for inputting results on the web-site would forwarded on to the relevant people as soon as possible. Potentially, people with established IDs and password from last season, may be able to re-use them for this season.

5. Any other business

Approved Squash Ball for 2001/02 season.

The Committee had decided to approve the Dunlop Squash Balls. Both the Relevation Pro (double yellow spot) and the old Dunlop XX (single yellow spot) are approved. The 'HOME' team captain has the final decision on which of these balls will be used.

DDG
12/09/01