

Minutes of the Team Captain's meeting on Tuesday, 16th September 2003

The new stationery had been distributed in advance of the meeting, which started at approx. 8.10pm

Of the 127 clubs registered for the 2003/2004 season, 83 had collected their stationery and handbooks, although approx. 20 club representatives were unable to stay for the meeting.

1. Discipline & Team Captain's Responsibilities

The Chairman, John Hugall, opened the meeting, welcoming the Sponsors & those attending. He stressed the importance of the re-issue of the new stationery, why all clubs must use it and, hence, the need to return the old stationery.

The league would be known as the "Powerplaysports.co.uk North West Counties Squash League". The sponsorship would cover a three year period, with the potential of a further three year extension.

He expressed the expectations of the NWCSL over team captain's responsibilities.

Over the past two seasons, there had been a reduction in the number of cases coming up before the NWCSL Disputes Committee, although it was still felt that the majority of these cases could and should have been sorted out, at the particular time, by the two team captains. In the majority of cases where this had been the case, neither the clubs representatives or team captains involved had NOT attended the Team Captains Meeting at the start of that season and they were unaware of their responsibilities. It was hoped that, with the continuing help of team captains, the reduction in cases would continue to improve, with minor issues being settled on the night of the incident.

The Disputes Committee would still handle the more serious incidents or any that the team captains found that they were unable to deal with at the time.

2. Team Selection Issues

The Secretary requested that clubs should consider team selection issues in accordance with the league rules, particularly since the availability of player results on the web site, increased the transparency of club/team playing orders.

He appreciated that clubs with a large number of teams may have some difficulties due to late drop-outs, but it was important that their team selection, along with that of smaller clubs, was seen to be fair. Clubs should be careful in selecting either 'home' or 'away' players, i.e. players who preferred to play just at home or just away, particularly if it meant that these players were continually moving up & down a division.

The secretary also reminded clubs of rule 7.7, over player eligibility for the playing in the last four league matches of the season & the play-offs, in light of the decision at the AGM in May 2003. It would be the clubs responsibility to ensure that all their players met the full criteria of this rule, even if a regular team player, who had been selected in the clubs playing order of merit, was involved.

3. First Division teams

The Divisional Representative for Division 1, John Cunningham, briefly told the meeting what he required from the team's representatives this season.

A player registration sheet is required for every player who plays in the 1st Division, without one, teams may lose points. At the time of the meeting, with only one week to the start of the season, only 2 out of the 14 teams had returned them.

He reminded the teams that he also needed either a fax or email of the Tuesday nights result by Wednesday lunchtime, the following day, to ensure that the relevant press releases could be prepared.

4. Player Registrations & Inputting Results on the Web Site

At the time of the meeting, 45 clubs had registered the majority, if not all, of their players, 22 clubs had partial registered players, leaving 60 clubs still to register players for the coming season. The secretary had offered to register players on behalf of the clubs in earlier correspondence with the club representatives, of which 3 clubs had taken up the offer, the offer was still open to club who were having difficulties in doing it themselves.

This season, results can only be entered by the electronic scorecard. Although a name does NOT have to entered against the scores, the committee had decided that they wanted all the clubs to register their players, although it had not been made compulsory, apart from Division 1 team players.

All match scores have to be filled in on the scorecard for the overall match score to be calculated and displayed. If any tie is not played or completed, then the match scorecard will have to be forwarded on to the secretary from the Divisional Representatives for further action as far as entering the result on the web site.

Clubs can have more than one administrator for entering results on the web site.

5. Presentation by Sponsor, Powerplay Sports Limited

Steve Cooper, one of the Directors of Powerplay Sports Limited, gave a brief resume of their new company and why they wanted to Sponsor the NWCSL.

The company will be mainly a web site company, under the name of powerplaysports.co.uk

Their new web site should be up and running later in the month, with a target date of 22nd September 2003.

6. Any Other Business

The secretary reminded clubs who played University teams in the first two/three weeks that their matches may be cancelled and need rearranging. This information had been sent out by both email and letter to those without email contacts.

At the present time:

Both Lancaster & Liverpool University teams would NOT be paying matches during the first two weeks, at least.

It was thought, but had to be confirmed, that Manchester University may miss the first week only.

Sugden Metro would not have to cancel any matches.

Division Lists:

There had been several changes to the Division List, as printed in the Handbook.

The secretary listed the changes to the meeting, although all club had or would be informed by either email or letter of these changes or any further ones as they occurred.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 9.15pm.