

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

Minutes of NWCSL Team Captains Meeting held on 7th September 2010 at Alford Sports & Social Club, Manchester Road, Warrington, WA1 3NJ

Present: John Hugall (President), Dave Goulden (General Secretary) & John Cunningham (1st Division Divisional Representative)

There were representatives from 68 clubs present, with apologies from approx. 10 clubs out of a total of 106 clubs registered for the 2010/11 season.

The President opened the meeting at approx. 7:40pm and chaired it in the absence of the Chairman, who had offered his apologies, due to being away on holiday.

These minutes are a summary of the meeting and may not contain all the issues raised during the meeting by those present.

1. Team Captain's responsibilities / player behaviour

The President covered the player behaviour issues, which included:

- a) Team Captains should attempt to diffuse potential conflicts before they become a problem,
- b) All Clubs know whom their problem players are and should be taking steps to ensure that problems do NOT occur. Clubs also have a responsibility in ensuring that their problem players are dealt with appropriately if problems do occur,
- c) Players do have a duty to respect Markers/Referees, who will always get the full backing of the Disputes/NWCSL Committees.

Team Captain's responsibilities was dealt with by the GS, these included the following:

- a) Player registrations – to ensure whenever possible that all team players are registered before they play and within 7 days otherwise. There were too many incidents last season where players were not registered within the 7 days and when they were, results were not corrected
- b) Scorecards are correctly filled in, both website and posted copies – please enter website results carefully and check before saving, it is also not unusual to receive posted scorecards with only names and scores entered, with no team names, date of match or match score,
- c) Scorecards still needed to be posted (or scanned and emailed) to Div Rep, as agreed with Divisional Representative. The scorecards are needed by the Divisional Rep, so that the section can be policed adequately

Disputes – a rule change at the AGM requires all disputes to come from and be signed the designated Club Representative. A Disputes Form is now available on the website. Further information, including supporting letter can be sent with the form. If the form has not been returned within the 7 day deadline, please state on the form the reason for the delay.

2. England Squash Affiliation Fees

The President reminded the meeting that Clubs should be in credit with their England Squash affiliation fees at the start of the season. If not, then teams may lose points, in accordance with the Constitution, until the fees are paid. Points lost will NOT be added back on payment of fees.

The GS suggested that all clubs should check now whether their fees had been paid and if either unsure or they had not been paid, then they should contact Steve Jones,

Membership Dept. of England Squash, for a copy invoice. His details are in last year's handbook and on the website.

3. Rule Changes at 2010 AGM

The GS briefly covered the Constitution and Rule Changes that took place at the AGM in May.

Up-to-date copies of the Constitution and Rules can be found on the website.

There were 6 proposals covering the Constitution.

The changes include:

- a) AGM can now take place at anytime during May/June rather than last two weeks of May,
- b) Clubs may be fined for non-attendance of both the AGM & Team Captain's meeting,
- c) Up to 5 Ordinary Committee members can be co-opted by the Committee during the season.

There were 2 proposals covering the Rules.

The main change was to Rule 13, where complaints from clubs must come through their designated Club Representative (see item 1 above)

4. Others Rules

The GS also reminded clubs of the following rules, which cover the majority of issues during most seasons:

4.1 Playing Orders – particularly where clubs have two teams in same sections of a division, the teams must play in ranking order and clubs must not be operating teams as two separate squads

5 Match Date Alterations – the appropriate Divisional Rep must be informed **IN ADVANCE** and agree to any postponement

6 Match Walk-over's – a reminder that 1 walk-over in Divs 1& 2 or 2 in other Divs (3 & 4) can result in automatic relegation

7.6 31st Dec deadline – exceptions

If a player has been out during the first half of the season due to injury and business or personal reasons and not been able to play 1 match before the deadline, then permission is normally given for them to play during the second half of the season, subject to rule 7.7. New players to the area may be allowed to play, but each case will be judged independently.

7.7 Last 4 matches – exceptions

Regular players may, with permission, be allowed to play in a lower team if their current club playing order merits it at the time of the matches. See second sentence of this rule.

9 Starting Times

The rule states that matches must commence at 7.00pm and at least 3 players from each team are present. The emphasis is on clubs/teams to comply with this rule. The committee will deal with any issues relating to late start, if brought to their attention. A question was raised over court times, where some clubs (possibly Leisure Centres) may only have courts available from 7.20pm. In these situations, it was suggested that the home team should inform their opponent about this and importantly, that the two players for the first match are changed and ready to go on court at 7.20pm.

Where there are late starts, as a result of teams (home or away team) arriving late, then every effort MUST be made to play the match. Teams / players CANNOT claim a match / tie; this decision would have to be made by the committee.
If all matches are NOT completed at the end of the evening (where club have a time to complete by), then the awarding of any unplayed matches/games will be decided by the committee, taking into account late start times.

5. Website

Club Playing Lists

GS stated that quite a number of the club playing lists needed to be update and to send him a list of player names and ID numbers that needed to be removed. Player names are NOT removed from the Resultszone database, but are retained as players without a club.

Incorrect rankings

Following the AGM in May, the GS had sent an email to all club representatives asking them to review their player rankings, particularly those registered within the last two or three years, where their initial starting number of ranking points was either incorrect or not entered, resulting in a default level of 1600 points. To date, only one club had responded, as far as requesting a change, whilst several other had replied that their lists were more or less accurate. Incorrect rankings can have a significant effect on other player's rankings.

The GS also reminded club administrators that they should NOT use incorrect names when entering results. A number of people persist to do so, when there are instructions on the website (bottom item under Latest News) on how to enter a result when a player's name is missing. Again, the use of incorrect names does significantly affect the ranking system.

Transfer of Players

If players are moving between clubs, then the GS should be informed, so that player records can be moved with them. Do NOT re-register existing players. If you are uncertain, check first.

New Registrations – need to allocate the correct number of starting ranking points
Check your club ranking list and allocate a starting number of ranking points similar to the players around where the new player will fit in.

Team Administrators

GS requested an update from all club on persons entering results.

If they know of anyone that previously did it for their club, then to let the GS know.

6. 1st Division team responsibilities

John Cunningham gave an update as far as 1st Division requirements needed by him, which had been sent by email to club contacts about 2 weeks ago.

The following covers details listed in the email:

- a) If you have a 1st team manager or he has changed from last season and you wish him to be circulated on future emails please let JC know by completing the 1st division team manager form which was attached to the email.
- b) All 1st division players are required to be registered with JC on the appropriate form, available on the NWCSL web site and a copy was attached with the email.

c) Each club is required to submit the ranking order of there players for the 1st 6 matches, this list is required by the 14th September at the latest, earlier if possible please.

d) Ensure all your players are registered on the NWCSL website. If players are transferring from one club to another do not re-register them, please let Dave Goulden or JC know and we will get them transferred.

e) JC need the match cards faxed to him at the latest by 5.00pm the next day so he can get the results to the press. Where ever possible please enter the results on the website yourselves.

f) Fines will be imposed for the following, late results (£5), missing player (£30), late starts (£15 for every 10 minutes after 7.40), not playing in ranking order (£5 per offence).

A number of Manchester based 1st Division clubs will also be contacted by Kevin Thompson, who has a radio sports show on Wythenshawe FM. He will attend matches and conduct player interviews.

If other clubs have an issues/information for the radio show, Kevin can be contacted by email at wfmssport@hotmail.com

7. 2nd Division playing orders

The GS outlined a proposal for playing orders in the 2nd Division.

It was proposed that 2nd Division teams could opt to submit a fixed playing order, for approval, or closely follow the NWCSL player ranking for their club.

Since there is no rule to cover a fixed playing order for 2nd Division teams (unlike the 1st Division), then this system would be totally 'voluntary'.

If clubs decide that they do NOT want to submit a fixed order, then the club playing order, in accordance with rule 4.1, will be deemed to follow closely the NWCSL Clubs Ranking Points list. Players with rankings within 50 points of each other could play above or below each other.

The GS will send out an email to all Club Representative of 2nd Division teams about this proposal following this meeting.

8. Season Timetable

All though the season timetable was not fully discussed at the meeting, the following is a summary of the 2010/2011 season

Start 21/23 September, finish 14/16 December

Start 04/06 January, finish 06/15 April

Free weeks

Divisions of 12 teams

28th October half term week

9th December last week for 12 div teams

16th December last week for 14 div teams

8th/10th February English National Closed Championships

24th February half term week

31st March last week for 12 div teams

7th April last week for 14 div teams

22nd/24th April Easter Friday/Monday

Play-offs (excluding finals)

14th April Div 2

7th & 14th April Div 3

7th, 14th 21st April Div 4
14th & 21st April Div 5
See below for Play-off Finals

9 Play-offs / AGM

It was proposed that there would be a play-off day for all four finals in Divisions 2 to 5 as last season. The proposal would cover matches, presentations and the potential of the AGM, all on the same day. The proposed date for the finals would be the beginning of May, possibly Saturday/Sunday, 7th/8th May 2011.

Following discussion and a vote, the meeting decided that they would prefer to keep the AGM on a separate week day rather than the Play-off weekend.

10. Restructuring

The current restructuring plans have come to an end.

The situation going forward will be:

14 in 1st Divisions only (could reduce to 12, if circumstances demanded)

All others sections in Divisions 2 to 5 - 12 teams, unless there are geographical consideration to increase sections to 14 teams or reduce sections to 8 teams.

Relegation at end of 2010/11 season

3 teams from 1st Division, 4 teams from each of the 2nd Divisions, 3 teams from each of the 3rd Divisions & 2 teams from each of the 4th Divisions

Promotion

1 team from each of the 2nd Divisions, 2 teams from each of the 3rd Divisions, 2 teams from each of the 4th Divisions & 2 teams from each of the 5th Divisions

11. Sponsorship

The meeting was informed of a potential sponsorship deal with HEAD. At this stage, discussions were in progress and hoped to be finalised as quickly as possible. The sponsorship deal will have any effect on the Handbook and may delay its printing.

On behalf of HEAD, Jonathon Duffield gave a short presentation about the company and what they hoped to achieve out of a sponsorship deal, in particularly to the promotion of the HEAD squash ball. At the end of the meeting, a number of squash balls would be made available to clubs to trial.

An A5 leaflet from Monkhouse Intersports, one of HEAD's main distributors in the North West was also made available to the meeting, with an offer of the HEAD squash ball.

12. Handbooks

The GS asked all clubs to finalise their details, including contacts and number of teams, so that the Handbook could be sent for printing as soon as possible.

13. AOB

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at approx. 10.00pm., thanking those present for attending the meeting and their contributions.