

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

Minutes of the Team Captain's meeting on Wednesday, 8th September 2004

Handbooks had been distributed in advance of the meeting, which started at approx. 7.35pm. Of the 125 clubs registered for the 2003/2004 season, 56 had collected their handbooks.

The President, Graham Horrex, opened the meeting, welcoming those attending, and offering the apologies of the Chairman, who was unable to attend due to being away on holiday. He also thanked the sponsors, Powerplaysports Ltd., for their support to the League and requested that all clubs should try and use the sponsors whenever possible to ensure their continuing support. The President then handed-over to the General Secretary to cover the agenda items.

1. Team Captain's Responsibilities

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

Over the past few seasons, although there had been a reduction in the number of cases coming up before the NWCSL Disputes Committee, it was stressed that the both the team captain and team players should attempt to sort out any issues as they arise and before they get out of hand. 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 President also explained to the meeting, that one of the reasons why Squash had still to be included in the Olympic Games, was due to the attitude and behaviour players on court during matches.

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. Rule & Constitution Changes

The secretary reminded clubs of the changes to rules 4.1, 7.1, 7.2 & 7.6, which took place at the AGM in May. In particular, players who had played for 1st teams (as a reserve) on a Tuesday night, would NOT be eligible to play again for a lower club team on a Thursday night in the same week and the change from the 1st to 31st December for players eligibility to play during the second half of the season. Effectively, if a player had NOT played during the first half of the season, then permission would be required before the player could play during the second half of the season. The GS informed the meeting of the guidelines normally used in granting permission. Where players have been unable to play before 31st December, permission will normally be granted to players who played for the same club the previous season, if they've been unavailable due to injury, business or personal reasons, providing they can play 4 matches before the final 4 matches of the season (rule 7.7). A club's lowest team can include a player who has NOT played previously, providing a club's order of merit is maintained (rule 4.1), except for the last 4 matches.

3. England Squash Affiliation Fees

The President reminded clubs to the change to the Constitution at the AGM in May were clubs/teams may be penalised 5 points per match(/week) until the fees where paid.

Although the meeting then went on to discuss the make up of these fees, and whether they were right or not, for a period of time, as it was not an agenda item for the meeting, it has not been minuted.

The main purpose was just to remind all clubs, that to play in the NWCSL, they need to have paid their affiliation fees to England Squash before the first match of the season, otherwise each team from a club may be penalised 5 points per match until the fees were paid, if the fault for non-

payment lay with the club. The England Squash membership contact is Lewis Baker and his contact details can be found in the NWCSL Handbook and on the web site.

4. Player Registrations

As per rule 7.1, all players have to be registered within 7 days of playing on the web site. The GS will register players on behalf of clubs if requested, but preferably clubs should be able to register new players themselves. The procedure for registering players is given below, to assist in the process:

Player Registration procedure

Home page of web site www.nwcsl.org

Click on "Enter Resultszone", top link on left hand side of page

Click on "Member Registration", next to bottom link on page

You need to enter the following details:

Player Christian Name

Player Surname

Player Gender

Player Age Range (just guess if you don't have exact date)

Player Email Address – this can be a dummy address.

Suggestion is "playername.club@nwcsl.org

Password – suggest club name, but it must contain 7 characters (and start with a letter)

Confirm Password

Select your Club from drop down box (don't forget to do this)

Finally, click on REGISTER

You should get a message telling you that the player has been registered, along with his/her registration number.

5. Requirements for First Division teams

In the absence of the Divisional Representative for Division 1, John Cunningham, who was away on business, the GS briefly told the meeting what JC required from the first division team's representatives this season.

Teams should try to get their results entered on the web site themselves before 5.00pm on the Wednesday, following the previous nights match.

All first division players must be registered on the web site and a player registration form should be sent to JC before they play. The form is available on the web site in both a PDF and on-line version.

If the first division team representative is different to the Club representative, then the appropriate form should be completed and returned to JC.

He also needed either a fax or email of the Tuesday nights result by 5.00pm Wednesday, the following day, to ensure that the relevant press releases could be prepared.

In the period whilst JC is unavailable (up to 4th October 2004), any queries should be directed to the Chairman, John Hugall.

The Chairman had also asked the GS to inform the meeting that first division teams should be aware of the new duties regarding player registrations and that proof for home players who qualified under the residency rule would be required. It was not good enough to just have a Tuesday night address when playing.

6. Any Other Business

On behalf of the Chairman, the GS also reminded the meeting of the following:

All teams should register their players, if they cannot contact the GS

All teams should attempt to have their results entered on the web site by Saturday evening

No matches may be cancelled/postponed/rearranged without permission from the Divisional Representatives and the General Secretary

& to use our sponsor, if/whenever they can

The Merseyside SRA secretary, Irene Neilson, had asked the GS if he could inform Merseyside Club Reps that Merseyside had received a bursary for the training of junior coaches, aged 16 for Level 1 & aged 17 for Level 2. If clubs had interested junior then they should contact the Merseyside SRA secretary. Information should have already been sent to the clubs.

Division Lists:

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

An amendment list was available and all of the clubs had or would be informed by either email or letter of these changes or any further ones as they occurred.

The President closed the meeting at approx. 9.00pm.

Footnote: Steve Cooper, from our sponsors Powerplaysports, would have attended the team captains meeting, but he was unfortunately involved in a motorway accident on the night. Although his car was a total write-off, fortunately Steve was not seriously hurt, but was badly shaken, and I'm sure you'll all, along with myself & the NWCSL Committee, wish Steve a speedily recovery.