

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

Minutes of NWCSL Team Captains Meeting held on 2nd September 2013 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)

There were representatives from 60 clubs present, with apologies from approx 15 clubs out of a total of 107 clubs registered for the 2013/14 season.

The Chairman opened the meeting at approx. 7:30pm. He informed the meeting of the sponsorship deal for 2013/14, a one year deal, with Sports Direct / Dunlop Sport and introduced John Allen from Sports Direct and ran through some of the details of the sponsorship deal.

The following minutes are a summary of the meeting and may not necessarily contain all the issues raised during the meeting by those present, as well as expanding on some of the issues not discussed in detail.

1. Team Captain's responsibilities / player behaviour

The Chairman covered the player behaviour issues and although these were not discussed in any detail, the following covers some of the Committee's concerns from previous seasons:

- 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 General Secretary, 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 retained, if they are not posted (or scanned and emailed) to Div Rep. The scorecards may be needed by the Divisional Reps, if there are any disputes.

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 2013 AGM

There had been no major rule changes at the 2013 AGM

Rule 7.3 (ii) part (a) – amendment to wording to allow clubs outside of Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside to use players from their County as home players.

New Rule 9.2 – allows a later start time of 7.30pm, providing 2 courts are made available for the match.

Rule 10 – amendment to wording, which became rule 10.1

New Rule 10.2 – Clubs outside the boundaries of Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside must make two courts available if the visiting team has to travel more than 40 miles between the two clubs.

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 – Clubs are expected to play to their clubs Order of Merit. Although the NWCSL Player Ranking system may not be exact, it does give a good guide of playing orders within a club.

Where clubs have two teams in same sections of a division, the teams should be playing in ranking order and clubs should 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. Clubs were reminded that they do not need to agree to postponements

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

7.5 No player may play for more than one club in any one season without permission. Club were reminded that they should ensure that all their players are aware of this rule before they play their first match. Permission to change clubs cannot be guaranteed and may be refused under certain circumstances. Obviously, if a player is moving home, which would result in an excessive amount of travelling to his previous club, then permission would likely be granted.

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. The main criteria is that clubs do ask for permission of the Match Secretary before any person who has not played before the deadline, play their first match.

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.

Clubs should inform all their relevant team captains and selection committees of this requirement. Exceptions to a club's lowest team can be considered, particularly if the match does not have an influence on promotion or relegation, but permission should be requested before the match.

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 have 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.

Club Details

Please check that the website club details are correct (club rep name, telephone & email) and let either the General Secretary or Match Secretary know if they need amending.

4. Match Secretary

The Match Secretary had nothing further to add, apart from ensuring that clubs do contact him if they have any issues / problems

5. 1st Division team responsibilities

The 1st Division had a new Club Rep., Richard Craig, following John Cunningham deciding he needed a break after a 10 year period. Since Richard does not drive, he was unable to attend the meeting, hence the General Secretary gave an update as far as 1st Division requirements were involved.

1st TEAM MANAGER

If a 1st Division Club has a team manager, who is different to the club's representative, then they should inform Richard of the contact details for that person.

PLAYER REGISTRATION

PRIOR to the first match of the season clubs 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. You will need to check with Richard Craig for which players he will need a registration form.

PLAYER TRANSFERS

Before registering any new player on the web site to your club, first 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., Richard Craig richardcraig79@btinternet.com

by Sunday, 8th September 2013, 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.

The Match Secretary will inform the 1st division clubs of the periods when changes can be made to the playing orders during the season.

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 Ricahrd receive a copy of the match card by email at the latest by 5.00pm the following day, please try and enter the results on the web yourselves, this will save him 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

LATE RESULTS - £5

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. Obviously, exceptional circumstances for late starts will be taken into account.

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

6. Play-offs

The final of the play-offs and presentations will more than likely continue on the same day (Saturday). Time, date and venue to be advised later.

7. Handbooks

The majority of information was ready for printing, although the General Secretary had still to finalise some details. The printer's already had the information provided by the Sponsors.

Due to the General Secretary being away until 25th September, the handbooks will not be available until early October.

8. AOB

With no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 9.00pm