

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

Minutes of NWCSL Team Captains Meeting held on 10th September 2012 at Alford Sports & Social Club, Manchester Road, Warrington, WA1 3NJ

Present: John Hugall (President), Bernie Gill (Chairman), Dave Goulden (General Secretary), Steve Eccles (Match Secretary) & Henry Stone (Treasurer & Hon, Legal Advisor)

Apologies: John Cunningham (1st Division Rep)

There were representatives from 72 clubs present, with apologies from approx 12 clubs out of a total of 105 clubs registered for the 2012/13 season.

The Chairman opened the meeting at approx. 7:30pm.

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 Chairman covered the player behaviour issues and stated that he was also appalled at the behaviour of some players at the recent Andy Gill Memorial Tournament at Rochdale.

The following covers some of the Committee's concerns:

- 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.

Other 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.
- 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 Reps.

Disputes – A Disputes Form is available on the website. Further information, including supporting letter can be sent with the form. The Disputes Form must be sent to the appropriate Divisional Rep., with a copy to both the Match Secretary and General Secretary. This form must be signed by the designated Club Representative.

2. Rule Changes at 2012 AGM

There had been no significant rule changes at the 2012 AGM

Others Rules

The GS also reminded clubs of the following rules, which cover the majority of issues that arise 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 and Match Secretary 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, who played for the club the previous season, has been out during the first half of the season due to injury, business and/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. The Match Secretary also stated that he would be keeping a close eye on contravention of this rule during this period of the end of the season, hence Clubs should inform all their relevant team captains and selection committees of this requirement.

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.

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.

3. Website

Club Playing Lists

GS stated that quite a number of the club playing lists needed to be update and to send him or the Match Secretary 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

GS stated that if any club believed that they players with incorrect rankings to contact him or the Match Secretary, along with any reasons for why the ranking is incorrect.

Please do NOT use INCORRECT NAMES when entering results. The use of incorrect names can have a significant effect on the ranking system.

Transfer of Players

If players are moving between clubs, then the Match Secretary or General Secretary 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

Let the Match Secretary know of any new administrators so that their access can be created.

Similarly, if there are any who need removing from the list.

4. Match Secretary

The Match Secretary reported on the 2020 World Squash Day on 20th October 2012, asking that clubs and players do register and get involved. Players can register and download information from: www.worldsquashday.com

He similarly gave an update on the Inaugural NW Masters tournament recently run at Grove Park and to encourage players to enter next years event.

5. 1st Division team responsibilities

In John Cunningham absence, the General Secretary gave an update as far as 1st Division requirements needed by John. These had been recently emailed to 1st Division Club Reps and/or Managers, see below.

PLAYER REGISTRATION

PRIOR to the first match of the season you will be required to register all your 1st team players, on the NWCSL web site if they have not been already AND on the special 1st division player registration form available on the web site. ALL PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED BEFORE THEY PLAY.

PLAYER TRANSFERS

Before registering any new player on the web site to your club, 1st check if they are already registered to another club, if this is the case then request a transfer, DO NOT REGISTER A PLAYER IF HE IS ALREADY REGISTERED TO ANOTHER CLUB, to either Match Secretary, Steve Eccles aseccles@btinternet.com or General Secretary, Dave Goulden gouldend@sky.com

PLAYER RANKING

Please submit your team orders to all of the following
Match Secretary, Steve Eccles aseccles@btinternet.com
General Secretary, Dave Goulden gouldend@sky.com
1st Division Rep., John Cunningham johnccunningham@ntlworld.com
by Tuesday, 18th September 2012, at the very latest.

They will act as the sub-committee for playing orders, which have to be approved.

If a team does NOT submit a playing order on time, then they must play in the exact order in their Clubs NWCSL Ranking lists before their first match in week 1.

New playing orders can be submitted following the matches in week 5 before week 6, following the matches in week 11 before week 12 and following the matches in week 16 before week 17. If a new playing order is NOT submitted, then the previous period's playing order will remain in force.

RESULTS

Result notification, to enable distribution of results to the web site and press, it is very important that I receive a copy of the match card by fax or email at the latest by 5.00pm the following day, please try and enter the results on the web yourselves, this will save me time. NOTE the match card is still required by post within 6 days of match, if you wish to send them as a batch, please ask.

FINES

IF A TEAM HAS A MISSING PLAYERS (1st offence) £30.

LATE STARTS (7.30pm start time), 7.40pm – Warning, 7.50pm - £15, 8.00pm - £30, 8.10pm - £45.

Note, the referees have been requested to complete the start time on the match card.

6. Season Timetable

All though the season timetable was not fully discussed at the meeting, the following is a summary of the 2012/2013 season

1st Half of Season - Start 25/27 September, finish 11/13 December

2nd Half of Season - Start 08/10 January, finish 26/28 March

Any Division sections with 13/14 team will start 1 week earlier, 20th September & 3rd January and finish on 4th April

Free weeks

Divisions of 12 teams

30 th Oct/1 st Nov	half term week
7 th February	English National Closed Championships & half term
29 th March/1 st April	Easter Friday/Monday
Play-offs (excluding finals) provisional	
11 th or 18 th April	Div 2
11 th & 18 th April	Div 3
4 th , 11 th 18 th April	Div 4
11 th & 18 th April	Div 5
See below for Play-off Finals	

If the half term week is different in some regions of the North West, then clubs will be able to change the half term week, if necessary, subject to approval by their opponents and the Match Secretary. They should also inform the relevant Divisional Rep.

7. Play-offs

The final of the play-offs and presentations will be all on the same day (Saturday) at the end of April / early May 2012, subject to confirmation of venue.

The three 3rd Division promotion play-off matches will also be played, as soon as possible after the end of the season on a Thursday evening, provisionally 11th or 18th April 2013.

8. 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.

Due to other commitments, the GS stated that the handbooks would not be available until early October

9. AOB

The Chairman stated that at present we still do not have a sponsor.

Courtcare will continue to advertise in both the handbook and on the website.

He has had some discussions with SquashSkills and Samari Sportswear but these were in the form of discounts to customers with a percentage return of sales to the NWCSL.

There was some discussion on juniors or the lack of juniors in the majority of the clubs. The NWCSL Committee will look at helping clubs with funding for those wanting to pursue junior development. Details will be issued later but interested clubs should contact the General Secretary with their proposals.

The Chairman stated that provisionally the Mens World Squash Championships could be at Manchester Central (GMEX) in 2013.

The General Secretary also reminded 1st Division and 2nd Division teams that their playing orders need to be submitted for approval by 18th/20th September respectively.

Finally, the President commented further on player behaviour, following the Chairman's comments on the Andy Gill tournament, that the NWCSL Committee/Disputes Committee will take very seriously unacceptable player behaviour in league matches.